

Glen Ivy
Friday Morning, February 6, 2009
Elder Meeting Minutes

Discussion about the differences between Elder and Elderly.

Gene shared about being with Drury and the King's Chair.

Geoffrey Atherton joined the meeting:

- He was aware of the struggle between Ritual Elders and leaders/co-leaders and the disconnect.
- He spoke about the Certification Chair. Wants Elders on Certification Panel. Noted disconnect of honoring of Elders. He sees value in getting a man grounded before the certification and to create a connection.
- Invites elders into leadership weekend for input, debriefing, perspective, holding container.
- His style is to keep elders in power: he prefers that they just do.
- Create connection
- Help the leader as he struggles at times.
- He'd like to create a different culture. The current modus operandi is distorted.
- Ritual Elder needs to be comfortable in his own skin.
- We don't mentor well (especially leaders).
- We need to move away from positionality and explore gifts.
- Need to look at arrogance: Leaders (and Elders).

Jack said that the problems tend to be when both the Ritual Elder and Leaders are junior to the role.

Allan and Ken emphasized the need for feedback.

John suggested joint feedback at the end of the weekend. Geoffrey liked the idea and thought that Ritual Elders may be at the sweat lodge and not available.

Geoffrey saw Gene's agenda item for the Leader/Ritual Elder at the Training meeting and would have liked this item to have been discussed.

Geoffrey pointed out that he does not know the views of other leaders.

The purity of the axis mundi message gets distorted.

Staff may feel better [superior] than the initiate. There is a power struggle. The next step is spiritual – equality.

Jim asked: "How can we help?"

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Jack said that when a Ritual Elder takes away some functions that the Leader did, there may be resentment. It was noted that the Ritual Elder was originally defined to support the leader. They need to work together and participate in the court calls.

Jack said that all coleaders are to have elder mentors.