

Discernment of Knowing What to Do

If we do not understand the situation, we do not know what to do. Acting when confused causes more confusion and harms us, others, and the Earth. Western culture ignorantly denies the sacredness of the Earth Interbeing and willingly harms other beings and the Earth for self-benefit. We now experience the enormous suffering and a planet in peril as the consequences of our omniscient behavior.

The culture of Western capitalism calls knowledge whatever benefits them. Its perversion of knowing has made it a monster. Western culture ignores knowing the sacred ways and guesses about everything else.

People on the sacred path accept the limits of their knowing and turn toward the sacred for guidance. We know the sacred as deeply as our we know our breath. No words describe our knowing of the sacred beyond what we hold within our hearts, a knowledge that only opens to deeper mysteries. Our life flows within the sacred.

The sacred patterns of life on Earth teach us the sacred values of living on Earth.¹ We know the sacred wants life to survive on Earth in ways that further all life and the Earth. Each generations learns these patterns and passes their knowledge of how to live on Earth with other beings to their children.

Westerners who choose the sacred path distance themselves from the Western culture and turn toward the sacred. However, we still have one foot in the Western culture and the other within the sacred path. On the path, we come to know how the harmful Western culture has conditioned us to its wrong view about ourselves, others, all life, the Earth, the sacred. The culture taught us to willingly harms others for self-benefit and ignore the suffering we cause.

Before we know what to do to further life on Earth, we must remove the ways we harm life on Earth. Our harmful ways separate us from the sacred and knowing what to do. As the path guides us to stop harming the Earth Interbeing, our knowing of the sacred and our sacred purpose to further life on Earth brightens. We begin to live the sacred values.

Discernment links knowing the sacred to knowing how to further life on Earth. We discern how to overcome our self-centeredness and our willingness to harm others for self-benefit through self-discipline. With discernment, we align our many daily choices with the sacred values. Staying firmly connected with a sacred presence makes discernment possible as it avoids the confusion of harmful impulses to have their way.

Knowing what to do demands acting upon our knowing. At the beginning of the path, we do not have the self-confidence to take an action that exceeds what others expect us to do. We feel uncertain about how our choices will affect us. Yet, we can no longer respect or follow the authority and

¹ Sacred Values of the Earth Interbeing (work in progress): respect for the sacred unity and equality of life on Earth, patiently bearing the burdens of life, yielding to the sacred to know how to compassionately further life on Earth, humbleness and gratitude, lovingly nurturing and caring for the Earth Interbeing, giving back for what we receive or take, mutually beneficial and affectionate interactions, and self-discipline to remove the ways we harm life on Earth.

traditions of a culture that persists in devastating life and Earth. Knowing requires us to willingly take a step into the mystery, to allow the mystery to lead us.

Our power to become an interbeing depends upon our confidence in our power of discernment to know what to do, a confidence that comes from making choices aligned with the sacred ways and values. By discerning and acting upon what we know to further life on Earth, we steer ourselves through the stream of unknowable consequences unleashed by our transformational actions.

The sun and moon know how to reverently move according to the sacred will. The grains, flowers, and trees know how to reverently grow in the sacred ways. In the same way, we learn to reverently yield to the sacred will by interbeing and caring for all life on Earth. We discern how to become the vessel through which the sacred mystery flows.

We journey as strangers through life, not knowing from whence we came nor where we go. Knowing the sacred and the will of the sacred to further life on Earth gives our lives a purpose. We overcome what keeps us apart and humbly seek directions home.

October 17, 2025 (16)

Rev, 11/27/25