



BECOMING AWESTRUCK: Igniting the Science of Transcendence in Montessori Communities

QUOTES

We are created in order to evolve the cosmos. (*Montessori, The Absorbent Mind, p.21*)

We always deal with interconnections. This is how the new physics reveals the oneness of the universe. (*Capra, F., & Luisi, P. L. The systems view of life. 2018, p.72*)

We must actively cultivate awareness to expand our consciousness to see our lives in the context of a 'wondrous, unfolding universe.' (*Christopher Uhl, Developing Ecological Consciousness. 2004*)

It is a question, practically of relationship. We must get back into relation, vivid and nourishing relation to the cosmos and the universe...Vitality the human race is dying. It is like a great uprooted tree, with its roots in the air. We must plant ourselves again in the universe. (*D.H. Lawrence*)

...by offering the child the story of the universe, we give him something a thousand times more infinite and mysterious to reconstruct with his imagination, a drama no fable can reveal. (*Maria Montessori, To Educate the Human Potential*)

The meaning for humanity is to find a way to participate with the creative unfolding of the universe. To participate in a mutually enhancing way ...the great difference between cosmos and cosmogenesis. (*Brian Thomas Swimme, Cosmogenesis video*)

The universe is no longer seen as a machine, made up of a multitude of objects but has to be pictured as one indivisible, dynamic whole whose parts are essentially interrelated and can be understood only as patterns of a cosmic process. (*Dr. Philip Snow Gang in 1982 talking with Fritjof Capra, physicist, systems theorist, and deep ecologist*)

Be humble for you are made of Earth, be noble for you are made of stars. (*Serbian Proverb*)



Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond. (*Robin Wall Kimmerer*)

Every creature has a task; a task not just for its own benefit, but for the benefit of the environment as well. Each species' adaptation to the environment shows us what the purpose and useful work of each is, the work which each contributes towards universal harmony. (*Montessori, The 1946 London Lectures, p. 93*)

An ecosystem is not just a collection of species, but is a community. Communities, whether ecosystems or human systems, are characterized by sets, or networks, of relationships. (*Fritjof Capra, Speaking Nature's Language: Principles for Sustainability in the 2005 Ecological Literacy*)

The real preparation for education is the study of one's self. The training of the teacher who is to help life is something far more than the learning of ideas. It includes the training of character; it is a preparation of the spirit. (*Montessori, Maria. The Absorbent Mind, p. 132*)

... awe is the feeling that comes when we're in the presence of something so vast or profound that it transcends our understanding of the world. (*Pacquette, Awestruck: How Embracing Wonder Can Make You Happier, Healthier, and More Connected, 2020, p. 6*)

Awe is the emotion of transcendence. (*Keltner & Haidt, Approaching Awe, a moral, spiritual, and aesthetic emotion. 2003, p. 13*)

There is no description, no image in any book that is capable of replacing the sight of real trees, and all of the life to be found around them in a real forest. Something emanates from those trees which speaks to the soul, something no book, no museum is capable of giving. (*Maria Montessori, From Childhood to Adolescence*)



RESOURCES

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