

PRINCIPLES OF THE HARVEST

Understanding Natural Law to Make Our Dreams Come True

When we think of life, we are taught to view it as a timeline, a straight passage stretching from the infinite past to the infinite future with pegs along with way marking the occurrences of recorded history; yesterday, today, tomorrow; what was, what is, what will be. **But it is not a line at all.**

First, life encompasses all 7 cardinal directions – north, south, east and west, above, below, and within. All of which comprise our conscious, subconscious and superconscious, body, mind, spirit existence.

When we look at the occurrences in our lives, when we look to make plans or solve problems, the best approach is to view life from the universal to the particular. What we call the macrocosm to the microcosm, not as a line from up to down or front and back, but as a spiral.

The Dagara people of Burkina Faso, a tribe that has remained largely untouched by the culture of the West, are among the poorest people on earth in material wealth. But they are enriched immeasurably in their connection to unseen worlds. Their spiritual cosmology rests on the living presence of those who have gone before, or elders, those living, and those yet to be born, all existing simultaneously in this parallel space. So vision for them draws from the past, present and future, in a fluid spiral of being.



In the 1960s, the Broadway musical *Hair* declared that this is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, and the Eastern principle of karma came into prominence in the West. It says, "What goes around comes around."

Another way to look at that universal law is in the practice of farming. We select our seeds, we sow or plant, we allow time to grow, and then we harvest, or reap what we have planted. This too is a spiral, natural law repeating its signature pattern.

Let's take it step by step.

I. Planting the Seeds

The first law is pretty obvious - in order to reap you *must* sow. It's primordial, metaphorical and agricultural. To get something out of the ground, you have to put something into the ground. We don't stand over the ground and wish for the corn stalk to sprout. We have to plant a seed. We don't stand before the fireplace and demand heat without stacking the wood. We cut and position the logs before striking the match.

It is the same with the vision we have for our lives. We are born with a purpose (or more than one). They are the seeds of our existence, the reasons we are here, the thoughts and words that identify what we want. And whether we are conscious of them or not, these seeds are the imprint of what we get to experience. To get a harvest at all, we need seeds to plant.

Are you drifting through life, thinking that you have no say in what happens to you, accepting whatever comes along? Whether we take responsibility or not, by our action or inaction, we are planting seeds all the time, seeds that will eventually grow.

II. Knowing What Seeds We Are Planting

The second law is also obvious – you can only reap what you sow. We are seeding the soil of our lives all the time with our thoughts and actions. Put another way, what we are harvesting in our lives today are the fruit of what was planted.

We don't expect an apple tree to grow if we know we have planted asparagus. Apple trees come from apple seeds. Oak trees only sprout from acorns. What are the seeds you are planting?

What thoughts, intentions, emotions and actions are you putting out into your home, your family, job, community? We can't expect to live into a future vision of love, or wealth, or harmonious relationships, or great kids, or a successful career or a cooperative world if we don't seed those same attributes into the soil of our lives now.

III. The Growing Season

This next law of the harvest is not as obvious, yet it is a revelation when we think about how it applies to our vision for the future. We reap later than we sow.

Think of it – once we plant a seed, it needs time in the deep and the dark to sprout. Everything needs a gestation period. We don't plant one day, and come back the next day to dig up the soil and see if it's sprouting.

We wait and water, provide sun and nutrients to the soil, protect it from wind and pests, and patiently let this lifecycle run its course in due season.

It is the same with our vision for anything – a project, a savings account, our children, a marriage, or our community. We give the seed of our vision the space it needs to germinate and mature, and we nurture and protect it as it does.

IV. Gathering Time

The fourth law of the harvest is also not as quickly recognizable. We take it for granted, but we reap in greater proportion to what we have sown.

Think about it. When we plant an apple seed, we don't just get one apple, we get a tree filled with apples. A corn seed produces a stalk with several ears of corn. So too, we plant into our lives the vision of whatever it is we want. Then we wait and we eventually get back, one hundred fold, more of that same thing. On the threshing floor of our lives is the clear evidence of what we planted a season ago.

What a tremendous gift, interest on our investment! This means we can bank on this result for whatever it is we think, feel, want, say or do. No faith, hope or wishing needed. It is natural law. It happens whether we believe in it or not. What we think, feel, want, say or do returns to us, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

V. Post Script

When we consider the visions we have already planted by looking at what is harvesting in our lives right now, notice also that it is not a solitary seed. That lone seed becomes legion, carrying within it seeds for future fruitage. Just as those who have gone on before us, our ancestors, those living, and those yet to be born are all part of the grand gathering of our lives.

We are not alone, we are generations. Like standing in a hall of mirrors, with our reflection going on from the infinite past to the infinite future and in all directions, we are not only the multiplication of our own vision come to life, we are the yield of the vision that others dreamed long ago. And we carry within us the seeds of vision for those who will come after us.

Our names may not be known to them as we do not know theirs. But we are many and one, nonetheless.

Isisara Bey, Journey Agent

Check out www.isisarabey.com for more writings, keynotes, workshops, retreats and events. Contact Isisara at isisara.bey@gmail.com.