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Be Water, My Friend: Building Just Relationships

Jondou Chase Chen

陳 崇 道

Chen Jon Dou

Nests: Nurturing Freedom

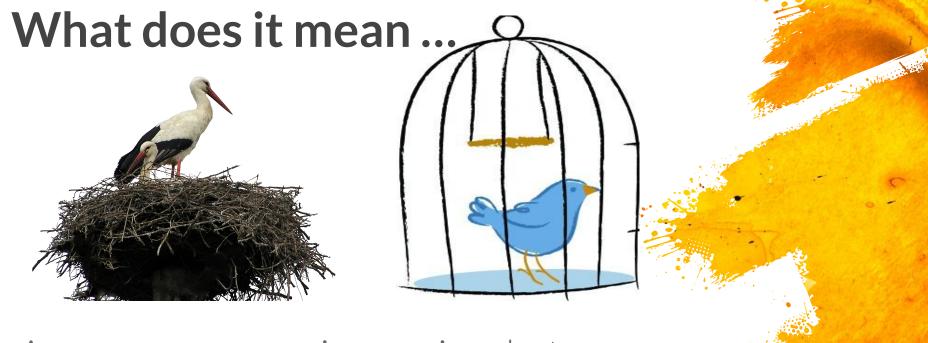At our best, identity, culture, and community let us:

- Be
- Belong
- Become

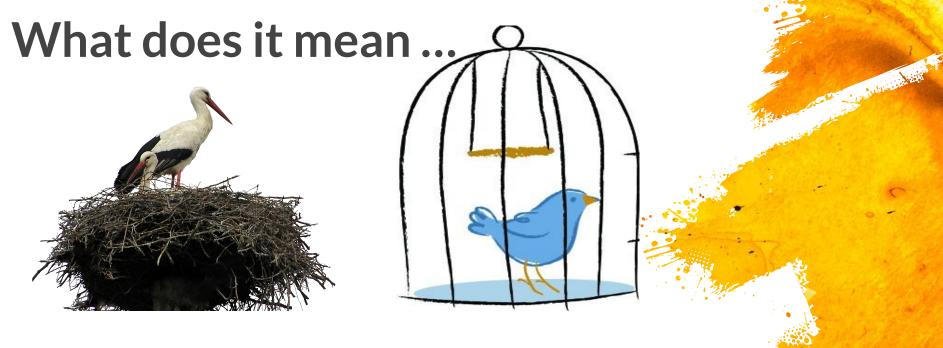And diversity is our strength.

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Bronfenbrenner, 1979
Frye, 1983

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Cages: Conspicuous Control

At our worst, identity, culture, and community are about:
- Classification
- Conquest
- Colonization

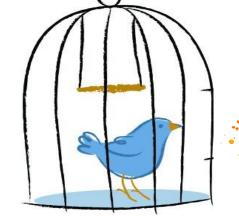And difference terrifies us.

Bronfenbrenner, 1979
Frye, 1983

What does it mean …

As you were growing up, in what ways were you given nests that supported your growth versus cages that limited who you could be?

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What does it mean …

In what ways are we building, affirming, and supporting our young people's nests and taking apart their cages? In what ways are we doing the opposite?

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Complicating Social Justice

What if your nest is someone else's cage? What if a nest becomes a cage? Who decides what's a nest and what's a cage?

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Complicating Social Justice

What does it mean to talk about only nests and not cages? Only cages and not nests? Who benefits from what balance?

So about that fried rice ...

1. What my momma taught me.
2. What I do with my sibs.
3. What I get asked about.
4. What I'm told to do.
5. When I'm shut out.

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How do you feel when talking about identity and oppression? **Try to answer with water.**

What do you want your water to be?

What do you want your water to do?

What does it mean to do social justice work with people whose water differs from yours?

Whose water conditions, wants, and needs are centered in conversations around social justice? Whose water should be?

Katsushika Hokusai (c. 1830) The Great Wave off Kanagawa.

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Artist Unknown.
(c. 1880).
三酸圖
The Three Vinegar Tasters.

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Questions?
Comments?

What is something that you are leaving with today?

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