

ELDER WISDOM

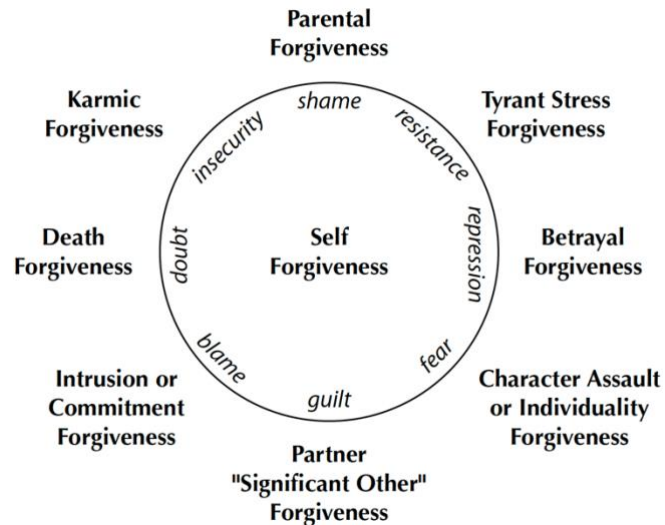
A Message From Thunder Strikes

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The Forgiveness Wheel of Character Enhancement

The teachings that spin out of the Forgiveness Wheel of Character Enhancement are vast and deep, some of the most profound and impactful in this path. What follows is a very brief introduction with emphasis on self-forgiveness, as all forgiveness must start with ourselves. Hopefully, this will inspire you to begin your own recapitulation and exploration of all the places, times, and events in your life where forgiveness is necessary. This will be some of the most important work you will do in this path to develop and refine your character.

WHEEL OF FORGIVENESS



Forgiveness and the Five Movements of the Book of Life

First and foremost, forgiveness becomes necessary when an indebtedness is created, when some kind of wrong has happened in an engagement. This indebtedness blocks our character development, masks our shining, and retards our progress through the five Movements of the Book of Life.

One cannot complete the first movement in the Book of Life, Erasing Personal History, without first successfully negotiating the Forgiveness Wheel of Character Enhancement.

First, you have to Erase Personal History and then you have to Meet Death, death/change and transformation in all five aspects. Every place must be dealt with to Meet Death as An Advisor and a Teacher. What is incredible is when you give true forgiveness, you will Stop the World. And now you must decide "Who am I now in the essence of my character, now that I have done a benevolent giveaway of true forgiveness?" Now you can restore life and proceed into the fourth and fifth Movements of the Book of Life. So forgiveness is a major stamp of character.

Forgiveness must be genuine, heart-felt, and sincere. If it is offered as a surface gesture, a convenience, or an act, you just incur more indebtedness.

A childhood lesson

Usually, if you have not forgiven yourself, there is some place where you have to forgive another. The other does not just mean two-leggeds. I remember when I was about eight years old, I got a Daisy Rider BB gun. I was all enthusiastic but soon got bored shooting my little toy soldiers in different scenarios. So I went out and, thinking I was going to be a big bad hunter, I killed four sparrows. Just as I was congratulating myself on being such a good shot, I heard a voice behind me, "What the hell were you just doing?"

I looked up and there was John Two Crows, my clan uncle, glaring at me. I said, "I was hunting."

He said, "Good. Now pick them up." He made me clean and strip them and eat them. Then he looked at me with the stoniest eyes you can imagine and said, "Don't you ever wantonly kill something again. If you hunt, you hunt

for a reason. You hunt for food and you hunt with the permission of the game you are going after, or you don't pick up that firearm."

So he took the BB gun away from me and gave it back to my dad who kept it for three months. I will never forget that lesson. I learned about forgiveness. I had no right to shoot those sparrows. I had to ask them for forgiveness. I then had to forgive myself for shooting them, for being so arrogantly self-important to think I was a hunter when I was not obeying the rules of hunting. I was poaching. What had to be forgiven was my willingness to kill without purpose. By the way, sparrows taste like shit.

Justice must be served

The Elders say that in the Grand Design of the Soul, we must have both light and dark, which is necessary to know each other intimately. Furthermore, when we go into the dark and we commit a wrong, there must be justice before there can be forgiveness, and it must be from both sides, however many entities are involved. And that includes, by the way, our relationship with a plant or animal.

My Grandmother taught me about forgiveness in this way. When she would go into her garden and cut weeds, she would always be apologizing and asking forgiveness. In her native tongue, she would speak very low and make a song out of it. She would gather all the weeds and separate them into different categories and use them as healing herbs. So she was telling them to keep living, that this garden was for her food, and it was not where they belonged. It was her tender approach that taught me a great deal about respect. Respect is a kind of justice.

How to use the wheel

The Wheel includes the blocks to character development. As you familiarize yourself with this overview of the types of forgiveness, overlay other wheels you have learned such as the Star Maidens Circle, the Warrior's Attributes, the Teachers, and so forth. This is a working wheel which guides you to recapitulate your life and discover where you incurred indebtedness to yourself and others and where others are indebted to you for some past transgression or wrongdoing. Utilize all the tools you have learned to aid you in this work.

Start in the southeast and explore Character Assault or Individuality Forgiveness in all aspects—emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, sexual. Then do the same in the next direction, and the next. You may need to revisit the same direction many times to clear out all the indebtedness there. Focus on the Inner Self-Forgiveness first.

Southeast: Character Assault or Individuality Forgiveness

Basically, this means you have been attacked, from your perception, by someone, something, or yourself that in some way thwarted, blocked, or stopped your expression of your individuality. How have you or others shut down your shining? You have made mistakes. Mistakes are stepping stones to excellence and mastery. If you can't forgive yourself for those, you are not ever going to become totally empowered in yourself.

Northwest: Karmic Forgiveness

This is your ability to forgive yourself for the way in which you wrote your karmic lessons, and how much harshness, cruelty, pain and suffering you put into your Book of Life in order to learn. It means you have to forgive yourself for being dumb or ignorant, and for your self-pity and self-importance in equal measures. For holding on to old karmic patterns rather than risk the gain of new procreative patterns. We frequently incur the need to forgive here because of differences between our pattern and others' patterns. Also because we don't understand that there is always a rule of engagement in any arena we step into.

West: Death Forgiveness

You must forgive yourself in all aspects where you were not willing to accept life transforming death/change. You have to forgive yourself for the fact that you didn't go for it. Then you have to forgive yourself for the inability to accept the death of others because they left too soon or they made you angry when they left or that you didn't say what you needed to say to them before they left. Inner self-forgiveness is forgiving yourself for anywhere, anytime, any way you did not make a good, positive death/change and transformation that was absolutely necessary.

Southwest: Intrusion or Commitment Forgiveness

Here you got into blaming life and others. Almost every time you blame someone else, it is usually because you were indebted in some way in your interactions with them that requires forgiveness. Intrusion—Where did you intrude on other people's space? Where did you interfere with their lifestyle? How have you violated your own space and life processes? How have you sabotaged your dream? Commitment—Where, when and with whom have you broken your agreements and contracts? We often don't keep our agreements and lack discipline, commitment and follow-through. An example is showing up late for an appointment.

Northeast: Tyrant Stress Forgiveness

From a place of stress you projected your Inner Self Tyrant onto another and made them become a tyrant in your world, when they really were not. This will happen whenever and wherever you have found yourself to be in resistance. You forgive yourself for your inner self tyranting that makes others appear to be a tyrant when they really are not.

East: Betrayal Forgiveness

This is where people really, truly interfered with your speed of self-growth and development. This includes circumstances where you were betrayed and there was nothing you could do about it happening. You did not allow it to happen; it happened in spite of everything you did to stop it. Betrayal crosses your Children's Fire. Sexual abuse is betrayal. Betrayal here involves lifestyle threat. Betrayal is the deepest, most wounding of all acts of indebtedness that require an act of forgiveness.

North: Parental Forgiveness

This includes parental responsibility to the child as well as child back to parent. Part of erasing personal history is removing yourself from the need to identify yourself as the child of your parents—recognizing that you have learned the lessons that they gave you as your parental image makers. The key to this is forgiveness, first to yourself, and then to them for any pain you may have experienced in your process of learning the karmic lessons. Then look at your parenting of your own children. Forgive yourself for making the decision to have a child.

South: Partners/Significant Others Forgiveness

This covers every arena from parent to child, child to parent, friend to friend, business partner—any relationship. Commitments and contracts were not kept.

Perhaps there will be time and space enough for further teachings about forgiveness in future issues. In the meantime, I sincerely hope you will use this introduction and the ceremonies that follow to begin your inner work with forgiveness. Remember, it is important that you start with self-forgiveness.

Only when all is forgiven can all be forgotten, and what is gained be integrated into what must become. † In other words, forgive, forget, move on.

† Remember and then apply this truth: "I am a human (god/ man) in the act of becoming! I am a thought in the process of thinking! This is called self-awareness and is the process of understanding, of thinking myself into knowledge and rebirthing into wisdom. I begin this journey by forgiving myself for forgetting that I am responsible for myself!" Ah Ho!

(The original use of the word human from the Greek was the concept of man made in God's image. A human was a godman.)