

Conveners Corner

By Scott Bollen, Co-Convener of Illuman Wisconsin

Greetings Brothers,

I am grateful for the opportunity to be Co-Convener for Wisconsin as we work to start an official chapter in our state. My Journey with Illuman began when I did my Men's Rites of Passage (MROP) in Pilgrim Park, IL in 2016. Before my MROP, I felt pulled to something deeper as I walked a journey of recovery from old wounds. Illuman was my first step to embody my pain and begin to form a healthy ego and identity as a man.

Fast forward five years: I am grateful for an established ego and self-identity, but find I often get caught up in the "rat race" of the consumerist culture I live in, thinking about career progress, possessions, my family needs, or seeking an overabundance of comfort. I have noticed my soul has quietly begun to "call out" the treacherous message of consumerism in my life.

Bill Plotkin's new book, *The Journey of Soul Initiation*, has been an instrumental guide as I work to tune more into my soul's call for something more, true, and deeper, while at the same time maintaining my sense of self. Plotkin writes, "The Soul holds the knowledge of our true, destined place in the world, of what is truly worth doing with our lives. But the soul has no means—no head or hands—to manifest that purpose. It is the healthy, mature Ego that can construct things and accomplish things in the world."¹

I see now how my ego is important and a tool to integrate on my journey to do my part to make this world a better place. I even begin to notice that my "Soul is spellbound by [my] Ego's capacity to manifest" and my "Ego is moonstruck by [my] Soul's visions and passions"² to contribute and take part in my daily life. For the first time, my ego self has something to live for that is better than the next promotion or item to buy: "make real the dreams [my] Soul has been weaving since before [my] birth."³

One point of synergy between my soul and ego has been working with a group of Illuman brothers in Wisconsin to start an Illuman chapter in our

¹ Bill Plotkin, *The Journey of Soul Initiation: A Field Guide for Visionaries, Evolutionaries, and Revolutionaries* (Novato, CA: New World Library, 2021), 27.

² Plotkin, 27–28.

³ Plotkin, 28.

state. This fall we have formed an Elder Council of 10–12 men who share the same energy to start a chapter, with the goal to be fully established by Spring 2022. Once fully established, our vision is to be ready by summer 2022 to enhance promotion of our multiple Council groups across the state and to host events. We are still developing our niche as a chapter, but specific interest surrounds developing a teen rites of passage for our sons and grandsons who are coming of age.

Wish you all peace upon peace,
—Scott Bollen