

EARTHSEED

THE BOOKS OF THE LIVING



VOL.1

Pulled from PARABLE OF THE SOWER (1993)

and PARABLE OF THE TALENTS (1998)

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Compiled into this zine by Rheanna Murray

66. ADULTHOOD

Earthseed is adulthood.

It's trying our wings,

Leaving our mother,

Becoming men and women.

We've been children

Fighting for the full breasts,

The protective embrace,

The soft lap.

Children do this.

But Earthseed is adulthood.

Adulthood is both sweet and sad.

It terrifies. It empowers.

We are men and women now.

We are Earthseed.

And the Destiny of Earthseed

Is to take root among the stars.

But beware:

God is Change.

Past is past.

What was

Cannot

Come again.

To survive,

Know the past.

Let it touch you.

Then let

The past

Go.

1. GOD IS CHANGE

All that you touch

You Change.

All that you Change

Changes you.

The only lasting truth

Is Change.

God

is Change.

## 2. PRODIGY

Progidy is, at its essence,  
adaptability and persistent,  
positive obsession. Without  
persistence, what remains is an  
enthusiasm of the moment. Without  
adaptability, what remains may  
be channeled into destructive  
fanaticism. Without positive  
obsession, there is nothing at all.

## 65. NATURE

There is nothing alien

About nature.

Nature

Is all that exists.

It's the earth

And all that's on it.

It's the universe

And all that's in it.

It's God,

Never at rest.

It's you,

Me,

Us,

Them,

Struggling upstream

Or drifting down.

64. THE PAST

To survive,

Let the past

Teach you-

Past customs,

Struggles,

Leaders and thinkers.

Let

These

Help you.

Let them inspire you;

Warn you;

Give you strength.

3. A GIFT OF GOD

A gift of God

May sear unready fingers.

4. WE SHAPE GOD

We do not worship God.

We perceive and attend God.

We learn from God.

With forethought and work,

We shape God.

In the end, we yield to God.

We adapt and endure,

For we are Earthseed

And God is Change.

5. GOD EXISTS TO BE SHAPED

God is Power-

Infinite,

Irresistible,

Inexorable,

Indifferent,

And yet, God is Pliable-

Trickster,

Teacher,

Chaos,

Clay.

God exists to be shaped.

God is Change.

63. ONLY ACTIONS

Are you Earthseed?

Do you believe?

Belief will not save you.

Only actions

Guided and shaped

By belief and knowledge

Will save you.

Belief

Initiates and guides action-

Or it does nothing.

and new ways of life with new opportunities, new  
wealth, new concepts of wealth, new challenges to  
grow and to learn and to decide what to become.

Earthseed is the dawning adulthood  
of the human soecies. It offers the only  
true immortality. It enables the seeds of the  
Earth to become the seeds of new life, new  
communities on new earths. The Destiny of  
Earthseed is to take root among the stars, and  
there, again, to grow, to learn, and to fly.

## 6. INTELLIGENCE IS ADAPTABILITY

Intelligence is ongoing, individual  
adaptability. Adaptations that an intelligent  
species may make  
in a single generation, other species  
make over  
many generations of selective  
breeding and  
selective dying. Yet intelligence is  
demanding.  
If it is misdirected by accident or by  
intent, it can  
foster its own orgies of breeding and  
dying.

7. A VICTIM OF GOD

A victim of God may,

Through learning and adaptation,

Become a partner of God,

A victim of God may,

Through forethought and planning,

Become a shaper of God.

Or a victim of God may,

Through shortsightedness and fear,

Remain God's victim,

God's plaything,

God's prey.

62. REWARDS

All religions are ultimately cargo cults.

Adherents perform required rituals, follow

specific rules, and expect to be supernaturally

gifted with desired rewards- long life,

honor, wisdom, children, good health, wealth,

victory over opponents, immortality after

death; and any desired rewards.

Earthseed offers its own rewards- room

for small groups of people to begin new lives



And again and again

May be to say it,

Almost by reflex

Then to defend it

Because we've defended it

And because we cannot admit

That we've embraced and defended

An obvious lie...

Thus, without thought,

Without intent,

We make

Mere echoes

Of ourselves-

And we say

What we hear others say.

## 8. BELIEF

Belief

Inititiates and guides action-

Or it does nothing.

## 9. DROWNING PEOPLE

Drowning people

Sometimes die

Fighting their rescuers.

10. WE ARE EARTHSEED

We are all Godseed, but no more or less  
so than any other aspect of the universe.

Godseed is all there is- all that

Changes. Earthseed is all that spreads

Earthlife to new earths. The universe is

Godseed. Only we are Earthseed. And the

Destiny of Earthseed is

to take root among the stars.

61. WHAT OTHERS SAY

Beware:

All too often,

We say

What we hear others say.

We think

What we're told that we think.

We see

What we're permitted to see.

Worse!

We see what we're told that we see.

Repetition and pride are the keys to this.

To hear and to see

Even an obvious lie

Again

60. ALL PRAYERS

All prayers are to Self

And, in one way or another,

All prayers are answered.

Pray,

But beware.

Your desires,

Whether or not you achieve them

Will determine who you become.

11. THE PARADOX

Why is the universe?

To shape God.

Why is God?

To shape the universe.

12. A TREE

A tree

Cannot grow

In its parents' shadows.

13. THE DESTINY OF EARTHSEED

Destiny of Earthseed

Is to take root among the stars.

14. CONSEQUENCES

To get along with God,

Consider the consequences

of your behavior.

59. TO EXPLORE THE VASTNESS

The Destiny of Earthseed

Is to take root among the stars.

It is to live and to thrive

On new earths.

It is to become new beings

And to consider new questions.

It is to leap into the heavens

Again and again.

It is to explore the vastness

Of heaven.

It is to explore the vastness

Of ourselves.

58. IMMORTAL LIFE

Take comfort.

Each move toward the Destiny,

Each achievement of the Destiny,

Must mean new beginnings,

New worlds,

h of Earthseed,

Alone,

Each of us is mortal.

Yet through Earthseed,

Through the Destiny,

We join.

We are purposeful

Immortal Life!

15. POWER STRUGGLES

All struggles

Are essentially

power struggles.

Who will rule,

Who will define,

Who will lead,

refine,

confine,

design,

Who will dominate.

All struggles

Are essentially power struggles,

And most are no more intellectual

than two rams

knocking their heads together.

## 16. CIVILIZATION IS TO INTELLIGENCE

Civilization is to groups what

intelligence is

to individuals. It is a means of

combining the

Intelligence of many to achieve

ongoing

group adaptation.

Civilization, like intelligence, may

serve well,

serve adequately, or fail to serve its

adaptive

function. When civilization fails to

serve, it must

disintegrate unless it is acted upon

by unifying internal or external forces.

## 57. SELF IS

Self is.

Self is body and bodily

perception. Self is thought, memory,

belief. Self creates. Self destroys. Self

learns, discovers, becomes. Self

shapes. Self adapts. Self invents its

own reasons for being. To shape

God, shape self.

Ignorance grows.

Ignorance

Protects itself,

And protected,

### 56. WHEN VISION FAILS

When vision fails

Direction is lost.

When direction is lost

Purpose may be forgotten.

When purpose is forgotten

Emotion rules alone.

When emotion rules alone,

Destruction...destruction.

### 17. WHEN STABILITY DISINTEGRATES

When apparent stability disintegrates,

As it must-

God is Change-

People tend to give in

To fear and depression,

To need and greed.

When no influence is strong enough

To unify people

They divide.

They struggles,

One against one.

Group against group,

For survival, position, power.

The remember old hates and generate new ones,

They create chaos and nurture it.

They kill and kill and kill,

Until they are exhausted and destroyed,

Until they are conquered by outside forces

Or until one of them becomes

A leader

Most will follow,

Or a tyrant

Most fear.

## 55. IGNORANCE

Beware:

Ignorance

Protects itself.

Ignorance

Promotes suspicion.

Suspicion

Engenders fear.

Fear quails,

Irrational and blind,

Or fear looms,

Defiant and closed.

Blind, closed,

Suspicious, afraid,



To be led by a thief

is to offer up

your most precious treasures

to be stolen.

To be led by a liar

is to ask

to be told lies.

To be led by a tyrant

is to sell yourself

and those you love

into slavery.

## 18. ANY CHANGE

Any Change may bear seeds of benefit.

Seek them out.

Any Change may bear seeds of harm.

Beware.

God is infinitely malleable.

God is Change.

19. ALL SUCCESSFUL LIFE

All successful life is

Adaptable,

Opportunistic,

Tenacious,

Interconnected, and

Fecund.

Understand this.

Use it.

Shape God.

54. CHOOSE YOUR LEADERS

Choose your leaders

with wisdom and forethought. To

To be led by a coward

is to be controlled

by all that the coward fears. To

To be led by a fool

is to be led

by the opportunists

who control the fool.

53. DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

We can,

Each of us,

Do the impossible

As long as we can convince ourselves

That it has been done before.

20. LIFE THAT PERCEIVES ITSELF CHANGING

We are Earthseed

The life that perceives itself

Changing.

21. WHAT A LIVING WORLD WILL DEMAND

There is no end

To what a living world

Will demand of you.

22. EARTHLIFE

We are Earthseed.

We are flesh- self aware,

questing, problem-solving flesh. We are that

aspect of Earthlife best able to shape God

knowingly. We are Earthlife maturing, Earthlife

preparing to fall away from the parent world.

We are Earthlife preparing to take root in

new ground, Earthlife fulfilling its purpose,

its promise, its Destiny.

52. MAKE PEACE

To make peace with others,

Make peace with yourself:

Shape God

With generosity

And compassion.

Minimize harm.

Shield the weak.

Treasure the innocent.

Be true to the Destiny.

Forgive your enemies.

Forgive yourself.

51. PURPOSE UNIFIES US

Purpose

Unifies us:

It focuses our dreams,

Strengthens our efforts.

Purpose

Guides our plans,

Defines us,

Shapes us,

And offers us

Greatness.

23. A PHOENIX

In order to rise

From its own ashes

A phoenix

First

Must

Burn.

24. KINDNESS

Kindness eases Change.

## 25. CAST ON NEW GROUND

Earthseed

Cast on new ground

Must first perceive

That it knows nothing.

## 26. EMBRACE DIVERSITY

Embrace diversity.

Unite-

Or be divided,

robbed, ruled, killed,

By those who see you as prey.

Embrace diversity

Or be destroyed.

## 50. PARTNERSHIP

Partnership is giving, taking,

learning, teaching, offering the

greatest possible benefit while doing

the least possible harm. Partnership

is life.

Any entity, any process that

cannot or should not be resisted or

avoided must somehow be

partnered. Partner one another.

Partner diverse communities. Partner

life. Partner any world that is your

home. Partner God. Only in

partnership can we thrive, grow,

Change. Only in partnership can we

live.

49. PARADISE

The child in each of us

Knows paradise.

Paradise is home.

Home as it was

Or home as it should have been.

Paradise is one's own place,

One's own people,

One's own world,

Knowing and known,

Perhaps even

Loving and loved.

Yet every child

Is cast from paradise-

Into growth and destruction,

Into solitude and new community,

Into vast, ongoing

Change.

27. A GATHERING OF EARTHSEED

Once or twice

each week

A Gathering of Earthseed

is a good and necessary thing.

It vents emotion, then

Quiets the mind.

It focuses attention,

strengthens purpose, and

unifies people.

28. THE GALAXIES

Changes.

The galaxies move through space.

The stars ignite,

burn,

age,

cool,

Evolving.

God is Change.

God prevails.

48. HIDDEN WITHIN CHANGE

God is Change

And hidden within Change

Is surprise, delight,

Confusion, pain,

Discovery, loss,

Opportunity, and growth.

As always,

God exists

To shape

And to be shaped.



47. UNENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST

Beware:

At war

Or at peace,

More people die

Of unenlightened self-interest

Than of any other disease.

29. THE REST OF WHAT WE NEED

God is neither good nor evil.

neither loving

nor hating.

God is Power.

God is Change.

We must find the rest of what we need

within ourselves,

in one another,

in our Destiny.

30. SHAPE SELF

The Self must create

Its own reason for being.

To shape God,

Shape Self.

31. SCULPTOR AND CLAY

As wind,

As fire,

As water,

As life,

God

Is both creative and destructive,

Demanding and yielding,

Sculptor and clay.

God is Infinite Potential:

God is Change.

46. DO NOT WORSHIP GOD

Do not worship God

Inexorable God

Neither needs nor wants

Your worship.

Instead,

Acknowledge and attend God,

Learn from God,

With forethought and intelligence,

Imagination and industry,

Shape God.

When you must,

Yield to God.

Adapt and endure.

For you are Earthseed.

And God is Change.

## 45. CIVILIZATION

Civilization is to groups what intelligence  
is to individuals. Civilization provides ways  
of combining the information, experience,  
and creativity of the many to achieve  
ongoing group adaptability.

## 32. YOUR TEACHERS

Your teachers

Are all around you.

All that you perceive,

All that you experience,

All that is given to you

or taken from you,

All that you love or hate,

need or fear

Will teach you-

If you will learn,

God is your first

and your last teacher.

God is your harshest teacher:

subtle, / demanding.

Learn or die.

33. PRAY WORKING

Respect God:

Pray working.

Pray learning,

planning,

doing.

Pray creating,

teaching,

reaching.

Pray working.

Pray to focus your thoughts.

still your fears.

strengthen your purpose.

Respect God.

Shape God.

Pray working.

Tenacious of life,

Shaper of God,

Water,

Fire,

Sculptor,

Clay,

You are Earthseed!

And your Destiny,

The Destiny of Earthseed,

Is to take root

Among the stars.

44. THE WORDS OF WELCOMING

These are the words of welcoming:

We, your people

Welcome you.

We are Earthseed.

You are Earthseed-

One of many

One unique,

One small seed,

One great promise.

34. IMAGES OF GOD

Create no images of God.

Accept the images

that God has provided.

They are everywhere,

in everything.

God is Change-

Seed to tree,

tree to forest;

Rain to river,

river to sea;

Grubs to bees,

bees to swarm.

From one, many;

from many, one;

Forever uniting, growing, dissolving-

forever Changing

The universe

is God's self-portrait.

#### 43. TO BENEFIT YOUR WORLD

To shape God

With wisdom and forethought,

To benefit your world,

Your people,

Your life,

Consider consequences,

Minimize harm,

Ask questions,

Seek answers,

Learn,

Teach.

42. WE HAVE LIVED BEFORE

We have lived before.

We will live again.

We will be silk,

Stone,

Mind,

Star.

We will be scattered,

Gathered,

Molded,

Probed.

We will live

And we will serve life.

We will shape God

And God will shape us,

Again,

Always again,

Forevermore.

35. WE ARE BORN

Here we are-

Energy,

Mass,

Life,

Shaping Life,

Mind,

Shaping Mind,

God,

Shaping God.

Consider-

We are born

Not with purpose

But with potential.

36. WE GIVE OUR DEAD

We give our dead

To the orchards

And the groves.

We give our dead

To life.

41. DEATH

Death

Is a great Change-

Is life's greatest Change.

We honor our beloved dead.

As we mix their essence with the earth,

We remember them,

And within us,

They live.



40. GOD IS TRICKSTER

God is Change.

God is Infinite,

Irresistable,

Inexorable,

Indifferent,

God is Trickster,

Teacher,

Chaos,

Clay-

God is Change.

Beware:

God exists to shape

And be shaped.

And to be shaped.

37. DARKNESS GIVES SHAPE

Darkness

Gives shape to the light

As light

Shapes the darkness.

Death

Gives shape to life

As life

Shapes death.

The universe

And God

Share this wholeness,

Each

Defining the other.

God

Gives shape to the universe

As the universe

Shapes God.

38. CHAOS

Chaos

Is God's most dangerous face-

Amorphous, roiling, hungry.

Shape Chaos-

Shape God.

Act.

Alter the speed

Or the direction of Change.

Vary the scope of Change.

Recombine the seeds of Change.

Transmute the impact of Change.

Seize Change.

Use it.

Adapt and grow.

39. POSITIVE OBSESSION

God is Change,

And in the end,

God prevails.

But meanwhile...

Kindness eases Change.

Love quiets fear.

And a sweet and powerful

Positive obsession

Blunts pain,

Diverts rage,

And engages each of us

In the greatest,

The most intense

Chosen struggles.

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