

*What shape waits in the seed of you to grow and spread its branches
against a future sky? —David Whyte*

Harrods Creek Quest

The Pancultural Vision Fast

August 4, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
September 1, 9 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
September 25 – 30, October 13, 2018

Guides:



Doug Van Houten



Dustin Pickett

SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, human beings have wandered into the secret laboratories of the wilds, seeking their true path, wrestling demons, nursing wounds, perfecting character, lamenting the suffering of their people, becoming impregnated with dreams and visions about how to repair the world. Those who go out return to their people with a boon — their full voice.

Some seek wholeness. The embodiment of purpose. Some are called by a mysterious longing. Some are driven by an initiatory crisis. Whatever the circumstances that bring you to this quest, it will not be a small undertaking. This journey requires a separation from the comfortable, known world. This passage marks a severance, a crossing of a threshold that initiates us into a new level of awareness, skill, and responsibility. And the journey is not completed until we have returned to our communities with a deeper story.

This quest also serves as a transition thru a major life crossroads — leaving home, a spiritual crisis, a healing crisis, divorce, retirement, career change, the loss of a loved one, or any number of disorienting dilemmas. These unavoidable experiences can be profoundly difficult or traumatic, yet they may also catalyze us into periods of radical growth. Too often we ignore the call of our liminal experiences, too often we refuse the gift of transformation. Yet when we go into the underworld willingly we discover the long-buried treasures of our individual and collective calling.



*Some day, if you are lucky,
you'll return from a thunderous journey
trailing snake scales, wing fragments
and the musk of Earth and moon....*

— Geneen Marie Haugen

Must register by July 15, 2018 • \$250 non-refundable deposit to hold your place ➔

THE PASSAGE

As a rite of passage, the quest is a ceremonial descent into the underworld in which one opens as fully as possible to the beauty and terror of psycho-spiritual death. As we die to our old ways of being, something new--and very ancient--is born in us. We are initiated into a more courageous life of soulful authenticity. We gain the fortitude to live in deeper layers of true adulthood.

The central passage of the quest is the solo-- three days and nights where you will be completely alone, embedded in the natural world, fasting, engaging in ceremony, tending to the central questions of your life, listening for hints from soul, letting the earth dream and imagine thru you, birthing a vision. Returning from your solo the guides will help to mirror and integrate your experience by guiding you through a number of ceremonial and experiential reincorporation practices. An additional reincorporation day, ongoing community of fellow fast-participants, and optional advanced guiding will be available, as well.

LOGISTICS

This quest is a multi-phased journey of 9 total days over a three month period. Prior to your solo there will be four days dedicated to preparation (Aug 4, Sept 1, 25 & 26). These days will include instruction on safety, practices and ceremonies, and what to expect. We will fast from Sept 27--30. October 13 is a day for further reincorporation and for helping you to gain further guidance on how to work with and gather the gifts of what you received from your quest journey.

Our group will meet at Harrods Creek Farm (private property) for all sessions where we will carry our prayers, grief and hope into the unknown. We'll quest along the scenic valleys and limestone gorges of the Harrods Creek Corridor, nestled among roughly 3-400 acres of forest, restored prairie, and farmland dotted with ponds, creeks, and open fields. This land is home to white-tailed deer, coyote, wild turkey, bald eagles, crows, foxes, sycamore, shagbark hickory, cedar, pine, beech, goldenrod and wildflower fields, and a myriad others.

No previous camping required. However, you will need to bring all of your own camping equipment. You will be close enough to basecamp in the event that you need aid. However, you will need to prepare yourself not just psycho-spiritually, but physically too. (We'll provide you with a recommended Equipment List). This is an all camping quest.

\$250 non-refundable deposit to reserve your spot

Cost: \$750-950 (a sliding scale to fit your needs, as well as to help others with less resources to attend.)

Balance due by: July 15



What we need is more people who specialize in the impossible. — Theodore Roethke

Doug Van Houten Nature-Based guide of MIND, BODY & SOUL, student of Refined Hakomi, apprentice to the honeybee, visual artist, self-designed ceremonialist, activist, yoga instructor RYS 200, and guide for **Animas Valley Institute** (www.animas.org). In this work he draws on the wisdom of indigenous cultures, the natural world, depth-psychology, eco-psychology, dreams, poetry, and many cross cultural soul-encounter practices such as vision fasting, council, trance rhythms and conversations with the sacred Other. Doug's Great Work lives in support of others uncovering their own unique gifts and in so doing transforming their own lives in service to the Great Turning transformation of our times.

Dustin Pickett is a poetry-maker, nature-based guide, free-play facilitator, father, and advocate for social and ecological healing. He champions the return of the rewilding spirit; ancestral skills, the restoration of old ways, connection with place & ancestry, the transformative power of lamenting and wandering, and the vitality of our neglected ways of knowing: imagination, eros, poetry, and play. His primary teachers are the more-than-human world and wild spaces; trained in ecology, poetics, and the confluence of wisdom traditions at Naropa University, he continues to bridge the Rocky Mountain west and the Ohio River Valley through his ongoing Wild Mind Apprenticeship with Animas Valley Institute. He keeps his hands in soil through his gardening and landscaping work, and prefers to "walk a mystical path with practical feet." It is his life's work to reconnect people of all ages and backgrounds with the natural world, our primary source of belonging, healing, and humanity.
<https://dustinpickett.wordpress.com/>

Ten participants maximum



To register or obtain more info contact doug@dougvanhouten.com 502.472.6563