

Picking Sweetgrass Reflection

I feel like, in some ways, our money-based system can make reciprocity easier, because money transactions are relatively easy to understand and require minimal effort. For example, if you need someone to lend you money, that's relatively easy to repay (if you can afford it). But oftentimes, money and other monetary transactions can lead to discord in relationships. People can become very upset when you owe them money, especially if the amount is relatively large. It can also strip people of their very humanity for one another, and it doesn't even need to be a large amount at that point. As for the "taking", consumerism takes over our perception in that, as previously mentioned, money can remove our very humanity, in that we come to love it so much. It can destroy the concept of doing favors just because it's the right thing, or like taking favors as a tangible object that can be endlessly exchanged, it can sometimes defeat the purpose of reciprocity. Regarding the saying "not everything should be convenient", I believe it means that not everything done should be just given to us without any work or effort behind it, which is what happens with monetary transactions, suddenly you have an abundance of people asking you for money favors and giving you nothing in return, even if it's your family, that simply shouldn't be the case. Things like love should not be purely transactional; they should come out of just goodness out of your heart, not something that can be easily exchanged. The Rules of Honorable Harvest in my eyes is essentially to see everything the earth gives us as a gift, as stated in a previous reflection, the Earth itself, is like a loving, caring, and benevolent mother, and like any caring mother, she gives her children (humanity) several gifts, like fruits, vegetables, grains, air, and countless other blessings. One thing I feel we should take from this, is that we shouldn't take more from Mother Earth than she can give, just like with our current economy, we shouldn't take more from the money than what it can give us, like not having to buy the newest phone every year, or get another purse for the ever growing collection in the

closet. One thing standing in the way of this is something previously mentioned here, Rampant Consumerism, and another concept, FOMO (Fear of Missing Out). If everyone has the newest phone, you will start to feel like you aren't a part of this imaginary group of people who have what you don't have, so you inevitably get it, feel like you are important, and when the next trend comes along, the cycle will repeat all over again. I feel that the rules of honorable harvest could absolutely apply to energy consumption. Oftentimes, when we hear about energy consumption, it's usually about energy being taken from an unsustainable source like fossil fuels, and they usually directly hurt Mother Earth, as well as deforestation, taking away homes from the animals living in the forests, which usually die in the process. One choice I resonated most with was showing gratitude, particularly for what I have right now, and not for what I lack, in my material possessions, and the gifts from the earth.