

DISCOVERING THE POSITIVE FACE OF POWER

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.”

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Power is our ability to make a difference. Power *over*relations create brittle monoculture; sharing of power (power *with*) creates community and supports power from within. A healthy balance of power comes out of the synergism from everyone contributing their best and igniting the particular talents, experiences and passions that the situation calls for. Community supports each member's particular way of being ~ knowing that it is in *difference* and the sharing of power that the fiber of community is strengthened.

We have all experienced the transformation that comes out of sharing power.

Tell me a story of a moment when you experienced a true sharing of power or maybe of a time when unequal power relationships were shifted into balance.

- ✦ What was happening? How did it feel?
- ✦ How did people relate to each other?
- ✦ What qualities were in the air?
- ✦ What values were present?
- ✦ When geese fly in a V, the flap of their wings creates an up lift for the one behind.
How did people create uplift for one another?

Process notes:

While interviewing, don't share any of your own perspectives, instead, draw out more of the positive experience by asking questions that will invite description (not 'why' questions - but 'what did that feel like?' questions). Listen for "glistening moments," "quotable quotes" and jot down the words that capture the essence. If you don't write as you interview, take a moment to jot them down right afterwards.

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