

MY CHRISTMAS TOWN IN THE MOUNTAINS

An Artist's Approach to Building Zion

BY BENJAMIN LEO ROCHE

'Blessed are they which shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost.' 1 Nephi 13:37

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
FOREWORD	5
CHAPTER 1: Seek to Bring Forth My Zion	6
CHAPTER 2: The Way Zion Looks To Me	11
CHAPTER 3: My Christmas Town in the Mountains	22
CHAPTER 4: Mindfulness	24
Principles of Mindfulness	25
Supporting Mindfulness	41
CHAPTER 5: Sustainability	43
Path to Sustainability	44
CHAPTER 6: A School	47
Theory of Everything	50
Science of Creativity	78
CHAPTER 7: Fulfilling Ones Righteous Desires	83
Manifesting my Desires Through Storytelling	87

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Herein is recorded an outline to the best of my knowledge what Zion was, is, and can become through personal efforts and the labor of others in the days leading up to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

This outline can be broken into four distinct areas or sections: Identify the ideal, elaborate on its underlying mechanics, articulate or demonstrate what a real-world model might look like, and identify signposts to help confirm that it is happening along the way.

1. DEFINE THE IDEAL

In chapter one, define the scriptural ideal of what Zion is. Define it through the lens of a prophetic perspective. Articulate accepted doctrinal precedents and accepted understandings as taught by prophets past and present. Cover historical precedents, as well as scriptural promises surrounding its eventual founding in the last days. Cover recent failures experienced by the saints in attempting to build the city of Zion in the early days of the church.

Address perceptions of the city of Zion through the lens of the living church community, and how the current culture reflects a warped trauma-informed point of view in the way they speak of and understand the idea of a city of Zion.

Review definitive scriptural invitations from God that contradict these incomplete or limited community perceptions. Provide stark scriptural reminders that have been given by those in authority to speak that help to establish and maintain a more complete vision of future.

2. ELABORATE ON ITS UNDERLYING MECHANICS

In chapter two, embody and predict the real-world mechanics of fully applied Gospel principles and extrapolate them into conditions within a livable, functioning environment.

Harness the limited lens of the author's personal Gospel understanding to make elaborate educated guesses, and then emphasize those supposed principles that might help bring those ends about. Use the words of the prophets as guidelines and relevant application of Gospel principles in order to guess how a steward of a community might accomplish the standards the Lord has established in revelation and use the principles he has established to measure against that pursuit.

These principles include the fundamentals surrounding the use of agency, recognizing ones' personal stewardship, purifying ones motives, accepting the Lord's will, and then listening to ones purified, righteous desires.

3. ARTICULATE WHAT A REAL-WORLD MODEL MAY LOOK LIKE

In chapter three, state specific personal goals as they relate to the building of a city of Zion. Reflect on what it looks like and how we might do it. Dwell on a specific principle that governs, informs, and guides my design, and how this principle manifests and resonates into each part of the community structure. Provide a general outline of the four respective areas of the community: *Mindfulness, Sustainability, the School and Storytelling*. Highlight a working prototypal model that is in development through experimentation and that has a been iterated over the last twenty-five years.

In chapters four through seven, break down each of these four facets even further, providing specific detailed background and context for each area, giving some history and internal mechanics of each, as well as attempt to provide some idea of the functionality of the same, both individually, as well as how it works in concert with the others. Provide elaborate structured outlines surrounding the internal elements of each of these four areas, some having more than one relevant, unique and necessary internal principled outline.

4. IDENTIFY SIGNPOSTS TO HELP CONFIRM IT IS HAPPENING

The Lord through the prophets provides means of recognizing how and when things are working. As one looks for and remains open to His spirit, he or she can receive added help and insight as he or she seeks to bring to pass his will.

FOREWORD

I, the author, feel that I stand at a precipice, when all the fruits of the labor and effort spanning the many years of my now waning youth lie immediately before me, and I feel an accounting is nigh.

So many of my unique, separate, and various works, as of late, have strangely and miraculously converged. I can't ignore it; I not ought to. It means something.

* * *

For many years I have been committed to an ideal. I have sought to build a city in the mountains dedicated to the helping artists work and live in a beautiful place while making a living doing what they love.

I have affectionately called it my *Christmas Town in the Mountains*. This concept has been with me since the days of my youth, inspired by idealism and fueled by personal persistence.

The overall goal has changed much since the days of my childhood, when all I wished to accomplish was basically to scratch the idealist's itch or fulfill the whim of dreamer.

It has grown in scope and deepened in purpose. It has taken different forms over the years as I came up against the walls of failure. It has died many deaths, only to surprise me in being reborn in a new form later.

The goal has required much work of me by ways of study, theory, design, and experimentation. I look back and recall the many experiences and stories that have been required to bring the goal to the point it currently finds itself. The stories truly could fill volumes.

This book is my feeble attempt at making a record from my point of view of all my varied attempts to bring it about.

CHAPTER 1: Seek to Bring Forth My Zion

An Ideal Place

From the earliest days of prophetic leadership on this earth, followers of Jesus Christ have been schooled on the possibility of building an ideal community where freedom, peace, safety, and beauty could and would prevail for those who love and serve Him. And not just regarding the *possibility*, but of its *inevitability*. It has been spoken of frequently throughout both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

A HISTORY OF BUILDING GOD'S COMMUNITY

The name of this place is called Zion.

For years the righteous have looked forward to its eventual coming. Many times they have even gone about proactively attempting to build such a place. The ancient Israelites were seeking to do exactly this when they desired to settle in the Promised Land.

But try as they might, they failed. And each successive attempt has failed as well, with one exception.

That single time was the city that Enoch built.

Enoch was a prophet who, despite his weaknesses, was called to preach repentance to a fallen people. This he did, and against all likelihood, the people repented.

God blessed the city, and in process of time it became filled with a community of individuals who it would later be said of,

‘The Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them.

And Enoch continued his preaching in righteousness unto the people of God. And it came to pass in his days, that he built a city that was called the City of Holiness, even Zion.’ Moses 7:18-19

Tales of this city have come down through the generations in various forms. It has been suggested that this city may perhaps have even been the origin of stories like that of the city of Atlantis, though, rather than being *sunken* like Atlantis, Enoch's city is said to have been taken *up* into heaven.

Either way, the city of Enoch, it is said, was physically lifted from the earth due to the heightened and godly state of living of its inhabitants.

‘And lo, Zion, in process of time, was taken up into heaven.’ Moses 7:21

IN THE FUTURE

And while, as far as we know, this phenomenon has only happened once so far in the history of the world, it has been prophesied that in the last days before and leading up to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, another Zion will rise.

Zion will again rise, and the people of the ancient city of Enoch will return to greet them.

‘And the day shall come that the earth shall rest, but before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve;

And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men; and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, an Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.

And the Lord said unto Enoch: Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there, and we will receive them into our bosom, and they shall see us; and we will fall upon their necks, and they shall fall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other;

And there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; and for the space of a thousand years the earth shall rest.’ Moses 7:61-64

Zion will indeed rise. It will be a place of safety and protection. It will be a place of peace and security for the righteous, but terror and fear for the wicked.

‘And it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the Most High God;

And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion.

And it shall come to pass among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor must needs flee unto Zion for safety.’ D&C 45:66-68

RECENT FAILED ATTEMPT

The saints in the early days of the latter-day restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ have sought diligently to help bring about this end. For years they toiled and hoped to fulfill this lofty goal, encouraged by the words of revelation flowing from the Lord through His prophet.

But sadly, it was not to be. The saints would seemingly be unable to satisfy the standards and conditions that were required of the Lord in order to successfully found Zion at that time.

‘Therefore, in *consequence of the transgressions of my people*, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion.’ D&C 105:9 (emphasis added)

They transgressed and missed the mark. They would have to wait.

NOWADAYS

In the intervening years, the building of Zion has continued to be the goal of the saints and an integral, central facet of the Lord’s doctrine.

It seems, however, that due to its early failure, it has largely ceased to be a dominant topic of ongoing conversation for the majority of the saints’ minds and hearts. My theory is that the failures in the early part of the Restoration changed the way the Saints as a people view the building of Zion.

For instance, when I was rather young, I learned about this topic mostly through lessons in Sunday School, but rather than it being presented as a tangible goal as it is notably stated by the Lord in the scriptures, I was taught primarily that Zion was *the pure in heart*. I definitely was taught that one day Zion would physically rise as a community or city, but this aspect seemed to always be rather distant, disconnected from us, shunted, understated, or almost completely overlooked or ignored in the dominant discussion.

ZION WILL STILL BE A CITY

And while the statement is technically true, Zion *is* the pure in heart, it is *also* an unparalleled and literal *place* of joy and safety and wonder, and it has been prophesied of and specifically looked forward to for millennia. It is not primarily the pure in heart, as was implicitly communicated. Being pure in heart is rather a *prerequisite* or in other words, a *preparatory* state, rather than a dominant one. Being pure in heart is the beginning, not the end, just like the law of the Gospel is the foundation upon which is built the greater law of Consecration, rather than a higher law.

In conversation with a friend of mine, I was told basically that Zion is every congregation. He indicated that his parent’s ward is Zion because they all are so intertwined and servicing to one another. Frankly I saw this comment as tantamount to

doctrinal gaslighting. Living amidst the saints is indeed a step *on the road* to building Zion, but for the sake of this discussion, to confuse the prophetic city of power to come with an lovely but otherwise typical ward family is to confuse the oak tree with the acorn.

Initially I thought that this false shift in the way we as a people looked at Zion was a doctrinal adaptation, and stemming from the Lord. Looking back however, I have concluded that it rather is simply a case of social PTSD.

SOCIAL PTSD

In the early days of the Lord's church, nearly all of the saints had been *passionately* motivated and involved in actively accomplishing this lofty goal, building temples, moving to Independence, Missouri, and vociferously speaking to their neighbors about the *inevitable* future, only to have their hopes dashed by their inability to live the principles in connection to the standard the Lord expected of them. The people opposed them, persecuted, and kicked them out en masse.

So then what does an individual, or in this case, an entire community do when they have experienced such harrowing, shocking disappointment? I would venture to say that *they attempt to dampen or alter the channel through which that hurt or failed expectation flows.*

It seems that in this case, the Saints subconsciously discounted the idea of a physical state of Zion by replacing it with what we currently have power over or believe we can immediately do. In the process they gained a warped understanding of just exactly what was possible, and what was to be.

GOD INVITES US TO EACH ENGAGE WITH HIM

In time through my own study and experience, I gained clearer insight as to what Zion must look like overall, and how and why we as individuals might ideally and potentially contribute to the build of it with the help of the Lord. This helped me to overcome this social PTSD that seems to persist amongst many Saints.

'Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work;' D&C 4:3

'Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.' D&C 4:7

'Therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive; if you will knock it shall be opened unto you.

Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.' D&C 11:5-6

‘Verily, verily, I say unto you, I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy;

And then shall ye know, or by this shall you know, all things whatsoever you desire of me, which are pertaining unto things of righteousness, in faith believing in me that you shall receive.’ D&C 11:13-14

GOD EXPECTS US TO VOLUNTARILY PURSUE THE GOOD

‘For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things; for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward. Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in no wise lose their reward.’ D&C 58:26-28

‘Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.’ Matthew 7:7-8

Again,

‘Blessed are they which shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost.’ 1 Nephi 13:37

THE CITY OF ZION WILL BE BUILT IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

While a singular city of Zion has been the subject of preoccupation of prophets, the idea that there is only one place Zion that will be built in the last days is not accurate.

‘And the Lord will create *upon every dwelling place* of mount Zion and upon her *assemblies*, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence.’ Isaiah 4:5 (emphasis added)

And while we have been counseled by later presiding priesthood leaders to focus on building Zion in our own communities (rather than gathering to the Great Basin) the promise of the potential of a strong, safe, and beautiful physical community living inspired principles of righteousness have not been discounted, but rather encouraged.

CHAPTER 2: The Way Zion Looks To Me

START WHERE THE LAST ATTEMPT LEFT OFF

I think within my personal stewardship, the best way to know where to start with building Zion is to consider where the last attempt left off.

“Therefore, in consequence of the transgressions of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion— That they themselves may be prepared, and that my people may be taught more perfectly, and have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands. And this cannot be brought to pass until mine elders are endowed with power from on high. For behold, I have prepared a great endowment and blessing to be poured out upon them, inasmuch as they are faithful and continue in humility before me. Therefore it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season, for the redemption of Zion.’ D&C 105:9-13

It is in the temple endowment that the keys to building Zion lie. If we are to attempt to engage with the Lord in building a city of Zion, it will be laced with the profound and fundamental truths found and taught in the ordinances of the temple. It is found in embodying the Path that Jesus Christ laid out for us in his life and sacrifice that the roots and branches of Zion will grow out of.

BECOME MORE LIKE OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

The Lord in his mercy provided the saints a way to help them get from where they were to where he wanted them to get to.

He sent his son to embody that way. It is as we seek to take upon us his name, following his example and walking in his footsteps that we more readily will find the road to Zion paved and open to us.

The temple endowment and its associated ordinances are His teaching tools that are designed to help us to recognize and apply the principles that He lives that give him the sacrificial power and authority to act on our behalf. Through the symbolic teaching He provides us in the temple, we become acquainted with his nature, his character, his motivation, and the potential, with his assistance, we have to become like Him.

THE TEMPLE IS A MULTI-FACETED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

As we learn to embody the principles that Christ teaches, we also are learning literally how to build Zion.

God models and shows us patterns that, if we follow them, we can succeed in the goals he has laid out for us.

It is in the temple that we are shown the principles and promises between us and God.

We learn to be curious, to question why. We get to know the character of God and the central role of Jesus Christ in His plan for us.

We become aware of the presence of Satan and are made aware of the need to overcome his influence.

We learn first to apply principles to ourselves, and next we learn how to apply them appropriately with each other.

Jesus Is The Way

WHAT JESUS DID

As a mortal, Jesus did two very significant things. First, he suffered for the consequences of our bad choices. And second, he would teach us how to become like Him. This is the essence of His Gospel. He first led the way himself, and then turned and invited us to follow in his footsteps.

JESUS ENABLES OUR AGENCY

When in the pre-earth life, Jesus volunteered as our redeemer, he was preserving and providing a way whereby our agency or ability to choose might be preserved while providing for us the requisite time to learn to be like our Father in order that we might find joy.

The Lord's Gospel is the embodiment of this process.

THE SPIRIT OF ZION IS THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

Zion is the embodiment of the Gospel of Christ, first in the individual, and then in a society. When it comes to order of things, we learn that God expects us to get our own houses in order before looking outside ourselves. We also learn in His Gospel that the Lord uses a graduated succession of laws and principles to get us from where we are to where He desires us to get to.

When it comes down to it, one perhaps could say that Zion or the Gospel is all about increasing our freedom and choice to do good, first for the individual, and then for the society. This is all in the name of pursuing joy.

We also deduce or learn through the experiences of prophets in the scriptures that when we align our will with God and earn his trust, the Lord empowers our righteous desires.

The end goal of this growth process for Him is to help us to ultimately become like Him. He is the Creator. He is the Savior. He loved us first. He offered Himself to lift us up. He wants us to become like Him. He wants us to become like him, and when we do, we turn to those less fortunate around us and seek to help them in the best ways we can that we find we have power to do.

It is in this way we can ultimately become like the Lord. And this is the state of being or the state of the community which the Lord describes when he speaks of Zion.

Principles the Lord Embodies

GOD GIVES US A STEWARDSHIP

Our stewardships are those responsibilities and duties given to us by God that, when they are understood, embraced, and improved upon, allow us to grow and bring us joy.

‘Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.’ D&C 4:2

OUR PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP HAS FOUR DISTINCT AREAS OR ARENAS

In other words, we stand blameless before God when we have harnessed the entirety of our stewardships to serve him.

Our stewardships can therefore be broken down into the four areas mentioned in the previously quoted scripture. These areas are our spirit or motivations (heart), control of our physical bodies, property, or physical world (might), our minds or logic and beliefs (mind), and our emotions or feelings (strength).

Alternatively, those things outside our stewardship are those things we are not permitted to do or to touch; these things are forbidden.

‘The rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.

Behold, ere he is aware, he is left unto himself, to kick against the pricks, to persecute the saints, and to fight against God.

We have learned by sad experience that it is the nature and disposition of almost all men, as soon as they get a little authority, as they suppose, they will immediately begin to exercise unrighteous dominion.' D&C 121:36-39

AGENCY ALLOWS US TO FULFILL OUR STEWARDSHIP

Choice is the fundamental quality that allows us to ultimately become like our Heavenly Father. Without the ability to choose for ourselves, we would not be able to create, and we would not be able to grow. Our potential to become like God is contingent on our ability to embark and travel to a higher, holier destination from wherever we might currently find ourselves.

OUR CHOICES BRING CONSEQUENCES

The use of agency, or in other terms, the treatment of our stewardship, has built-in consequences.

When we protect, defend, and improve on our stewardship, we grow and find joy. When we overstep it, we sin, backtrack, and find misery and dead ends in our lives and opportunities.

We have a responsibility to honor and fulfill the purpose of our stewardship.

When we allow ourselves to coerce or be coerced, we suffer unnecessary consequences. In doing this, we relinquish our agency and frustrate the plan of God in our lives.

SATAN SHOWED HIS HAND IN THE WAR IN HEAVEN

If Christ brought about our ultimate freedom through His sacrifice and example, Satan sought to bring an end to it. In the war in heaven, it boiled down to Jesus' self sacrifice and leading by example juxtaposed against Lucifer's force and compulsion.

'Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down.' Moses 4:3

Lucifer was cast out to the earth where he was allowed to sow discord and destruction.

SATAN IS THE ARCHETYPAL COERCER

The spirit of coercion is the spirit of Satan. Coercion is the fundamental tool whereby Satan seeks to destroy the agency of man and bring a halt to our growth.

Because of Lucifer's influence, even now, the world is mired in fear, shame, lies, and abuse. These are all facets of coercion. All sin is inspired by Satan and is coercion embodied in various forms.

COERCION PREVENTS GROWTH

Coercion is evil and frustrates the plan of God because it withholds our growth.

When we are coerced, our choice is taken away. Actions are imposed on us against our will without giving voice to our inner faculties of inquiry.

We cannot apply knowledge that we do not have. God does not hold us accountable if we have not received knowledge. Heeding or imposing coercion and thereby bypassing the learning process is damnation. Life becomes pointless when we coerce. We learn that,

'It is impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance.' D&C 131:6

THE SPIRIT OF COERCION IS THE SPIRIT OF SATAN

When coercion is our motivation, we become the servants of Satan.

'The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.' Matthew 6:22-24

When we are motivated by a spirit of coercion, our actions are possessed by darkness and serve the purposes of evil.

OUR MOTIVATION MATTERS TO GOD

Clearly what motivates us matters to the Lord.

'Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.' Matthew 15:11

'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' Matthew 6:21

'For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looked on the outward appearance, but the Lord looked on the heart.' 1 Samuel 16:7

‘If ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work.’ D&C 4:3

WE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT MOTIVATES US

To God, our motivation is everything. It is the spirit that drives us that he cares about. This is because motivation is the animating force that brings something into being. We must be discerning as to what motivates us to do things and purify these motives in order to become like our Heavenly Father.

OUR MOTIVES POSSESS US

The reason the Lord cares about what motivates us because of a spiritual principle that governs the process of creation and creativity that I found to be true. I would boil it down to something I discovered. This principle is a variation of the Law of the Harvest it is the following:

The spirit that inspires is the spirit that possesses.

Spiritual truth requires or infers that you bear the fruit of the spirit you follow.

‘Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.’ Galatians 6:7

If we are motivated by cruelty and hate, the things we create through the inspiration of that feeling are imbued with consequences of that feeling. If we are inspired by love, then love imbues and permeates the actions that follow. This is how the Lord can effectively teach us,

‘Ye shall know them by their fruits.’ Matthew 7:16

Because the spirit that motivates you will possess the results inspired by that spirit, we can discern that spirit by looking at the way and the ends that its actions influence and impacts its audience.

THE LORD ENCOURAGES THE HIGHEST OF MOTIVATIONS

‘(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’ Matthew 6:33 (JST)

WE MUST PURGE COERCION FROM OUR MOTIVES

‘The rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and... the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.’ D&C 121:36-37

‘And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things.’ D&C 88:67

‘For God hath not given us the spirit of fear: but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.’ 2 Timothy 1:7

‘But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish.’ 2 Nephi 26:31

Fear, or security is not proper motivation because it is fear based. Fear is coercion of the self.

OUR RIGHTEOUS DESIRES ARE HONORED BY GOD

Righteously motivated desires, free of the influence and manipulation of others, is at the foundation of Zion. It is true that once we have submitted our wills to God, the next thing he does is ask us what we want.

‘And in that day the enmity of man, and the entity of beasts, yea, the enmity of all flesh, shall cease from before my face. And in that day whatsoever any man shall ask, it shall be given unto him.’ D&C 101:27

He did this for the twelve in the old world, he did it for Nephi the prophet, he did it for his twelve in America, even to the point of allowing three of them to stay on the earth til the end. And he did it for John the Beloved. I suspect he did this for Enoch, who rerouted rivers and mountains. And he will do it for us when we conform to the celestial law he is trying to teach through the doctrines of the gospel and the ministrations of the Holy Ghost.

‘And behold, he that is faithful shall be made ruler over many things.

And again, I will give unto you a pattern in all things, that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and he goeth forth deceiving the nations—

Wherefore he that prayeth whose spirit is contrite, the same is accepted of me if he obey mine ordinances.

He that speaketh, whose spirit is contrite, whose language is meek and edifies, the same is of God if he obey mine ordinances.

And again, he that trembleth under my power shall be made strong, and shall bring forth fruits of praise and wisdom, according to the revelations and truths which I have given you.

And again, he that is overcome and bringeth not forth fruits, even according to this pattern, is not of me.

Wherefore, by this pattern ye shall know the spirits in all cases under the whole heavens.

And the days have come; according to men's faith it shall be done unto them.' D&C 52:13-20

ZION IS FREE OF COERCION

In speaking of Zion in the last days, Daniel referred to

'The stone (that) was cut out of the mountain *without hands*.' Daniel 2:45
(emphasis added)

The relevance of this scripture, to me, when it says, "without hands," implies that when Zion comes, coercion will have no place in the creation or construction of Zion. The bones and sinew, the operating principles undergirding Zion must be completely free of coercion. It must reflect the highest, godliest standards in the process of its creation.

Despite being in a fallen world filled with the impacts and influence of Satan, Zion cannot exist in full unless we reject the principles of Satan, who is the father of coercion.

God's desire is to be obeyed, but it is held under strict command that it be by *choice*, not by compulsion.

'And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself.' D&C 105:5

REFUSING COERCION ALLOWS FREEDOM TO FLOW AND OUR FULL STEWARDSHIPS TO BE EMBRACED

Coercion can be embedded in systems and processes. If we are to live a celestial law, it would seem wise to do what we can to remove coercion from us individually, as well as from the systems operating within the community.

Whenever an individual is prevented from reaching his or her potential, their stewardship is being neglected. The Lord expects each individual and a Zion community to cultivate the righteous potential of individuals, not neglecting anything or anyone he has created, wishing them to fill the full measure of their creation and not be overlooked or their talents or potential talents to be neglected or abandoned.

OUR CURRENT CULTURE IS COERCIVE

Our culture cultivates the philosophy that each individual ought to conform and satisfy the needs of corporations and “the man.” In the Lord’s economy, he would have us cultivate all the talents and desires he has placed within us. He would not have us limit ourselves. To do so is to not be taking advantage of all the blessings he has granted us as his individual children. We must find a way to develop a culture that does not dictate to individuals what they might do with the gifts the Lord has given them.

WE MUST CAST OUT SATAN

Zion is tied to helping myself and others learn to cast Satan and his angels out. The way whereby this is done is by helping people confront and remove all facets of coercion from their lives.

‘Satan shall be bound, that old serpent, who is called the devil, and shall not be loosed for the space of a thousand years.’ D&C 88:110

‘Their enemies shall become a prey unto them.’ D&C 133:28

‘And because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power; wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years; for he hath no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness, an the holy One of Israel reigneth.’
1 Nephi 22:26

Resolving Coercion

I have found there to be four specific ways through which a community can specifically help address and resolve coercion: removing false beliefs within ourselves, increasing our physical self-reliance, replacing falsehood with truth, and leading through storytelling.

REMOVING FALSE BELIEFS

Coercion can be present in various ways in our lives. Wherever it exists, we become susceptible to the ungodly domination and control of others.

Coercion often takes the form of false beliefs planted in us against our wills. We should do all we can to prevent coercion in our lives and remove it when it has been placed against our wills through abuse.

We have established a simple system that helps individuals in the community to have assistance in recognizing and removing coercion from themselves, and to keep them free from the coercion of others.

PHYSICAL SELF-RELIANCE IS PIVOTAL

Latter-day Saints have been taught for years the importance of self-reliance. The more independent we are, the more freedom and opportunity we have in our lives. Zion as an institution exists to help individuals in the community to remain resolute or motivated to take care of themselves. We plan to build a network of resources to assist individuals in remaining physically independent.

WE CAN SUPPLANT LIES WITH TRUTH

Third, Zion exists to help individuals reach their ultimate potential. Modern education is filled with coercive techniques and patterns. By establishing a school free of coercion, we can help individuals understand and pursue the things that allows them to reach their God-like stature.

‘I, the Lord, am well pleased that there should be a school in Zion.’ D&C 97:3

‘You will see the day that Zion will be as far ahead of the outside world in everything pertaining to learning of every kind as we are to-day in regard to religious matters.’ John Taylor, in *Journal of Discourses* (London: Latter-day Saints’ Book Depot, 1854-86), 21:100.

STORYTELLING ALLOWS US TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Humans have an instinctive aptitude for both giving and receiving stories. This is perhaps because we each live our individual lives and interpret them through the lens of a story. When we hear others tell their stories, we can learn about how to better live our own lives by proxy.

I wish to use the freedom of story telling to demonstrate by example the importance of curiosity and imagination. I want to use my opportunities, capacities, and resources to inspire others to cultivate their imaginations; no matter the age of my audience. I want to encourage them to freely play.

WHAT A CHRISTLIKE SOCIETY LOOKS LIKE

For me, a pivotal symbol and pattern for building Zion is represented near the end of the Temple Endowment when attendees are invited to review, in a unique way, all the instruction that has come before in the ceremony. The structure of this symbol suggests to me that Zion, at its heart, is Christ centered people serving, loving, collaborating, and loving each other in all the ways, and understanding with compassion where each other is at, supporting each other without compulsion, and motivated by the highest of ideals.

‘Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.’ D&C 58:28

‘Verily, I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’ Matthew 18:3-4

As we embrace all truth and reject all falsehoods, following the guidance of the Lord, He can help us understand the celestial law and thereby cultivate the conditions under which the He says,

‘And there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; and for the space of a thousand years the earth shall rest.’ Moses 7:64

CHAPTER 3: My Christmas Town in the Mountains

An Ideal Community

We seek to bring about Zion by envisioning, building, supporting, and sustaining an ideal community.

HOW WE DO IT

We do this with two major processes. First, we work to remove things that get in the way of human flourishing, and second, I cultivate influences that promote positive and meaningful growth.

A KEY PRINCIPLE

All impediments to human fulfillment can be boiled down to a single principle, that of the use or influence of coercion one towards another. As a rule, I seek to remove all influences of coercion from myself and from my associations in every way I know how.

I also model, teach, support, and maintain the positive ideas, infrastructure, principles, and conditions that allow me to embody and reflect this ideal within my daily life.

I have an organization I have created and run. There are four distinct ways in which my efforts in regard to this take shape:

REFLECTING IN OURSELVES THE PRINCIPLES WE PROMOTE

I know of no better way to cultivate a culture of freedom free of coercion than by encouraging childlike curiosity and imagination through play.

Our preferred method of play is storytelling. We use a combination of literature, movies, and real world environments and gatherings to bring our imaginations and make-believe to life. By allowing our own creativity to manifest, we encourage others to do the same.

EMBODYING PRINCIPLES

We help those around us embody truth in their lives through a system of institutional schooling. We help students discover what motivates them and then cultivate these interests in distinctive ways.

MAINTAINING MOTIVATION

We provide the physical infrastructure needed to sustain and support the independence and autonomy of both the individual and the local community. We seek to support a redundant, resilient, and reliable network of food, water, energy, manufacturing, waste management, education, and employment for the community that reassures everyone with constancy of the means of maintaining the requirements, standards, and basic comforts of physical life.

SUPPORTING MINDFULNESS

We maintain infrastructure to support good mental hygiene for the members of our community. We provide counseling and coaching for all who have been hurt or affected adversely by abuse and coercion with the goal of helping them free themselves of its short and longterm effects. In order to establish and maintain a culture of positive, robust, and resilient mental health, we provide this free of charge to individuals within our community.

PROOF OF CONCEPT

We have developed a functioning, but small prototype of our ideas and ideals in Springville, Utah. In practical terms, it appears from the outside as a fictional haunted old-timey manor and boarding house inspired by the stories of *Wizarding in the Wild West*.

While we operate with limited resources, we have been having an incredible amount of success in the areas with the means we have at our disposal. Here we offer thorough mindfulness training, are in development of a growing list of self-reliance resources that include a small but operational school of creativity, and host a myriad of immersive fictional experiences to inspire curiosity and imagination in our patrons.

As our resources and opportunities grow, we anticipate expanding to include many more places and campuses in a variety of locations.

CHAPTER 4: Mindfulness

THE FIRST OF FOUR FACETS

My corner of Zion has a variety of facets that intersect and depend upon one another. Each part serves a unique, distinctive purpose while synonymously serving our overarching, singular objective. The first facet is that of supporting mindfulness.

SUPPORTING MINDFULNESS IS INTEGRAL

The first goal listed here is the most recent to come together chronologically, that of a system supporting mindfulness. This basically looks like providing a system of coaches or mentors who understand important principles of mental health, and providing support for those in our community who need and seek for it.

HISTORY

This branch came about as a result of my personal need, exploration of, and bringing together of principles that I was able to identify and use to help myself to overcome my mental health problems whose history can be referenced later on in this publication.

WHAT WE DO

We offer one-on-one mindfulness coaching.

We teach seeking and suffering individuals the undergirding life truths that help the individual better orient and master themselves and their responsibilities in the world. We assist them in the removal of false beliefs resulting from abuse and trauma. We also teach you principles that may function to help strengthen and protect you from future hurt.

In person meetings can last from one to no more than three hours at a time.

THESE IDEAS ARE ALREADY WORKING

These ideas have been a useful platform through which I have been able to help many, many individuals take control of their mental health, and thereby power over their lives.

Principles of Mindfulness

CONFRONTING AND OVERCOMING THE EFFECTS, PATTERNS, AND CONSEQUENCES OF ABUSE

Abuse is evil.

When we are abused, we feel the effects of someone controlling our lives against our will that damages and hurts us. No one has the right to shame, belittle, guilt, hit, hurt, lie, deceive, or scare another. We can gain power back over our lives from abusers by learning to recognize, acknowledge, and understand the presence and nature of abuse.

Abuse can have lasting consequences.

Besides the immediate hurt, abuse can leave us believing things about ourselves that are not true. These falsehoods are inserted into us against our will. We carry these lies with us until they are corrected. The lies of abuse can be triggered in us whenever conditions in our waking life match the situations we were initially abused in.

We can find peace from abuse.

Do what is necessary to take responsibility to undo and prevent its persisting effects. Learn the truths that supplant the lies that contradict what we have been taught. Remove the influences that engender and cultivate abusive conditions in our lives.

Some false beliefs are more destructive than others.

The most sinister false beliefs appear as counterfeit sources of value that mimic or pretend to take the place of our true value. These lies may provide a quick shot of fleeting pleasure, but never actually deliver on real lasting joy. These counterfeits can be addictive, and have decreasing utility over time. Until we stop seeking value in these false and deceptive places, we will struggle to maintain belief in our infinite intrinsic value.

Our natural state of being is growth.

If you struggle with or noticed you are not growing in otherwise expected ways, you may be living with the effects of trauma from abuse. Once we remove the false beliefs and dysfunctions, we will naturally begin to grow again.

RECOGNIZING ABUSE

Signs of Abuse

Anxiety is often a byproduct of abuse.

While they may not be aware of its cause, the abused often live with recurring anxiety. It can seemingly come out of nowhere and leave us feeling unable to move forward.

Anger can be a sign of abuse.

Anger is often overlooked as a sign of abuse because usually we have feelings of guilt surrounding the expression of anger. Anger at its heart is fear.

A persistent spirit of fear can be a consequence of abuse.

Fear is often the companion of the abused due to either conditioning or just a driving motivation to desperately chase safety and security.

Complacency for ones own feelings is a common consequence of abuse.

The abused often have become so accustomed to persistent negative feelings that they assume its just a part of their personality. They even may rationalize to themselves that it is not abuse when confronted with the possibility.

Over-reliance on others can be a result of abusive conditioning.

Sometimes the abuser conditions the abused in certain ways that leave them unhealthily dependent on them. Rather than prepare the abused to face the world with strength, they build into them the need to rely on the abuser for their needs. They neglect to teach them the necessary skills in order to prepare them to become their best self. These patterns usually carry over into other relationships.

Dependency on appetites can be a result of medicating the resultant pain of abuse.

The abused often find solace in the feelings produced by external substances, perceptions, or sensations. These can provide a temporary aura of freedom and release from the immediate consequences of abuse by temporarily tapping the pleasure centers of the brain.

Numbness can result from long term abuse.

Over time, abused people often become accustomed to their pain; while it still hurts, there's a kind of numbness that often sets in that can often cause the abused to easily overlook their plight.

Denial is often a condition the abused use to temper their pain.

Sometimes the abused require enduring an extreme situation where they experience intense pain before they can admit to themselves that what they are experiencing is abuse.

Abuse is coercion.

Abuse is be defined as whenever someone coerces our motivation, our body, our mind, or our feelings. Abusers can attempt our use feelings to influence, control, or brow beat us. Abusers also may lie, intimidate us through physical harm, or awaken fear in us in order to weaken our motivation. All of these are evil.

Recognize if you have been abused.

Pain is not the status quo. Recurring mental pain is the most recognizable manifestation of abuse.

The pain from abuse can persist for many years. If you can get to the bottom or root of the abuse, you can get rid of the pain. You can have the source of your pain removed even if it has been with you for many years, even decades.

Additional Manifestations of Abuse

“Being an empath” is often the consequence of trauma.

When a child is subjected to abuse, often it causes the child to carefully examine or scrutinize the body language of their abuser in order to avoid experiencing further hurt. This leads to the child developing the ability to recognize more quickly or readily what others are feeling. Sometimes the child even thinks this behavior is normal, and can be expected.

Hyper-awareness or hyper-vigilance is a trauma response.

Being in a constant state of fight or flight is the result of ongoing stimuli, similar to an animal being stalked by a predator. This condition causes us to be on constant guard, and hyper aware of our abusers’ body language in order to avoid being hurt.

People pleasing is a trauma response.

While we may be smiling, in reality people-pleasing is the act of trying to manage someone else’s feelings in order to protect ourselves from further harm.

Nice-guy syndrome is also a trauma response.

It is at its foundation, being a “nice guy” is fear-based. It is the act of trying to manage the feelings of others so that we feel safe. When we play the role of the nice guy, we are assuming accountability for and acting to police the feelings of others in order to make ourselves feel safer.

Self-loathing or self-hating thoughts can be a residual sign of abuse.

Often when we don’t defend ourselves from abusive people, we then abuse ourselves in order to motivate ourselves to take initiative in the abusive situation.

Inability to maintain healthy relationships can be a sign of past or present abuse.

When we anticipate being hurt due to years of being hurt, we can project those expectations onto those around us even if they have not done anything to deserve it. Fear of abuse can lead us to believe we are not safe. Often if we don’t feel safe we can act preemptively to protect ourselves. These actions may actually be abusive to those we assume we are protecting ourselves from.

The consequences of abuse are worse than you think.

It's not just abuse that is bad, and must be stopped. It's that the abuse leaves behind that must be removed if we are to stop the cycle and find peace in our lives. Abuse convinces us against our will of things that are not true. We are left with these programs in our subconscious to play out. These false beliefs enter into our subconscious against our will. These programs or circuits cause us dysfunction and hurt, and can be reawakened whenever a similar or somewhat familiar situation to the initial abuse occurs in our lives.

ACKNOWLEDGING ABUSE

Once you recognize abuse, it is important to acknowledge it.

Give it a name. Call it what it is. Giving it a name will give you power. When it has a name, it is easier to resist; you are less likely to enable the pattern to continue if you can see the problem. When someone abuses you, confront it and call it what it is. Often this alone will motivate the abuser to question their behavior.

Going to see a professional psychologist can be a helpful step.

in strengthening our ability to acknowledge abuse. Seeing a profession can be a very difficult step for those who have been abused for a lengthy period of time, but professionals can provide much needed perspective so that can help you accept painful truths that you have been taught to ignore or disregard.

UNDERSTANDING ABUSE

Coercion or abuse is the vector whereby false beliefs are delivered into us.

Coercion is the metaphorical syringe whereby false beliefs are injected into us and which play out inside us against our will.

Worthlessness is the ultimate false belief.

False beliefs can take on a lot of different shapes. We can be convinced of many different ideas which are false.

All false beliefs triangulate or can be boiled down to a single false belief: that of our ultimate worthlessness as individuals.

We must discover each of our false beliefs and their source if we are to find peace.

False beliefs manifest as mental pain. We can recognize false beliefs in us through our fears and negative emotions.

When we believe we are worthless, we still will seek our value, but in the wrong places.

This usually leads to further dysfunction. We must stop placing our value in places that will never lead to that end if we are to find peace. We will never be satisfied or feel valuable unless we find our value in the only place it can be found: from above and from within.

We must learn the truth.

We must not only recognize and remove the false beliefs of abuse, but we must learn the positive truths that replace the false things we have been taught to believe. When we know what is true, the truth flows in to replace it as we remove the lies. There are important truths that can bolster and protect us against being possessed by falsehoods in the future.

We as individuals have a distinctive stewardship.

Our stewardship includes our spirit, our body, our mind, and our emotions. These four areas are the fundamental units, personalities, or parts of our being. Our choices and actions in the world correspond to one or more of these four elements. Optimally these elements function in concert with one another. When we have been abused, often individual elements are isolated, unhealthily relied upon, and dysfunctional. Often one element or another can be completely neglected and weak. As we get healthy, these elements will develop and fall back into place.

Abuse is, by definition, when someone imposes on our rightful stewardship against our will.

Another word for abuse is coercion. When we coerce, we are abusing, whether we are doing it to others, or to ourselves.

Satan is the archetypal coercer.

In the biblical account, the devil's plan was to force all creation to follow his will in opposition to the plan of God. Whether we have religious belief or not, we symbolically act as agents or angels of Satan when we coerce.

Coercion is always wrong and always evil. It is never okay.

As a tool of the devil, coercion is wrong. One cannot use the devil's tools to do God's work. If the devil is coercion, then God is love and choice. We don't have to believe in God in order to act symbolically as his agents by choosing to never coerce or abuse another.

There are four types of coercion: Spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional.

All abuse can be categorized under one of these four areas.

Spiritual abuse can also be described as motivational coercion.

Our spirit is the part of us where our motivations originate or stem from. Whether we feel love or fear, this comes from our spirit; our motivating purpose is derived from our spirits. When we attempt to use fear or other means to influence the motivation of

others, we are spiritually coercing them. Our motivation is an important part of our stewardship. When others use fear to influence our drive, they are abusing our right to maintain the forces that drive us in the pursuit of our goals.

Sexual behavior can also be spiritually or motivationally coercive.

if we make commitments physiologically that are not also reflected or shared by our partner. When our relationships are backed up legally, we are less likely to be susceptible to believing things about our relationships that are not necessarily true.

Physical abuse is a well known type of coercion.

Harming or influencing another's body against their will is a type of coercion we must avoid.

When we lie to ourselves or to others, we are intellectually abusing them.

We twist and warp the nature of reality when we do so. Intellectual abuse is when untruths are imposed on us against our will. Knowing things as they are, were, and will be is part of our right and stewardship. As children of God, we have a right and affinity for all truth. When we lie or are lied to, reality is warped around us and it leaves us susceptible to false beliefs.

Emotional abuse is emotional coercion.

This is when we use feelings in order to bully, influence, shame, or use the feelings of others in order to get them to do what we want.

It is our responsibility to watch over and protect our stewardship.

If we don't take responsibility to take care of our stewardship, suffering results. We have a right to set boundaries on those who would influence us against our will.

SEEK TO UNDO THE EFFECTS OF ABUSE

We must remove existing false beliefs within ourselves that have resulted from abuse or coercion if we desire peace.

While the abuse in our lives may have stopped, we still can be saddled with the consequences of false beliefs for years. These false beliefs eventually can work themselves out over time, but until they do, they manifest as faulty programs in our lives. They act like evil spirits acting up inside us whenever we have situations that cause us to remember what we were taught; when we are triggered, they take hold. False beliefs resulting from abuse are the source of many dysfunctions and mental anguish in those who suffer with mental health issues.

There are clinical ways to remove false beliefs.

EMDR is one method. FBP is another. Tracking is another. Talk therapy is another. There are many ways to address and remove false beliefs. It is not only important to remove falsehoods, but to learn the truths that replace them.

False beliefs can be overcome relatively quickly.

There is hope. Through research and experimentation, reliable protocols have been created that assist abuse victims to overcome the false beliefs they have been saddled with. Through a combination of bilateral stimulation, the recognition of and presencing of the lasting effects of the abuse, and the establishment and teaching of replacement truths, your false beliefs can be quickly corrected with a trusted facilitator's help.

These techniques are designed to strengthen you to be able to undo and remove false beliefs through your own mindfulness.

Vulnerability, trust, and understanding are important elements in establishing inner strength to uproot and overcome one's false beliefs.

LEARN THE TRUTHS THAT SUPPLANT THE LIES

We need to learn truth, not just remove abuse or trauma.

Once we remove false beliefs, the true principles can will flow in to replace the bad ones, but we must know the truth first.

We have infinite intrinsic value.

Our value was determined before we were born in a place we have no control over. we have infinite value and boundless potential. God determined our value before we were even born. We cannot change the fact that we are infinitely valuable. We may believe we are worthless, but it isn't true; we aren't even in charge of our actual value. We may even choose to believe we are worthless, and we can bear its bitter fruit, *but it still won't make it true*; it was determined in a place and time outside of our power and control.

The subtle danger of abuse.

While we cannot change our value, we can believe lies that then influence our behavior. We can believe we are worthless and live with the consequences as if we are. This is the ultimate danger of abuse; that we are convinced of and act out as if we are worthless. We can perpetuate this belief in worthlessness if we then in our misery abuse others.

We can abuse ourselves.

Sometimes conscientious people can find a fair measure of success in avoiding to pass on abuse to others. Often these individuals are unaware that they are still susceptible to being abusive, but unwittingly it is just to themselves.

We are not our abuse.

But we must take ownership for when the darkness has gotten inside.

Change must come from within.

We must be the one to act on our own behalf if we are to find relief from suffering from abuse. If we are to grow, it is essential that we do it freely, without coercion.

Sometimes we wish to help others overcome abuse, but they do not recognize it. Being a good example and loving them sometimes is the best way to help them. When they are ready, they will come to those they trust for answers and solutions and understanding.

No pain we experience is lost.

Sometimes we suffer for years before seeking for help. Sometimes the abuse we have endured has taught us things that leave us lost and disoriented. When we finally seek for help, we may feel sad and wasted. No experience is lost. Everything you go through provides you perspective and experience. The deeper the hurt, the more profound the understanding. Your suffering has not been a waste. One day if you can confront your abuse, it is possible that you might have the opportunity to use your suffering as fuel for an even greater source of personal satisfaction and joy.

Our actions do not determine our value.

If we allow our value to be determined by our actions, as soon as the action stops, we no longer have value. So implicitly this means we are actually believing that we are already worthless.

We must defend and protect our stewardship if we are to have peace.

Our motivations, our time, our bodies, our thoughts and understanding of the world, and our feelings are important aspects of our stewardship. Know your stewardship allows you to better protect it. We must do something when others step on or impose on our stewardship. We should not allow others to impose on our stewardship against our will.

We must be accountable.

We have a responsibility to maintain and protect our stewardship. We must do whatever we can to stop others from coercing us. When we don't, we become subject to false beliefs. These false beliefs lead to dysfunction and mental pain. These beliefs must then be worked through, discovered, and removed if we are to have peace and rest. accountability is simply the embodiment of truth in our thoughts, motivations, actions, and feelings. we will find the greatest peace when we are the most accountable.

Even our abusers have intrinsic value.

Abuse is evil, and boundaries are essential for our safety. Individuals must be held accountable for their abusive behavior. However we must acknowledge that even our abusers have infinite intrinsic value, otherwise we implicitly are believing inside ourselves that intrinsic value (our own included) might be tied to behavior.

REMOVE THE SOURCES OF ABUSE

It is imperative to learn to listen to your feelings.

Abused individuals often have been conditioned to ignore their own feelings. Abuser often use gaslighting to convince the abused that their own sense of reality is not to be relied upon. When seeking to overcome the effects of abuse, it is important that we begin to learn to listen and regard our own feelings.

Signs of dysfunction: long lasting pain.

It is not always easy to recognize unhealthy mental patterns in yourself. In the words of Jordan Peterson, he states that if you have painful memories that persist for longer than 18 months, it is an indication that your body is telling you that there is something you haven't learned that is currently unresolved in your past.

Don't coerce yourself.

There are enough people out there willing to abuse and hurt you. don't make things infinitely worse by joining in on your dysfunction! shaming yourself, taking counsel from fear are two common ways of coercing yourself.

We must also recognize and remove all the forms and types of coercion.

so that false beliefs will stop being actively injected into us. Coercion can take many forms. Fear is a pernicious and virulent kind of coercion. Shame, belittlement, and guilt are another kind of coercion. Lies are embodied coercion. Physical violence can be a particularly easily recognized kind of coercion.

Get you own house in order first.

Sometimes our boundaries are misinterpreted by others as abuse. This is not your responsibility. You must do whatever is necessary to protect yourself. It is not your responsibility to police or service the interpretation of your actions by others. Your first and only responsibility is to yourself.

We must also learn to defend ourselves and prevent against future abuses.

It is our responsibility to be accountable and establish boundaries with those who would act upon us in abusive ways. If we don't, we will begin to resent ourselves and might be tempted to become our own private abuser.

Learn to set boundaries.

Boundaries help us to protect ourselves from abuse. they also help us avoid having to deal with false beliefs that can halt or stymie our growth and development. if we get abused, these ideas can persist for decades. it is our responsibility to do what is necessary in order to prevent ourselves from being subjected to false beliefs imposed by others. we

must first removed the false beliefs and then prevent the continued imposition of false beliefs if we are to maintain personal peace.

Resentment is a sign of crossed boundaries.

If you feel resentful, you can know for a fact that you can do a better job of protecting yourself.

Don't shame or humiliate yourself.

Shame as a verb is emotional abuse, which is when our feelings are used to browbeat or control us. By allowing ourselves to be influenced like this, we are being coerced. coercion is the means whereby false beliefs enter our hearts. false beliefs leave us susceptible to misery and mental pain, and self-destructive behavior.

Don't lie.

Lying warps reality around you and prevents accountability. it is abusing the stewardship of those you are deceiving through your untruths.

Don't take council from fear.

Fear is self coercion. fear is false revelation from evil spirits about what shall be. but by heeding it, we actually help to bring that dark future about.

Anxiety and fear can be helpful red flags.

Whenever you feel fear, you can know you are being coerced, therefore you can examine your thoughts and at the bottom, there is a false belief that you need to overcome. If you pull on that thread, you may discover very valuable information about yourself.

Fear is always evil.

Preparation and readiness are not the same as fear. We may experience fear, but we should never listen to it. It leads to false beliefs.

Fear is what amounts to false revelation from an evil spirit telling us what shall be, but in believing what it says, we inevitably bring about that dark future. It's like a virus; its one thing to be abused or coerced by another, but a whole twisted other thing to be coerced from within. this is why fear is a crafty, evil influence that must be recognized for what it is, confronted and defeated within ourselves. otherwise we can become the source of our own false beliefs.

Anxiety is fear.

Fear is coercion of the self.

Anger at its root is actually fear.

Fear is coercion of the self. Coercion injects false beliefs.

Basically anger is tantamount to the belief that we are worthless. we should remove the source of anger or have or set better boundaries for ourselves.

Anger is your body's natural consequence for being hurt.

It is screaming to protect you. You can harness it to provides you the energy to help you to establish boundaries. Anger and resentment are good in the short term in order to help us be safe. They canker our souls if we don't use them for good. Setting boundaries allows you to feel safe enough to be able to forgive and let go of the resentment.

Fear must be confronted.

We must root out fear if we are to be free of the dark unseen and malevolent influences that seem to persistently haunt us, especially those who have been abused in the past.

Learn to remove fears from yourself.

If you stop and realize what you are feeling, that of the feelings of fear, then remember that fear is coercion, and that coercion plants false beliefs. Then examine your mind to figure out what the fear is trying to cause you to believe about yourself, you can systematically undo the effects of countless abuses from your past. the most common source of false beliefs is delivered by fear. fear is self coercion. coercion is the syringe whereby we are convinced of beliefs about ourselves against our will.

HALTING OUR PURSUIT OF COUNTERFEIT VALUE

When we believe we are worthless, we still seek our value in other less fruitful places.

Belief in ones worthlessness is one of the underlying causes of so many mental health dysfunctions.

Pursuing our value in the wrong place.

can manifest as co-dependency, anger, narcissism, people-pleasing or nice-guy syndrome, addiction, perfectionism, and many other toxic and painful traits. They all starts with us being convinced that we are worthless. We then seek to find our value elsewhere; even if we believe in our lack of worth, we still seek to feel valuable. We turn to anything that makes us feel good or pleasurable.

We must recognize when we are incorrectly seeking our value in the wrong places and stop doing it.

We can be deceived into thinking that we will find our value externally. This pattern can prevent us from finding our own true source of value, and can even lead to us perpetuating abuse in the lives of others.

We can mistakenly place our value in things.

Objects, behaviors, relationships, beliefs, motivations, power; almost anything can be a horcrux and unnaturally invested with our value. When this happens, our value becomes susceptible to being destroyed. We then become protective of that thing. We attempt to protect the external thing possessed of our value from being hurt by others. And once that thing gets destroyed, our value is destroyed. We falsely believe that our value has been hurt, and we blame the one who destroyed the object on our lack of value. We have been deceived into defending a lie, we cut off these relationships, and the fear, the hurt, and the loneliness in us grows.

But our value should never have been placed in the thing to begin with because as we have learned, our value is intrinsic, and immutable, and cannot be changed.

Our value cannot be truly found in the physical world.

Our value originates from a higher place than the four dimensional, physical world. Value comes from a spiritual or five dimensional plane. Five dimensional truths cannot be determined or dependent on four dimensional reality.

When we place our value in things, we call it a horcrux.

In the book series, Harry Potter, the main villain places pieces of his soul into objects in order to maintain his life force. We do essentially the same thing when we mistakenly seek to place our value in things. When we seek to find our value outside of ourselves, we effectively are making a personal horcrux.

Horcruxes are unnatural and self-destructive.

Our value was already determined before we were born. Our value cannot actually be placed in things. But we can be deceived into thinking our value lies outside ourselves. Abuse implicitly convinces us that we can and ought to look outside of ourselves to find our value.

When the objects hypothetically possessing our value are damaged, we can be convinced of and feel real pain in our souls. We can make horcruxes out of almost an infinite number of things.

Our value can be incorrectly placed in the approval of others.

When I was young, I was conditioned to believe that my value was determined by whether or not my mom loved me. When she would withdraw her love from me when she was angry, I then became worthless. If value can be withdrawn dependent on behavior, then by default, it means we are inherently worthless.

We can falsely seek our value in our goodness.

Religious perfectionism is a description of looking for our value in the rightness of our choices.

We can falsely seek our value in our physical bodies.

We can falsely seek our value in the attention we receive from the opposite sex. When we crave for validation and attention from others in order to make ourselves feel better about ourselves, we may be horcruxing our looks. We are implicitly believing that our value is derived from others' approval, and that we are, deep inside, worthless.

We can inappropriately place our value in our worthiness.

Worthiness does not equal value. While behavior can lead to distinct blessings in our lives, these good choices must not be equated with our intrinsic value, otherwise we are susceptible to believing the falsehood that our infinite value can be tied to and undone by our behavior.

Using Mindfulness Principles to Deal with Specific Situations

INFIDELITY

We can falsely place our value in our ability to maintain relationships.

Sometimes we may experience the abuse of infidelity. In our pain, we may be tempted to deride our abuser as worthless. Choices have consequences, but choices do not make us worthless. We have infinite intrinsic value.

When we believe our abusers to be worthless, we imply that his or her value is tied to their actions.

We then are more likely to become possessed ourselves of the idea that if we are faithful in our next relationship, we will maintain our value. We are effectively creating a horcrux of our ability to be faithful, and therefore become even more rooted in the belief that we are worthless.

ADDICTION

Addiction is the result of medicating the pain from residual false beliefs of abuse.

It is an attempt at dulling an underlying background noise of hurt from unmet false beliefs resulting from trauma. The use of the substance is an attempt at addressing and reduce this pain.

Substance abuse is not a permanent solution.

It is a temporary answer that shrinks in its effectiveness the more we use it.

If we can resolve the abuse and underlying false beliefs causing the pain, we may be able resolve the appetite of addiction.

Getting high is good, healthy, and useful if we get it from a sustainable source. We are designed to get high, but from sustainable sources. It is also useful to replace the addiction with other sources of dopamine. Discovering ones life purpose, exploring interests, and developing creative instincts can be very helpful and healthy natural highs that might be able to compete with artificial sources of value.

NARCISSISM

Narcissism is when someone refuses or is unable to be accountable for their false beliefs and instead chooses to extract their supposed value by abusing others.

They willfully militate against the stewardship of others, insisting on coercing them in order to provide for themselves an externalized perceived source of value. As value must be found within and above in order to be deep and lasting, they will never accomplish their goal, rather being provided ever shrinking margins of satisfaction from the liquification and objectification of others. In the process they destroy the peace of those around them and drive away any health individuals who might have otherwise been the best means of helping us.

Narcissism is destructive, but is especially toxic to an abused person.

if they have been taught to find their value in the approval of others or in their ability to be good. Narcissist take advantage of the abused by using them contrary to nature as a source of their own value. Like a battery, narcissists will drain the abused dry in pursuit of their own warped needs without regards to the truth.

The solution to narcissism.

Get your own house in order. Take care of your own needs as an abused person before concerning yourself with the needs of others. Remove any sources of coercion. Do what is necessary to undo false beliefs. Establish boundaries.

Sometimes the best and only kind of love we can show someone is a consequence.

We cannot always help through speaking words. Sometimes consequences are the only message a person will listen to. You have no obligation to teach anyone if your own needs haven't been met. Get your own house in order before concerning yourself with others.

Sometimes harsh consequences are needed to combat abuse in cases of ongoing narcissism; when the narcissist has been deceived to this point, consequences can be the only teacher.

EXITING AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Genuine love is unconditional.

Love is not love that alters when alteration finds. Love does not change. If someone truly loves us, our boundaries we believe we need will not change that love.

Love is a verb, not just a feeling.

If you haven't learned to love yourself unconditionally, you can't unconditionally love someone else. You can try, but you will fail. People that love us want the best for us, even if they disagree with our choices.

Does this person actually love us?

When we abuse, we demonstrate that we are unable to actually love someone. It is easier to have boundaries when we know that someone doesn't actually love us unconditionally. Those who love us will not coerce us.

There is a difference between trying to love and succeeding at loving.

Many relationships are attempts at loving, but never actually succeed. If someone hasn't learned to love themselves, they are not in a position to be able to truly love another.

The way we treat someone implies what it is we value.

If "love" is withdrawn for bad behavior, then it is conditional feeling. It is not actually love, but changing sentiment.

If we don't have good boundaries, we are not fully loving ourselves.

Part of truly loving yourself is doing what is necessary in order maintain your own needs. When you sacrifice your own needs in order to service the demands of another while your mental health suffers, you may have a problem with boundaries.

We can have boundaries and still love someone.

In fact, proper boundaries are essential for love to flourish. Love is not a blanket license. Love is self respect. Love is believing in and behaving as if the other person has infinite intrinsic value.

SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING THE OTHER SEX

THE ROLE AND INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF THE MASCULINE AND FEMININE WITH MALES AND FEMALES

The Coercive Reactive Male Feminine Equals Fear

When a man reactively is in his feminine, he is in his fear. This is a trauma response, and if a woman wishes to help him reach his highest potential, she will have compassion on him, and she will not project a female lens onto him, but rather help him find courage to embrace his protective, divine masculine.

The Coercive Reactive Female Masculine Equals Fear

When a woman reactively is in her masculine, she is in her fear. This is a trauma response, and if a man wishes to help her reach her highest potential, he will have compassion on her, and he will not project a male lens onto her, but rather help her find courage to embrace her receiving, divine feminine.

The Selfless Active Female Masculine Equals Accountability and Protection

If a woman is in her active masculine or state of acting upon others for good, she is in a state of accountability and protection. This is good and necessary, and helps a woman appreciate more greatly the role of a healthy, divine masculine in her life.

The Selfless Active Male Feminine Equals Revelation and Creativity

When a man is in his conscious active feminine or receiving, he is in a state of revelation and creativity. This is good and necessary, and helps a man appreciate more greatly the role of a healthy, divine female in his life.

A Selfless Active Male Masculine (The Divine Masculine)

When a man is in his healthy or divine masculine, he is in the highest state of being that embodies a state of procreation, protection, provision, and presiding. These desires or motivations awaken without compulsion. His inherent desires awaken to fulfill these roles. This is the highest state of being in a man and the source of his greatest joy. A man has the most influence on a woman when he embodies or is in his divine masculine.

A Selfless Active Female Feminine (The Divine Feminine)

When a woman is in her healthy or divine feminine, she is in the highest state of being that embodies a state of creating, nurturing, teaching and receiving. These desires or motivations awaken without compulsion. Her inherent desires awaken to fulfill these roles. This is the highest state of being in a woman and the source of her greatest joy. A woman has the most influence on a man when she embodies or is in her divine feminine.

A Coercive Active Female Feminine (The Demonic Feminine, Evil Queen, Devouring/Oedipal Mother)

A woman in her demonic feminine is in a state of seduction and objectification. This is when woman uses her gifts to influence in a coercive way. She harnesses fear, force, falsehoods, or feelings in opposition to the will of others to manipulate them in order to accomplish her goals.

A Coercive Active Male Masculine (The Demonic Masculine, Evil King, Abusive Father Archetype)

A man in his demonic masculine is in a state of involuntary force, bullying, and abuse. This is when a man uses his gifts in a coercive way. He harnesses fear, force, falsehoods, or feelings in opposition to the will of others to manipulate them in order to accomplish his goals.

Supporting Mindfulness

The Goal

To cast out Satan and his angels; to prepare the earth for the coming of Christ. To prepare the soil of the earth to be planted with the righteousness and truth leading to a worldwide condition of Zion, beginning in my efforts and expanding into the world.

Effectively protect, defend, prevent, and secure the conditions under which the dynamo is able to operate and successfully churn, leading to a state where Zion arrives and returns.

How to Advocate Mindfulness

1. Be willing to live it myself first before expecting others to.

Listen to my personal righteous desires. Get my own house in order first.

Don't be afraid to be the messenger of truth you know. Maintain your stewardship. Cast off fear. Don't hesitate to speak your mind. Don't give fear a platform to express itself.

2. Be willing to offer counseling and advice to anyone who genuinely asks for it.

Watch for those willing and interested in growing. Remove your offer from those who demonstrate disinterest or unwillingness to grow aka. willingness to continue to take counsel from their fear in opposition to your efforts.

Provide mental help support to those who need it and seek it, or who are open to it. To be willing to not coerce themselves. To be able to recognize and cast out coercion. To be able to recognize it in all its various form of feelings, falsehoods, force, fear, and flattery.

Help others and work with them. Offer when you notice that someone needs what you have; express to them what you can do and how it might help them.

3. Be willing to refuse and remove anyone who doesn't conform to these standards.

The standard: Be amenable and seeking to conform to these standards. They can feel fear, but must be open to work towards removing it.

The Process

Define the relevant principles and readily provide access to them.

Before you enlist with us to work with you, we recommend you read through an outline of the important ideas and principles we refer to during our meetings. The outline is listed in the document below, *"Principles of Mindfulness"*.

Develop a protocol.

Usually someone approaches me for help, or they just start talking with me and I can tell that they have issues with their mental health. I take the same approach with each person. I help them through careful questions, making sure they buy into each thing I ask. I help them figure out the source of their problem and offer truths at pivotal moments when I have established a lack of understanding. Sometimes I can just offer the document that they can read on their own. Other times I proceed to meet with them one-on-one for a coaching/questioning/instruction session. These can go one of three ways.

Sometimes trauma is so deep that they can't get beyond the pain. These lead me to offer some type of EMDR or tracking. This helps them subconsciously let go of false beliefs resulting from abuse they have endured.

Sometimes it requires just conversations to help the individual be more conscious of their thinking process and the conclusions they're coming to in their head and why.

And sometimes individuals just need to recognize certain fundamental truths that by not understanding them, they are drawing false conclusions that hold them back.

Through my approach, I am teaching those receiving counseling from me how to first do it themselves. (From there, it is a natural step to be able to learn to ask questions like I do.)

Develop a place and the means that allows you to reliably offer these resources to everyone who needs it; your entire community, including employees, residents, students, and visitors. Provide sustenance and means to be able to sustain the needs of those providing the counseling, as well as physical spaces for that counseling to take place. Hire and maintain a team of counselors who can provide the necessary support.

CHAPTER 5: Sustainability

THE SECOND OF FOUR FACETS

The second area addressed and embodied in my corner of Zion is that of sustainable development. It is the means whereby I am securing and maintaining all the means necessary in order to maintain motivation for my community to be able and willing to protect and defend itself physically and ideologically.

SUPPORTING SELF-RELIANCE IS ESSENTIAL

Local physical independence and sustainability as a principle allows us to protect ourselves by maintaining independence from manipulation of others who might not have our best interest in mind. By taking responsibility for our own physical needs and providing for ourselves, we remove the ability of others to influence and take advantage of us.

HISTORY

This is perhaps the earliest element of my corner of Zion to have been developed. It has been through countless iterations through the years.

WHAT WE DO

We consider, collect, grow, produce, and maintain all the physical means necessary in order to provide and protect for our physical needs in support of our quality of life.

Path to Sustainability

Our Goal

Do what is necessary to provide for the independence and needs of your family, the Christmas town, the school, the story, your workers, and the immediately surrounding community. Maintain the ability to cast out fear, help them understand the nature of themselves and the universe, embrace their gifts and achieve their highest good.

How To Do It

A. Do what I can myself to assess, determine, acquire, preserve, and integrate the means myself.

1. Assess what means are necessary in order to accomplish your goal.

Make a list or have someone else make a list of subjects or desires. Do what you can yourself to assess the needs of your family, organization, company, and community.

Make lists of what these will cost and when and how often these costs are required.

Propose these acquisitions internally in order to account for costs and use of resources

2. Determine the means currently at your disposal, financially and/or otherwise.

Assess what means are at your disposal.

Consider proposals made to acquire these funds.

3. Use these means to acquire or purchase the necessary resources to accomplish and maintain the goal.

Continue to assess and acquire new means as necessary.

Make the necessary funds available in pursuit of the organizational goals.

4. Be efficient with means and resources to make sure you are as self-reliant as possible and integrate these resources aesthetically into the existing story-oriented environment.

Cause an accounting to be made when funds are dispensed in order to keep track of how they are being spent. Encourage budget proposals that

seek to create independence of systems and processes. Teach individuals the principles of independence and accountability. Help them pursue jobs that are motivated from within.

Adapt the design to be a part of the story or hide it completely. Skin them to be able to exist without drawing attention away from the story; integrate them the best you can so that they compliment, at worst hide them. Include these attempts in the budget proposals.

(Mortimer and Benjamin use the places and peoples they experience abroad to inspire the look and feel for the Christmas town and related, relevant spaces.)

B. Develop a system to get others to do this for you by proxy. Help your workers to get their own houses in order so that they understand the principles that govern your goals and are prepared to be able to successfully assist you.

1. Assess their fears, mental health. Help them through them.
2. Find out what their immediate needs are and help them find or connect to the adequate means.
3. Provide them access to the school; help them develop their creativity; figure out what drives them so that they are a good match.
4. Once they are prepared to help you in your goal and want to assist you, give them the reins.

My Process

A. Subjects to Collect and Support

Artisan Crafts, Performance, Skills, Industries.

Artisan crafts

Book binding,

Making and repairing shoes, boots, armor

Blacksmithing

swords, knives

Designing stained glass

Cooking/cheffing like Meadow; learning her techniques. Her theories of flavor and texture and fats and salts and soups and such.

Puppet making. Giant puppetry for greenhouse.

Luthier of violins.

Costume design and construction.

waist coats, shirts, coats, frocks

Millinery. Hat making.

Making rings; metalcraft- sculpting and pouring precious metals.

Rag rug weaving.

Chain Mail.

Throwing pottery.

Apothecary. Making toiletries- shampoo, conditioner, lotion.

Steampunk prop making. Electronics

tesla coil, Jacob's ladder.

Performance

Training and catching owls. Having a pet owl; falconry qualification.

Longsword fighting.

Skills

Stone masonry.

Cobblestone. Castle building.

real estate acquiring, city incorporation

Industries

Energy development

earth batteries

methane sump

trash fuel

Housing construction

B. How to collect and support these subjects

1. *Getting access to the information*

Hands-on learning through exploration myself

Learning online

investing in the pieces and parts myself

Seeking out specialists to teach me

Paying specialists to do it for us; have them teach us.

2. *Budgeting to purchase information and means*

COSTS

Information- lay out needs to do with each project, cost of each necessary element.

Means- Energy, Food/Products, Housing/Infrastructure

Technology, Research, hardware, property, equipment, materials, design, crew

3. *Dissemination of funds*

Writing checks/making deposits

4. Recording and Accounting for expenditures

a. Keeping track of expenditures

b. Making reports of expenditures

c. Sending in records of receipts

d. Follow up on records- auditing records

CHAPTER 6: A School

What It Looks Like

‘I, the Lord, am well pleased that there should be a school in Zion.

And to the residue of the school, I, the Lord, am willing to show mercy; nevertheless, there are those that must needs be chastened.

The ax is laid at the root of the trees; and every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit shall be hewn down and cast into the fire. I, the Lord, have spoken it.

Verily I say unto you, all among them who know their hearts are honest, and are broken, and their spirits contrite, and are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice—yea, every sacrifice which I, the Lord, shall command—they are accepted of me.

For I, the Lord, will cause them to bring forth as a very fruitful tree which is planted in a goodly land, by a pure stream, that yielded much precious fruit.’ D&C 97:3, 6-9

Everyone is born with wonder and curiosity, but it is often beat out of us. Often the most gifted among us feel completely ostracized and out of place. This is the result of schools imposing on students information without respect to the desires or interests of those they teach. It’s a corruption of the philosophy of the fundamental nature and processes of learning itself. In my view, it is the consequence of the influence of coercion in education.

Coercion must be removed from wherever it exists.

Here at *Masters Mortimer and Benjamin Blackburn’s School for the Alchemical Arts*, our culture promotes the ideals of individual choice, motivated learning, personal responsibility, imagination, creativity, and the essential, validating role of real-world context and practical application.

Our role is in helping students develop from where they are into the best people they can become. We help our students safely and carefully open their hearts and connect to those purposes that engage them. By doing so, we help awaken, cultivate, and harness their inherent gifts and abilities with the goal of assisting them to reach their ultimate potential.

Our Educational Approach

My educational system embodies within itself the principles it seeks to teach to those who seek to increase their understanding. It is entirely based on the idea that education is the three-fold process of

1. inspiring curiosity through play
2. watching for, recognizing, and fueling the fires of deep interest awakened in play as wide and as far as available resources allow
3. assist students in removing barriers that inhibit play and individual wholesome pursuit

INSPIRE CURIOSITY AND PLAY

Inspiring curiosity is the most difficult step because you must do this without imposition. It must be free of force. The student must act on his or her own interest and desire. This is essential because it sets the precedent for the entire educational template. If force or compulsion is used in any respect, it crystallizes and creates an expectation and pattern of force that will persist until the principle is overcome and supplanted by truth: that curiosity and desire NEVER result from force or compulsion, and that there is nothing more important to teach children with respect to learning than that compulsion is bad, that curiosity and independence is good. We must lead by example by providing opportunities for engagement, but being careful to not impose them. If the child is not engaging, this means at least one of a few things. Trauma. Or lack of interest. Every child is born with inherent curiosity. If they are not curious, either they have been conditioned to respond due to environmental factors, and these must be undone, or you have simply not found the right combination to awaken and stir the fire that already exists within the child. We can help with both.

Understanding the nature of reality; upgrading your paradigm so as to know the wider gamut of subjects and areas of pursuit. Some parents just don't have a full awareness of exactly all the areas of learning and interest available.

You can lead by example in being willing to take the time to allow yourself to play. By demonstrating the value and joy of play, you invite those watching to do it themselves.

We are constantly adding new imaginative spaces and opportunities to our fictional space. We are also adding to a list of community opportunities and resources in order to help parents and stewards of students to have resources to draw from in helping students pursue whatever ends they desire.

FUELING THE FIRE

Once you understand what motivates the student, and the student has permission and incentive to pursue his interest, you simply have to work to assemble the resources the

help fuel the fire within. Continue to accrue access to means and resources in preparation and anticipation for what students most likely will need.

Once resources are harnessed to their capacity, by then the student is in very strong position to be able to recognize and seek what he or she needs for their next step. We then help coach them and facilitate these needs in the ways we think serve the student's growth.

HELPING STUDENTS WORK THROUGH BARRIERS

Sometimes issues stop the students from engaging in play or pursuing their interests. We help these students to work through whatever problems that might present themselves inhibiting these things. We non-coercively work to help them remove these barriers.

History

This educational system is the result of decades of research, development, and experimentation. While seemingly simple, beneath the simplicity is a profound understanding and deep awareness of the needs and potential of students.

UNDERSTANDING HOW EVERYTHING WORKS

At the root of our educational approach is an even more fundamental outline of principles that guide and undergird the Principles of Creativity. This outline provides what amounts to a granular and essential theoretical and ideological structure that animates and informs all things. In other words, it could be called a Theory of Everything. It is a framework or lens. Whereby we can break down and understand any and every process in the universe.

HISTORY OF THIS UNDERSTANDING

This outline was discovered and articulated pretty early on, but has taken many years to bear fruit in a form that could be harnessed in accessible ways.

Theory of Everything
Principles of Alchemy

1. Where To Begin?

.....

AN ELUSIVE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

Science has been searching for a theory that captures all the principles of physics into one. If it truly is a theory of everything, however, ought not it to also incorporate the truths we find in the rest of science, as well as those of art, religion? We should be looking for a theory that captures the ways that the right and left hemispheres of our brains see the world.

WHERE TO LOOK

Where might we look to find a theory comprehensive enough to include all such ideas? We should take the advice of Dr. Jordan Peterson to heart and look where we don't want to look: to ideology.

UTILITY OF IDEOLOGY

If virology can be used as a means of accomplishing biological good, then perhaps ideology might be used to benefit us as well. Ideology seems to be a cancer that is tearing the world apart. Perhaps if we could repair it, or remove the bad parts, we might be able to use it as a tool to convey and incorporate all known truths into a single conception of the world. Perhaps ideology is the key to the theory of everything.

IDEOLOGY HAS PROMISING MEANS OF DELIVERY

Traditionally ideology or in other words, religion, has been viewed as a system of belief. From a scientific perspective it could also be described as a network of intersecting archetypes designed to catalyze our ability to navigate reality. Archetypes are a way whereby our brains are hyperlinked to truth.

RELIGION HAS VALUE BEYOND A BELIEF SYSTEM

We learn from the work of Dr. Jordan Peterson that, as a bank of archetypes, religion or religious conceptions can help us more quickly connect concepts about the nature of existence.

EVEN THE RELIGIOUS CAN LOOK DEEPER THAN A DOGMATIC VIEW OF BELIEF

The difficulty with using religion as a means of finding a theory of everything is the dogmatic way religion is traditionally viewed. We must be willing to isolate individual principles and agree to them if we are to find a uniting theory of everything. If we can, the study of religion may have intrinsic value if we can gather archetypal knowledge from it.

MORE TRUTH IS GOOD

Truth is knowledge or understanding that increases our ability to act for ourselves in the world. The more tools we have to view the world, the more power and mastery we have over ourselves and our future.

QUOTE:

“The worlds of the spiritual and physical, science, religion, and art must be unified in a concerted whole if we are to ever be able to circle the squares of this world. We need a theory that makes room and meaning of everything at once.”

(Benjamin Roche, 2023)

A THEORY IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

We need a way of integrating and organizing truth in a way that allows us to both understand and rank knowledge according to its function, purpose, and utility, all while never discounting any of it.

THE WORLD IS TEARING ITSELF APART

We must incorporate science, religion, art, politics, the physical, emotion, logical, motivational truths of life and reality. It must embody, explain, and enable greater understanding while providing answers to life’s deepest questions. It must also incorporate the most profound insights of quantum theory while staying abreast of the purest grasp of astrophysics. In other words, it must be a theory of everything.

WHAT THIS IS

This author believes he has found an ideology that fits this description. In the following chapters, he seeks to outline his argument, and illustrate his conclusions as to their relevance to the task at hand. He hopes you find both intuitive value and practical utility in what he has articulated.

2. The Creator’s Identity

.....

THE CREATOR, WE CALL GOD

God is responsible for the creation of the earth, it’s inhabitants, and all living things on the face of it. He created the planets, the stars, and everything we can see. He also created that which we cannot see.

GOD IS OUR FATHER

God is not only our creator, He is our parent. He created our spirit bodies before creating our physical tabernacles.

WE CAN BE LIKE HIM

Because He is our father, we are his children, and as such, inherited the ability to become like Him.

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO READY INDIVIDUALS WE CALL PROPHETS

We learn about God through prophets. Prophets declare the truth given to them from God. As we apply what the prophets teach, we can know for ourselves that this knowledge comes from God.

GOD IS COMPREHENDIBLE AND DESIRES US TO INHERIT HIS NATURE

Prophets have declared that one way to view God is as a glorified man, or in other words, a perfected version of yourself. He has a supreme desire to help us become like Him in every respect because He is our father. And like most parents, He wishes that His children inherit His possibilities, His opportunities, and His glorious physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual characteristics.

God lives and reveals himself to individuals. He orchestrates means and methods to accomplish this. He establishes formal organizations in order to facilitate individual, customizable access to His light and knowledge through personal revelation. He uses this connection to His individual children by communicating directly with their hearts and minds through His Holy Spirit.

WE CAN PERSONALLY KNOW HIM

We not only have a Heavenly Father, but Heavenly Parents. In this pattern, both males and females have equally lasting eternal potential. We can develop the same traits and characteristics They possess if we live the same laws which They have allowed Themselves to be governed by.

HE PROVIDES MEANS WHEREBY WE CAN BECOME LIKE HIM

We can progress by applying eternal unchanging principles. Our parents want us to understand these principles so we might also progress like they have. They do everything They can to make these principles available to us, and provide tools to help us comprehend and apply them.

WE EACH HAVE A STEWARDSHIP

God has given us a variety of blessings in the form of unique personal resources and opportunities. Whether it manifests as intelligence, money, opportunities, relationships, or some other form, God expects us to harness the gifts He gives us.

SCRIPTURE:

“It is required of the Lord, at the hand of every steward, to render an account of his stewardship, both in time and in eternity. (D&C 72:3)

They are conditionally given, and have responsibilities attached to each of them. Our capacity and opportunity to learn is part of our stewardship.

GREATER JOY CAN COME OF GREATER FREEDOM

Empowered individual choice is a foundational principle of becoming like our Heavenly Parents, and also part of our stewardship. The more freedom we retain, the more opportunity for joy we gain. Being able to choose for themselves God's same path is essential for Their children to be able to become like Them. We cannot achieve this end without individual freedom.

ULTIMATE FREEDOM COMES OF ULTIMATE TRUTH

Another foundational principle that leads to the fulfillment of man's fullest eternal potential is knowledge of, and subjection of self to all truth.

Knowing and then being subject to truth places each individual in a position to better understand his or her place in relation to the world, and to act according to the state of things as they really are. Knowledge of truth opens the door to help us better navigate the road to Godhood, and then by allowing ourselves to be subject to all truth, it will be brought about.

SCRIPTURE:

"Truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come... He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things." (D&C 93:24, 28)

GOD CAN LEAD US BECAUSE HE HAS MASTERED ALL PRINCIPLES,

SCRIPTURE:

"The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth." (D&C 93:36)

If we learn, apply, and integrate all fundamental eternal principles, we can achieve the state and happiness that God has reached. He knows the process whereby He reached it, and seeks to implement the same with us.

God also perfectly comprehends our current individual state and knows what we might need in order to proceed from our latest situation. He will provide the necessary help and tools in order to achieve this if we ask for it.

SCRIPTURE:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

WE MUST APPLY WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW

Another foundational principle of achieving our eternal potential is that we must apply what we already have been given before expecting God to provide us with more.

SCRIPTURE:

“For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.” (2 Nephi 28:30)

WE MUST ACCEPT TRUTH WHEREVER IT MAY BE FOUND

Truth may be found in many places. We have a responsibility to diligently search for it wherever it might be found.

QUOTES:

“One of the grand fundamental principles... is to receive truth, let it come from whence it may.” (Discourses of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 199, 9 July 1843)

“(The gospel) plan incorporates every system of true doctrine on the earth, whether it be ecclesiastical, moral, philosophical, or civil; it incorporates all good laws that have been made from the days of Adam until now; it swallows up the laws of nations, for it exceeds them all in knowledge and purity, it circumscribes the doctrines of the day, and takes from the right and the left, and brings all truth together in one system, and leaves the chaff to be scattered hither and thither.” (Discourses of Brigham Young, 3–4)

WE ARE EXPECTED TO BE CURIOUS

We are commanded to be as a little children.

SCRIPTURE:

“And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:2-3)

One of the consistent characteristics of children is their insatiable curiosity and willingness to ask questions when they want to know something.

SCRIPTURE:

“Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.” (3 Nephi 13:7-8)

3. The Creator’s Plan

.....

GOD EXPECTS US TO SUCCEED

God and His Son, Jesus Christ, are all-knowing. They each received a body of flesh and bones, just as we have. Christ is our brother, and God is our Father. They are not distant magicians in some unknown corner of some irrelevant, unquantifiable cosmic dimension, but relatable, passionate individuals with an interest in our development and success.

God is our parent, the literal pattern after which we have been designed and built; it is intended that we follow in His footsteps and develop and grow as He once developed.

SCRIPTURES:

“The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth.” (D&C 93:36)

"He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things." (D&C 93:28)

GOD IS INTENTIONAL AND JUDICIOUS

God is perfect in all things. He also comprehends the quickest and most straightforward way of accomplishing all things. He loves us perfectly; when we do as He asks, He provides the most thorough and efficient means of accomplishing his objective(s).

When God speaks, He chooses His words carefully; He does not waste. When He is particularly succinct, we ought to take note, but if he repeats Himself, we should be especially aware.

GOD REALLY WANTS TO SHOW HIMSELF TO US

The Lord wishes to reveal as much as He can of himself. He heightens our curiosity and inspires us to look further. He wishes us to want to learn more about Him, about His life, and how we can become more like Him.

SCRIPTURES:

“Every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am.” (D&C 93:1)

“Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” (D&C 4:7)

“And it came to pass that... the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones one by one with his finger. And the veil was taken from off the eyes of the brother of Jared, and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood; and the brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear. And the Lord saw that the brother of Jared had fallen to the earth; and the Lord said unto him: Arise, why hast thou fallen? And he saith unto the Lord: I saw the finger of the Lord, and I feared lest he should smite me; for I knew not that the Lord had flesh and blood. And the Lord said unto him: Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; for were it not so ye could not have seen my finger.” (Ether 3:6-9)

THERE IS A UNIFIED UNCHANGING SCHEMATIC OF LAWS HE FOLLOWS

God understands and is governed by a network of eternal truths. His system includes every law, including but not limited to those measured or considered by science. The laws of music, art, religion, and science are all incorporated into His understanding. As taught in the temple endowment, God incorporates everything, for truly,

SCRIPTURE:

“All truth can be circumscribed into one great whole.” (Formal Instruction, Temple Endowment)

HIS SYSTEM IS DEFINABLE

God is the ultimate scientist. To be so, everything He does is theoretically replicable and measurable, and follows definable principles, though, we may not yet comprehend the particular mechanics.

QUOTE:

“Our religion is nothing more nor less than the true order of heaven—the system of laws by which the gods and the angels are governed. Are they governed by law? Certainly. There is no being in all the eternities by what is governed by law.”
(Discourse of Brigham Young, 1)

WE CAN FOLLOW THE SAME SYSTEM

We, as His children, by our very natures have access to God’s system of learning and opportunity to become. If we discover, comprehend, and apply the same principles, we will grow like He did.

SCIENCE HAS SIMILAR IDEAS

Einstein once spoke of his desire to discover a "Theory of Everything." While he had discovered General Relativity, he still yearned to push the boundaries of man’s

knowledge further. He sought a formula that would predictably describe the behavior of all phenomena in the universe. Sadly, he was unsuccessful in his lifetime, but even now physicists imagine and seek for an idea that will incorporate General Relativity and quantum physics, as well as every other measurable phenomenon in the universe.

WE ARE TO BE ANALYTICAL

Understanding cause and effect is essential when attempting to understand how things work. If we react to our emotions without thinking as to why, we are prevented from reaching our potential as children of God. If we can know what causes a particular phenomenon, we are better able to act to bring about the effect if we desire it.

THIS SPHERE IS PATTERNED AFTER THE PREVIOUS AND IS PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT

The purpose of this life to learn to become more like God.

While often there are principles we cannot grasp due to our current contextual understanding, there is nothing that can be comprehended in the next life that cannot be learned here.

SCRIPTURE:

“We will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them; And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon... and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever.” (Abraham 3:25-26.)

QUOTES:

"Surely the most powerful and compelling of all the glorious principles to reenter the world by way of Palmyra was the doctrine of inherent deity. Dare we think it? Could we say it? Would we be labeled blasphemers and heretics for believing it—that we are all literally the spiritual offspring of God, his rightful daughters and sons, who through a kind of divine DNA and the atoning mediation of that greatest of all heirs, the Lord Jesus Christ, have been given the chance to somewhere, someday by "diligence and obedience" know what God knows and do what God does?" (Jeffrey R. Holland, A School in Zion, BYU Devotional, Sept. 1988.)

“An intelligent being, in the image of God, possesses every organ, attribute, sense, sympathy, affection, that is possessed by God himself. But these are possessed by man, in his rudimental state, in a subordinate sense of the word. Or, in other words, these attributes are in embryo, and are to be gradually developed. They resemble a bud, a germ, which gradually develops into bloom, and then, by progress, produces the mature fruit after its own kind.” (Parley P. Pratt, Key to the Science of Theology, 61–62.)

SCRIPTURES:

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”
(Matthew 5:48.)

“That same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world.”
(Alma 34:34, Book of Mormon)

QUOTE:

“Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come.” (D&C 130:18-19.)

WE ARE MOST OFTEN OUR LIMITING FACTOR

God is willing to help us grow according to the degree of our trust in Him.

SCRIPTURES:

"The days have come; according to men's faith it shall be done unto them." (D&C 52:20.)

“There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.” (D&C 130:20-21.)

“Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing- unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed; yea, and it shall be given unto Such to bring thousands of souls to repentance, even as It has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance.” (Alma 26:22)

“What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled.” (D&C 1:38)

4. The Creator’s Process

.....

THE LORD TAUGHT IN PARABLES

The mortal Jesus taught in parables, in coded language whereby those who were prepared to understand, could see beneath the cloak, see things for what they truly were, and were intended to be seen and understood by them.

SCRIPTURE:

“And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.” (Matthew 13:10-13)

THE TEMPLE IS A SPECIAL PARABLE

The Lord continues to use cloaked and symbolic tactics of teaching in His Temple.

SCRIPTURE:

“This greater priesthood (Melchizedek) administereth the gospel and holds the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God. Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest.” (Abraham 3:19-20)

THE TEMPLE IS CENTERED AROUND SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES

The Lord does not exclude doctrinal principles to one particular medium, for instance, the temple. The scriptures are full of the same principles and allusions represented there.

RESPECT FOR THE BUILDING ITSELF IMPLIES RESPECT FOR WHAT IS TAUGHT WITHIN

We appreciate what we must sacrifice for. In this way, the requisite cultural value of temples heightens our perceived value of the doctrines taught within it. The principles are set apart in order to draw specific attention to them due to their intended significance and weight.

GOD USES TYPES AND SHADOWS

SCRIPTURE:

"And behold, all things have their likeness, and all things are created and made to bear record of me, both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath: all things bear record of me." (Moses 6:63)

Throughout His creation, and throughout holy writ, the Lord has embedded types and shadows—patterns to teach us. These types resonate in every facet of the gospel.

EXAMPLES:

The Two Priesthoods

Both Melchizedek and Aaron were individuals who served within the two respective priesthoods, and these priesthoods bear their names still today. It could also be said that Melchizedek, the 'Prince of Salem' or essentially 'Prince of Peace' was a type and shadow of Jesus Christ. Aaron, active participant and leader within the Mosaic Law and spokesman for Moses, could in the same vein be considered a shadow of John the Baptist, who would later prepare the way for the Lord in the meridian of time.

Law of Moses and the Gospel of Christ

When the Lord came in the Meridian of Time, it was in fulfillment of the Law of Moses. Christ came not to destroy the law, but to catalyze it into a higher version. He understood, as did many of the prophets, the purpose of the Law was to help train the House of Israel to be able to grasp the heavier, more weighty law. He did not destroy, he built. One was a fulfillment of the other.

Law of the Gospel and the Law of Consecration

One of the main roles of the Gospel of Christ is to purify our wills and subject them to the will of God. The purpose of the Law of Consecration is to dedicate our wills to a useful, inspired purpose catered to our unique identities and gifts. One law is preparation for the other. One cannot emerge without first living the other. But one is preparatory, and the other follows and fulfills the first. They are not equal, yet they are dedicated to the same ultimate end. The purpose of one is to serve and prepare for the other.

5. The Creator's Pattern

.....

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IS THE EMBODIMENT OF TRUTH

We subject ourselves to His Gospel because it is truth embodied. As we are subject to truth, we increase in freedom.

SCRIPTURE:

"The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth." (D&C 93:36)

OUR DESIRES MUST BE PURE

We learn in the temple, "Desires, appetites, and passions are to be kept within the bounds the Lord has set."

The Lord sets bounds on our appetites in order to help us to harness them properly.

A CENTRAL PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL IS TO PURIFY AND MAKE HOLY OUR DESIRES
Faith in Christ, repentance, baptism, and receiving the Holy Ghost are activities intended to both cleanse and sanctify our souls. These activities help change our desires and give our passions purpose. We put off the natural man in favor of becoming like Christ. Our motives go from being selfish and self-centered, to being inclusive of others and oriented to uplift and love our fellow man.

The Gospel is designed as a catalyst to, among other things, help supplant our natural desires with those that God possesses. Our desires must be aligned to God's if we are to ultimately become like Them. In order to learn in the Creator's way, we need to be clean like Them, and possess Their same desires.

WE ARE INTENDED TO ACT, RATHER THAN BE ACTED UPON

As we apply the principles of the Gospel, and it has its intended impact on our natures, God wishes us to enjoy greater freedom.

SCRIPTURE:

"(Mankind has) become free... to act for themselves and not to be acted upon." (2 Nephi 2:26)

WE ARE TO NOT ACT OUTSIDE OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

We learn in the temple endowment that desires, appetites, and passions are to be kept within the bounds the Lord has set. When we act outside of our stewardship, our desires are outside the Lord's established parameters. We will reap the natural but undesirable consequences if we step outside of this.

COERCION IS WHEN WE ACT OUTSIDE OUR STEWARDSHIP

Any time we enforce our will upon those who have the capacity incorporate a will of their own, we are acting outside of our stewardship.

COERCION LEADS TO DYSFUNCTION

Common sense tells us that healthy, functioning human beings don't respond well to force or compulsion from others. This is because we are acting outside of our stewardship.

WHY WE DO SOMETHING AFFECTS HOW IT COMES INTO US

We are to be conscientious of what motivates us when we act. When we act on our desires, it transforms into our purpose.

Purpose is the spirit that possesses us when we act. We can be possessed by both good or bad purposes. We can become more susceptible to the influence of a purpose once it has been given the chance to inhabit us.

SCRIPTURES:

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!” (Matthew 6:22)

“The laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish.” (2 Nephi 26:31)

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

WE ARE TO CULTIVATE OUR RIGHTEOUS DESIRES

The Lord intends for us to not only possess our unique desires, but to cultivate them.

SCRIPTURE:

“Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.” (3 Nephi 13:7-8)

The scriptures are replete with examples of righteous people whom the Lord trusted and encouraged to engage with the desires of their hearts. He did this after they had shown by obedience the desire to become like Him. He knew their motivations and desires, and discerned that they were ready to further embrace their God-like potential as creators.

SCRIPTURES:

John the Beloved & the Three Nephites

“What will ye that I should do unto you, when I am gone unto the Father? And they sorrowed in their hearts, for they durst not speak unto him the thing which they desired. And he said unto them: Behold, I know your thoughts, and ye have desired the thing which John, my beloved, who was with me in my ministry, before that I was lifted up by the Jews, desired of me. Therefore, more blessed are ye, for ye shall never taste of death; but ye shall live to behold all the doings of the Father unto the children of men, even until all things shall be fulfilled according to the will of the Father, when I shall come in my glory with the powers of heaven.” (3 Nephi 28:4-7)

Nephi the Prophet in 3 Nephi

“Blessed art thou, Nephi, for those things which thou has done... I will make thee mighty even that all things shall be done unto thee according to thy word, for thou shalt not ask that which is contrary to my will.” (Helaman 10:4-5)

THE HOLY GHOST IS AN INVALUABLE PART OF THIS PROCESS

QUOTE:

“The gift of the Holy Ghost...quickens all the intellectual faculties, increases, enlarges, expands and purifies all the natural passions and affections; and adapts them, by the gift of wisdom, to their lawful use. It inspires, develops, cultivates and matures all the fine-toned sympathies, joys, tastes, kindred feelings, and affections of our nature. It inspires virtue, kindness, goodness, tenderness, gentleness, and charity. It develops beauty of person, form and features. It tends to health, vigor, animation, and social feeling. It invigorates all the faculties of the physical and intellectual man. It strengthens, and gives tone to the nerves. In short, it is, as it were, marrow to the bone, joy to the heart, light to the eyes, music to the ears, and life to the whole being” (Parley P. Pratt, Key to the Science of Theology 9th ed. [1965], 101.)

The Holy Ghost serves many purposes. He cleanses us, He sanctifies us, He directs us, He comforts, and He warns. In other words, He serves to prepare us to be more like God.

OUR DESIRES, APPETITES, & PASSIONS ARE LARGELY MISUNDERSTOOD

Usually we think of passions as being things that ought to be limited. This is shortsighted. Many people have incorrectly viewed passions as things to be stopped and halted, rather than harnessed.

In the Temple Endowment, we are simply told,

QUOTE:

“Desires, appetites, and passions are to be kept within the bounds the Lord has set.”
(Temple Endowment)

Within the parameters given by God, we have the opportunity to use them to their fullest potential.

EXAMPLE:

Our current education system spends a considerable amount of time squashing and controlling the otherwise healthy inclinations of students in order to conform the students' actions to the system's idea of what constitutes worthy behavior. Some teachers actively minimize desires by conditioning students to ignore these impulses through grooming with weaponized testing and its pointless twin evil,

rote memorization. Other educators simply lack the knowledge, training, and/or means to be able to effectively harness these underutilized assets.

As a result, student passions are often negatively impacted. Further, sometimes unhealthy passions are even awakened and encouraged in this same system! More than one artificially inflated ego has arisen to afflict an individual's inspired potential out of the ungrounding pomp and circumstance of academia.

WHEN HARNESSSED PROPERLY, DESIRES, APPETITES, & PASSIONS ARE INTENDED BY GOD AS FUEL TO PROPEL US TO FULFILL OUR POTENTIAL

God has given us each of us uplifting and radiant desires as gifts to harness for our benefit, and they ought to be viewed as such.

For instance, in the Book of Moses, we learn that one of the first commandments given man was to,

SCRIPTURE:

“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.” (Moses 2:28)

In the temple, this is expanded upon inasmuch as we learn that the purpose of multiplying and replenishing the earth is,

QUOTE:

“that (we) might find joy and rejoicing in (our) posterity.” (Temple Endowment)

Despite having a bad reputation, sexual desires can serve to facilitate great joy if harnessed correctly.

SCRIPTURE:

“Bridle all your passions, that ye may be filled with love.” (Alma 38:12)

RIGHTEOUS DESIRES, APPETITES, & PASSIONS ARE PART OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

Not everyone is given the same set of desires and passions. Some people are strongly motivated by one thing, while others are absolutely devoid of enthusiasm for the same subject.

In the Temple Endowment, we learn that all things God creates have a “measure of creation,” and that in fulfilling said creation, we find joy. Another way to describe one's measure of creation is “God's unique objective for each of His children.” It is in fulfilling this objective that we find joy.

Our desires, appetites, and passions are a key to helping us discover our own particular ‘measure of creation.’ This is why we find so much joy in fulfilling our righteous desires!

Therefore, what our passions are doesn't matter; what matters is whether they are our righteous desires. If we take God's admonition seriously and learn to bridle or harness them to do good, we will find joy.

SCRIPTURE:

"Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward." (D&C 58:27-28)

WE MUST USE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN

SCRIPTURE:

"Neglect not the gift that is in thee." (1 Timothy 4:14)

God expects us to use everything He's given us before He gives us more. Desires, appetites, and passions are valuable assets that when harnessed properly, can achieve great good. We have a responsibility to make full use of these invaluable resources He has provided us before we can expect Him to assist us further.

When it comes to sexuality, seeking to destroy this passion rather than to harness it often leads to big problems. Relatedly, denying our less acknowledged but no less serviceable appetites can cause problems as well.

Until we learn to harness, rather than hamper, the innate and valuable appetites that God has given us, we will never see the full flowering of our divine potential.

EXAMPLE:

The Midlife Crisis

The phenomenon of the midlife crisis is real. It is the result of individuals reaching a point in their lives where they finally come to themselves and observe the lack of fulfillment they have achieved thus far.

Individuals experiencing this lose all motivation, fall into depression, and sometimes endure great personal pain and anguish as they grapple with the truth of their lost opportunities.

Not only does society experience a loss of immediate productivity, but this is indicative of a much larger waste in years of potential energy misspent through lives half lived.

If we help each other discover, cultivate, and harness healthy passions, we will not only be helping ourselves, but society at large.

SCRIPTURES:

“For what doth it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him, and he receive not the gift? Behold, he rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift.” (D&C 88:33)

“For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. (Matt 25:29)

6. Creation’s Tools

.....

HIGHER AND LESSER, PREPARATION AND FULFILLMENT

SCRIPTURE:

"The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth." (D&C 93:36)

Through the scriptures and modern revelation via the temple endowment, a recurring two-part principle is carefully and redundantly taught and demonstrated to us by God. He illustrates it through word and with visual aids in both abstract terms and direct imagery.

It’s in the temple’s Holy teachings and most obscure and abstract symbols that He draws attention to this prevalent concept.

The idea can be boiled down to two parts: one part is ‘lesser,’ or preparatory, and the second is ‘higher,’ or the fulfillment.

These two parts don’t exist independently, but together have a unique, independent, definable relationship.

This pattern is found throughout nature. It is also found in science. It is found in man’s story structure.

This pattern is very important.

EXAMPLES:

The Dedication of the Kirtland Temple

The dedication of the LDS Kirtland Temple is an example of the pattern of preparation and fulfillment.

First, the saints did all they could to build this physical structure. At this point it was still just a physical structure. It was after the saints sacrificed according to His commands that the Lord then entered and sanctified it, filling it with His spirit, and making it a holy temple. Both parts were necessary: without the physical structure, the Lord's spirit would not have anything to fill, but without the Lord's spirit, the temple would still be just an empty building.

Ordinances

The elements of preparation and fulfillment exist within the relationship of the bread and the water of the Sacrament. The bread represents the body and resurrection of Christ, and the water represents the blood, or sacrifice for our eternal life. The first prayer reflects the preparation and need of commandments, whereas the second is preoccupied with simply having the Spirit of Christ, which negates the need of commandments by altering the desires of the one who possesses it.

The same archetypal relationship can be recognized between the interrelated elements of baptism by water and the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

The doctrinal relationship between man's eternal spirit and mortal body reflects the same two-part relationship; one came first, with the intention of laying the foundation of the other.

The Parentage of All Living Things

The physical relationships illustrated between parents and children is an example of the preparation/fulfillment dichotomy. It applies not only to humans, but through the animal kingdom. It also plays out largely in the plant kingdom.

The Scientific Method

The relationship between a scientist's hypothesis and her experimentation manifests this pattern.

The Golden Ratio

The pattern of preparation and fulfillment can be seen in something as abstract as nature's "Golden Ratio," expressed in the equation: $[a/b = b/(a+b)]$, or in layman's terms, the smaller is to the larger as the larger is to the whole.

HISTORICAL EVENTS FOLLOW A REPEATING PATTERN

EXAMPLE:

The Timeline by Merle Cunnington

Merle Cunnington was an artist, teacher, and scriptorian based in Woodland Hills, CA. In the course of his lifetime, he made some incredible discoveries about the way events in history follow a typified, multi-layered, iterative pattern. This framework was derived from identifiable archetypes articulated and expressed by two distinct prophets in the New Testament. These types manifest through both type and timing.

To simplify, what he found was that there is a pattern in all things historical; his analysis showed that on successive scales, 'smaller' historical events were shadows of larger historical events. Each string of events were a microcosm within a greater macrocosm, each repeating the same types. The same pattern was restating itself over and over with the same rhythm and beat; there was recurring resonance in the events of the world, and they followed archetypes given to us in the scriptures.

Further, through his work Merle extrapolated that even the progress of the creation a la evolutionary biology could be contextualized on this timeline, and followed the same 'prophetic framework,' as he described it. Significant temporal events such as the development of significant biological processes coincided archetypically with events of spiritual significance with remarkable precision.

THIS PATTERN IS A FRACTAL

Fractals are self repeating, quantifiable mathematical models that iterate with increasingly acute expressions of an archetypal pattern as the count of successions approach an infinite number.

Fractals exist throughout the natural world.

If history and the advent of life, do in fact follow a repeating pattern, it's likely that that pattern is a fractal.

A fractal by definition is made up of layers, but each layer expresses the same unique pattern. This could be called or seen as the 'building block' of the archetypal fractal. Each iteration expresses this same pattern though successive iterations, though higher iterations may evolve to express the building block's parameters more acutely. This idea can be seen in the example to the left.

EMBODIMENT CONCEPT IS ITERATIVE

The preparation and fulfillment concept, also called the "Embodiment Concept," doesn't occur in isolation. Each 'fulfilled' iteration is in a way, the preparation for a secondary, or higher iteration's fulfillment. In this way, the two-part principle can be iterative, and a perfect building block for a fractal.

EXAMPLES:

Parents and Children

As a child is the fulfillment of its parent, once that child grows up, it creates another child and therefore has become the preparation for the fulfillment of its own child.

In Science

Experimentation leads to data. As a scientist considers the data's impact on his initial hypothesis, it gives rise to a new, improved hypothesis. One hypothesis becomes the preparation of the fulfilling second. And so it continues.

THE FORMS OF LIFE FOLLOW THIS PATTERN

If the advent of life is an iteration of a fractal, then by definition (and extrapolation), the bodies created by that iteration would of necessity be a part of that same fractal.

EXAMPLE:

Sunflowers embody a fractal

The fractal of life can most readily be seen in the pattern of seeds developing within a sunflower. Since the nature of a fractal itself implies essentially infinitely recurring iterations, hypothetically it can be deduced that more than just the seed head of a sunflower is a part of this fractal; there may be resonating elements of the fractal that we don't recognize.

Through evolutionary biology we learn that flower petals are actually specialized leaves—not an original development within the plant, but an adaption, an altered or secondary version of the leaves. So developmentally, leaves are preparatory, and petals are a fulfillment of that preparation in terms of a sunflower building towards the objective of iterating itself.

Further, sunflowers ultimately replicate themselves, leading to new sunflowers, continuing the iterative, preparation-fulfillment pattern.

If this is the pattern for sunflowers, it is reasonable to suggest that this is the pattern that all life follows.

If this is the case, then life itself can be described as a collection of iterations of a similarly recurring fractal.

THE PROCESSES OF LIFE ARE PART OF THE SAME PATTERN

If all life reflects this pattern, then we should be able to view our physical bodies through the same lens.

If our bodies are part of a fractal, then what happens within these bodies is also part of that same system, and so we should be able to view the processes within our bodies through the same frame of reference.

7. The Nature of a Creator

.....

MAN EMBODIES A FRACTAL

Man is alive, and Life is iterations of a fractal, so man constitutes iteration(s) of a fractal.

MAN HAS MULTIPLE ITERATIONS OF THE FRACTAL WITHIN HIMSELF

Sunflowers have multiple iterations of a fractal within themselves, and mankind are even more complicated than sunflowers. Likely we have many iterations of that fractal within us.

THE EMBODIMENT CONCEPT IS THE BUILDING BLOCK OF MAN AND GOD

From beginning to end, our spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional lives are made up of successive layers of preparation and fulfillment. These layers are interdependent; often fulfillment in one leads to development in another.

MAN IS MEANT BY GOD TO LEARN TO ACT, RATHER THAN BE ACTED UPON

As children of God, we exist with the intention to learn to act upon our surroundings, and to learn mastery over the world around us.

SCRIPTURE:

"(Mankind has) become free... to act for themselves and not to be acted upon." (2 Nephi 2:26)

MAN HAS FOUR DISTINCTIVE ITERATIONS, OR PARTS

Man has a spirit or purpose, a physical body, an intellect, and a manifestation or resulting feeling, aka. emotional unit or entity.

EACH ENTITY OR ELEMENT WITHIN US HAS A UNIQUE STEWARDSHIP

The spirit is the steward of the body, the body is the steward of the mind, and the mind is the steward of the emotions.

WHEN WE ACT UPON OTHERS, WE ARE GOVERNED BY AN OBJECTIVE

When humans act, their behavior and actions are governed by an objective, or motivating purpose. It is what animates and drives the individual, consciously or unconsciously. By definition, an 'objective' is the animating motive behind an individual's desire to act upon an audience.

AN ACTOR'S 'AUDIENCE' IS ITS SUBJECT BEING ACTED UPON

Whenever an individual acts upon another, the individual or group being subject to this action is referred to as his 'audience.' By definition, every objective has an intended audience.

EACH ITERATION, OR PART WITHIN MAN IS HYPOTHETICALLY CAPABLE OF AN OBJECTIVE

Each part of man can act within its sphere with an objective. An objective can be emotional, intellectual, physical, and/or spiritual.

If we know and internalize our objective, we can have more control over our actions.

IDENTITY: THE RESPECTIVE UNIQUE CONTEXTS DEFINING ACTOR AND AUDIENCE

Each actor and each audience has unique defining characteristics that set them apart and defines and distinguishes them from all others. This is measurable and described as one's identity, or context. It is a singular signature that determines the perspective of the actor, as well as the choice of tactics the actor uses to accomplish his objective when seeking to act upon the particularly chosen audience.

ONE OBJECTIVE CAN POSSESS ANOTHER

More than one objective can operate at a time, but one primary objective is always in control.

EXAMPLE:

Art is an Expression of Objective

An author may have the objective to teach the attendees of his theater about the foolishness of feuding and grudges. The same author creates plot, characters, scenes, and dialogue in order to accomplish this. His primary objective inspires his usage of the tools which conspire to achieve that initial singular objective. His physical objective is to type or write a script to reflect these ideas. His intellectual objective is to think of elements that are consistent, believable, and engaging for his audience. His emotional objective is to accomplish his overarching objective successfully so he might be satisfied that he used his resources and capacities in order to fulfill his purpose as an inspired artist.

OBJECTIVES CAN BE BROKEN DOWN FURTHER

The physiology of an 'objective' or 'purpose' within an creator can be broken down into four distinct successive subjecting iterations of the archetypical fractal.

'Purpose' itself is preparation for the 'Plan,' or tactics which are intended to carry out that 'Purpose' within us. Our 'Plan' is then fulfilled by the 'Process(es)' which are designed to execute that 'Plan.' And then a 'Pattern' of action emerges as the 'Processes' we look to

are called upon to discern how to achieve the ‘Plan’ called upon that we might achieve our ‘Purpose.’

KEYS TO THE SPIRIT OF DISCERNMENT

The grasping of the principles of stewardship, identity, objective, and audience are essential to becoming a fully effective, efficient, resourceful creator. When coupled together, they can allow the user to discern the path forward in accomplishing one’s objective. They also allow one to more quickly perceive the intentions of another.

8. Implications of the Pattern

.....

THE PURPOSE OF AN ITERATION IS TO ITERATE ITSELF

The self-defined purpose of the iteration of a fractal is to iterate itself. We are all a part of the fractal. It is built into us, and defines us. So by extension, our purpose is to iterate ourselves in the various ways that we as iterations have available to us.

WE ITERATE OURSELVES

When we have children, we instill within them the same divine potential that we inherited. Our divine potential is the Pattern of God’s Nature, or His completed Fractal Nature. This fulfilled pattern is the very pattern we have been designed to fulfill ourselves.

SCRIPTURE:

“That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continuity in God, receiveth more light; and that light growth brighter and brighter until the perfect day.” (D&C 50:24)

HEALTHY HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

The elements of our bodies are designed to fulfill their stewardships. In doing so, they fulfill the measure of their creation, and joy will result.

EXAMPLES:

The Spirit Subjects the Body

Our spirit is designed to possess our body. As children of God, we learn to act upon our bodies through our spirits. We use processes like fasting to learn to strengthen one’s spirit over one’s body.

The Body Subjects the Mind

The physical body is organized to act upon the mind. The mind is an extension of the body, and is reliant on the body’s proper function to work properly. If governed

by a proper spirit, the body should take precedence over the mind. If not subjected by the spirit, the body has the potential to initiate fulfillment of its own independent objective.

The Mind Subjects the Emotions

The mind serves as the place of logic, deduction, conceptualization, and understanding within man. When properly organized, the mind is designed to act upon the emotions. We are able to feel emotion as a result of the information we collect and the conclusions we deduce within our minds. In this way, the emotional core is reliant on the mind, or is possessed by the mind.

NAVIGATING BY WAY OF ARCHETYPES

As we are possessed of the objective to seek to become like our Heavenly Parents, the quintessential qualities of their ideal being manifest in us and the world as archetypes. These can act as both motivation and as signposts, allow us to recognize pivotal and iconic states of being we might inhabit. They exist as ideal destinations for the soul in the pursuit of the measure of our creation and indicate to us where to go and what to become.

ARCHETYPES ARE THE SEEDS OF PURPOSE WITHIN US

There are archetypal purposes we have been designed to ultimately fulfill which when reached are promised to us to result in a fullness of joy. These most frequently appear in our lives as identities and roles determined and defined by eternal truth.

PURPOSE IS THE SEAT OF OUR DESIRES

When purpose is rooted inside, it inspires desire in us. There is an interdependent play between our desires and our purpose. Desire is ultimately designed to be subjected to purpose. Desire is emotional, while purpose is spiritual.

WE CAN INFLUENCE OUR DESIRES

While our desires are not within our immediate power to alter, we do have the ability to invite and control our purpose. We may be predisposed to certain desires, but we are not necessarily predestined to fulfill them. If we wish to manipulate our desires, we must first take control of our purpose.

WE CAN CHOOSE OUR PURPOSE, AND CONSEQUENTIALLY, MANIPULATE DESIRES

The purpose we choose to cultivate will lead to either possession or reception of the desire that defines it. Possession is coercive, while reception is voluntary and collaborative.

As we fulfill and practice a purpose, we are opening ourselves up to it in a way that can take up residence in us. As we give it time, and through experiences where we allow it to act out, it can emerge from within us.

SOME CHILDREN OF GOD ARE MORE SENSITIVE TO RECEPTION/POSSESSION BY CERTAIN EXTERNAL PURPOSES OR DESIRES

Because of who we are, the makeup of our bodies and our life experiences, we can be or become more accustomed to taking on or picking up purposes that initially are or were not our own. The more one allows the supplanting of purpose from another, the more potential for influence that person can feel and channel of that purpose. It becomes conditioned into us. One can become open to reception/possession by a single or myriad of purposes.

THE FORMS THAT A PURPOSE MIGHT TAKE

There are many purposes that can root in us: Spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional. These might look like anything from life to jobs, to goals, to relationships, to appetites, to ideas, and even to feelings.

THE SCIENTIFIC CASE FOR LOVE

In terms of the fractal of man, love is significant and powerful because it is the embodiment of systematic empowerment to act accomplished through the marshaling and collaboration of one's resources. In other words, love is an objective that facilitates the propagation of other objectives. More specifically, it is a self-perpetuating objective that leads to the fulfillment of other's self-perpetuating objectives, or the expression of an objective that perfectly perpetuates the fractal. In other words, love begets love.

WE HAVE MORE POWER THAN WE REALIZE

If we can learn to manipulate our purpose, we can indirectly but predictably control our desires. In this and in other ways, we are literally the creators of our own futures.

FURTHER APPLICATIONS

As the ideas of the fractal nature of our existence, purpose, and potential are understood and applied, a great many meanings and insights will come to light; only a limited number are articulated here. It is the responsibility of the reader to apply what they have learned in order to gain more desired insights.

9. Conclusions

.....

THE MORE TRUTH WE UNDERSTAND, THE MORE POWER WE RECEIVE

By understanding the fundamental building blocks of reality, we can better see the world as it is. We can also better harness it in the pursuit of our goals. The more we become imbued with truth, the more easily we can incorporate it into our lives.

WE ARE THE LATEST ITERATION OF GOD

As children of God, we are like him. We can do things the way he does them. While we are in a lesser state of development, we are made of the same divine DNA.

WE ARE TO SURROUND OURSELVES WITH THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND TRUTH

Who we spend our time with impacts the ideas we are willing to entertain and principles we are willing to apply. What we do today leads to what we do tomorrow. The law of the harvest applies to our feelings, thoughts, bodies, and motivations. If we live the laws, we gain the blessings, and qualities of godhood.

WE ARE TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY THE TRUTH WE UNDERSTAND

If we don't apply the things we learn, have we fully learned them? Each learner has a responsibility to apply the truth within their power to do so.

SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO TOTALLY GRASP A CONCEPT IS TO APPLY IT

Sometimes truth requires us to step outside of our comfort zone. Sometimes it is only in application of a truth that its ultimate roots are revealed to us. Have courage and don't let your fears dominate your future.

SCRIPTURE:

"Be not afraid, only believe." (Mark 5:36)

THERE ARE THINGS THAT CAN HOLD YOU BACK THAT YOU ARE NOT CONSCIOUS OF

Sometimes traumatic experiences in our background prevent us from developing in the way that would ultimately bring us to our greatest potential. These incidences or conditions which we may have been subject to are often beyond our control. They imprint in us dysfunction and bind us up in ways we might struggle to understand or cope with. Further, these experiences may affect us for so long that they seem to have become a part of our character. It may feel entirely hopeless, and undermine our willingness to try to overcome.

At this point, it may be necessary to address these concerns through professional help. Therapists are trained to assist individuals who desire to change these patterns of being. Ask a few people you trust for perspective and insight on these matters, and do what it takes to overcome what is holding you back.

YOU CAN OVERCOME YOUR STUMBLING BLOCKS

Some people live most of their lives turned in on themselves, unable to progress because of the limitations of their development. While trauma is tragic, the greater sadness comes as the individual comes to believe, and then act out the falsehood that they are beyond repair.

USING THE FOUR ELEMENTS TO MASTER TRAUMA

We can use the four elements of our being, or the four elements of alchemy to overcome trauma. Wind (emotions), water (thought), earth (body), and fire (spirit or motivation) are metaphors of the four successive stages to overcoming hurts. First, we learn to run from it (wind). Then we learn to dismiss the ideas by bending them away (water). Third we learn to dismantle them and understand what is being done to us and put up boundaries to stop it (earth). Lastly, we learn to initiate of our beliefs and act upon those around us with our own intentions (fire).

YOU ARE WORTH IT

SCRIPTURE:

“Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after mine own image.” (Ether 3:15)

Experiences can't define our potential, only our current state of being. You can find help to overcome your dragons, and it will be worth it.

Trust God, and believe in yourself, and don't be afraid of the unknown. Moreover, believe in the truth and possibility of your own potential, and act accordingly.

Science of Creativity

A central characteristic of our Heavenly Parents is that of Creators. As Their children, we are also born to be creative.

The creative process brings joy.

We can be enabled to create the greatest good or most terrible bad. It is up to us.

But just exactly what is creativity?

Many, if not most people, assume it is something that just happens, or that we are born able to do it, or that we just don't have the gene; that we are powerless to change this.

This is incorrect.

Creativity is actually a science, and it is also a revelatory act. The principles of creativity, when taken together, become a lens through which we can look in order for order to reveal itself so that we might bring it into being by our actions. It is the ways and means whereby we can achieve goals which we desire to pursue. Master the elements, and apply them together, and one can increase his or her access to his or her inherent powers of creativity.

Creativity Fundamentals

Creativity can be boiled down to a few fundamentals. There are six basic elements to consider.

First, know who you are.

Second: discern or decide who your audience is.

Third: know what you want to accomplish through your audience.

Fourth, choose your medium.

Fifth, decipher, decide, or divine the larger purpose in your life behind why it is you wish to create this unique thing you are in this moment bringing into reality.

And sixth, DO IT! It is only in the doing that you will truly learn to master it. Have courage and trust yourself. Try. And then try again.

KNOW WHO YOU ARE

The first element of creativity is to know who you are.

Know your values. Know what you believe. Know what you want to represent. Recognize that your creations will be an extension of you. Do you have a look? What are your struggles? What experiences have you had that have impacted you personally or deeply?

KNOW YOUR PERSONALITY TYPE

Certain personality types have certain gifts and native tendencies. The more you can learn about the current state of your personality, the less discouraged you will be as you start out.

The best personality test to help you begin to understand yourself that I have found is the Myers-Briggs. Within this system, there are supposedly sixteen archetypal personalities, and you will match one of them more than others. The theory is that there are four spectrums upon which you will fall.

Your personality will be articulated as a four letter code. Introverted vs Extroverted, Intuitive vs Sensing, Thinking vs Feeling, and Judging vs Perceiving. You can find many different tests online that you can take for free.

KNOW WHO YOUR AUDIENCE IS

Who do you want to influence? Why? What characteristics make them up and motivate you to want to influence them? (Your audience might just be you!) There are many audiences out there who you might want to impact. Identify the factors that separate your audience from others. Determine the attributes that stick out that awaken in you the desire to act on them.

KNOW THE MEDIUM AND THEATER OR REALM OF YOUR WORK

How will your work be encountered? How will it be experienced? Where will it be experienced? Knowing the context of the situation in which your work will be experienced is important. What is the theater of action for your audience? This will largely depend on your chosen medium. For instance, films are experienced on screens, whether in a theater, on a television, on a tablet, or a phone.

DECIDE ON YOUR PREFERRED MEDIUM(S) OF EXPRESSION

Is your medium live performance? Will you act for live stage? For film? Is it music? Will it be recorded? Or is your art form something else like interpersonal conversation? Is your art form the interviewing of people? Is your theater a social media account? A

youtube channel? Is your medium a podcast? There are almost an infinite number of mediums out there. There are definitely more ways of being creative than painting or music.

THE PROCESS OF DECIDING ON A MEDIUM

what is the best means of action that will allow you to have the most efficient effective influence over your audience? what medium do you have the most skills and awareness and resources available in order to have the most effective influence over your audience? what medium are you good at? can you improve on your skills though practice? these are important questions to ask yourself when considering the medium of your creation.

IMPROVING ON YOUR SKILLS IN YOUR MEDIUM

Exploration and mistakes are essential. Practice makes perfect. trusting yourself is essential. mistakes are the school house of the masters. everybody is a beginner at first. By doing our best, taking a risk and inevitably making mistakes, we provide for ourselves context in which the correct principles have reason to be retained. We awaken in ourselves questions which then might be readily answered. Mistakes create a vacuum of drive and incentive which allow us to ask the right questions. We then naturally have way more ability to remember and retain the solutions to our questions.

Getting Inspiration to Flow More Readily

Cultivate your gifts and talents. Allow your curiosity to flourish. Wander. Wonder. And give yourself permission to engage with experiences that awaken your imagination.

DISCERNING YOUR OBJECTIVE

How you want to influence your audience? What are you trying to accomplish? What is the state things in the world that inspire or cause you to wish to make an impact and make you want to take the actions you are about to embark on? While identifying these things may be a challenge at first, and is not necessary in order to get started, by identifying and articulating them, you will help yourself to find inspiration when you get lost in thought or forget what inspired you to begin. It will also help you to edit and provide helpful boundaries to help you actually achieve what you set out to do.

LEARN ABOUT WHO YOU ARE

Cultivate your spiritual life. Learn about your roots. Determine or discover what you believe in. Become acquainted with and attuned to your values. Search for the meaning of your life.

BE AWARE OF WHAT MOTIVATES YOU

The spirit that inspires is the spirit that possesses. We must be careful to recognize and curate what motivates us. What voices we listen will inhabit the consequences of those actions we take under their influence.

PURSUE YOUR PURPOSE, AND THE PASSION WILL FOLLOW

If you can identify and pursue your purpose, the passion will follow. Inspiring purpose is the intersection between the awakened motivation within a purified heart seeking the benefit of your fellow beings and your unique and inherent gifts and talents.

MOTIVATION IS EVERYTHING

The why is more important than the what. The why is the engine that drives the what. We live in a world that falsely teaches that utility and security are the highest priorities. Preoccupation of ones will with security may address physical needs, but ignores the important spiritual and emotional needs which can be just as significant for our mental health. You should not neglect the things that awaken a sense of your purpose, even if they don't seem to be a plausible source of income. They very well may be the engine whereby you might drive yourself to the place you ultimately want to be.

SURVIVAL WORSHIP OR BEING MOTIVATED OUT OF INSECURITY IS MOTIVATION INSPIRED BY FEAR

When we allow pursuit of money to motivate us, in other words, by coercing ourselves, we become possessed by false beliefs. While survival is important, it is not wise to be inspired by it. To do so leads us to make decisions that lead to poor, robotic career choices do not account for emotional or spiritual needs. When we heed our fears, they drain away our otherwise boundless potential energy and prevent us from filling the full measure of our emotional and motivational potential. Listening to fear often leads us to neglect integral aspects of our stewardship.

YOUR CHOICES TODAY HAVE MORE OF AN IMPACT ON YOUR FUTURE THAN YOU THINK

What you do today leads to what you do tomorrow. Listen to the joyful voices within. The more you allow yourself to be acted upon against your creative ideas inclinations, the more remote and quieted the creative voices inside become. The contacts and connections you make in the places and in the time spent today will lead to the places and time you will spend tomorrow.

PERSISTENT FEAR IS OFTEN A SIGN OF FALTERING MENTAL HEALTH

If you feel overwhelmed by fear when considering going for your goals, you may benefit from mental health counseling or support.

YOUR IDEAL CAREER

is an intersection of principle-based mental hygiene, knowing and cultivating ones ultimate life purpose, and cultivating ones unique and distinctive gifts.

HAVE COURAGE TO TRY

Experience is the most reliable teacher. While theory has its place, it can only provide help to a point. Sometimes the only thing we can do to learn more is to try. Failure is another word for actual learning.

CHAPTER 7: Fulfilling Ones Righteous Desires

A Pivotal Impact of the Gospel of Christ

We can have unrighteousness desires. Our desires are part of our stewardship even if they are unrighteous. The Lord respects our agency and will not change our desires without our permission.

The purpose of the Gospel of Jesus is to purify our wills and align them to His.

He promises to bring us joy as we willingly submit our wills to his. We must choose to submit our wills to his if we are to receive the promises He makes to us wherein he says all that he has is ours.

As we submit ourselves to the Lord, He helps us become like Him by helping us to change our desires.

Once our wills have been sanctified, the Lord tells us to consider our desires and that He will help us bring them to pass.

A part of our greatest potential includes fulfilling the deepest desires of our hearts.

Our Righteous Desires Are Meant to Be Understood and Valued

It is difficult to know what your righteous desires are if you have not pondered on them. This is why the Lord wishes us to be curious. He says, Ask, seek, knock, and it shall be given to you. As his children, he wishes us to act on the world and to pursue that which will bring us joy.

I have found that as I continue to seek the Lord and submit myself to his lofty standards, he provides me opportunities to act upon my righteous desires.

Throughout scripture, the Lord provides ample examples where he encourages his followers to consider and ask for the desires of their hearts.

For example, consider what he told the twelve in America. And the Twelve in Jerusalem. And the prophet Nephi in the book of 3 Nephi. And the brother of Jared.

And in his own way, the Lord has given me counsel to learn to understand and act upon my righteous desires as well.

Recognizing What My Desires Are

I have lots of different desires, but they all triangulate on one: increasing my joy.

When I consider and understand all my desires, they can basically be broken into specific roles.

I find that there are patterns and necessary hierarchies that must be considered in these roles if I am to maximize the joy I receive from them all.

Timing is everything: I find that if I focus on the right things first, they help to bring to pass the other things which I also desire, but are not as pivotal.

My Relevant Roles in Relation to My Christmas Town

TEACHER AND MENTOR

I love people. One of the things that motivates and fulfills me more than almost anything is to cultivate individuals. Having found meaning and satisfaction and understanding and purpose on my own path, I want nothing more than to help others achieve the same thing. I do this through one-on-one mentoring where I provide advice, counsel, moral support, and mindfulness training for those who demonstrate a willingness to seek and act on the insight and help I offer.

I have helped many, many individuals find more satisfaction, meaning, power, and autonomy in their lives, and I am always on the lookout to find more.

ARTISTIC COLLABORATOR

One of the ways I teach is by assisting individuals with their artistic endeavors. Many of those who I coach are particularly gifted creatively, yet they so often struggle with aspects of their gifts which prevent them from rising to their fullest capacity.

And while I have experience working in a wide variety of mediums, that isn't even all that important because I have adequate and thorough understanding of the underlying dynamics of the creative process. As such, I have a capacity to discern and learn processes and techniques quickly, even when I may not have immediate experience in a particular field.

This allows me to provide invaluable collaborative support for my clients in whatever field they are working in while I help them to learn to sort and improve the particular processes that they might be struggling with.

COMMUNITY BUILDER

Ever since I was an adolescent, I've wanted to build a Christmas town in the mountains. The initial idea sprang from a combination of the art on Christmas cookie tins and the ceramic table-top decorations of middle-class American families. It emerged from a desire to take care of my needs while making money as an artist.

I tried a myriad of ways to fund and build it, but never could crack the code of how to get it to work sustainably without using an uncomfortable amount of centralized control.

Rather, as I have followed my deepest desires to cultivate individuals and help them with their art, the keys to overcoming this problem in building my community have been shown to me.

As I unselfishly and idealistically continue to carefully and wisely invest myself in the growth of those around me, opportunities for me to support myself have been forthcoming; my own artistic talents have been awakened and harnessed to a greater degree.

Further, the community surrounding me has naturally grown. As I keep cultivating and nurturing those around me, numbers of keen and mutually invested people around me continue to gather, and the level of appreciation, love, service, and friendship amongst us keeps increasing.

By focusing on the cultivation of others, a fascinating phenomenon is occurring: opportunities to develop my larger community are naturally emerging without centralized design or imposition.

As I invest and serve others with the singular goal of the growth of individuals, these participants inevitably turn and seek my good in the best way they know, but without expectation. As they see how devoted I am to them, they seek my good to the very best of their own ability and means.

Christ put it aptly when he said, "He who saves his life shall lose it, and he who loses his life shall find it." I believe he is telling us profound truth: that there are untapped fountains of power in voluntary collaboration informed by actors purified and possessed by truth and light. As we live the truths we know, adding to them as we understand, we come to a place where we can lean on one another and follow the guidance He promised to send us as we are given inspired and inspiring purpose with which we can magnify and fulfill our individual purposes.

In this way, I am building a community of likeminded, accountable, creative visionaries with the grounded ability and motivation to collaborate with me in helping others and themselves in their own unique individualized ways.

And while this may not initially appear as a Christmas town, it is becoming something better: each person is building their own ideal, and we are voluntarily helping each other achieve our deepest and keenest desires.

Translation: rather than simply a Christmas town, I see a network of places where artists and creatives work, live, grow, and support each other while collaborating in beautiful places in an ebb and flow, helping each other as we go to make a living doing what each of us loves.

ARTIST

The other thing that motivates me almost as much as serving and teaching others is playing. The world in its austerity insists on referring to me as an "Artist," but don't let that deceive you; what I do is professionally play.

The most important thing I actually do is wield a sword protecting my highest self from coercion in all of its forms, most often fear and doubt. This then provides me conditions wherein I am free to express all the resonant inspired voices in the world that might wish to manifest inside me.

Over time, I have had much experience channeling these voices, and they have expressed themselves in a wide variety of mediums. More importantly however is the need to always consider the best medium wherein they might be expressed. Even if I have no experience in it, I am confident in my ability to give them adequate expression, no matter the medium, and that I can learn to harness whatever form they would best be expressed in order to achieve the most good possible.

Most of these mediums converge on the *Tale of the Blackburn Brothers* and the world of *Wizarding in the Wild West*. My efforts include spacial design, writing of stories, event planning, and a TV series. You can learn more about these efforts by reading below.

Manifesting my Desires Through Storytelling

Tale of the Blackburn Brothers

WIZARDING IN THE WILD WEST

Wizarding in the Wild West: Tale of the Blackburn Brothers is a story about the reconciliation of the shadow. It tells of the process of discovering one's identity and gifts, and then seeking to fulfill one's unique life purpose.

The story specifically recounts the tale of magical twin Irish brothers who emigrate to America in the early to mid nineteenth century. Their struggles and exploits recount a fascinating and challenging period in American and world history. Their stories also naturally intersect with many other real and fictional characters and creatures who are a part of their world.

My story is reflected in a variety of ways. It is expressed in the spaces I have created, in a film series, in recreated events from those stories, and in products derived from those stories.

EXISTING INTERACTIVE SPACES I HAVE ALREADY CREATED

The Haunted Boarding House

The Blackburn Boarding House for Witches, Ghouls, and Monsters is a safe house for dark creatures that have been rejected by their own kind.

I own a nineteenth century home that I have decorated to appear like a haunted boarding house, and leave it dressed like this all year. The idea emerged as a result of the desire to hold an immersive haunted house at Halloween.

The Dining Hall

The dining hall houses a massive, heavy, custom built table that is ten feet long can fit upwards of 16 people. The room also is graced with 48 individual floating candles, along with a few large antiques and props of various shapes and sizes, including a chalkboard, a pump organ, a pirate chest, and giant coffin.

We often host dinners, classes, parties, and other gatherings in this space.

The Master Bedroom

The master bedroom is decked out with tapestries, curtains, old mirrors, antique photographs, an old wardrobe, elegant handmade brooms, varied matching chairs, and a

king sized sleigh bed. Magical objects of various shapes and sizes grace the walls and imply quite the complex history of its inhabitants.

Once listed as a room on airbnb, in terms of public use, it now only serves as a stop on the tour, and as a plot point of the thoroughfare whereby the brothers Blackburn conveniently get from place to place throughout their ever widening domain.

The Divination Room

The warmest, most comfortable room of the house is lined with drapery, pillows, and poofs. In the center are short covered tables with legitimate crystal balls. A stand of tea cups and saucers also grace the space to facilitate a sense of wonder and make-believe.

The Creepy Basement

The final stop in the haunted house, our basement is basically an old root cellar with stacked stone walls and a dirt floor. Abused and broken horcrux containers are kept down here, along with a chest full of watchful antique dolls who watch over them.

This space is also where we keep our axolotl, as well as our cat, who, when it suits her, uses the space as her personal litter box.

The Music Room

The most recent room to be designed, this space includes an antique baby grand piano that was recently acquired by donation from a local family. This room is complemented by a couple pieces of Victorian furniture, a steamer trunk, an assortment of curios, and some rather eccentric drapery.

The Doll Room

Another donation recently made was a collection of antique dolls made over a fifty year period. It was given to me by the son of the collector, and fills up an entire room in the second floor.

As the boarding house is safe-house for dark creatures, we explain that this room is dedicated to children who were rescued from a witch who had turned them all into objects. The brothers had given them a place to live until they can discover the antidote spell to turn them back.

The Kitchen

The Blackburn Manor kitchen is not only a place for preparing food, but the center of our potion making efforts. It is also complemented with all manner of live plants. Master Benjamin is the gardener, and keeps a large number of succulents and epiphytes. Orchids, Christmas cacti, dog tail cactus, pineapples, fishbone cacti, and dragon fruit are included, as well as various agaves, faerie tale castle, aloes, firestick, torch cacti.

This room also boasts a 140+ gallon saltwater reef tank.

Gardens

The gardens of the boarding house are filled with perennial flowers, fruit trees, roses, climbing vines, herbs, nuts, spices, and spaces for annual vegetables. It is also home to a stage and seating, a portable pub, and an alchemical school office. There are chickens, a graveyard, and beautiful stonework that incorporates some peculiar design hallmarks of its magical inhabitants.

The Graveyard

The center point of the graveyard is the granite headstone at the front of one of the open graves in the front yard. It is surrounded by an old black rickety cemetery fence, and the front door to the house is graced at night with a family of lit jack-o-lanterns.

Eventually we plan to add weeping angel statuary, many more headstones, and a mausoleum to this space.

The Wizard Office

Originally the home of the magical mercantile, the magical canvas tent has taken on a few different roles over the years. The final form is that of an office for Master Mortimer where he engages, admits, and enrolls new visitors into his magical world. Visitors can come engage with him and be entertained in a space designed to awaken wonder and awe with the diversity of objects, books, and implements stocked in the space primarily intended as a sitting room for him and his visitors.

This tent sits in the yard.

The Magical Mercantile

Master Mortimer's Magical Mercantile is akin to the old-timey mercantile stores like unto those found in *Little House on the Prairie*, only for the purposes of providing effects for the wizards of the American West. It began as a canvas tent, but lives on currently in my laundry room.

The Blackburn Academy of the Magical Arts

The home of the twin wizards also serves as a small wizard academy. Here they teach a variety of magical subjects, including potions, divination, and quills and ink.

The wizard academy was initially meant to be housed in the local art museum, but after that idea was quashed, it was adopted into the boarding house, which then took on the title of *the Blackburn Manor*.

The Magical Marketplace

Master Mortimer's Magical Mercantile would eventually grow to include more than just the single canvas tent. It would expand to include a variety of small matching lean-tos, designed to allow Mortimer to make a more enjoyable shopping experience by spreading out his wares over a larger surface area. It would also inspire markets where magical salesmen and ladies would be invited to come along and sell. An aspect of these markets would eventually inspire *Eave Alley*, a place and specific market where the darker, more sinister elements of the world would come to be represented.

In time, these structures would be dedicated to providing students of the school the opportunity to sell nearby and in concert with Master Mortimer during events.

The Staff and the Stone Pub

Mortimer's first business was that of selling alcohol. He would quickly learn that his talents were more suited to the mercantile, but not before getting comfortable in the world of whiskey. This knowledge would eventually emerge again in the form of a portable Irish pub known affectionately as *the Staff and the Stone*. Witches and wizards would come for miles around to water themselves and to get and share information about ongoings of the larger world; the Blackburns were not only known for schools, stores, and boarding houses, but for the drinks they always had on tap. In addition to whiskey, they always had a full component of gourmet brewed sodas, and these would eventually inspire their soda fountain business.

SPACES DESIGNED BUT YET TO BE BUILT

More Rooms and Spaces in the Boarding House

Not all the possibilities for rooms in the boarding house have been met. I plan to include a mad scientist laboratory in the garage complete with a tesla coil attached to the roof, a greenhouse inhabited by a life-size man-eating plant puppet, an astronomy platform with telescopes for nighttime viewing, a systems of basement catacombs inhabited by a mummy in an Egyptian sarcophagus, and a fully stocked cemetery including an external tunneled exit from the basement through a stone mausoleum.

A Brick and Mortar Mercantile Store

I plan to build a brick and mortar version of my magical mercantile store locally in Springville.

I also would love to build an entire real block building in the style of Diagon Alley with an outward facing perimeter of more mundane businesses, and inside a hidden magical marketplace.

A CHRISTMAS TOWN IN THE MOUNTAINS

I have been planning to build a network of destinations that resemble a Christmas town in the mountains that are the foundation of a fantasy story I am creating.

The First North Pole

In the story, Kris Kringle lives with the brothers for a time when he is being sought by magical law enforcement in the east. While life with the brothers is wonderful, it is by no means permanent, and during a visit to their mining operations in the north, he gets an idea to move.

A Second Shire

In the midst of traveling in his native Ireland, Mortimer becomes aware of a branch of non magical little people who are desperate. Instead of leaving them to their own devices, he takes them home to America where they follow him wherever he goes. While life on the road is exciting at first, and they become an integral help to the wizard's operations, eventually they become weary and seek his help to build a permanent home.

Dwarvish Mining Cottage

When the dwarves move to the north, Mortimer builds them a cottage in the woods close to the mine. It follows the pattern much like that of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

Wallace, Idaho Homestead

Mortimer also build a more mainstream home in the village of Wallace, where he would prefer to stay when he came to check on his mining operations. Many of the rooms were parallel to the rooms that would be found in the boarding house. In fact, travel between these would be simplified by the sister wardrobes housed in each place.

Vlad's Haunted House on the Hill and Graveyard

One of the residents of the *Blackburn Boarding House* follows suit of Kris Kringle and moves north where he establishes a haunted mansion on a hill. He also provides space for his misunderstood zombie brethren in the grounds of the mansion.

Viking Longhouse and Homestead

One of the friends Mortimer finds in his journeys is an ancient marooned sailor who has lost track of time on the magical isle he was left on by his people. He accompanies Master Blackburn home, finally having escaped from his island prison. Wishing to return to his people, he goes home, but when he realizes how much time has passed, he must mourn his long dead heritage.

Instead of staying here, he goes to live in the New World with his friend savior where he seeks to recapture his traditions and culture of his people with a few key changes.

Springville and Wallace Trap Streets

Seeking to establish even larger centers of commerce than his mercantile store, Mortimer builds trap streets in both Wallace, Idaho and Springville, Utah. These would create centers of wizard storefronts hidden behind more mundane storefronts in both communities, and where magical creatures could come to shop and find the various magical implements and things they need for their everyday life.

Wizarding Neighborhood Corners

While the majority of the immigrants who come to the Blackburn Brothers for shelter and protection are dark creatures of a more macabre slant, there are occasionally progressively thinking wizarding families who also join the ranks. Initially these folks come to Utah, but once awareness of the beauty of the north reaches their ears, most families move directly north.

These families are more mainstream and are less concerned with building in close proximity to muggle neighborhoods, so wizard housing tended to get sprinkled a bit everywhere.

Mortimer's American Nostalgia Town

Through his adventures, Mortimer becomes enamored by aesthetics and style of American vintage design. He dedicates his efforts to a village capturing all the elements of iconic American sentiment from movies like *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Back to the Future*. He recreates design in connection to what is thought of as 'the olden days,' including dance halls, an art deco train station, Victorian homes, lamp posts, soda fountains, art deco movie houses, and elegant vintage live theaters of various sizes.

Benjamin's Christmas Village

Benjamin's internal explorations lead him to seek to build a town dedicated to the aesthetics of the little ceramic Christmas village decorations that adorn the tops of middle class pianos in the early winter. To him, they represent the ideal of a life of joy and wonder found when one integrates one's shadow. Included in it, among other things, is a skating pond, a fire station, and a city hall.

A Second Hogwarts

Originally the brothers of course attend the iconic school in Scotland, but once they become established in America, they both wish to pay tribute to their Alma mater, and also improve on it by building a new and improved castle to house their alchemical school operations in the north.

New Rivendell and Lothlorien

When the Good People of Ireland first meet Mortimer Blackburn, they hardly imagine following him to America. But when things heat up in Europe, they ultimately have little choice but to come join the wizards in the final frontier and the last free land in the West. They bring with them a desire to one day rebuild or recreate and perhaps improve

on the old places from the ancient days. This would lead them to almost immediately look for a steep mountain valleys and forested valleys where they might build elegant integrated, but isolated, peaceful homes.

They would ultimately begin to even plant a forest of unusually large hardwood trees in the north where they secretly hoped to establish a corner of natural beauty like unto their ancient home of Lothlorien.

New Moria

When the dwarves first come to America at the request of Mortimer Blackburn to work his inherited mine, they also come with a secret hope of building their own new underground home. Inspired by the ancient tales of old, they eventually give life to their fantasies by beginning work on such a place parallel to their efforts with the mining.

Then, during the fire of 1910, their efforts become a godsend when this location becomes a place of salvation for the bulk of the local magical population, as these cursed fires and those that start them drive them into hiding.

At this time, it was not much more than a dank hole, but they would eventually expand and develop this into an expansive and beautiful network of halls, rooms, tunnels, and storage areas. These intersecting underground cities would come to be known as New Moria, after their ancient long lost homeland.

Restoring the Tracks and Running A Local Steam Engine to Bring Visitors

The area where the Christmas village network is going to be built has a long history of steam engines that would cross cross the mountains. Our goal is to either restore or rebuild a system that can support an old-Timey train system to bring visitors to and from the outside world to the Christmas town and its subsidiaries.

Transportation by road to the Christmas town will be curtailed, so in lieu of this, we plan to provide ample access via this public transportation system; we'd prefer to curate the experience for our patrons and guests from start to finish, including how visitors come and go from our spaces.

Creating New Immersive Environments Abroad

In time, I really have a strong desire to spend a considerable amount of time living abroad. Everywhere I go to live will lead to new ideas and opportunities to play. I plan to give myself ample time to explore. I expect these investments will lend themselves to a various forms of storytelling. In this process, we may establish physical spaces that tie into the existing story. These new premises naturally will be rooted in the countries and communities where we visit and stay. Each new location will have taken on the local flavor, story, and language while remaining consistent with the world I'm creating. These

places will connect my story to a wider world while being closer to the local place, culture and people.

Places I'd love to live include specifically Ireland, France, Germany, and Italy. I also want to spend time in Switzerland, Transylvania, the South Pacific, Japan, and Central and South America.

FILM SERIES

One of the benefits of having designed and installed multiple physical spaces tied together narratively is the possibility of using them as sets for a film version of the story.

Having worked in film myself for over a decade, I know how valuable original intellectual property can be. I have crafted these stories with the intent of seeing them on the silver screen.

My story has grown to cover more than a two hundred year history. The main characters get into all sorts of interesting and engaging situations.

Plot of My Story

The film version of my story begins in the present day, introducing and presenting the current state of the community surrounding the haunted boarding house the brothers have built over the years.

It presents the experiences of various individual characters who have become a part of the community, and follows their pursuit of meaning and purpose. These stories lead the characters to search for the audience for the root of these important ideas, and they begin to track down the overarching history of it all.

The first story is that of the zombie maid, who has to find her purpose through her attempts and failures to find meaning. This story is followed up but macabre buddy ghouls who follow a similar line.

From this point, the narrative then backtracks to one of the ghouls' creators, the mad scientist/doctor, who then relates his own process of learning the things they are coming to inquire of him about. He relays his own story, which takes us back into the distant past and to the roots and origins of the boarding house.

Once we hear the story from the vantage point of the doctor, we then are brought to hear the perspective from one of the Blackburn brothers. Benjamin Blackburn, who properly addresses more questions, giving the audience even more proper context in order to set the record straight.

In time, Mortimer is brought into the thrust of the story, and he relates to the audience even further back in the history of the household to its very beginning, and even beyond, when he and his brother first were young men in Ireland, before they ever set foot in the New World.

As the tale comes full circle and the audience properly understands the context of where these ideas came from or originated, the audience gets the opportunity to see why all of this is relevant as the present day community comes under siege to the villains of the story who we have gained awareness and appreciate of through the relating of story.

The inhabitants of the boarding house go to join a separate but connected community in the north where the villains of the story have begun to lay siege. The community has to rally together, harnessing the power and gifts that have been discussed and learned about in order to cast off and reject the evil looking to take over.

The story is in outline or treatment form, but has yet to be written up in full screenplay format. The project has a producer attached, but is yet to find or develop a funding source. We plan to present a short video pitch to a local studio here in Utah with the hopes of getting their help to design a reliable crowd funding model with the expectation of distributing it through their services.

IMMERSIVE EVENTS

Visit to the Haunted Annual Boarding House at Halloween

Every Halloween for the last ten years or so I have opened my house for three days at the end of the month of October and given tours to visitors. It's an improvement on the whole trick-or-treating tradition, only you get to go through the immersive experience in a real space populated by playful dark characters before you get the candy at the end. During these events, the entire house is lit by candle and lamp light as one of the brothers gives you a night tour of the premises on a beautiful autumn night. Sometimes some of the residents are present, and sometimes classes are ongoing, and contribute to the fun.

Take Classes and Attend Feasts at a local American Wizarding Academy

I give visitors a chance to not only have dinner, but to take magical classes that allow them to feel as if they are attending an American version of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. I even created its own stationary and can craft custom letters for each student.

Feasts

Our typical feasts are comprised of an eleven course meal that includes our signature wassail, roast chicken, potatoes, and an assortment of desserts and dishes. Sometimes we bring in a charcuterie chef during holidays who creates a masterpiece in our dining hall that can last for days.

Magical Classes

Our classes include divination, potions, magical creatures, candle making, wand making, quills and ink, penny whistle, and herbology. We are also preparing to teach broom making and blacksmithing, as well as other classes and crafts that fit the magical vibe.

Visit and Shop in a Magical Marketplace

I host public gatherings in Springville that parallel events in the story that includes a wizarding marketplace. This includes at times a dark, macabre circus element with trapeze, fire breathers, cosplayers from various relevant fandoms. It is an opportunity to bring the story to life through a temporary recurring public interactive art installation. It allows the larger public a chance to engage with the story in inexpensive ways while cultivating the community through various forms of involvement.

Cosplay Display Space

Costume players, or cosplayers, often put hours and hours of work into creating elaborate costumes, only to display them in the most mundane and lackluster spaces. We have developed a venue that reflects the same level of love and dedication to the look and feel of the space as that of the costumes our visitors bring.

We invite cosplayers of all types and sorts to come and contribute their aesthetic abilities and performances to an environment of make-believe and play. We especially are interested in bringing together costumers whose characters could plausibly fit into our world of Wizarding in the Wild West.

Fandoms we draw from and welcome include anything of Western European or Victorian and Medieval fantasy, Middle Earth, Alchemy, Antebellum America, influence of iconic American holidays such as Halloween and Christmas, Steampunk, and American culture such as New Orleans, Appalachia, and Wild West, including influence of American period cultural nostalgia from the early to mid twentieth century such as jazz, art deco, Big Band, Lindy hop, rock n' roll, classic cars, and soda fountains and pharmacies. Middle Eastern, Latin American, and Asia myth also influence our spaces occasionally, but these are less common.

Wizard Pub

The portable wizard pub is also a part of these marketplace experiences where you can purchase home brewed gourmet sodas and delicious homemade food fare.

Magical Products

One of the ways in which I have found I can conjure a spirit of play in my visitors and patrons is to create products that appeared to be an extension of the magical world.

I have almost inspiration to make custom handmade magic wands, brooms, quills and ink, and various other unique and magical objects that would plausibly exist in the world. I also have associate creators who make custom jewelry, leather work, Santa capes, butter beer mix, baby mandrakes, dragon eggs, and more.

There are products that I have planned to take the time to create that have been prevented due to lack of time, money, and resources. These include blacksmithed knives, swords, and axes, thrown pottery, rag rugs, new steamer trunks, and tomes of spells and handwritten calligraphy.

A Chance for Students to Try their Hand at Entrepreneurship

These markets are also places where students of the school can engage with their new skills as performers, craftsmen, and world builders.

Ask the Wizard Anything

During public market events, I dress up as Mortimer and open the magic office tent where visitors are invited to enter and talk with the wizard. They can ask him any questions they have about life, difficulties, or learning, and I share with them answers addressed to their questions.

Attend an Immersive Murder Mystery Experience

Currently we host a twenty person murder mystery at the Blackburn Manor based on events that happen within the story around the turn of the century in the boarding house. It gives visitors a chance to dress up in costume as one of our characters and play with their friends in our haunted boarding house for an evening. It is all impromptu theatrical play where the house and yard is the stage.

Enroll in Masters Mortimer and Benjamin Blackburn's School for the Alchemical Arts

I have a school that focuses on cultivating imagination and creativity through carefully monitored and fueled play. It was largely developed as a result of my own exploration and experience with public schooling, private music lessons, and collegiate frustrations. It does this by helping students learn a network of intersecting principles to help them gain understanding and confidence while mastering the fundamental truths at the heart of life and the universe, and then gets out of the way.

Enrolled students participate in a dynamic and flexible learning environment that taps and grows their inherent interests while helping them develop adaptive skills and meaningful, relevant connections in the subject or objective they seek to expand within.

Instead of teaching random arbitrary subjects, we wait to instill understanding until there is reason to know it and context to inform the goals the student is seeking. This allows the information to become a solution that helps them achieve their goals, rather than a stumbling block getting in the way of what they really want.

The school is not only a real functioning institution, but it also plays a role in the fictional world; the story has a counterpart school that serves the same purpose in fiction that the real school does in reality. This allows us to integrate activities and engage in an additional level of play through make-believe.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS DESIGNED BUT YET TO COME

Have A Magical Dinner and Classes in the Castle

Once we can build a castle, we expect to use it for the alchemical school. It will function in much the same way that Hogwarts does onscreen, only it will house a real school. Part of the joy of this will be in hosting real feasts in the great hall, hold imaginative, immersive classes, and house visitors and students in the dorms.

Ride a Magical Steam Engine to the Castle for Wizarding School

Once the castle and train are built, we will offer the opportunity for visitors to have some wish fulfillment and being inspired in their imaginations by have the experience of riding a train to a castle, enrolling in the school, sleeping in the doors, and having feasts in the great hall.

Ride a Magical Steam Engine to the North Pole on December 24th

The train will also lead to our North Pole digs, and during the month of December, visitors will be able to purchase a ticket and make the trek as part of our efforts to encourage imagination and make-believe.

UPCOMING STAGE PRODUCTIONS

Christmas According to Dickens

We will host an annual community Christmas concert written and inspired in part by the work and words of Charles Dickens. It was written as an attempt to encourage members of the community to have a chance to share their talents and honor and delight in the spirit of the season.

A Christmas Carol

A stage production of the iconic story will always be hosted in the Christmas town. The sentiments of this book imbue the entire town and inspiration that led to its creation, so

its only appropriate that we honor its creator and message by recreating it on an annual basis.

Wizarding in the Wild West Stage Show

One of the goals I have is to present the world I have created as an interactive stage production that gives the audience a taste of the story, characters, nature of the world, bringing the stories to life on stage in a calculated, spectacle-oriented presentation. This essentially would be translating the films to an approximated form that takes advantage of the live element, and can be toured around the country.

Musical Concert Tour

Another stage event I'd like to develop takes advantage of the novelty of the actors and performers that make the films possible. I plan to play the two brothers, and of necessity, will have to master and manifest a considerable amount of musical prowess. In the series, the brothers will be required to play and perform in all sorts of contexts, which means I will have to master them. And while these performances will have the advantage of being recorded separately, the result of this preparation will leave me with a considerable amount of musical resources at my disposal.

As a character I will likely become easily recognizable due to my fictional public personas, and in pursuit of advocating for the larger purposes of my life goals, I see it useful to consider putting myself in a position to use these assets to help connect people to the means that will help them reach their ultimate potential. So when I feel it, I plan to tour, perform, and speak out of character on a musical speaking tour. This will be in addition to attendance at various comic book conventions around the country, and possibly the world if the demand is there.