The Purpose Gap
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PATRICK B. REYES
THE PURPOSE GAP
Empowering Communities of Color to Find Meaning and Thrive

PURPOSE GAP
DR. PATRICK B. REYES
UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE GAP

What it is

- The legacies of colonialism, slavery, anti-indigenous genocides in the US against BIPOC communities
- Housing + Education + Wealth + Health + Resource + Prison pipeline + Gender + [Insert gaps] = the purpose gap, where the conditions hamper young people's ability to imagine thriving futures

How we overcome it

- Recognizing and admiring constellations not stars.
- Telling stories from our community to combat erasure and eradication.
- Becoming good ancestors.

Living a thriving life

- Design new ways of being in relation.
- Relationship to ancestors, community, descendants, and non-human life as central to purpose.
- Pay attention to the people, places, practices, and purposes of our lives.
“Closing the purpose gap means creating the conditions for future generations to achieve meaningful and purpose-filled lives. It means removing the barriers, generating the resources, building the power, and imagining the future where those who are most marginalized thrive. It is spirit work... Closing the purpose gap is realizing the promise of the Beatitudes, 'For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' (Matt 5:10) We are building a world in the purpose gap that imagines and realizes this vision.”

- Patrick Reyes
"We steal lives of meaning and purpose from young people when we deny them access to resources, people, networks, and even the imagination... the purpose gap exists where people cannot achieve what they were born to do. It exists when people are not able to fulfill their calling, resulting in lives of meaning and purpose stolen from future generations."

Patrick Reyes
"What you are going to find in this book are stories, studies, and dreams about care for the conditions of our lives, of our communities, and of our bodies. For one to thrive, understanding the conditions that already surround us (and others) is the first step. For so many of us, purpose is defined, stolen, or withheld before we even enter the world."

- Patrick Reyes
THE PROBLEM: HEROES JOURNEY

Call to adventure

Mentors, challenges, new skills on the journey

Conflict, achievement

Return home, sharing wisdom with those on the journey

Death, end of journey
THE PURPOSE GAP

Never get the call to adventure

No opportunity for or access to mentors, challenges, new skills on the journey

Return to status quo

Bottom

Death, end of journey
What the world demands
What goes inside is what you love—where you spend your energy

DISCERNING PURPOSE

Practices

Purposes

The Sound of the Genuine

People

Places

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HOW TO USE THE CIRCLE

* Inside the boundaries
  - Write down the people, places, practices, and purposes that matter to you.
  - Pay attention to what you who, what, when, where, and why you want to spend your love and energy.
  - Inside your doughnut are the relations you will attend to.

* Sound of the Genuine
  - Nothing goes in the center. This is who you are at your core. This is not your job, place in the family (mother, sister, cousin, friend), or your title in the community. This is the still small voice in you, or as Howard Thurman says, "the sound of the genuine in you."
  - Maintaining the boundary between you and that which you give attention to allows for your center to be in relation to, but not be consumed by the four P's. We all know that one "person" or that one "purpose tied to a job" who/that can slide into your center and live rent free!

* Outside the circle
  - This is what the world demands of you. These are the jobs, expectations, systems, and conditions we inherit.
  - The boundary line between the world and what we spend our time on needs to be intentionally engaged. What do we take into our circle? What do we keep out?
"Know that we were loved by generations before we arrived on this earth, and our ancestors are still watching, loving, and supporting us. We have everything we need. To close the purpose gap, we only need to have courage to trust our intuition and build the institutions, networks, and communities that future generations will inhabit. If we can do this work well, we will give a five-generation gift... We will be spirits among the living — guiding and loving a generation we will never know in the flesh but whose purpose will be realized because of our work today."

- Patrick Reyes