

For the Love of Earth, Lisa Gordon, November 2017
Selected quotes about “Going public”

A key *Courage & Renewal* principle: An appreciation of the value of “otherness.”

“It is true that we are all in this together. It is equally true that we spend most of our lives in “tribes” or lifestyle enclaves—and that thinking of the world in terms of “us” and “them” is one of the many limitations of the human mind. The good news is that “us and them” does not have to mean “us versus them.” Instead, it can remind us of the ancient tradition of hospitality to the stranger and give us a chance to translate it into twenty-first century terms. Hospitality rightly understood is premised on the notion that the stranger has much to teach us. It actively invites “otherness” into our lives to make them more expansive, including forms of otherness that seem utterly alien to us. Of course, we will not practice deep hospitality if we do not embrace the creative possibilities inherent in our differences.”

“If we value things like friendship, family, community, education, workplaces that work, and democracy, there's a minimum requirement. We must learn to talk with each other, even when we disagree. Not "at" each other, or even "to" each other, but "with" each other!” -- Parker J. Palmer

“... when there is great injustice, we should not use that fact as an excuse for childish and undisciplined behavior. Injustice should be greeted with protest and careful, courageous strategic action. But the end goal must remain always in view, as King said so simply: “a world where men and women can live together.” Building such a world takes intelligence, control, and the spirit of generosity. That Spirit has many names: Greek philophrosune, Roman humanitas, biblical agape, African ubuntu-- a patient and forbearing disposition to see and seek the good rather than to harp obsessively on the bad.” -- Martha Nussbaum, in Anger and Forgiveness

“So there’s this tendency to always look at the other as the problem, which is what’s getting acted out on the world at large. It’s always like looking for some group to make wrong and then forming a political base out of making this ethnic group, or whatever, wrong. That’s the basic problem. That’s the most fundamental problem I see over and over again in relationships.” -- John Welwood, Psychologist & Author

“I found that we feel compelled, by our desire to fit into our social group, to take our cues for what we should think or do from the people around us. In communities recovering from weather-related disasters I found that their understanding of the event was mediated through the cues contained in shared stories. They were entirely capable of ignoring the role of climate change because it did not fit with the stories they chose to tell. It is already clear that the way we relate to climate change cannot be readily condensed into a simple formula of cause and effect. Our views are constantly being shaped through the negotiation between our own identity, our group loyalty, and our relationship with wider society. We are active participants, at every stage, influencing those around us as much as we are influenced by them.”
-- George Marshall - Don’t Even Think About it

If our goal is to seek a deeper understanding of the world around us and clear the public square, we must move from self-righteousness to moral humility. It’s all about shifting the tone and not being accusatory because ... each of us has a thin-skinned moral matrix that is the source of our most sacred beliefs.”

-- James Hoggan - in I’m right and You’re an Idiot