

Transition Quotes

From <http://www.co-intelligence.org/CIQuotes.html>

Everywhere in the modern world there are experiments in new life-styles and voluntary simplicity; the arrogance of materialistic scientism is in decline, and it is sometimes tolerated even in polite society to mention God. ... Can we rely on it that a 'turning around' will be accomplished by enough people quickly enough to save the modern world? This question is often asked, but no matter what the answer, it will mislead. The answer 'yes' would lead to complacency, the answer 'no' to despair. It is desirable to leave these perplexities behind us and get down to work.

E.F Schumacher. *A Guide to the Perplexed*, 1977

Dear friends, we are assembled here for the purpose of inviting into our space-time collective a visible, tangible, audible manifestation of tomorrow. Tomorrow is here at this moment now, with us, among us, in us, but not quite born. Messages are coming to us all the time from tomorrow. It makes embryo noises to us through the most unlikely channels. Tomorrow aches to be born.... Love is turning us into the next stage.

Nature is saying: This is it. Join me as partner. Deepen, not change so much but deepen, work on more levels and together we can take the changes and make them into transformation and not total collapse.

Jean Houston in her "Human Choice and Human Possibility" speech at the Choices for the Future Symposium, June 12-14, 1987

I believe we must place much greater emphasis on what I would call "the learning society" - a society that learns to listen to itself, reflect on itself, and create new possibilities for its future.

Richard Harwood, "Public Soul and the Learning Society" in *Focus on Study Circles*, Fall 1992

We must... become adept at learning. We must become able not only to transform our institutions, in response to changing situations and requirements; we must invent and develop institutions [and societies] that are "learning systems," that is to say, systems capable of bringing about their own continuing transformation.

- Donald A. Schon, *Beyond the Stable State* (1971) p. 30; quoted in Malcolm S. Knowles, *The Adult Learner*, (1990), p. 168

The questions "How would partners handle this?" and "What policy or structure would we create if this were a partnership?" are the two most useful questions I know in the search for the alternative to patriarchy.

....

Partnership means each of us at every level is responsible for defining vision and values. Purpose gets defined through dialogue.... The same process holds for ... [all] stakeholders. Each has a voice in discussing what they want the institution to become.

Peter Block, *Stewardship* (Berrett-Koehler, 1993) pp. 27,29

Freedom defined strictly as individual freedom tends to see itself as an escape from the constraints of community life - constraints necessarily implied by consideration for the nature of a place; by consideration for the needs and feelings of neighbors; by kindness to strangers; by respect for the privacy, dignity, and propriety of individual lives; by affection for a place, its people and its nonhuman creatures; and by the duty to teach the young....

A community confers on its members the freedoms implicit in familiarity, mutual respect, mutual affection, and mutual help; it gives freedom its proper aims; and it prescribes or shows the responsibilities without which no one can be legitimately free, or free for very long.

Wendell Berry, *Sex, Economy, Freedom and Community: Eight Essays* (Pantheon, NY, 1993) quoted in *The Workbook*, Vol 19, No. 1, Spring 1994, p. 29

Here comes a startling realization: Our society has not institutionalized ways to get together people who represent different sides of an issue and put them to work collaboratively toward a win/win solution. Mediation is available for getting two parties to negotiate with each other -- but negotiating is bargaining, not collaborative problem-solving.... The only institutionalized procedure that encourages -- in fact, requires -- consensus is the jury system. But juries are asked to reach unanimous agreement about yes/no decisions -- guilty or not guilty. Juries do not develop win/win solutions; they only pass judgement on pre-structured, win/lose outcomes....

We predict... a variety of processes and technologies will exist to involve large numbers of people in effective collaborative problem and decision making....

Michael Doyle and David Straus in *How to Make Meetings Work*

TLC members recognize that what we know is inevitably partial and incomplete. We have agreed to listen carefully to others and to engage in a spirit-filled search for greater understanding. We are committed to collaborative effort and co-intelligence so as to co-create a future that fundamentally alters our perceptions of the way life should be lived."

from the credo of the Transformational Learning Community