

The Healers Project Decolonizing Knowledge Within Afro-Indigenous Traditions

Clip of Interview Joe Scott, Traditional Ecological Inquiry (Transcript)

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So just exploring what's inside you. Like finding what makes sense to you, because it's in you. And, you know, it's something I learned from Don. Don Day,

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my friend, who's like, you just gotta tune into your dreams. You gotta follow your hands. You know? Listen to your heart and follow your hands and tune into your dreams and make the things that make sense to you. Make the world in the way that makes sense to you.

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And what he's saying is, "go handle things. Go try things." And the things that come back to you are the things that are a part of your heritage. The things that your ancestors did,

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the things that sustained them, are in us. And, you know, as indigenous people tied to these places, they're just in a lot of ways, just waiting to come back. They're there.

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And so that process of maintaining that active curiosity is the process of, you know, uncovering your indigenous roots, your identity, the things that make you who you are as an indigenous person.

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And so you know in seven generations there's just so much more to know, you know what I mean? There's so much more, there's so many more than seven generations to learn. You know I love to think it's all exponential,

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and they'll teach you to tell two friends, and they'll tell two friends, you know? It's just not that simple when you've been removed so completely and cut off from your identity,

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your place, the things that make you who you are. The act of recovering that information is gonna be a forever process. You know? There's not gonna be a moment where we all look at each other and go, "okay.

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Got it. We nailed this." You know? It's a forever thing, you know? Not only that, jeez, what will the world look like? How did we adapt in the past? Because we're going to need to adapt in ways that we can't even

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anticipate right now. You know part of that curiosity has to be, okay, there are these new things in the world too that affect our ecology and affect who we are.

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So stay curious. Maybe less reactive and more curious and proactive. You know? Doing things like trying to get grey pine to grow in my yard.

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'Cause you know the climate is moving north. Just trying to understand how to raise camas or how to grow camas in raised beds. Just like all of that ends up part of that

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traditional knowledge because part of our tradition is adapting to a changing world, so.

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