



Patrick Curry: Enchantment, Ecology and Embodiment



Patrick Curry holds a Ph.D. in The History and Philosophy of Science from University College London and has been a lecturer at the University of Kent and Bath Spa University. He is also an author of several books and editor-in-chief of The Ecological Citizen journal. Explore enchantment--sheer wonder--as a fundamental human experience.

TOP EMBODIMENT TIP: Remain Open to the Other

Is Enchantment Frivolous?

- As we navigate the crises facing us in 2020, it might seem like talking about enchantment is frivolous. On the contrary, though, it might be more important than ever.
- Imaginatively engaging with the concrete here and now facilitates enchantment, and **we will only fight to defend what we've been enchanted by.**

What Is Enchantment?

- Enchantment **is an experience of wonder**; it requires somebody to be present to experience it and participate in it.
- From the Latin, it means *"to be in a song."*
- Enchantment runs the spectrum from charm to delight to joy. It's not merely pleasure.
- Radical enchantment is an experience of joy that can be life-changing.

What's NOT Enchantment?

- When we will make something to happen; try to make it happen, that's the opposite of wonder.
- Enchantment cannot be about having power over another.
- **False enchantment is possessive**, but true enchantment means you want the other to flourish.

How to Access Enchantment

- You must be able to let go and resist falling into **grasping and clinging**.
- **Use the senses**--enchantment occurs because of your body--as well as mental and spiritual approaches--they are all part of being human.
- **Be astonished** at the sheer wonder of being alive. But mostly, get out of the way, and be open to uncertainties.
- Create the **right conditions**, and then open the door to enchantment. Invite it in. Be receptive to what will come.

Resources

- ❖ **Books:** *Enchantment: Wonder in Modern Life*, *Ecological Ethics: An Introduction*, *Deep Roots in a Time of Frost: Essays on Tolkien, Defending Middle-Earth: Tolkien, Myth and Modernity*, *Astrology, Science and Culture*, with Roy Willis.
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OUR MISSION is to preserve our forests and the people and wildlife they nurture, and to promote connection with nature through music, art, and culture.