Seven Questions for Barbara Marx Hubbard

by Tree Bernstein

Barbara Marx Hubbard is co-founder of the Foundation for Conscious Evolution. She is an evolutionary educator, speaker and social innovator as well as the author of six books on conscious evolution. Though currently working with The Shift Network as a guide for conscious evolution, she is also co-producing a global multi-media event, Birth 2012: Co-Creating a Planetary Shift in Time, set for December 22, 2012.

I arrived at her serene Santa Barbara home on a lovely spring morning in April. Ms. Hubbard was in the middle of a teleconference when I arrived, so her gracious assistant offered me a cup of chamomile tea and the opportunity to peruse her extensive library while I waited. I noticed, arranged neatly in alphabetical order, *Letters on Yoga* by Sri Ananada, *The Critical Path* by Buckminster Fuller, *The Fountain of Age* by Betty Friedan, as well as essays by Emerson, Deepak Chopra, Kate Millet and scores of other philosophers and thinkers.

When Barbara Marx Hubbard was 15 years old, in 1945, the first atomic bombs were dropped on Japan. This defining moment illuminated her life's quest to find answers to the question; what are positive images of the future equal to these new powers? Her life's work has led to her a message of hope that "our crisis is a birth" which will lead to a more universal humanity.

WP: *In your film,* Visions for Universal Humanity, *Jean Huston says, "the rise of the feminine co-creator is the most important event of the last five thousand years." Is this a principle tenant of Conscious Evolution?*

BMH: Just a little background; it goes back to the sixties. It wasn't just the women's movement that noticed the world population exploding. If you doubled the population on Earth, you'd kill all life. It has to slow down. So women's focus shifted from the eternal pattern of self-reproducing to self-evolving. So many women were working to become equals, to gain their rights, but they didn't want to be equal in a dysfunctional world. The rise of the feminine co-creator is the rise of the Creative who has a sense of her creativity to evolve and heal something in the world. She has a relationship between her inner drive to express her authentic self — something in herself of her gifts, into the world. It seems to activate something in a woman similar to the excitement of pregnancy and birth, in that she just falls in love with what she wants to create. The woman has the ability for unconditional love. She loves that unknown child unconditionally.

I had five children, the first when I was 21. I realized my hormones were programming me to love that unknown child, and of course, once the child is born you fall in love with it, but it's still really hard to take care of! But you have that feeling of *love*. After my five children, I fell into a depression. In the fifties it was considered neurotic to want more than a home and a family. Then my expression of myself shifted from a seeking, lost housewife to a being with an expression of universal purpose.

The feminine co-creator, particularly women in their mid-50's, the post-menopausal women are finding their universal purpose as co-creators in every field imaginable. You find your creative energy begins to re-generate you.

WP: *This is a huge change from societal traditions in the past.*

BMX: Yes, it's never been seen on a scale like this before. We had past cultures of matriarchy, but we didn't have a "know-a-sphere," a thinking layer of the Earth. We didn't have the scientific and technological advances we have now. Even though there have been great women leaders in the past, the basic structure of power for the past five thousand years has been the suppression of the feminine.

WP: *Does this change mean a complete obliteration of the social structure we have now?*

BMH: I don't think so. I think it means an evolution of it. We are already seeing it. In general, such women are always seeking partnerships with men who want to contribute. It's co-equal, co-creativity. Not feminine dominance over men.

WP: *How does one respond to dominance, or its sibling, violence? How does one maintain peace in the face of violence?*

BMH: Violence to me is a condition of the human nervous system. A book by James Hillman, *The Terrible Love of War*, speaks of this. The crisis is such that if the species is going to survive, there is going to be a shift from violence and control as a way to organize, toward collaboration and co-creation.

WP: *Certainly recent cataclysmic events — such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan — have brought about a response from the global community. Do you see the crisis in Japan as a metaphor for our times?*

BMH: Here is a tremendous irony of history. The Japanese were the first people to suffer from the effects of the atomic bomb. They are a very industrial, technological nation, and now they have a nuclear crisis. It looks to me like Japan might be destined by evolution to have come up with a new industrial culture. It could be they cannot continue with nuclear energy. They already know fossil fuels are unsustainable and destructive.

WP: *Do you think this might be the place the change begins?*

BMH: I think it's beginning in many places all over the world, right now with the green movements, conscious capitalism movements, but somewhere it has to be bad enough to initiate the change. That's the way evolution works.

WP: *What about corporate greed, personal gain? How does that play out in this new world?*

BMH: If they can get away with it, they will. Corporate greed requires fossil fuels, nuclear energy. It is the basis of an industrial culture. They may very well destroy the culture, and global warming will continue and cities will go under water.

However, you start linking up that which is shifting, linking that which is emergent and sustainable, linking up the positive — wherever you can find it. Here's the evolutionary theory: if you can connect that which is creative, non-linear connectivity, with what is creative, emergent and sustainable, then, maybe with cultural-creatives, we will see change. It's a very difficult birth to the new human culture.

WP: *Is this transformation available only to those who are conscious of the need for transformation? What about those who haven't heard this conversation?*

BMH: It's so interesting now when you see pictures of the Taliban with their computers and technology. They have Facebook.

WP: *Outfitted in their ninth-century garb.*

BMF: Yes! The ninth-century on Facebook! Something's going to give. They have children. While these cultures are reactionary, they are also trans-global. As we've seen in Tunisia and Egypt, it is the strategy of the young people to mobilize against dictatorships.

We realize our "intelligence" has gone back to the women. We've reached what I call a crisis of the birth of a co-evolving species. What is our purpose? There is nobody who is an expert. There is no indigenous elder to stand on the other side.

WP: *Actually, I hear a lot of hope in our exchange here this morning.*

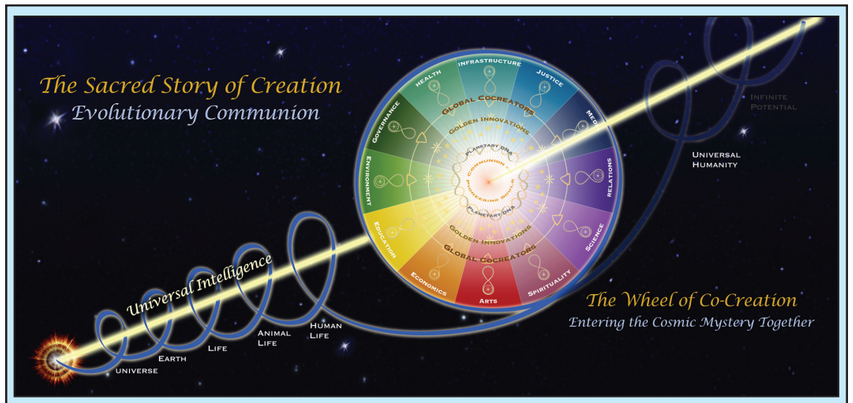
BMH: Crisis precedes transformation. I'll tell you what my project is. I am so excited now. We are creating a venue for Birth 2012: Co-Creating a Planetary Shift in Time set for December 22, 2012, right here — a trans-global event. If you go to my website, you'll find ways to connect with Evolutionary Education.

WP: *That is exciting. What about you? You have such a busy schedule. What would you say is the best part of your day?*

BMH: I like to get up very early in the morning. I meditate. I sit right here in this chair. I practice this particular type of meditation — I meditate on the Wheel of Co-Creation.

Instead of visionary, I feel I am visioning, along with many others.

Tree Bernstein *designs and edits books for her own TreeHouse Press (treepress.com). In addition to freelance journalism, Bernstein is a Poet Teacher for California Poets in the Schools (CPITS), leading poetry and creative writing workshops at K-12 schools in the state.*



WHAT IS CONSCIOUS EVOLUTION?

Due to the increased power given us through science and technology, we are learning how nature works – the gene, the atom, the brain. We are affecting our own evolution by everything we do. With these new powers we can destroy our life support systems …or we can move toward a hope-filled future of immeasurable possibilities.

We are the generation of choice, and we do not have much time to choose!

Conscious Evolution is the worldview that has arisen precisely at this moment in history to deal with the new human condition. It is a vision and a direction to help us navigate through this transitional period to the next stage of human evolution. As Einstein admonished, humankind cannot solve its problems from the same place of consciousness in which we created them. A new place of consciousness is required.

In simple terms Conscious Evolution takes place when we intend to grow in consciousness and use our increasing awareness to guide our actions and achieve a positive future.

More information can be found in Barbara's book *Conscious Evolution: Awakening the Power of our Social Potential* or her DVD entitled *What is Conscious Evolution*. From BMH's website http://www.barbaramarxhubbard.com

UPCOMING EVENT:

Cosmic Spirituality: A Time for Evolutionary Christianity

With Barbara Marx Hubbard and David Richo.

July 22 – 24; Friday 7:30 pm; Sunday 1:00 pm

Commuter Fee: $275.00

Enhance and refashion the spirituality that you inherited from childhood. Learn new ways to grow spiritually and psychologically. This profound weekend will be an opportunity to become an evolutionary Christian engaged in the world as the Christ of the future and ushering in the Divine Light.

David Richo, PhD, MFT is a psychotherapist, author and popular retreat leader.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Programs
La Casa de Maria
800 El Bosque Road
Santa Barbara CA 93108

https://www.lacasademaria.org
registerb@lcdm.org
(805) 969-5031

Partial Scholarship available, please inquire.