



The Spell of the Sensuous



Conviviality, with what is not human.

AS THE CRICKETS' SOFT AUTUMN HUM
IS TO US
SO ARE WE TO THE TREES
AS ARE THEY
TO THE ROCKS AND THE HILLS —Gary Snyder



The simple premise of this book is that we are human only in contact, and conviviality, with what is not human.

Direct sensuous reality, in all its more-than-human mystery, remains the sole solid touchstone for an experiential world now inundated with electronically-generated vistas and engineered pleasures; only in regular contact with the tangible ground and sky can we learn how to orient and to navigate in the multiple dimensions that now claim us.

— Abram, D. 1996, Location 107

“Humans are tuned for relationship. The eyes, the skin, the tongue, ears, and nostrils— all are gates where our body receives the nourishment of otherness. This landscape of shadowed voices, these feathered bodies and antlers and tumbling streams— these breathing shapes are our family, the beings with whom we are engaged, with whom we struggle and suffer and celebrate. For the largest part of our species’ existence, humans have negotiated relationships with every aspect of the sensuous surroundings, exchanging possibilities with every flapping form, with each textured surface and shivering entity that we happened to focus upon. All could speak, articulating in gesture and whistle and sigh a shifting web of meanings that we felt on our skin or inhaled through our nostrils or focused with our listening ears, and to which we replied— whether with sounds, or through movements, or minute shifts of mood. The color of sky, the rush of waves— every aspect of the earthly sensuous could draw us into a relationship fed with curiosity and spiced with danger. Every sound was a voice, every scrape or blunder was a meeting— with Thunder, with Oak, with Dragonfly. And from all of these relationships our collective sensibilities were nourished.”

“I believe there are places that have real power, places where the connection between nature and man is absolutely direct, without thought of any kind, places



DR. TIMOTHY DUKES

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that penetrate you so deeply that they become part of you. Places where you can put your ear to the ground and hear your own heart beating.”

—Brechtneff, C. p. 4

Links

See: [DrTimothyDukes.com/Sanctuary/Practice/Bird Feeder](http://DrTimothyDukes.com/Sanctuary/Practice/Bird%20Feeder)

Reference

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The Tim Dukes Method provides an opportunity for self-reflective individuals to cultivate the capacity to receive into consciousness hidden aspects of the self, claiming your unique gifts – ensuring that today's brilliance successfully transitions into tomorrow's wisdom. The Tim Dukes Method is designed and implemented by Dr. Timothy Dukes for determined creatives to ensure long-term viability — as a continuing investment in the well-being of yourself, family, organizations, culture, society, and the Earth itself.