

## The Great Turning

AFDS 6/11/23

*In their book **Coming Back to Life**, Joanna Macy and Molly Young Brown describe powerful experiences that take us through each stage of life. As we grow to elderhood:*

What then can we expect to take with us, as we go forth into the world and our individual lives, as we approach The Great Turning?

- A heightened awareness of the suffering and dangers besetting our world with a greater respect for our capacity to face them without denying or numbing out, and accepting our pain for the world, reframing it as compassion.
- A wider sense of identity as a unique and integral part of the living body of Earth.
- A growing appreciation for community—with each other, with our brother-sister species, with our ancestors and future generations. We feel supported by them as well as accountable to them.
- A stronger motivation to join with others in service to life; confidence in the power of our solidarity.
- A fresh sense of the diversity of our gifts and of the many interdependent roles to be played in the Great Turning.
- Gratitude for who we are as individuals, with all our personal strengths and limitations—even our wounds—and for our desire to be of use.
- Commitment to goals extending beyond our individual lifetime; liberation from dependence on immediate, measurable results.
- Gladness in being alive now, in this epochal moment on Earth; a sense of the privilege of taking part in the Great Turning.

## QUERIES

Have you discovered that any of these are being gifted to you as you age?

Do any of the above inspire you to examine how you might grow more deeply into it?