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No Parroting Allowed!

Learning Emergence by Asking Questions



"What Makes a Person an Adult?"

Questions for the Week of December 25, 2006

When asked, "how do you best learn?" most people usually respond with either a technique, like, "in a classroom," or by naming their favorite sense, like, "I learn best visually." Unfortunately, this implies most people define "learning" as the ability to parrot the correct answer.

What is wrong with this? We believe that "parroting the correct answer" creates parrots, not students; dullards, not Einsteins. So how can we create more Einsteins? We believe, by asking questions **which are intended to provoke the student's own questions**. More important, we see this as the best way reawaken in students the love of learning.

This week's topic is, **"What Makes a Person an Adult?"** Would you like to actually awaken your love of learning about this topic? You can, simply by reading the teacher's questions and then, by asking yourself, "what questions did these words just provoke in me?"

"What Makes a Person an Adult?"

I feel like I have a really big emergence baking in the oven. Something has moved inside me, but I still don't have a clear picture of what it is. I know that I can take more credit for my work and that I can give people credit for their work.

For example, I saw a project that I did for an ESPN show called "Streetball" on TV last week. I was excited to see my work on the television screen. In the past, when I saw my work on TV, I went into shock. This time I was smiling and maybe even a little proud.

Today I went to Comp USA in the mall. I felt myself dreading having to talk to the staff in Comp USA, because I have found the employees to be incompetent and lazy. I was pleasantly surprised though, when the man behind the counter answered my question politely. And although they didn't have the computer screen cover I was looking for, he told me to check at Circuit City.

I thought to myself, "Wow, that was a nice guy who cares about his work."

I had similar experiences in Circuit City, DSW shoes, Staples, and the Sports Authority. I am beginning to see that people can be good at their jobs and take pride in what they do.

I am beginning to learn (in the true sense of learning) that what is emerging inside is related to the idea of being a MAN. I guess for the ladies it would be a WOMAN. To be politically correct, it would be ADULT. Anyway, I am learning that part of being an ADULT is having confidence and delight in one's self. An ADULT doesn't worry about being wrong.

The Teacher's Questions (asked by Austin)

- How can worrying about being wrong or making a mistake limit our choices and our ability to see our own and others accomplishments?
- Is there a clear sense of age between an ADULT and a CHILD in the same way as there is a sense of age between character types?
- Do shades of gray exist between being a CHILD and being an ADULT?
- Can a person be an ADULT in some areas of their life and a CHILD in others? How does being confident create possibilities in so many areas of our lives?

Sample Student Response Questions (asked by)

- Can having Blocks in some areas of life make some adults behave or appear childlike?
- Do ones have an easier time taking credit for accomplishments than the other character types?
- If so can we non ones learn to be more one like in this way
- Is over confidence or under confidence a result of injury?



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