



CURIOSITY

A Generative Mindset

During Mako's talk as the recipient of the Kuyper Prize for Public Theology he stated, "Beholding the fragments, in silence, is the only presence we can gift when our friends are suffering." So much of the Culture Wars rhetoric is hewn in a rush to fill the void of uncertainty.

Here are some questions that arise from these concepts:

- How comfortable are we with unknowing?
- How can we be curious about those with what we perceive as problematic viewpoints?
- What are the moral, ethical, and spiritual ramifications of silence?
- What are the moral, ethical, and spiritual ramifications of curiosity?
- How do we reconcile the seemingly paradoxical nature of silence and curiosity?

"O wake / me from / the sleep / of being / sure."

Amanda Jernigan, *Years, Months, and Days*

"I think curiosity is our friend that teaches us how to become ourselves. And it's a very gentle friend and a very forgiving friend, and a very constant one."

Elizabeth Gilbert, On Being Interview:

<https://onbeing.org/programs/elizabeth-gilbert-choosing-curiosity-over-fear-may2018/>

"Curiosity needs you to not know."

Mónica Guzmán, *I Never Thought of it That Way*

What was the last thing you were curious about?

What prompted your curiosity? What emotions arise for you around curiosity? Is it okay for you to be curious? What is your reaction when you encounter curiosity in others?

When did you last say, "I don't know."?

What was the experience like for you? How quickly did you transition from "not knowing" to knowing? Did you take active steps to become informed? Or was it passive in some way? Were you corrected?

How does curiosity impact your relational conversations?

How do you maintain curiosity with those you disagree with? Do you see value in this? How do you cultivate/maintain engagement?

What is the function of listening in relation to curiosity?

How does one listen well? What specific attributes do you witness in others that listen well? What is your growing edge in listening? What is your success?

Reflection on Process

Remember that your answers are distinct. You possess specific skills and points of view. Your curious and generative actions come from your distinct context. These reflections came about after reading "I Never Thought of it That Way" by Mónica Guzmán, which I highly recommend and Mako's thoughts on silence.



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