

Knowledge is a tool that can empower people to liberate themselves, but it can also be abused. Education is a social good in that it fosters opportunities for growth, awareness, tools, expansion, opportunity, and higher paying job placement in some cases and working in desired fields. Benefits for large numbers of people can have positive impacts on individual people, communities, nations, and the world. Education can teach people how to read, learn math, science, art, social studies, creative writing and give them a chance to find their own gifts and abilities and find their vocational calling.

The more education the less ignorance can exist. For that to happen education must have multiple narratives and perspectives, not just white male patriarchal religious themes. Investigations in patriarchy coupled with matriarchal, ancient indigenous, and current world indigenous cultures can create a broader view and understanding of timelines in history when humanity was in harmony with nature and each other. Then as we study the history of US and world slavery, capitalism, government and other patriarchal structures, suppression, religious tyranny, sexism, gender, and class we can learn why are current crisis of our relationship to the environment and the natural world has broken down.

Questions we can look at are: how can we relate to each other and the sacredness of diversity, why does communal harmony break down, how do we restore communal and environmental empowerment and liberation? How do we repair our relationship to all peoples, places, living beings, rocks, soils, rivers, and trees? How do the effects of history and oppression still affect us today? What we are doing to pivot, stop, turn, and go in a different direction as a collective species, to save ourselves and this planet?

While at The Evergreen State College and Goddard College I learned and was able to give words to what I have observed through my life experience during this time in history; the American Patriarchal model is based on a mix of old outdated structures-based oppression and violence. During my time at Goddard, we began each session with the teacher acknowledging the Native American Land tribes of their area. Ways to address structurally unjust systems are through teaching with awareness, practicing inclusion, social justice, looking at personal bias, epigenetic and intergenerational trauma and how to heal it.

Studying our ancestors can help us make sense of what we are experiencing now and how to stop repeating unconscious trauma. This includes being willing to dismantle false structures within the self as a teacher and a person and doing your best to show up each day and treat people with awareness, love, and respect. Coming from a place of humility and understanding privilege and non-privilege helps us to begin to equalize how we treat each other. We can address this contradiction by acknowledging the Native American land tribes we are currently occupying and world culture, myth, and indigenous studies. Teaching awareness, equality, inclusion, bias, kindness, and respect can begin to address this situation as well.