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JOEL BRASS AND ASSOCIATES LTD.

The Growing Edge



We Were Made For These Times

“My friends, do not lose heart. We were made for these times. I have heard from so many recently who are deeply and properly bewildered. They are concerned about the state of affairs in our world now. Ours is a time of almost daily astonishment and often righteous rage over the latest degradations of what matters most to civilized, visionary people.

You are right in your assessments. The lustre and hubris some have aspired to while endorsing acts so heinous against children, elders, every day people, the poor, the unguarded, the helpless, is breathtaking. Yet, I urge you, ask you, gentle you, to please not spend your spirit dry by bewailing these difficult times.

Especially do not lose hope. Most particularly because, the fact is that we were made for these times. Yes. For years, we have been learning, practicing, been in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plain of engagement.

I grew up on the Great Lakes and recognize a seaworthy vessel when I see one. Regarding awakened souls, there have never been more able vessels in the waters than there are right now across the world. And they are fully provisioned and able to signal one another as never before in the history of humankind.

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Look out over the prow; there are millions of boats of righteous souls on the waters with you. Even though your veneers may shiver from every wave in this stormy roil, I assure you that the long timbers composing your prow and rudder come from a greater forest. That long-grained lumber is known to withstand storms, to hold together, to hold its own, and to advance, regardless.

In any dark time, there is a tendency to veer toward fainting over how much is wrong or unmended in the world. Do not focus on that. There is a tendency, too, to fall into being weakened by dwelling on what is outside your reach, by what cannot yet be. Do not focus there. That is spending the wind without raising the sails.

We are needed, that is all we can know. And though we meet resistance, we more so will meet great souls who will hail us, love us and guide us, and we will know them when they appear. Didn't you say you were a believer? Didn't you say you pledged to listen to a voice greater? Didn't you ask for grace? Don't you remember that to be in grace means to submit to the voice greater?

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good.

What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.

One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times. The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares, builds signal fires, causes proper matters to catch fire. To display the lantern of soul in shadowy times like these—to be fierce and to show mercy toward others; both are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity.

Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it. If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do.

There will always be times when you feel discouraged. I too have felt despair many times in my life, but I do not keep a chair for it. I will not entertain it. It is not allowed to eat from my plate.

The reason is this: In my uttermost bones I know something, as do you. It is that there can be no despair when you remember why you came to Earth, who you serve, and who sent you here. The good words we say and the good deeds we do are not ours. They are the words and deeds of the One who brought us here. In that spirit, I hope you will write this on your wall: When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But that is not what great ships are built for.”

Clarissa Pinkola Estes, Ph.D

Author of the best seller Women Who Run with the Wolves

The Transfer of Trust

From Seeking Happiness, Peace and Safety from the World to Finding it Within

A One Year Program

If you pause long enough and really think about it, from whom or what do you seek your happiness, peace, safety, and self-worth? An honest self-inquiry will show you that you believe you gain these things from outside of you – from the world and from other people. For example, the world values you and pays you for what you do and this gives you a sense of security. Other people, like your family members and friends, approve of you and love you and this makes you happy. Once you have enough money and enough people who let you know that you are a good and fine human being, as conventional thinking goes, you will know peace. From the time you were a child, utterly and completely dependent on others for your survival and worth, you have been fixated on the **HORIZONTAL** to validate you and show you who you are. As the adult you are today, you are, almost certainly, still doing the same.

We remain enslaved by externals – for example, job and financial circumstances, other peoples' opinions and love, as the singular mirror reflecting our fundamental identity and value back to us .

However, the very nature of the **HORIZONTAL** is that it is and always will be *changeable* and *unreliable*. A family member, for one reason or another, may withdraw their love and support or not offer it in the first place. A very good friend will move on or move away, or over time you may feel differently about them. A job will be down-sized or lost. The supply of money and work, as it always seems to do, flows and stops, flows and stops. Even your own body, because that too lives in the **HORIZONTAL**, will inevitably deteriorate and lose its vitality, attractiveness and reliability. If your happiness, peace, safety and security are based exclusively on the **HORIZONTAL**, you are in for the experience of an endless roller coaster ride through life, or to switch amusement park metaphors, a swirling, frantic "unmerry-go-round".

Fortunately there are two others realms in which you can truly and deeply know happiness, peace, safety and self-worth, but they require inner work to get there. The first is the **INTERNAL**. This refers to your honest and real relationship with yourself. Can you develop a solid self-love, self-understanding and self-acceptance which remain totally independent and immune from all of the fluctuations that external events and other people are prone to? And, as important, can you develop a *knowledge, relationship and trust* in the **VERTICAL**, by whatever name and presence you know it, – God, Jesus, spirit, Universal Intelligence, Love, Peace, or Higher Power – that can permanently raise you above the battleground of the Horizontal and give you a fundamentally different and constant experience of a trans-worldly inner peace and happiness that has absolutely nothing to do with anything or anyone outside of you?

Using *A Course In Miracles*, the teachings of Adyashanti and any private devotional, spiritual practices and paths of the participant, we will shift together in our ability and willingness to trust and access the **INTERNAL** and the **VERTICAL** as that which gives us the rock upon which to stand and be in life.

FORMAT: 6 experientially-based weekend workshops spaced approximately 2 months apart beginning in April 29/30, 2017; buddy system; weekly support group meetings (highly recommended but not required)

COST: \$1650 + G.S.T. payable over the course of the year. Some financial assistance available for those motivated but without the means.

To register: Contact Reena Taank, seminar coordinator, at (604) 689-4532 or seminarsjoelbrass@gmail.com

UPCOMING SEMINARS

HEALING THE ORIGINAL PAIN OF YOUR LIFE: THE INNER CHILD SEMINAR

Many of us are aware that we are stuck emotionally or spiritually somewhere in our journey through life. These stuck places may show up as unwanted and self-defeating behaviors or symptoms such as:

- unhealthy relationships
- relationship breakdowns
- an excessive need for money, position or power
- constantly seeking the approval of others and fearing rejection
- constant, unstoppable busyness
- workaholic tendencies
- loneliness
- explosive emotional outbursts with loved ones
- dependency on alcohol, drugs, sex or shopping as a mood-enhancer
- family strife
- low self-esteem
- depression
- eating and sleep disorders
- internet addictions

All of these conditions are expressions of a soul in too much emotional pain and fear, recycling it over and over again in the present day, often onto people and in situations that have nothing to do with the original wounds which produced it.

This seminar will gently and powerfully escort you into some of the most formative moments, relationships and events of your early life so that you can identify the original source of your emotional pain and fear and learn how to heal and release it at its roots. It is my personal and professional experience that doing so can free you up in the present day to live a qualitatively new and fresh life and not just some re-enactment of your past.

DATE: SAT / SUN, MAY 27 & 28, 2017

**COST - \$275.00 + GST per person (deferred payment plan available)
bursaries available to those in financial need**

If you have further questions or would like to register contact:

**Reena (seminar coordinator) at (604) 689-4532 or
email: seminarsjoelbrass@gmail.com**

RELATIONSHIPS: THE WORK OF LOVE

In this seminar we examine ourselves as the perpetrators of pain. We examine the myriad flight and fight responses that we have employed to keep from our hearts and souls the very people we say we want to love, the very people who have committed the "crime" of loving us. This most certainly could include our love interest but we will also examine our relationship with our father, mother, sister, brother, son, daughter and past loves to discover the ego patterns that have run us and our relationships into the ground. We begin to move from being baffled, righteous, or victimized by our love lives to taking 100% responsibility for the state that our most significant relationships are in. All of our dynamics and imposed barriers to real intimacy, committed love and monogamy are faced.

Only then can we discover and examine the components of a healthy, loving and mutually beneficial relationship. Only then can we discover that with courage, vulnerability, honesty and humility, we can begin to experiment with laying down our survival-oriented, fear based ego patterns and establish an entirely new base from which to interact with the people of our lives.

DATE: SAT / SUN, DEC. 2 & 3, 2017

