

# TENDING THE FIRE

## RESPONSIBILITY & RECEIVING



Dear Men,

next year I going to begin a journey called 'TENDING THE FIRE – Responsibility & Receiving'.

This will be a journey to support men who have been moved by the Culture of Honouring's menswork, and who want to explore the possibility of sharing it with other men.

Over the years I have felt myself supported, profoundly, in my own journey, by offering Third Man Menswork to others. The more I have stepped into a sense of responsibility for others, the more I have received. Again and again responsibility has pushed me to introspect, and to close, ever-tighter, the gap between my theory and my practice, and to step up and embody, in my own Joseph-way, the magnificent, simple, powerful and soulful teachings of Third Man Menswork.

I have also experienced that on taking responsibility for helping other men, I have received the seeing and the strength I have needed in order to help them. On stepping forwards and saying "yes, I will do what I see is needed", again and again, I have been given the connectedness to be able to share authentically about connection, the compassion to hold the unfolding of other men's hearts, and the balls to challenge men to really go for it – and live their deepest knowing.

And now I am inviting you to share the responsibility for this menswork with me.

After many, many years in men's groups, I came to understand that Feminine Guidance was essential to the masculine. I also came to see that different parts of us react differently to Feminine Guidance (slight smile of recognition here?). And on inspecting all of this more and more closely, the whole picture of the evolution of the masculine psyche gradually came into focus. Then over the years, practices emerged and matured – practices which enable us as men to make the empowered, connected, heartfelt, creative choice – not only as to how to relate to the Feminine, and Feminine Guidance, but also to how we relate to our own lives, moment to moment, and to existence itself.

Meanwhile, as the womenswork and relationship work also evolved, Elisabeth and I, and everyone who'd become involved, had glimpses of the potential of deep, alchemical, transformational community we were co-creating– and this has become clearer and clearer. Many of us now share a felt-vision of empowered, intimate, magical masculine-

feminine community, of a profound social alternative.

To take responsibility for the menswork is also to take responsibility for the masculine side of this social movement, as it continues to evolve organically, through us all

I am absolutely clear that the time has now come to ask other men to come and TEND THE FIRE of Third Man Menswork with me, to share it alongside me, and to also offer others this vision of transformational community.

In 'TENDING THE FIRE - Responsibility & Receiving' you will be supported in developing a good theoretical understanding of, and ability to communicate, the essential concepts and vision of Third Man Menswork. You will also be supported in developing your understanding of, and ability to communicate, some of the basic practices (Third Man Tai Chi, Self-Caring, Core Wound work, Self-Parenting, 50/50, Anger Work, Purpose Work, Embodied Stripping, Feminine Guidance, the Receiving Meditation, and so on). Finally, you will be supported in learning to hold men's groups and events – to receive challenge, to hold your own process while facilitating, how to take men deeper, how to read the 'field' of the group, how to manage conflict, absence, and so on.

Everyone will support each other, and although I will be facilitating TENDING THE FIRE, final assessment will be by peer-assessment - by loving but clear feedback from the brotherhood.

During TENDING THE FIRE you will be asked to begin sharing Third Man Menswork, whether in an ongoing mensgroup, through a workshop, or through some other format of your own choosing. You will be doing this with a 'buddy', and self-assessment will be as important as peer-assessment.

After the journey, as long as you receive the go-ahead of the brotherhood, you will be recognised by The Culture of Honouring as able to share the basic practices and understandings of Third Man Menswork. (There will be a code of ethics, shaped with feedback from the brotherhood, which all teachers of this work will be expected to follow.)

'TENDING THE FIRE – Responsibility & Receiving' is made up of three weekend gatherings, spread out spaciouly over almost a year. Between these weekends there will be monthly conference calls. As well as the buddying, an online forum will also be part of this journey. You will also receive personalised support from me throughout the journey.

Dates for the weekends are:

2012 February 24-26

2012 May 4-6

2012 July 13-15

Dates for the conference calls are:

2012 March 19

2012 April 12

2012 June 14



Cost for the weekends is £175

Cost for the conference calls is £25

Cost for ongoing individual support from me between the weekends and conference calls by phone and e-mail is £200

Total cost is: £800

This is payable as a £200 deposit, £300 at the beginning of the journey, and £300 on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions whatsoever.

With love and respect for us all,

Joseph.

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