
Rock! Paper! Scissor! Issue 7 – Kindred and Legacy: Liberatory Weaving of Our Past, Present and Future

Guest Curator: Xeres Villanueva



Though the phrase "History is written by victors" is cliché, it nonetheless strikes at the core because many folks have a visceral understanding that many aspects of modern society are filled with denial of the past and disassociation from kindred. This is especially true when systemic oppressions, unprocessed trauma, and violent projections onto marginalized communities is the primary bread and butter in imperial societies including the U.S. It does not help that much of U.S. culture is also deeply utilitarian, ahistorical, and reductionist. With ongoing imperialist and capitalist propaganda, erasure of history, truth denying and twisting of narratives being so prevalent, huge landmines are placed in the bodies and psyches of so many peoples' sense of self and community.

For many of us who want to understand ourselves and our society in the name of liberation, this dynamic often leads to ongoing identity crises, cultural alienation, and a fractured relationship with the past, present, and future. So how do we know what's real? Is there a way to know who God is in our own lives?

The decolonizing process of weaving our past, present and future will be no small feat. It requires reexamining the stories we tell ourselves on autopilot about how we came to be, our place in society and our lineages. It also involves asking ourselves what movement and community legacies that need to be remembered and uncovered for truth telling and liberation. We come to this issue to explore this

question: “What would it look like for us to not have empire and oppression shaping our present and future, robbing us from kinship and continuity of our history and legacy?”

- **Is there a way to know who God is in our own lives?**
- **Is it possible as radical people of faith to break the legacy of imperial religion?**
- **How can we get to know ourselves, our families and communities, and society in a way that is not marred by the trauma-inducing imperialist gaze?**
- **Is a different view of understanding narrative and history possible under these conditions?**
- **How can movement building be a means of creating and initiating intergenerational healing with our own lives and our kindred?**
- **What is possible for our movements if ancestral healing work is incorporated into our community organizing?**
- **How can we envision and cultivate a decolonial, Spirit-filled, solarpunk futurism that initiates us into a practice of mending and transmuting things to make anew?[* for reference]**
- **What kind of social and spiritual formation we are all called to create and partake in if we desire to forge a shalom-based kindred?**
- **What does transforming sword into plow look like in the realm of working with relational and cultural trauma patterns that come from both our colonized and colonizer lineages and cultures?**

As difficult as these questions are, reclaiming our sense of narrative, kindred, and legacy is a must for us to be in co-creation of an intentional present and future filled with shalom. We are asking for submissions from folks who have insights, stories and wisdom on the work of uncovering buried narratives and histories as well as forging new forms of kindred and legacies. We are looking examples of practice and struggle of liberating and mending our narratives, relations and legacies in all aspects of life on a personal level, community level and collective level. We are asking for submissions from folks who have insights, stories and wisdom on the work of uncovering buried narratives and histories as well as forging new forms of kindred and legacies. We are looking examples of practice and struggle of liberating and mending our narratives, relations and legacies in all aspects of life on a personal level, community level and collective level.

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Submission Guidelines: Word length is flexible, but brevity is prized. Maximum length is approximately 2,000 words. Conversational or academic writing styles are both acceptable, but keep in mind a popular audience. We seek intersectional, liberative, and self-reflective pieces. We also accept photos, drawings, sermons, songs, videos, poems, interviews, how-tos and anything else you can think of. Please fact-check and proofread your work. You retain full copyright control of your work. Content is due by August, 31th, 2021 to submissions [dot] jesusradicals [at] gmail [dot] com. Please include a short biography, photo, and possible accompanying image. Visit our website to view the full guidelines and our previous issues at: jesusradicals.com/submission-guidelines.html.