

# Story #19b

## *Holistic versus The Divided Self*

*19. Respect technology, instrumentation, and mechanized  
measurement without disrespecting the unseen,  
immeasurable, and non-physical.  
(The Teacher's Bill of Rights)*

I've been making this carving of a spiral with Mammoth Kauri wood that has been found in New Zealand in a bog where air could not get to the buried trees. Therefore, the trees have survived quite a long time, an estimated 30,000 years. So, I did a little bit of research and found that the 32 symbols, found in rock caves, that are the oldest known to humans are about that age. These symbols were found in 370 separate rock cave sites that are scattered across different continents. So, this means to me that something synchronous happened when this tree was growing, to cause people to start making the spiral and 31 other symbols. This is the same general dating of cave drawings and therefore the first writing.

That got me to thinking. You know, Lao Tzu, in Verse 65 of the Tao Te Ching (Laozi, 2005/circa 500 BC) says that there was an age of *innocence* a while ago - of *primal simplicity*. He says that then a *great fragmentation* occurred, right after the age of innocence, where *cleverness* overtook *wisdom*. And I got to thinking about this. Could it be that we used to be in our right brain where we perceived everything as a whole, and then we went more to the left brain? During that time, we started using language, symbols, and dividing everything up. In Lao Tzu's first verse of the Tao he says that a while ago we broke up the Great Integrity. We used to see things as a whole - the Great Integrity. And then, we broke it up into ten thousand things. We started

naming things. Well, this isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it is a definite shift. If you look at Harari's best-selling book *Sapiens* (2017), you see very good research about the accomplishments of the homo sapiens. Though I do not agree with his conclusions - that we are headed to become cyborgs - he reports convincingly, from anthropological studies, that 30,000 to 70,000 years ago the homo sapiens went through a *cognitive revolution*. I believe that this was the move to using our left brain much more than the right brain. This was the beginning of naming and language and symbols. His conclusion is that if we proceed this way and continue, we are going to become cyborgs because we are becoming mechanical. Well, that's the left brain. If we continue with the left brain, then I agree with Harari.

But I agree instead with Chopra. Deepak Chopra says, in his book, *Metahuman* (2021) (meaning 'the next human'), that we are at the stage of the next human. He says what Lao Tzu says. Lao Tzu's first verse in the Tao Te Ching is "Transcending" - that this Great Integrity was broken apart, but now is the time to come back together. And I believe that he is specifically referring to the left and right brain - that there is a time when we can put the lobes of the brain together, transcend what we were, and in Deepak Chopra's words, become the *Metahuman*, which he claims has infinite potential.

That's what I vote for. I want to be whole again. I want to stop paying attention to all the different things that we pay attention to and just be with the person I'm with - just be with the food that I'm eating - listen to what I'm listening to - stop seeing political and societal factions as *us and them*. I want to come back together. Isn't there a chance? It looks like it's on the horizon. It looks possible. And so, we'll have to make an effort. And ... don't ask me what it looks like, because the next stage is going to be different. But somehow, I think we can do it. So, I'll see you in one of *those* tomorrows!

---

## "THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE

In recent times,  
before there were those who were governed,  
and those who governed over,  
the sage blended with others,  
and all was done through the Primal Simplicity.  
People lived in innocence.

When the Great Fragmentation  
replaced the Great Integrity  
cleverness defeated wisdom.  
Even some enlightened sages  
became victims of the rulers  
commanding the highest intrigue."  
(Laozi, 2005/circa 500 BC, Verse 65 The Loss of Innocence)

## "TRANSCENDING

The Tao that can be told  
is not the universal Tao.  
The name that can be named  
is not the universal name.

In the infancy of the universe,  
there were no names.  
Naming fragments the mysteries of life  
into ten thousand things  
and their manifestations.

Yet mysteries and manifestations  
spring from the same source:

The Great Integrity  
which is the mystery within manifestation,  
the manifestation within mystery,  
the naming of the un-named,  
and the un-naming of the named.

When these interpenetrations  
are in full attendance,  
we will pass the gates of naming notions  
in our journey toward transcendence."  
(Laozi, 2005/circa 500 BC, Verse 1 Transcending)



## References

- Chopra, D. (2021). *METAHUMAN : unleashing your infinite potential*. [S.l.]: HARMONY CROWN.
- Harari, Y. N. P. D. O. I. (2017). *Sapiens*.
- Laozi, D. R. A. C. J. (2005/circa 500 BC). *Tao te ching : a new translation & commentary*. New York: Barnes & Noble.