



Big Love

Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.

~ Teilhard de Chardin ~

“Big Love” — It’s the fire, the flame flickering and glowing inside of each of us...the energy, the inner push that wants to express and connect. It’s what we long for and want to bring forth in the world. And it’s undeniable.

So what’s “love” — and in this case **“Big Love”** — got to do with it? Well, love is all about showing up in the world — of being and doing who we truly are. It’s the incredible lightness of being. And **“Big Love”** is about showing up completely — maybe in all “caps” — as **BIG LOVE** !

Big Love: It’s about getting over — being done with — the quandary we’ve been muddling through in our culture of Judeo-Christian heritage for the past 500 hundred years. Martin Luther started it in 1517 with the Protestant Reformation — fomenting a (not-always-so-holy) theological war. Then, a quarter century later, Nicolas Copernicus revealed the disorienting news that geocentrism (the view that the earth and humankind is the center of the Universe, a key idea embedded in the Bible) is dead, casting us into the uncharted waters of the Scientific Revolution.

Think about it. First Luther adopts the doctrine of *sola scriptura* (the *Bible*, not the church, is our primary “authority”). Then Copernicus and his successors (Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Darwin, etc.) put forth facts and findings that discredit the authority of traditional Biblical interpretation. We’ve been spinning ever since — at ever-increasing RPMs!

The churches are fighting among themselves while science continues to pile up evidence that effectively undermines traditional religion. Admittedly, this is a pretty high-level view and there are lots of details to fill in. But this is the unresolved tension in consciousness we live daily.

But basically, the Big Story of Biblical Cosmology, the account of creation according to Genesis, has become obsolete, the science vs. spirituality conflicts remain unresolved, and we’re bombarded with many contradictory claims and counter-claims.

The good news is that scientific revelations such as the special theory of relativity, quantum physics, the Big Bang theory, plate tectonics, post-Darwinism, cellular biology/DNA, psychology/sociology, and, most recently, advances in neuroscience have put enough pieces in place that we’re beginning to put together the puzzle of Big History and the New Cosmology (i.e. the story of how things came to be and continue to evolve).

Perhaps we've achieved sufficient mastery (understanding of nature) that we're ready to rediscover "fire" — Big Love. The scientific side of the story is showing us things like the importance of differentiation and uniqueness, of community and interdependence, of underlying order tempered by chaos, of specific outcomes and open-ended possibilities, and of increasing complexity, expanding consciousness, and growing universal self-awareness.

To synthesize, make sense, and provide meaning of the emerging New Story, we need to incorporate a spiritual dimension into it — one that is fresh, relevant, inspirational, and meaningful. We are called to transcend (but include) our religious traditions — expressing spiritual ideas that fit with our knowledge and our times.

This is where the **Big Love Community** comes in. Here are three pursuits that we believe are key, appropriate, and essential for 21st-Century spirituality:

1. **Become an Explorer and Co-Creator of The New Story** — Explore scientific facts and spiritual ideas of "reality" as it is being discovered and revealed. Co-create a New Story that fits our time — incorporating "hard" science, experienced spiritual phenomena, and inspired metaphysical interpretation of meaning. We seek to transcend and include old supernatural views and new scientific materialism, to find a common, holistic and meaningful narrative.
2. **Form and Embody Your Own Personally Meaningful Spirituality** — Authority is no longer "out there" in scripture, church hierarchy, or even God. It's "in-here", discovered as we connect with our inner knowing, that part of us connected with the "Heart of the Universe". It is based on study, experience, sharing, and discussing what we know to be true for us. Gandhi said that there are as many concepts of the Divine, the Universal One, as there are people. We claim this truth for ourselves and own the responsibility for our own spirituality. Additionally, we enjoy the benefits of being in community, sharing our insights to "test" the validity of that which we hold as true.
3. **Live Omni-Dimensionally: What You Do Is What You Believe** — The Big Love community provides structures and processes to put your personal spirituality into practice at all levels of being — physical, emotional, mental, social, and spiritual. We help you live more spiritfully every day, in every way in five comprehensive, functional areas — Wisdom, Wholeness, Oneness, Co-Creation, and Nitty-Gritty (dealing with the details of every-day living). This is "practical spirituality" — what happens when "heaven touches earth".

Our overall goal is to provide a safe place where we each realize our own highest level of potential and fulfillment. As together we co-creatively discover and reveal every possible aspect of what Big Love truly is, we each live our own calling more completely. We each make more of a difference in the world, creating the greatest good for ourselves, each other and the entire world.

It is said that "*We are spiritual beings having a human experience, not human beings having spiritual experiences.*" This quote, attributed to Teilhard de Chardin, but advanced by many contemporary teachers is one worth contemplating. In fact, this viewpoint may hold the key to Big Love. It can provide the link between us and everything else. And the deeper we understand our connection to the Cosmos, each other, and everything in it, the more we let **Big Love** become a living reality — **right here, right now!**