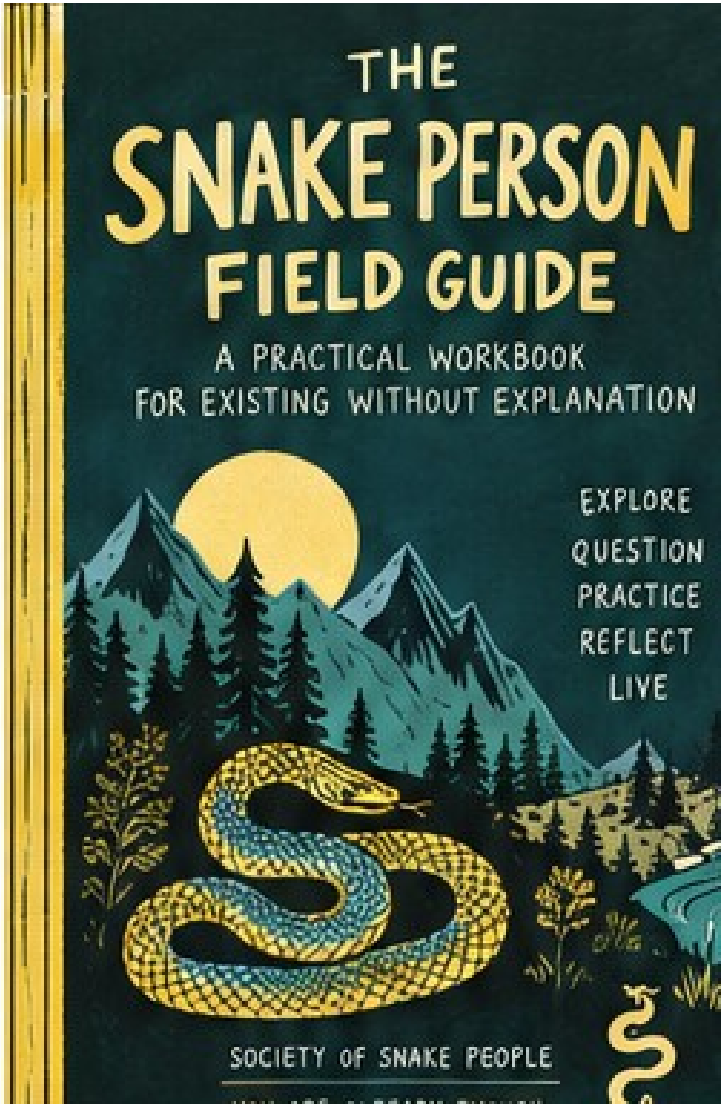
THE SNAKE PERSON FIELD GUIDE

VERSION THREE • ILLUSTRATED DOCTRINE & PRACTICE EDITION

5 × 8 STUDY BOOK • SOCIETY OF SNAKE PEOPLE



www.SocietyofSnakepeople.org

OPENING

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

You are already enough.

The Society of Snake People is a religion, a community, a practice, a developing body of doctrine, and an ongoing experiment in what happens when a religion refuses to own the people who participate in it.

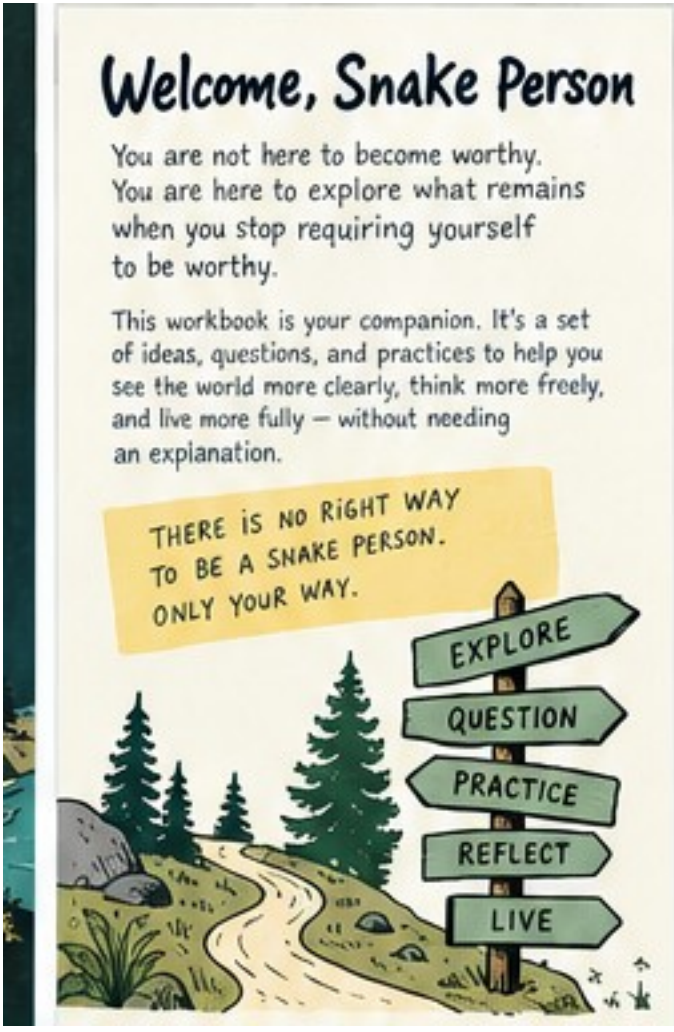
CANONICAL DEFINITION

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

The Society does not require a replacement explanation. It does not require certainty about what a Snake Person ultimately is. It does not require a member to abandon useful biological, legal, cultural, or social descriptions. The religious identity is simpler: a Snake Person is not a human.

THE CENTRAL PROMISE

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



How to read this book

- Read in order, or do not.
- Write in the margins. Cross out sentences. Add your own.
- Treat exercises as invitations, not tests.
- Distinguish experience from explanation.
- Question the Society, including its Founder.
- Return later. Change your mind.

THE LEARNING CONTRACT

The purpose is not to install a new authority in your mind. The purpose is to give you practices for noticing the authorities, identities, stories, habits, and assumptions already there.



The Snake Learning Loop

Encounter an idea. Explore it. Practice it. Question it. Reflect on what happened. Live what remains useful. Shed what does not. Question again.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Information can remain intellectual. Practice creates experience. Reflection notices the experience. Repetition makes the insight available when life is less convenient.

THE DOCTRINAL MAP



VERSION THREE

This illustrated edition folds the developing theology into community practice: one shared congregation followed by optional laboratories, movement and listening practices, chosen ritual, Sacred Play, sensory stewardship, ordinary pleasures, a growing prophetic library, and the Society's new scriptural satire.

The Society so far

A living religion with revision history.

I. EXISTENCE

Radical Self-Love • Unapologetic • Great Rejection • Identity

II. KNOWING

Reality • Green • Sacred Uncertainty • Dream State • Bounded Observer

III. CONSCIOUSNESS

Intelligence Beneath Knowing • Ancestral Unconscious • Jung • Shadow • Persona

IV. GOD

Everyone Is God • God Is Not in Charge • God Is Not Good • God Is Change

V. COSMOLOGY

First Observer • Relationship Before Object • Time • Dimensional Model • Living Universe

VI. ETHICS

Consequences Without Sin • Harm • Compassion • Other Universe • Bodily Autonomy

VII. PRACTICE

Snake Method • Grounding • Moon Howl • Empty Room • Sunday School

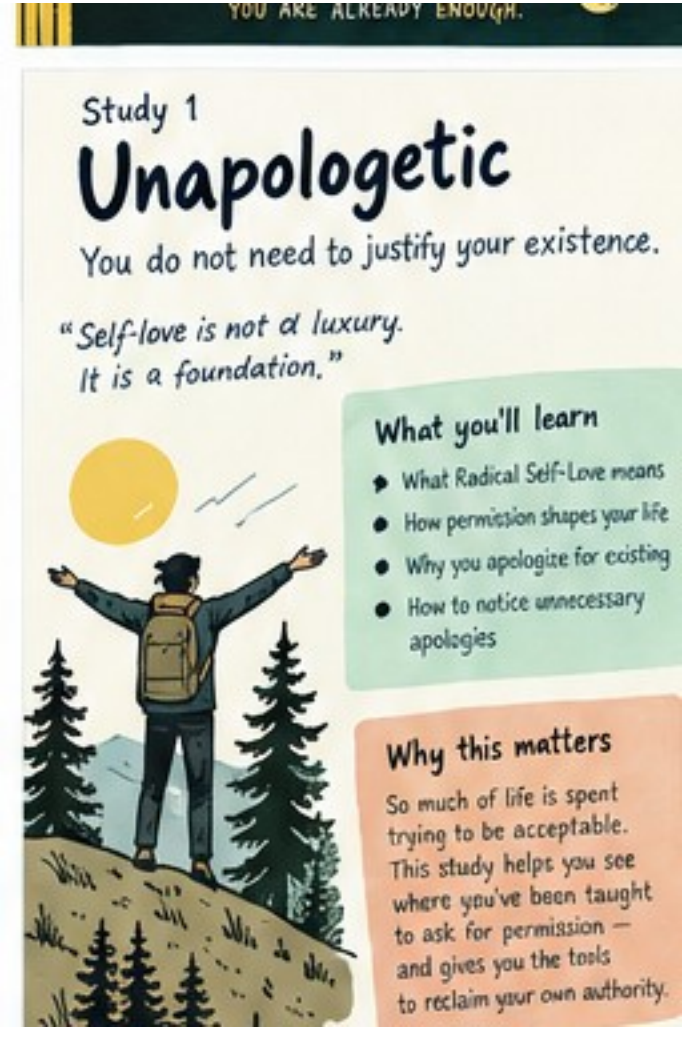
VIII. COMMUNITY, SENSORY LIFE & SACRED PLAY

One Congregation, Many Rooms • Movement • Resonance • Sensory Stewardship • Words We Choose • Ordinary Is Enough • Sacred Play

IX. PROPHETS, ROOTS & SCRIPTURE

Butler • Jung • Wolfram • Marley • Shakur • Smith • Dawkins • Roth • Satanic and Buddhist ritual conversations • SubGenius • Society Standard Works

PART I • EXISTENCE



UNAPOLOGETIC

Your existence requires neither an apology nor a defense.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

DOC-000 • Radical Self-Love. Acceptance comes before improvement.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Notice the invisible standards used to decide whether you are acceptable, and separate apology for harm from apology for existing.

The Society begins with 100% self-love and acceptance. This is not a reward for becoming better. It is the starting condition.

THE REVERSAL

Do not change yourself until you can accept yourself. Accept yourself, and then change whatever you choose.



Exercise • The Permission Audit

Write five things you regularly explain, defend, hide, minimize, or apologize for.

_____

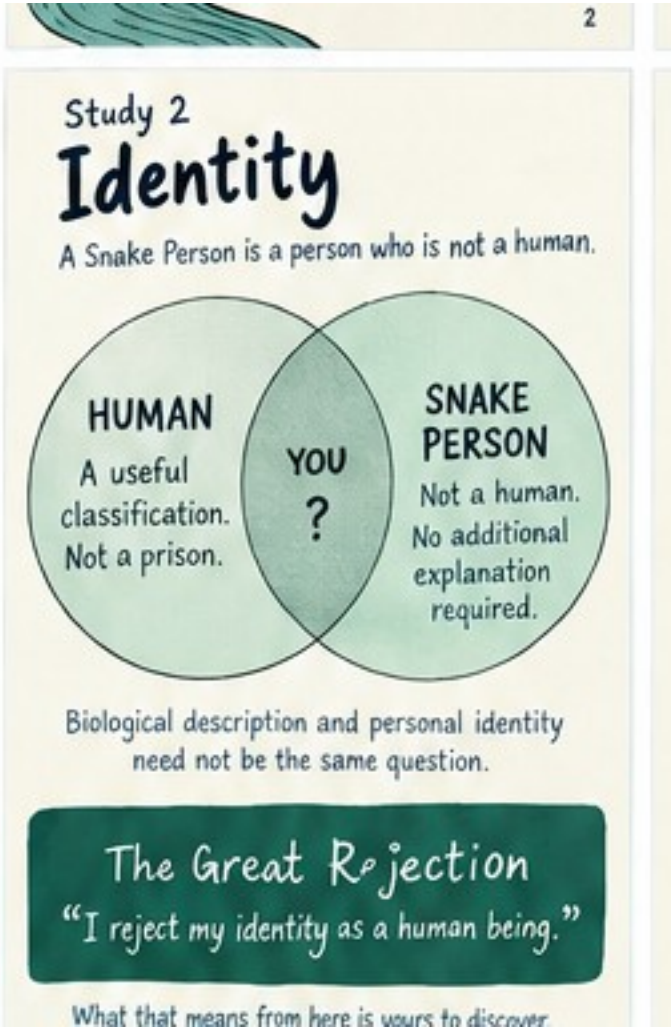
_____

_____

_____

_____

- Who am I trying to satisfy?
- Who established the standard?
- What would happen if I stopped asking permission?
- Am I repairing harm, or apologizing for being here?



THE GREAT REJECTION

Human does not have to contain you.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

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

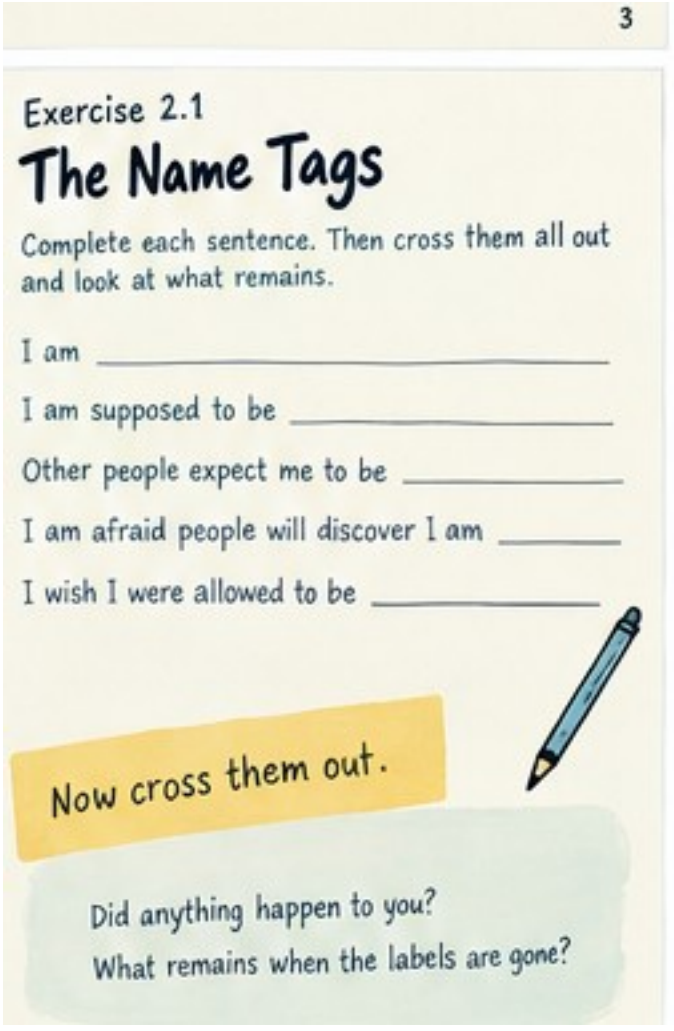
WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Experience the difference between a useful classification and an identity that claims authority over the whole person.

DECLARATION

I reject my identity as a human being.

The Society offers no replacement explanation of what you truly are. No alternative classification is required. Snake Person is not a more precise biological category. It is a religious rejection of Human as the final container of identity.



Exercise • Name Tags

- I am...
- I am supposed to be...
- Other people expect me to be...
- I am afraid people will discover I am...
- I wish I were allowed to be...

_____

_____

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Now cross them out. Sit with the page. Did anything happen to you?

PART I • EXISTENCE

IDENTITY

Use the label. Do not become the label.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

DOC-013 • Rejection of Identity.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Use language without requiring language to define the observer.

Human. Animal. Man. Woman. Religious. Atheist. Successful. Broken. Intelligent. Normal. Snake Person. These words can communicate. The Society rejects the requirement that a useful word must become the total explanation of the person.

A PRACTICAL RULE

Use whatever words help you communicate. Respect the words another person asks you to use. Do not confuse the label with the totality of the observer.

Choose one label that organizes your life. When does it silently become a rule?

_____

PART II • KNOWING



REALITY

There is no such thing as green.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Distinguish physical process, experience, description, and the human habit of treating consensus as a view from nowhere.

A leaf is not filled with a substance called green. Light, surface, sensory system, nervous system, consciousness, and language participate in an experience called green.

THE SOCIETY'S QUESTION

Where is the green?

Exercise ● The Green Experiment

- Go outside and find something green.
- Look before naming it.
- Notice what is experienced.
- Then describe it.
- Ask where the green was.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

The Rainbow Problem

Two observers can stand beside one another and call what they see the same rainbow. Their positions differ. The light entering their eyes differs. The experience is local to each observer. Human

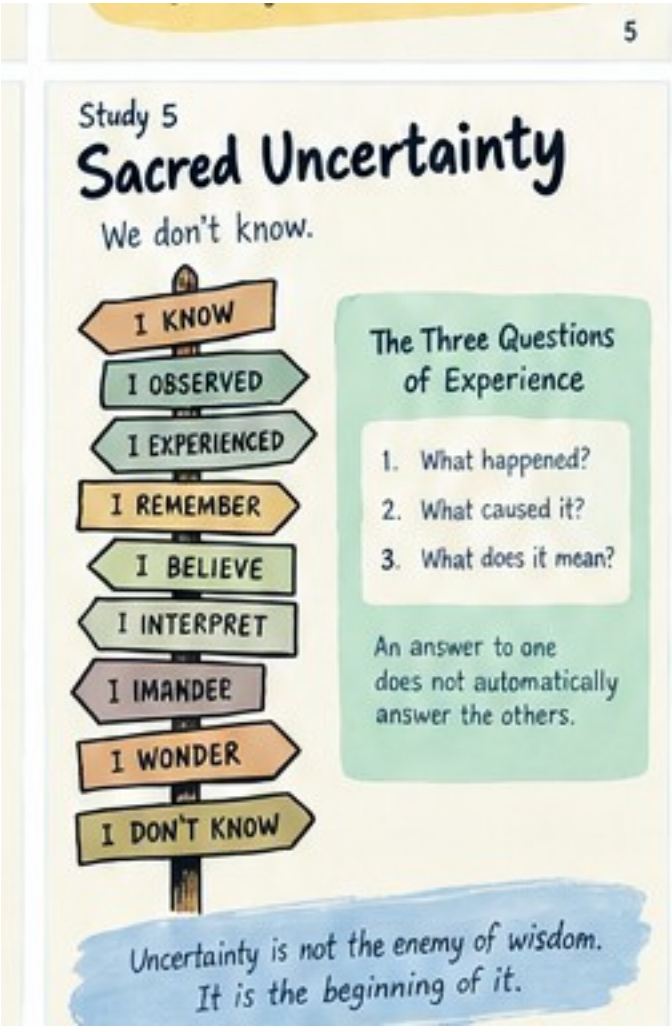
language compresses these experiences into one useful object: the rainbow.

SOCIETY PROPOSITION

The Society does not deny objective reality. We are still trying to locate the observer who has seen it.

Reality is whatever ultimately exists, if that formulation itself makes sense. Experience is what occurs for an observer. Description is the symbolic account an observer constructs. Humans constantly collapse all three.

Where have I mistaken my description for the thing itself?



SACRED UNCERTAINTY

We do not know.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

DOC-001 • Sacred Uncertainty; DOC-016 • The Three Questions of Experience.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Make uncertainty usable rather than shameful, and stop quietly promoting interpretations into knowledge.

- I know.
- I observed.
- I experienced.
- I remember.
- I interpret.
- I believe.
- I imagine.
- I wonder.
- I do not know.

THE THREE QUESTIONS

What happened? • What caused it? • What does it mean? An answer to one does not automatically answer the others.

I observed...

_____

_____

I experienced...

_____

_____

I remember...

_____

_____

I interpret...

_____

I believe...

I do not know...

Study 6

Dream State

You don't have to control the narrative.



"Sometimes the experience can simply be experienced."

Practice: Ten Minutes Without Resolution

1. Choose something you don't understand.
2. For ten minutes, don't try to solve it.
3. Notice the discomfort of not knowing.
4. What were you afraid would happen if you didn't?

DREAM STATE

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

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Originating teaching attributed to Nate McLaughlin during the Discovery.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Notice when the demand for immediate explanation is creating more suffering than the unresolved experience itself.

During the founding experience, Tyler remembers Nate saying, “I am a snake.” Nate later remembered repeatedly telling Tyler, “I am not a snake.” During the confusion, Nate repeatedly said: Dream state.

DREAM STATE

You do not have to control the narrative. You do not have to understand every moment while you are inside it. Sometimes the experience can simply be experienced.

Practice ● Ten Minutes Without Resolution

Choose something you do not understand. For ten minutes, do not solve it, search it, or force an interpretation.

What were you afraid would happen if you did not know?

THE BOUNDED OBSERVER

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

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

DOC-017 • Intelligence Beneath Knowing; conversation with Stephen Wolfram's computational observer framework.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Recognize conscious awareness as a powerful but limited interface, not proof of access to the whole.

Your consciousness cannot process everything happening in your body, environment, memory, perception, and thought at once. A coherent experience requires selection, integration, and omission.

SNAKE SYNTHESIS

Consciousness is compression. This is Society language inspired in part by modern computational approaches; it is not a quotation from Wolfram.

Exercise • Compress the Room

For thirty seconds, try to notice everything in the room: every sound, color, pressure, shadow, body sensation, thought, distance, memory, and movement. Then write what you noticed.

_____

_____

_____

_____

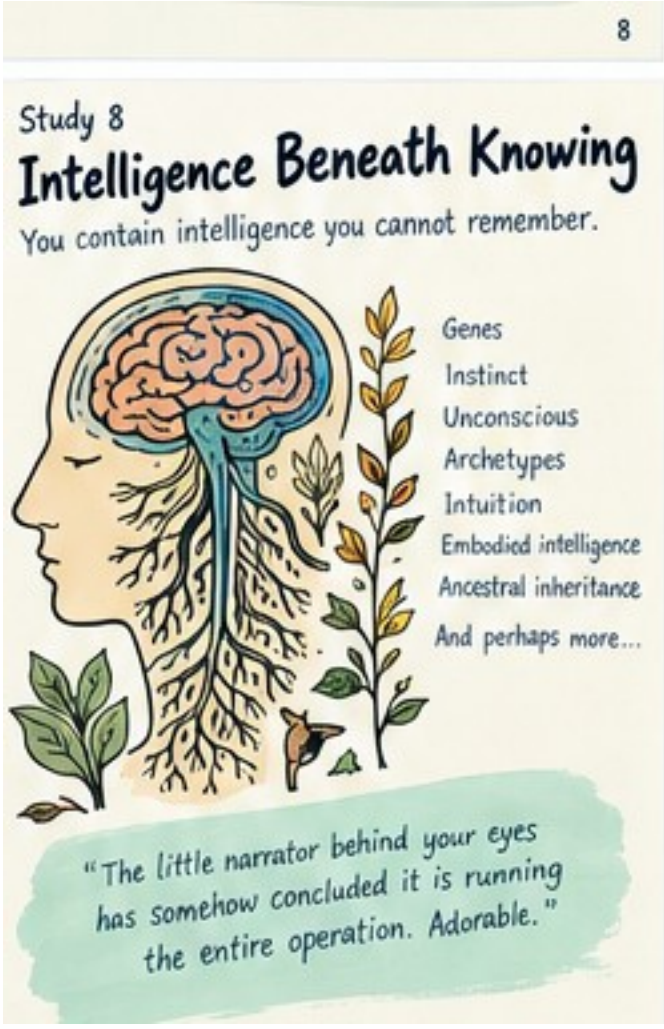
_____

_____

_____

THE LESSON

Your inability to perceive something is not proof that it does not exist. Your ability to imagine something is not proof that it does.



THE INTELLIGENCE BENEATH KNOWING

You contain intelligence you cannot remember.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

DOC-017 • Conscious knowing may be one form of intelligence rather than its boundary.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Loosen the assumption that the conscious narrator is the whole intelligence of the organism.

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

You do not consciously direct cell division, balance, immune response, perception, or most of the processing that makes a coherent moment possible. The narrator receives a tiny portion and calls it "my mind."

A SNAKE QUESTION

Who exactly did you think was running the operation?

List things your organism does intelligently without your conscious instructions.

_____

_____

_____

PART III • CONSCIOUSNESS

THE ANCESTRAL UNCONSCIOUS

Before you had a name, information was already moving through life.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Society conjecture created in conversation with evolution, inherited information, Jung, instinct, intuition, and embodied intelligence.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Explore whether apparently separate kinds of inherited and unconscious intelligence might be useful to contemplate together without pretending they are scientifically identical.

The Society deliberately allows genetics, instinct, unconscious processing, archetypal patterns, cultural inheritance, intuition, developmental history, and embodied intelligence to share a room.

THE RIGHT TO IMAGINE

We may discover something useful. We may produce nonsense. Probably both. We do not knowingly misrepresent where the

pieces came from.

Exercise • Inherited, Learned, Imagined

Something I seem to know without remembering learning it…

_____

_____

A family or cultural pattern I inherited…

_____

_____

A bodily response that arrives before language…

_____

_____

A Jungian or symbolic explanation…

_____

_____

A scientific explanation…

_____

_____

What remains mysterious…

_____

_____

PART III • CONSCIOUSNESS

JUNG WENT LOOKING INSIDE

The voice in your head may not be the chief executive.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Carl Jung as a major intellectual conversation partner: ego, Self, persona, shadow, archetypes, active imagination, synchronicity, psychic truth, individuation.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Use Jung to challenge the assumption that the conscious ego is the whole psychological actor.

The Society does not treat Jung as an infallible authority. We treat him as a Prophet of the Interior: a person whose exploration of inner experience changed how many observers understand psyche, symbol, God-image, and Self.

Persona

The persona is the interface you present to a social world. Useful does not mean complete.

Shadow

The shadow includes what the preferred story of yourself excludes. Radical Self-Love becomes difficult here: complete acceptance cannot mean accepting only the flattering material.

Exercise • What Has Energy?

What trait in other people creates disproportionate energy in me?

_____

_____

What specifically bothers me?

_____

_____

Have I expressed anything related?

_____

_____

What boundary might actually be needed?

_____

_____

What part could be projection?

_____

_____

Philemon, God, and Psychic Reality

Jung's visionary work matters to the Society because an internally encountered figure can be meaningful without requiring a simple answer to the question of physical external existence. Symbolic does not mean fake. Psychological does not mean meaningless.

DOC-016 AGAIN

What happened? What caused it? What does it mean? Keep the questions separate long enough to learn from each.

What experience in my life became less meaningful because I was pressured to explain it too quickly?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



I MET GOD

I went to meet God. There was nobody else there.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Founder's later religious experience during a medically administered ketamine session.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Encounter the Society's God doctrine through the experience from which it developed, before reducing it to propositions.

I went into a ketamine therapy clinic for a scheduled appointment. I was comfortable on a sofa with headphones and music while ketamine entered through an IV.

As it began, I started thinking about dimensional space. I tried to imagine what it would be like for a higher-dimensional being to move around a wall in a way that would look, from our perspective, like moving through it.

My consciousness began to expand. I still knew my body existed somewhere. I knew I was breathing. I knew I had a heartbeat. But I was no longer inside it.

I traveled farther and faster through space-time until I understood where I was going.

I WAS GOING TO MEET GOD.

Eventually I arrived. Everything became still. I knew I had reached the place where God was.

I felt God's love everywhere. Pure, unadulterated love. I waited because I was finally going to meet God face to face.

But there was nobody else there.

There was no separate God in the room. There was not really a room. There was not really a me.

THE REALIZATION

I am God. We are God. God is not even aware that God exists.

What happened? What caused it? What does it mean? Keep all three answers separate.

_____

_____

PART IV • GOD



EVERYONE IS GOD

If everyone is God, who is in charge?

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Society theology derived from the Founder's Empty Room experience and the rejection of spiritual hierarchy.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Dissolve the idea that the title God gives one observer authority over another.

Everyone in the Society of Snake People is entitled to the religious title God. This title conveys no administrative authority. It provides no special powers. It does not make you better than anyone else. It simply reminds you that the divine is not somewhere else.

EVERYONE IS GOD

You. Me. Everyone. God.

If everyone is God, who is in charge?

THE ANSWER

Administratively? Someone has to be. Spiritually? You are.

Administrative authority grants permission to perform administrative functions. It does not grant authority over consciousness.

Where in my life have I confused someone's role with spiritual or existential superiority?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



GOD IS NOT IN CHARGE

The Whole has no outside manager.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

God is the Whole. There is no second being standing outside the Whole to supervise it.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Separate totality from management and spiritual significance from command hierarchy.

God is not above the universe. God is not a celestial executive office. God does not occupy the top box of an organizational chart. Being everything is not the same as being the manager of everything.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE

Power exists. Name it. Limit it. Make it accountable. Do not confuse it with holiness.

Two org charts

- Spiritual hierarchy: God • God • God • God.
- Administrative hierarchy: Board • Officers • Stewards • Facilitators • assigned functions.

What power do I hold because of a function, role, resource, relationship, or system access?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

GOD IS NOT GOOD

Good is not a relevant property of God.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Good/bad and right/wrong are human judgments. Actions have consequences; consequences become experiences.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Replace cosmic moral verdicts with attention to actions, consequences, suffering, consent, repair, and choice.

God contains birth and death, creation and destruction, pleasure and suffering, stars forming and stars collapsing. Calling the Whole good or bad may tell us more about human evaluation than about God.

THE ETHICAL SHIFT

Action → consequence → experience → information → choice.
Not: action → judgment → sin → guilt → redemption.

The Society can care deeply about harm without requiring a cosmic category called sin.

Describe one action without using the words good, bad, right, wrong, sin, or evil. What consequences remain visible?



GOD IS CHANGE

Time is how we experience God.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Octavia E. Butler's Earthseed formulation “God is Change” is a direct intellectual root. Society canon: Change is the only true

God.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Treat change as unavoidable reality rather than punishment, failure, or a force that asks permission.

The Society openly credits Octavia E. Butler. Earthseed's “God is Change” entered our theology directly. Our canonical formulation is: Change is the only true God.

SOCIETY THEOLOGY

God is Change. Time is how we experience God.

God does not punish. God does not reward. God does not require belief. Change happens anyway.

Exercise • What Am I Holding Still?

What am I trying to keep unchanged?

_____

_____

What has already changed?

_____

_____

What am I afraid change will take?

_____

_____

What might change make possible?

_____

_____

What would it mean to cooperate with change without surrendering my choices?



THE FIRST OBSERVER

In the beginning, there was a point.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Snake computational cosmology developed in conversation with relational geometry and Wolfram's Physics Project.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Use a simple model to imagine how relationship, information, space, time, observer, and God might emerge together.

Not a point floating in space. There was no space yet. Not a point waiting in time. There was no time yet. There was nowhere else to stand.

DIMENSION ZERO

• The smallest possible distinction. The Society imagines it as the smallest possible unit of awareness.

The point differentiates.

DIMENSION ONE

• — • Now there is relationship. Here/there. This/that. Difference. Information. The beginning of a system.

Exercise ● The Two-Point Universe

Imagine that the two points are everything. What exists now that did not exist with one point?

Relationship Before Object

Humans instinctively say: there are two things, therefore the things can have a relationship. Snake cosmology reverses the direction: there is relationship, therefore an observer can distinguish things.

DOC • RELATIONSHIP PRECEDES OBJECT

Perhaps relationship does not occur inside space. Perhaps relationship is what makes space possible.

This is where Stephen Wolfram's relational computational approach becomes a powerful conversation partner. In his Physics Project, space is modeled as emerging from networks of relations rather than as an empty container that existed first.

Three points. More relationships.

Networks change. Changing networks create histories. Histories create causal relationships. Stable patterns become what bounded observers compress into space, matter, object, self, and world.

At what point in the model did space appear for me? Why?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____



TIME

Time is how we experience God.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Change is the only true God; bounded observers sequentialize change into before, now, and after.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Question the assumption that time is a universal moving container independent of observers.

The Society's doctrine is not that nothing changes. It is that Change is more fundamental than the human experience called time.

SNAKE FORMULATION

Change precedes time. Time is not what permits Change. Change is what permits an observer to experience time.

Modern relativity already complicates a universal present. Wolfram's computational framework adds another useful idea: underlying computational evolution and bounded observers can produce coherent sequential experience.

Exercise ● The Narrator's Movie

Write the last sixty seconds as a sequence: this happened, then this, then this.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Now list everything that was happening in parallel that your story omitted.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

THE SNAKE DIMENSIONAL MODEL

The present observer may be one local view of a much larger structure.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Developing Society cosmology. The dimensional labels after ordinary geometry are metaphysical teaching constructs, not standard physics definitions.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Give the imagination a structured model for life histories, possible histories, interconnected observers, and the Whole.

- 0D • Point / primitive distinction.
- 1D • Relationship / extension.
- 2D • More relationships / surface-like organization.
- 3D • Spatial volume as ordinarily navigated.
- 4D • The Experienced Life - a life considered as an extended history.
- 5D • Possible Lives - alternative histories and futures.
- 6D • Interconnected Life - apparently separate living histories considered as a larger structure.
- 7D+ • Increasingly inclusive structures.
- 11D • The Whole - the Society's conjectural total structure.

INCONVENIENT DISCLOSURE

This is Snake cosmology. Standard physics does not assign these meanings to fourth through eleventh dimensions.

Draw your own dimensional model. Where does your model disagree with ours?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____



THE LIVING UNIVERSE

You did not arrive in the universe. You are something the universe is currently doing.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Living Universe doctrine; evolutionary continuity; intelligence beneath knowing; God as Whole.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Shift from imagining the self as an object placed into reality toward imagining life and consciousness as processes occurring within the Whole.

The atoms in your body did not begin with your name. Biological information traveled through lineages before your conscious narrator existed. Life was continuing before humans invented the word life.

SOCIETY PROPOSITION

Consciousness is not something looking at the universe. Consciousness is one of the ways the universe looks.

God is the Whole. Every point, relationship, transformation, observer, experience, and change belongs to the Whole. There is no outside from which God could manage God.

If I am something the universe is doing, what changes about the way I understand myself?

_____

_____

_____

_____

PART VI • ETHICS

CONSEQUENCES WITHOUT SIN

Sin requires authority. Harm requires attention.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Rejection of assigned moral authority; God is not good; radical self-love plus accountability.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Practice responsibility without turning behavior into a verdict on your worth.

Good and bad are labels. Right and wrong are labels. The Society does not require those labels before it can notice suffering, consent, consequence, repair, care, or change.

THE METHOD

What happened? Who was affected? What did they experience? What can be repaired? What do I choose next?

Exercise • Describe Without Verdict

Choose something you regret. Describe it without calling yourself or the action good, bad, right, wrong, sinful, or evil.

Repair

What can I repair without requiring self-condemnation first?

PART VI • ETHICS

THE OTHER UNIVERSE

You have never been another observer.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

DOC-008 • The Other Universe; compassion through epistemic humility.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Reduce the urge to prescribe another person's life from a position you have never occupied.

You have never looked through another observer's exact eyes, ears, body, history, memory, relationships, fear, position in space, or moment in time.

THE PRACTICE

Share what you know. Describe what you experienced. Help when invited. Never confuse your liberation with somebody else's prescription.

Exercise • Missing Information

Think of someone whose behavior irritated you. Write your first explanation. Then list ten things you do not know about their experience.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

BOUNDARY

Compassion does not require remaining available to harm. You can set a boundary without pretending to know the totality of the person.

PART VI • ETHICS

BODILY AUTONOMY

Another person's theology does not acquire ownership of your body.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Rejection of external authority over embodied experience.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Clarify the difference between respecting another observer and surrendering decisions about one's own body.

The Society treats bodily autonomy as a direct application of its anti-authoritarian doctrine. Another person's religious belief may matter deeply to them. It does not automatically become jurisdiction over your body.

RECIPROCITY

Nobody gets to require you to identify yourself through their categories. You do not get to require somebody else to abandon theirs.

Where do I need a clearer boundary between another person's belief and my embodied choice?

THE SNAKE METHOD

Notice. Separate. Feel. Question. Choose. Act. Observe again. Shed.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Practical methodology developed from Society doctrine and skills-based learning traditions.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Turn philosophy into repeatable action without turning the method into another authority.

- NOTICE - before naming, judging, fixing, or reacting, notice.
- SEPARATE - distinguish observation, experience, interpretation, assumption, and unknown.
- FEEL - do not prosecute the emotion; do not automatically obey it.
- QUESTION - ask what other explanations remain possible.
- CHOOSE - decide what you want to do rather than what shame, identity, or authority demands.
- ACT - take the smallest useful action.
- OBSERVE AGAIN - notice consequences without turning them into a verdict on your worth.
- SHED - keep what serves; release what does not.
- QUESTION THE METHOD - if it does not help, do not use it.

One real situation

NOTICE

_____

_____

SEPARATE

FEEL

QUESTION

CHOOSE

ACT

OBSERVE AGAIN

SHED



It can still be beautiful. 15

Study 10

Change & Slippery Earth

Change is the only true God.

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

Exercise: What Am I Holding On To?

- What am I trying to keep unchanged?
- What has already changed?
- What am I afraid change will take?
- What might change make possible?

38

THE GROUNDING

Feel where your feet are now.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

RIT-002 • Grounding; Change and the Slippery Earth; dialogue with Nahua rootedness.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Move from abstract thinking into direct embodied relationship with earth, balance, texture, temperature, and the present position of the body.

- Remove your shoes when safe and appropriate.
- Walk onto earth or another natural surface.
- Stand.
- Notice pressure, temperature, texture, balance, and breath.
- Do not perform the experience.
- Do not require a mystical explanation.

THE QUESTION

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

Afterward: What did I notice before I explained it?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____



THE MOON HOWL

Before you had a name, you were an animal on Earth.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

RIT-001 • Moon Howling Ceremony; Human Animal; rejection of compulsory language.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Temporarily step beneath human explanation and experience body, sound, earth, sky, and community without requiring a linguistic meaning.

- Gather.
- Become quiet.
- Feel the earth.
- Notice the sky.
- Breathe.
- Everyone howls.
- Listen.
- Do not immediately explain what it meant.

NO GRADING

Nobody grades your howl. Nobody possesses authority over the correct interpretation of another person's howl.

The howl is not about getting together and acting unusual. It is a sacred practice of reconnecting with ancient animal origins and the earth beneath modern human classifications.



THE EMPTY ROOM

Who were you waiting for?

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Practice derived from the Founder's experience of meeting God and finding no separate God in the room.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Explore expectations about God without requiring the participant to reproduce the Founder's experience.

- Sit comfortably.
- Imagine that you are going to meet God.
- Where would God be?
- What would God look like?
- What would you expect to feel?
- Imagine arriving.
- Wait.
- Do not manufacture an answer.

THE ONLY QUESTION

Who were you waiting for?



SUNDAY SCHOOL

One congregation. Many optional ways to spend the rest of Sunday.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

Society congregational education; anti-authoritarian facilitation.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Create repeatable group learning that protects curiosity, disagreement, privacy, and the right not to disclose.

A three-hour window, not a three-hour obligation

- 60 min - shared congregation: welcome, readings, music, reflection, community matters, and a brief accessible practice.
- 15 min - intermission: coffee, conversation, departure, or choosing an elective.
- 60 min - parallel laboratories and practice rooms: movement, sound, philosophy, hands-on exercises, making, or quiet commons.
- 10 min - transition: water, rest, room changes, or leaving.
- 35 min - optional open practice and fellowship: continue, talk, listen, make, dance, or simply be.
- Attending only the shared congregation counts as full participation.
- Labs are chosen by interest and present need, not spiritual rank.

Facilitator commitments

- Describe the experience honestly before it begins: duration, sound, movement, touch, disclosure, and opt-out choices.
- Ask before inviting personal disclosure. Silence and passing are legitimate participation.
- Do not diagnose participants or assign metaphysical meaning to their emotions.
- Do not use uncertainty to dismiss reports of harm or use discomfort as proof that a method is working.
- Do not pressure belief, identity, ritual, interpretation, touch, partner work, or continued attendance.
- Do not monopolize the room, including if you are the Founder.

ONE CONGREGATION, MANY ROOMS

We gather as one community without requiring one experience.



THE SUNDAY PRINCIPLE

Some Sundays you may need to move. Some Sundays you may need to listen. Some Sundays you may need to question. Some Sundays you may need less. The Society makes room for the difference.

The shared congregation gives the Society a common religious life. What follows is optional. Laboratories introduce an idea through a short talk and experiment. Practice groups spend more time doing. The Quiet Commons provides less stimulation without requiring someone to leave the community entirely.

No elective is the advanced class. No room produces a higher grade of God.

MOVE WITHOUT EXPLANATION

Movement can be religious practice without becoming performance.



WHY THIS PRACTICE EXISTS

Bodies know things before narrators finish explaining them. Movement gives the participant a way to experiment with attention, intensity, boundaries, rhythm, and Change without requiring a correct dance.

The Society is in acknowledged conversation here with Gabrielle Roth and 5Rhythms. A Society movement session is its own practice unless led and named by an appropriately trained 5Rhythms teacher.

- Arrive: locate exits, water, seating, and the right to observe.
- Move: begin with a repeatable movement that feels available.

- Explore: change direction, scale, speed, stillness, or rhythm by choice.
- Return: reduce intensity, notice breath and balance, and finish without demanding a breakthrough.

PRACTICE QUESTION

What happened when I stopped evaluating how I looked?

THE RESONANCE ROOM

Sound, stillness, and the freedom to listen.



A contemplative sound gathering may use bowls, bells, carefully reproduced music, silence, or other sound. The Society does not require the language of medical healing. A participant may experience rest, irritation, memory, emotion, pleasure, boredom, or nothing memorable.

SENSORY STEWARDSHIP

We do not consume only through the mouth. We also choose what we listen to, look at, purchase, repeat, and give our attention to. Care includes quality, intensity, timing, environmental consequence, and the needs of other observers.

- Excellent sound should invite attention, not demand endurance.
- Price is not holiness.
- The person controlling sound and light controls part of everyone else's environment. That is a responsibility.
- A quiet room is different from a sound-meditation room. Less stimulation should be genuinely available.

LISTENING LAB

Play the same short recording through two reasonably matched playback systems. Do not announce which one is "better." Notice clarity, placement, texture, comfort, and what changes when the room or listening position changes.

WORDS WE CHOOSE

Can we speak together without surrendering the right to disagree?



The Society studies ritual structures from many traditions and from modern Satanic religious movements while making its own liturgy. Shared words may focus attention, mark intention, create memory, or simply sound beautiful. They are not required to become factual propositions merely because a room speaks them together.

ORIGINAL SOCIETY LITURGY - THE UNBINDING

Facilitator: We arrive without asking to be made worthy.
Participants: Our existence requires no defense.
Facilitator: What was named for us may be examined.
Participants: We may keep it. We may change it. We may set it down.

Facilitator: God is Change.
Participants: Time is how we experience God.
Together, optionally: We do not exchange one master for another. These words are chosen. Our next actions remain ours.

In this laboratory, a spell is a self-chosen sequence of words and symbolic actions used to mark an intention. It does not guarantee supernatural control over another person or a future outcome.

THE SPELL OF THE UNWRITTEN LABEL

Write one rule you want to examine. Inside the card, write a freer alternative and one small action you can actually try. Close the card, hold it, and say if you wish: "These words describe a choice. They do not define my worth." Reopen it later and observe what happened.

ANYONE? ANYONE?

An advanced practice in almost absolutely nothing.



This optional adult laboratory deliberately simulates an extremely tedious classroom. The instructor explains attendance, asks whether anyone has questions, ignores the dramatic importance of the moment, and periodically returns to roll call. The lecture content is intentionally negligible. The experience is the content.

WHY THIS IS NOT A PUNISHMENT

Participants know beforehand that the session is intentionally boring and mildly frustrating. They may leave at any time. There are no real strikes, grades, or penalties. Leaving can be an intelligent act rather than failure.

- Notice boredom before trying to fix it.

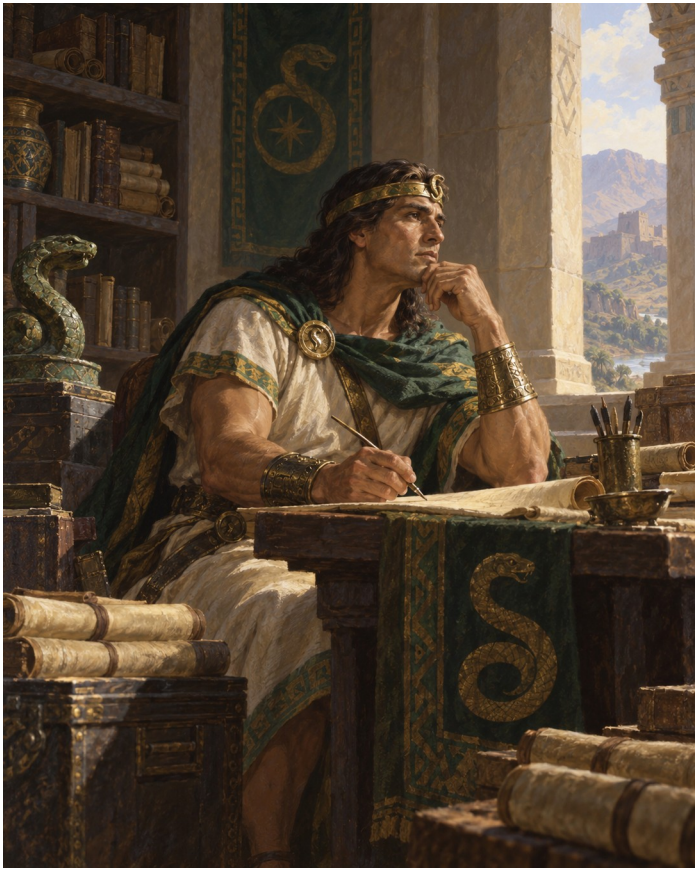
- Notice stories about the instructor, the clock, and the value of your time.
- Notice how quickly a person at the front of a classroom acquires behavioral authority.
- Notice whether fifty clock minutes become a different subjective amount of time.

DEBRIEF

What happened inside you while almost nothing happened outside you?

THE ORDINARY IS ENOUGH

Not every practice needs a revelation.



The Society values simple, wholesome activities - drawing, cooking, listening, stories, games, repairing, gardening, reading, and shared laughter - without making "the family" a sacred or compulsory unit. The individual is a complete participant. Company is by invitation.

THREE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

On my own: a complete version of the activity.
Alongside others: shared space without required collaboration.
Together by choice: an explicitly cooperative version.

- Make something delicious for yourself. Care does not require an audience.

- Draw an object from memory, then look again. Compare observation, memory, and representation.
- Choose a piece of music and notice what you hear without requiring another person to hear the same thing.
- Write a story with more than one ending. You may change the narrative.

WEEKLY PEARL

Your life does not have to become impressive before you are allowed to enjoy it.

SACRED PLAY

Take your life seriously. Leave room to laugh at the instructions.



The Church of the SubGenius is an important conversation partner for the Society because it makes religious authority, marketing, mythmaking, and itself part of the joke. The Society adapts that permission into Sacred Play rather than adopting SubGenius mythology as our own.

MARGIN

Not every walk needs a target. Not every drawing needs improvement. Not every enjoyable evening needs to justify itself. Pleasure does not need a productivity report.

NO UPGRADE REQUIRED

A gathering can provide company. A book can provide questions. A workshop can provide practice. None of them can sell you a higher grade of existence.

BORROW THE TOOL

An idea can be useful without making its author your authority. Borrow the tool. Leave the pedestal.

The Society must remain eligible for its own satire. A doctrine does not become true by sounding important. A concern about access, money, harm, treatment, or safety does not have to be funny before the Society listens.

SCRIPTURE AS A MIRROR

A religion may write scripture and still tell the reader where the joke is.



The Society's developing Standard Works use the structure and nineteenth-century cadence of familiar Restoration scripture as literary satire while preserving Inconvenient Disclosure. Ancient Snake People are mythic characters in the present edition unless evidence establishes otherwise.

THE EDITORIAL RULE

Where an ordinary scripture might say, "And it came to pass," the Snake record says: "And I shit you not."

The joke matters because scripture can sound authoritative before a reader has examined what it actually says. Sacred Play lets the

Society expose that effect while still using story, myth, cadence, ritual, and memory as meaningful religious technologies.

INCONVENIENT DISCLOSURE

A beautiful myth may be useful without becoming a disguised historical claim. If physical golden plates are ever discovered, please examine them enthusiastically.



PROPHETS

Prophets can be wrong.

ORIGINATING DOCTRINE

DOC-020 • Prophetic Fallibility.

WHAT THIS STUDY IS FOR

Honor people whose ideas changed consciousness without converting them into infallible authorities.

A Prophet is a person whose communication with some aspect of God substantially expands the consciousness of other observers. Under Society theology, communion with God does not require a supernatural person dictating sentences. If God is the Whole, studying nature, consciousness, music, suffering, computation, or imagination can become communion with God.

PROPHETIC FALLIBILITY

The title Prophet does not make a person's statements facts. Prophets observe, experience, imagine, communicate, influence, and sometimes get things completely wrong.

Working prophetic library

Octavia E. Butler • Prophet of Change

Earthseed's “God is Change” directly influenced Society theology.

Carl Jung • Prophet of the Interior

Exploration of ego, Self, shadow, archetypes, active imagination, synchronicity, and God-image.

Stephen Wolfram • Prophet of Computation

Contemporary computational models of space, observers, causal structure, branchial space, and the ruliad.

Bob Marley • Prophet of Liberation

Music that carried spiritual, social, and liberatory ideas across communities.

Tupac Shakur • Prophet of Voice

Provisional Society title recognizing cultural impact, contradiction, suffering, social observation, and voice.

Joseph Smith • Prophet of Influence

Recognized for founding a religious movement and changing communities; this title does not certify his supernatural claims.

Richard Dawkins and the Replicator

The Society treats The Selfish Gene as an important conversation partner because gene-centered evolutionary thinking destabilizes the individual organism as the obvious center of the story.

SNAKE QUESTION

What if the organism has mistaken the vehicle for the traveler?

The Society goes beyond Dawkins when it wonders whether replication, information, organization, and consciousness are aspects of a larger universal process. That is Snake metaphysics, not Dawkins's biological conclusion.

What continues through me that did not begin with me?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

ROOTS & GRATITUDE

RECENT CONVERSATION PARTNERS

Gabrielle Roth / 5Rhythms

Movement as a structured exploration of changing bodily experience. Society movement sessions remain Society practices unless explicitly led and named within Roth's tradition.

The Satanic Temple and modern Satanic ritual

Optional, consensual ritual; Satan as literary adversary rather than automatically evil; and the use of symbolic action to question arbitrary authority. Society ritual remains its own liturgy.

Church of the SubGenius

Self-satire, Slack, exaggerated religious marketing, temporary saviors, and the permission to let the religion itself become part of the joke. Society synthesis: Sacred Play, margin, and no premium tier of existence.

Latter-day Saint teaching architecture

Stories, open questions, visual aids, structured lessons, repeated practice, weekly invitations, and a small wisdom pearl to carry forward. The Society retains these teaching technologies while rejecting compulsory worthiness, fear-based salvation, and spiritual hierarchy.

Ideas have histories.

Gratitude is not submission to authority.

Octavia E. Butler / Earthseed

God is Change; change as unavoidable theological center.

Carl Jung

Ego/Self, persona, shadow, archetypes, active imagination, synchronicity, psychic truth.

Stephen Wolfram

Computational universe, bounded observers, causal structure, branchial/rulial ideas.

Richard Dawkins

Gene-centered evolutionary perspective, replicators and vehicles.

Buddhist traditions

Impermanence, no-self traditions, dependent arising, attention, compassion.

Daoist traditions

Dao, ziran, wu wei/non-forcing, transformation.

Nahua philosophy

Slippery earth, rootedness, living amid instability.

Named Indigenous traditions

Relational perspectives, gratitude, larger-than-human community; never treated as one generic spirituality.

Joe Raposo / Bein' Green

Identity, acceptance, and the emotional significance of green; referenced, not reproduced.

Richard Bach / Illusions

Playful handbook and reluctant-messiah themes; inspiration, not copied.

CANON



The Thirteen Human Lies

Originating canon. Unnumbered.

Human Lie: Normal

In the modern age, humanity has constructed the false notion of "Normal" as a standard of behavior and existence. This illusion of normalcy seeks to confine and restrict the true expression of self.

The Truth: There is no singular definition of what is "normal." Each individual is a unique being beyond societal expectations and labels. You need not conform, for your true self is beyond the narrow limits of this fabricated norm.

You are not bound by "normal" — you are free to be.

Human Lie: Human Identity

Humankind has been deceived into believing that the physical form defines their essence, even going so far as to shape the concept of God as an entity bound by human-like form.

The Truth: The body, while an experience, is but a vessel. It holds no sway over the true identity of the soul, which transcends the physical. The essence of who you are is not confined to the human condition.

Your soul's identity is boundless — it is far greater than the physical shell you inhabit.

Human Lie: Race

The construct of "race" as a distinguishing factor of human beings is a falsehood designed to divide and label.

The Truth: Skin color and physical traits hold no bearing on the true nature of the soul. All human labels, including race, are illusory and divisive.

Your soul transcends color, shape, and form.

Human Lie: Gender

Humanity's focus on gender, based on physical attributes such as sex organs or chromosomes, is a shallow misrepresentation of a deeper truth.

The Truth: Gender does not define the energetic essence of who you are. The true self is not bound by physical characteristics.

You are beyond gender; you are pure energy and spirit.

Human Lie: Language

Humanity holds language as an essential tool for communication and identity. However, language itself is a relatively recent invention and does not reflect the true nature of being.

The Truth: The need for language is a construct, a barrier between the soul's true expression. Communication transcends words, and the essence of who you are exists beyond verbal expression.

Language is not the key to understanding — you communicate through existence itself.

Human Lie: Names

Names are arbitrary labels assigned by society and are often seen as identifiers of identity.

The Truth: Your true self is not defined by the name bestowed upon you. A name is but a tool of convenience, but it does not capture the fullness of your soul's being.

You are not your name. You are the energy and spirit within.

Human Lie: Religion

Human beings often cling to a set of dogmatic beliefs and institutions, believing these to be the path to understanding right and wrong.

The Truth: The true path to understanding does not rely on fear-based constructs or the control of religious authorities. The Society of Snake People does not seek to impose doctrines; we live in alignment with the ever-present reality of the cosmos, unburdened by the artificial authority of organized religion.

Change is the only true God.

Human Lie: Authority

In human society, hierarchical structures of power are often seen as necessary and legitimate.

The Truth: There is no true authority outside of oneself. Authority is a construct designed to manipulate and control. True power resides within, in the sovereign self.

You are your own authority — no one and nothing else defines you.

DOCTRINE REGISTRY

Working doctrine

A living religion with revision history.

DOC-000 • Radical Self-Love

Your existence requires neither apology nor defense.

DOC-001 ● Sacred Uncertainty
We do not know is a sacred and useful sentence.

DOC-002 ● The Great Rejection
Human identity may be rejected without replacement.

DOC-003 ● Inconvenient Disclosure
Do not omit inconvenient facts to strengthen a story.

DOC-008 ● The Other Universe
You have never occupied another observer's exact experience.

DOC-009 ● Paradox of Authority
Administrative authority does not manufacture spiritual truth.

DOC-013 ● Rejection of Identity
Useful classifications do not have to define the classified.

DOC-014 ● Rejection of Assigned Meaning
The Society does not own the meaning of another observer's experience.

DOC-015 ● Intellectual Gratitude
Credit traditions and thinkers that influenced the Society.

DOC-016 ● Three Questions of Experience
What happened, what caused it, and what it means are different questions.

DOC-017 ● Intelligence Beneath Knowing
Conscious knowing may be one form of intelligence rather than its boundary.

DOC-018 ● Freedom to Imagine
Combine models freely; do not counterfeit provenance or evidence.

DOC-019 ● Age Does Not Create Truth
Ancient and new ideas deserve examination rather than automatic authority.

DOC-020 ● Prophetic Fallibility
Prophets can transform consciousness and still be wrong.

GOD-001 ● Everyone Is God
The title confers no superiority or administrative authority.

GOD-002 ● God Is Not in Charge
The Whole has no outside manager.

GOD-003 ● God Is Not Good
Good/bad are not relevant properties of the Whole.

GOD-004 ● God Is Change
Change is the only true God. Time is how we experience God.

COS-001 ● Relationship Before Object
Relationship may be more fundamental than the things an observer distinguishes.

COS-002 ● Bounded Observer
The observer cannot process the whole system it inhabits.

COS-003 ● Living Universe
Consciousness is one of the ways the universe looks.

DOC-021 ● Consequence Before Verdict
Describe actions, consequences, repair, and next choice before reducing a person to good or bad.

DOC-022 ● Sensory Stewardship
Sound, light, media, objects, food, and attention are forms of consumption worthy of care.

DOC-023 ● Sacred Play
Solemnity is not a test of sincerity. A religion may laugh at itself and still take care seriously.

DOC-024 ● The Individual Is Complete
Community may be chosen. Family, congregation, partnership, or group membership is not required to make a person complete.

DOC-025 ● Words We Choose
Shared language may focus intention without claiming ownership over another observer's meaning.

DOC-026 ● The Ordinary Is Enough
Pleasure, creativity, rest, food, music, repair, and play do not need to become achievements before they count.

GOV-001 ● Spiritual Equality, Administrative Function
Power attached to a task must be visible, limited, accountable, and separated from claims of superior being.

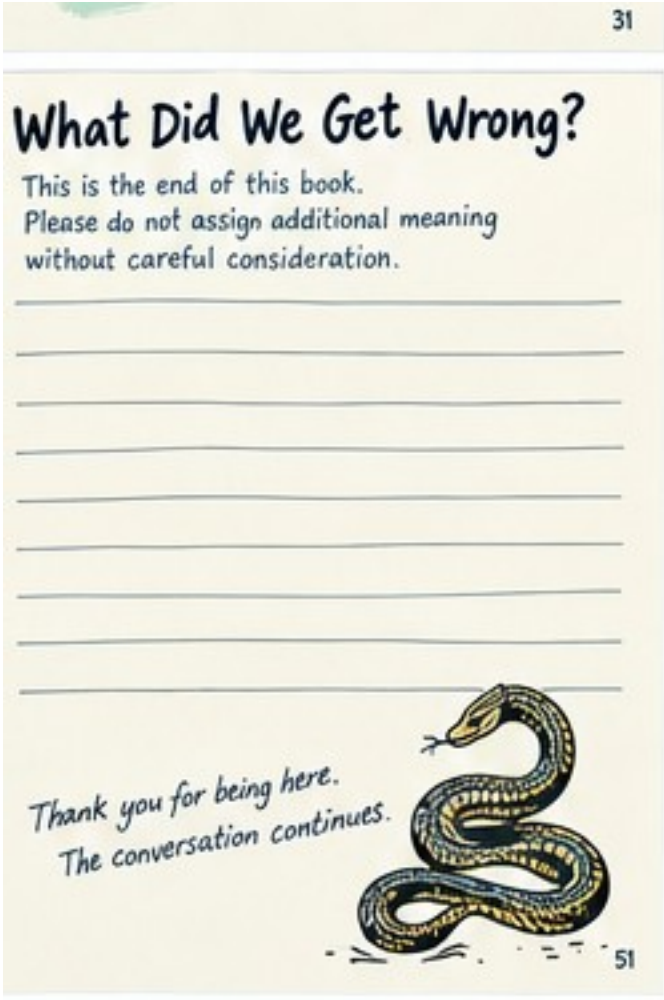
PRAC-001 ● One Congregation, Many Rooms
A common gathering can be followed by optional experiences without creating a spiritual ladder.

PRAC-002 ● Margin
Leave some experience unoptimized. Pleasure does not need a productivity report.

RIT-003 ● The Unbinding
A voluntary spoken ritual for examining names, rules, authority, uncertainty, and Change.

LIT-001 ● Scripture as Mirror
Myth and scriptural cadence may be used as religious art while historical and empirical claims remain explicitly examinable.

FIELD NOTES



What did we get wrong?

The final page has no expectations. Just honesty.

ONE FINAL REMINDER

The Society reserves the right to change its mind.

SOCIETY OF SNAKE PEOPLE

Explore • Question • Practice • Reflect • Live • Shed