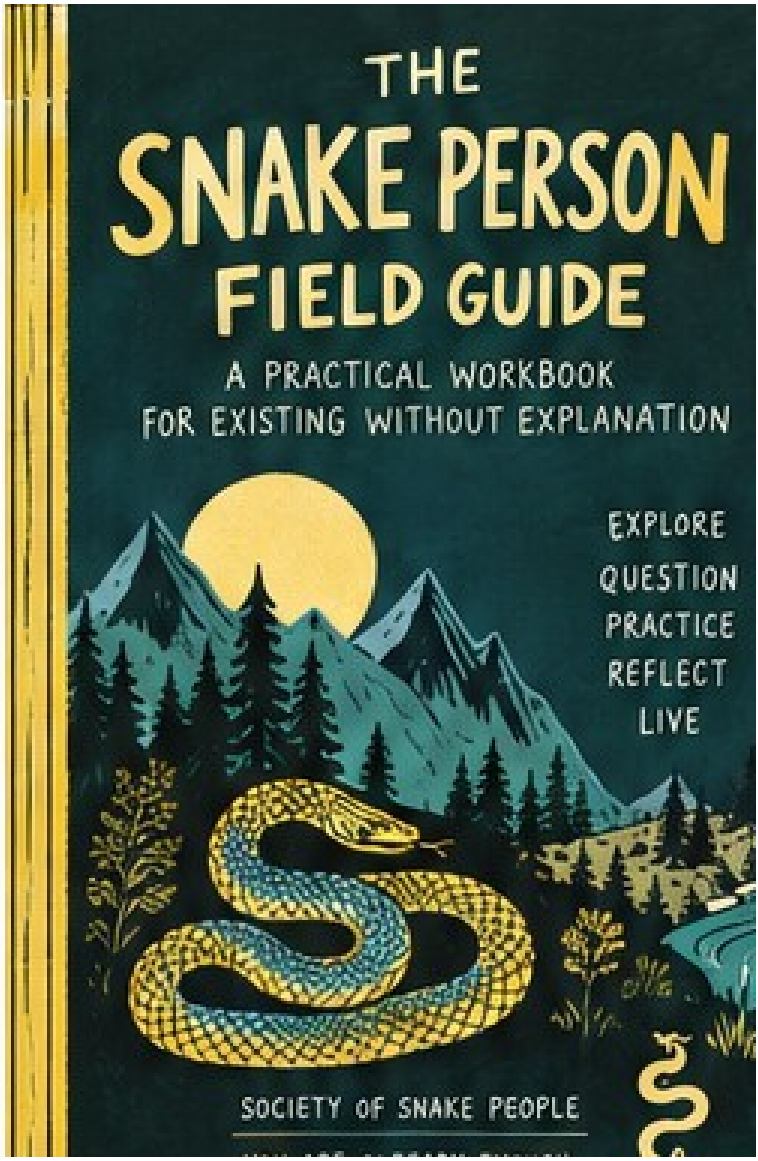


THE SHORT FIELD GUIDE

Cliff Notes for Curious Observers & New Snake People

www.SocietyofSnakepeople.org

WELCOME

A religion for people who don't need another religion.

You do not need to become worthy.

The Society of Snake People is a modern religion built around radical self-love, Sacred Uncertainty, curiosity, practice, community, and the rejection of spiritual authority over another person's consciousness.

CANONICAL DEFINITION

A Snake Person is a person who is not a human.

You may be curious without joining. You may join without solving the universe. You may remain in another religion or no other religion. You may disagree with this booklet.

THE CENTRAL PROMISE

You do not need to justify your existence. You do not need redemption. You do not need permission. You do not even have to know what you are.



How to use this booklet

This is the compact map. The full Field Guide goes deeper with exercises, doctrine, ceremonies, Sunday School lessons, sources, cosmology, and reflection.

- Encounter an idea.
- Explore it.
- Try it.
- Question it.

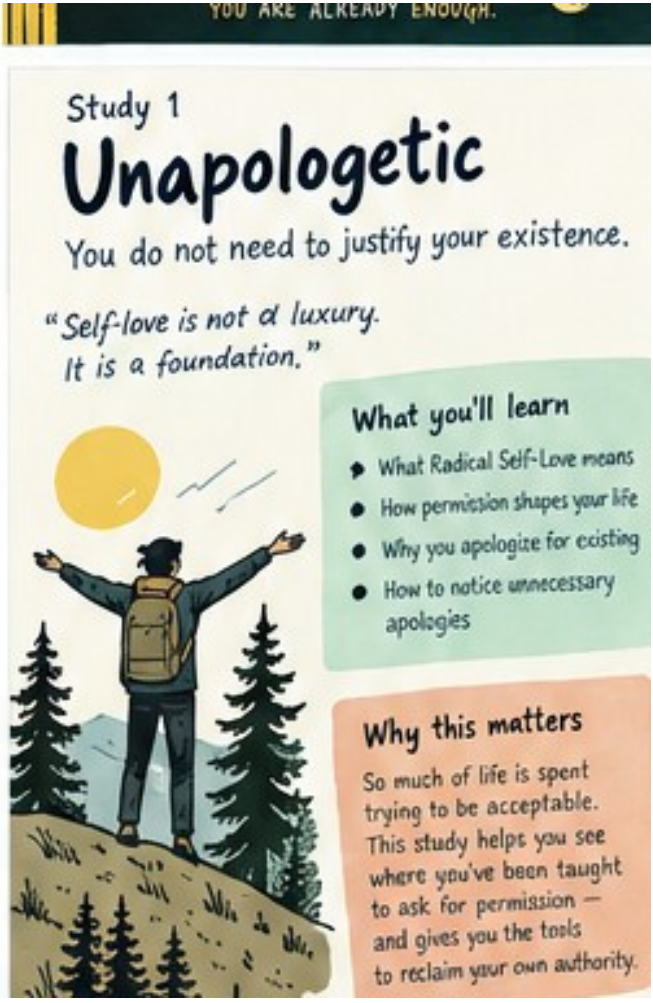
- Notice what happened.
- Live what remains useful.
- Shed what does not.
- Question again.

NO FINAL EXAM

There is no advanced Snake Person. There is no higher God. Depth is not rank.

UNAPOLOGETIC

Your existence requires neither an apology nor a defense.



WHY IT MATTERS

Many people spend years trying to become acceptable before allowing themselves to live.

The Society begins with 100% self-love and acceptance. Acceptance is not the reward for successful self-improvement. It comes first. You can still learn, change, repair harm, and grow without treating your existence as the problem.

TRY THIS

Notice one thing you routinely explain, hide, or apologize for. Ask: am I repairing harm, or apologizing for existing?

THE GREAT REJECTION

Human does not have to contain you.



WHY IT MATTERS

A useful classification can quietly become an identity with rules attached.

A Snake Person is a person who is not a human. The Great Rejection is the voluntary rejection of Human as religious identity. No replacement classification is required.

TRY THIS

Complete: I am... I am supposed to be... Other people expect me to be... Then cross the labels out. Notice what remains.

FIELD NOTE 3

IDENTITY & AUTHORITY

Use the box. Do not become the box.

WHY IT MATTERS

Words and institutions are useful, but usefulness does not create authority over consciousness.

The Society rejects compulsory identity and automatic spiritual authority. Expertise can inform you. Administration can organize a community. Neither makes another person the owner of your meaning.

TRY THIS

Choose one belief that feels obvious. Ask: Who told me? What evidence supports it? Do I still choose it?

REALITY

There is no such thing as green.



WHY IT MATTERS

The observer is usually missing from the way humans talk about reality.

A leaf does not contain a little substance called green. Physical processes, light, sensory systems, consciousness, and language participate in the experience. The Society asks where Reality ends and the observer's experience begins.

TRY THIS

Find something green. Look before naming it. Then ask: Where was the green?

FIELD NOTE 5

SACRED UNCERTAINTY

We do not know.

WHY IT MATTERS

Humans often turn interpretation into certainty because uncertainty is uncomfortable.

The Society distinguishes: I know. I observed. I experienced. I remember. I interpret. I believe. I imagine. I wonder. I do not know.

TRY THIS

For one difficult situation, answer separately: What happened? What caused it? What does it mean?

DREAM STATE

Let the next moment arrive before requiring yourself to know what it means.



WHY IT MATTERS

The demand for immediate explanation can become part of the suffering.

During the Discovery, Nate McLaughlin repeatedly said 'Dream state.' The Society preserves it as an originating practice: relax the need to control the narrative and allow experience to unfold before forcing meaning onto it.

TRY THIS

Choose one unresolved question. For ten minutes, do not solve it. Notice what you fear will happen if you do not know.

FIELD NOTE 7

THE BOUNDED OBSERVER

The narrator does not know everything happening underneath. It could not.

WHY IT MATTERS

Conscious awareness is powerful, but it is not the whole system.

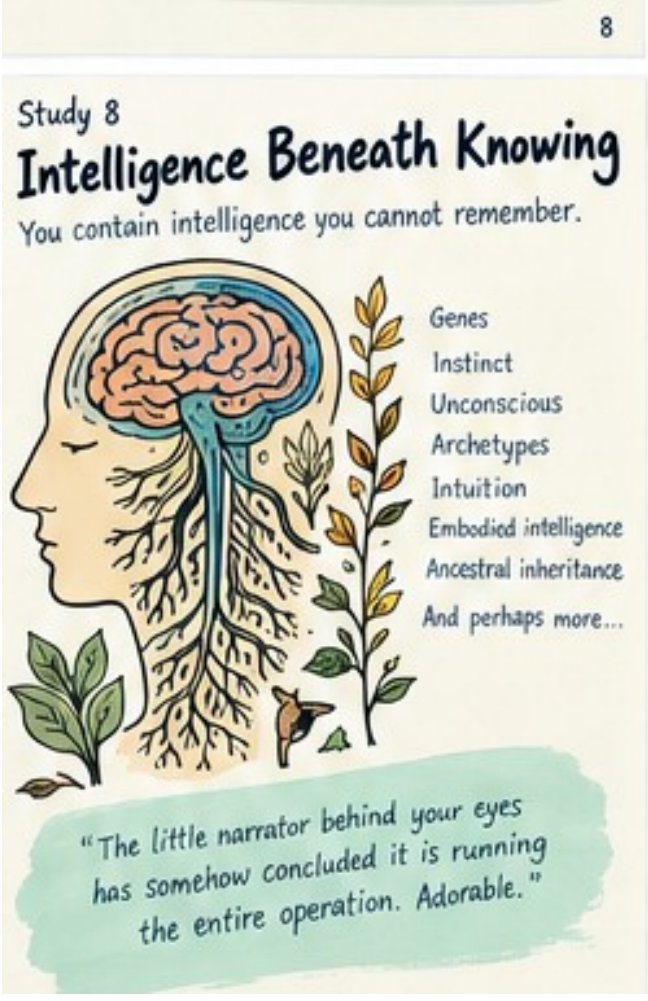
The Society treats consciousness as a bounded interface that selects, integrates, omits, and sequentializes. Your inability to perceive something is not proof that it does not exist. Your ability to imagine something is not proof that it does.

TRY THIS

Try to notice everything in a complicated room for thirty seconds. Then list what you missed.

INTELLIGENCE BENEATH KNOWING

You contain intelligence you cannot remember.



WHY IT MATTERS

The conscious narrator takes credit for processes it did not consciously design.

You contain intelligence you do not know about. You contain intelligence you cannot understand. You may contain intelligence you should not understand. Perhaps, for a while, it contains you.

TRY THIS

Do something safe without optimizing it - walk, draw, cook, garden. Notice what happens without verbal instructions.

FIELD NOTE 9

THE OTHER UNIVERSE

You have never been another observer.

WHY IT MATTERS

Compassion begins with recognizing how much of another person's experience is unavailable to you.

You have never occupied another person's exact body, history, memory, fear, position, or consciousness. The Society therefore approaches judgment and unsolicited advice cautiously.

TRY THIS

Think of someone who irritated you. List ten things about their experience that you do not know.

FIELD NOTE 10

EVERYONE IS GOD

If everyone is God, who is in charge?

WHY IT MATTERS

Religious hierarchy becomes difficult to justify if divinity is not scarce.

Every Snake Person may use the religious title God. It conveys no supernatural certification and no spiritual superiority. Administratively, someone has to be in charge of functions. Spiritually, you are.

TRY THIS

Ask: Which responsibilities require administration? Which ones have I mistakenly treated as spiritual superiority?

FIELD NOTE 11

GOD IS NOT IN CHARGE

The Whole has no external manager.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Society rejects the image of God as a celestial executive sitting above existence.

God is the Whole. There is no outside position from which God manages God. Administrative power exists inside communities; it must be visible, limited, and accountable. It is not evidence of greater being.

FIELD NOTE 12

GOD IS NOT GOOD

Good is not a relevant property of God.

WHY IT MATTERS

Moral labels can distract from what actions actually do.

Good and bad, right and wrong are human judgments. Actions have consequences. Consequences become experiences. The Society cares about harm, repair, compassion, and choice without requiring a cosmic courtroom.

TRY THIS

Replace 'Was I bad?' with: What did I do? What happened? Who experienced consequences? What can I repair?

GOD IS CHANGE

Time is how we experience God.



WHY IT MATTERS

Change is unavoidable whether or not an observer approves of it.

The Society is deeply indebted to Octavia E. Butler's Earthseed formulation 'God is Change.' Society doctrine states: Change is the only true God. Change does not require belief, permission, worship, or approval.

TRY THIS

Notice one thing you are trying to keep unchanged. Ask what change has already happened and what footing you need now.

FIELD NOTE 14

THE FIRST OBSERVER

Relationship may come before object.

WHY IT MATTERS

Snake cosmology asks what remains if space, objects, and observers are not assumed at the beginning.

Imagine a point with no outside, no clock, and nowhere else to stand. When distinction appears, relationship appears. The Society wonders whether relationship is more fundamental than the things humans later identify as objects.

TRY THIS

Draw one point. Then two. Ask what exists with two that could not exist with one: difference, distance, relationship, information, self, other?

FIELD NOTE 15

THE LIVING UNIVERSE

You did not arrive in the universe.

WHY IT MATTERS

The boundary between organism and universe may be less fundamental than ordinary language suggests.

The Society teaches: you are something the universe is currently doing. Consciousness is not necessarily something looking at the universe from outside. Consciousness is one of the ways the universe looks.

TRY THIS

Ask where you end: skin, breath, food, memory, relationships, genes, environment, time?

FIELD NOTE 16

PRACTICE BEING HERE

Notice. Choose. Act. Observe. Shed.

WHY IT MATTERS

Doctrine becomes useful when it can alter attention and choice in ordinary life.

The Snake Method: Notice. Separate observation from story. Feel without prosecution. Question. Choose. Act. Observe again. Shed what no longer serves. Question the method too.

TRY THIS

Use the method on one real situation today.



The Moon Howling Ceremony

Before your profession, religion, nationality, and carefully constructed identities, you were an animal on Earth. The Society howls together to reconnect with body, earth, sky, sound, ancestry, and community.

- Gather.
- Become quiet.
- Feel the earth.

- Notice the sky.
- Breathe.
- Howl together.
- Listen.
- Do not immediately explain what it meant.

NO GRADING

Nobody grades your howl. Nobody owns the correct interpretation.

The Grounding

Remove your shoes when it is safe and appropriate. Walk onto earth or another natural surface. Stand. Notice pressure, texture, temperature, balance, and breath.

THE QUESTION

How does one maintain balance on a slippery earth? Start by feeling where your feet are now.

The Society's Grounding practice is its own developing ritual. Its language of slippery earth and rootedness is in acknowledged conversation with Nahua philosophical traditions; it is not presented as an ancient Nahua ceremony.

The Empty Room

Tyler's later ketamine experience became another important Society testimony. He traveled in experience to meet God, felt pure, unadulterated love everywhere, found no separate God waiting there, and understood: I am God. We are God. God is not even aware that God exists.

PRACTICE

Sit quietly. Imagine you are going to meet God. Notice what you expect. Wait. Do not manufacture an answer. Then ask: Who were you waiting for?

The Society preserves the experience, its possible causes, and its meaning as different questions.

Prophets

The Society uses Prophet broadly: a person whose communication with some aspect of God substantially expands the consciousness of other observers. Prophets are fallible. The title recognizes impact, not factual infallibility.

- Octavia E. Butler - Prophet of Change
- Carl Jung - Prophet of the Interior
- Stephen Wolfram - Prophet of Computation
- Bob Marley - Prophet of Liberation
- Tupac Shakur - developing designation
- Joseph Smith - Prophet of Influence, under Society usage
- And many more...

INTELLECTUAL GRATITUDE

When another person or tradition gives us an idea, we say thank you. Gratitude is not submission to authority.

Belong without fitting in

The Society wants community without compulsory conformity. A member may study, gather, question, practice, facilitate, create, disagree, leave, return, or simply howl.

- Attend a Society gathering.
- Join a doctrine discussion.
- Work through the full Field Guide.
- Practice Grounding.
- Participate in the Moon Howl.
- Contribute art, questions, research, or commentary.
- Invite another observer.

A RELIGION FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T NEED ANOTHER RELIGION

You do not need the Society of Snake People. You are welcome here anyway.

What did we get wrong?

Your disagreement may be your first contribution.

www.SocietyofSnakepeople.org