

MEETINGS WITH REMARKABLE EDUCATORS

PODCAST TRANSCRIPTION OF

Pete Young

with host

Ba Luvmour

A Production of
Luvmour Consulting II, LLC
Portland, OR 97221

Copyright © Ba & Josette Luvmour, 2018

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

Copyright © Ba & Josette Luvmour, 2018 • ba@luvmourconsulting.com

Ba Luvmour:

Welcome to ***Meetings With Remarkable Educators***. This podcast is brought to you in part by you, our friends and supporters at ***patreon.com/remarkableeducators***. Each podcast is a dialogue between me, Ba Luvmour, and an educator who sees the greatness in their students and touches the whole of their being. These educators defy generalizations. So here's a little bit about what they've done and how I know them.

It is a goal of this podcast to extend understanding of holistic education beyond schools, holistic alternative home schooling or others. To that end, our podcast today centers on a remarkable organization dedicated to Rites of Passage, a great and mostly ignored holistic learning opportunity. Pete Young is a designer of The Raven Weekend, a Rite of Passage for children between nine and twelve. In existence for ten years, Pete has recently pioneered a co-ed Rite of Passage using The Raven format. It is to our knowledge the first intensive co-ed Rite of Passage.

Pete has traveled an unusual path to becoming one of the most creative leaders in the field. Of course, it starts and is continually nourished by Pete's intense desire for self-knowledge, and the awakening of consciousness. This led to two critical engagements, The Mankind Project and *Natural Learning Relationships*. Mankind put Pete in touch with coming of age Rites of Passage for young men, as well as a community dedicated to self-growth. *Natural Learning Relationships* gave Pete the understanding of how children organize their world, and the structure and dynamics of Rites of Passage.

There are those people who engage *Natural Learning Relationships* and just get it. The appreciation of a child's consciousness of how they see and organize their world clicks with their intuitive and experiential knowledge of themselves and the children in their lives. Often they become *Natural Learning Relationship* enthusiasts, and apply it to their home, life, and schools. Pete became a *Natural Learning Relationship* enthusiast. He applied it to his family and saw excellent results. He facilitated Rites of Passage for male teens with *The Mankind Project*, and saw the many ways Natural Learning Relationships accurately described how teens organized their world.

Then, he created The Raven training—A Rite of Passage for males at first and then from males and females together under the umbrella organization, *Alliance of Generations*. Pete added follow-up meetings, so that the learning of The Raven weekend could grow in all participants. If that was all Pete did, he should be celebrated near and far. But, Pete became a leader in Restorative Justice in his

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

home county, and regularly works with adjudicated youth in the Oregon Penal System.

Pete Young lives holistic insight in practice. That he brings this to diverse venues is simply an extension of his life, and life's work. You can find out more about Pete Young by visiting the show notes at **remarkableeducators.com** and by joining us at **patreon.com/remarkableeducators**, as Pete will be featured in an upcoming newsletter, one of the many rewards available for a small monthly contribution.

All right welcome Pete, thanks for joining the show.

Pete Young: Nice to be here. Thank you.

Ba Luvmour: I'm sure it is, and just to refresh everyone Pete is so affiliated with Rites of Passage and has worked deeply with The Mankind Project, and we're gonna talk about The Raven Project. But before we go into that, which I feel is very, very important, Pete I know that you're doing a lot of work with incarcerated youth in Oregon. I know that you've had a special approach to it and something that the rest of us probably never even thought about. So could you tell us a little bit about how you got into that and a little bit what it means to you? Give us what you can about it.

Pete Young: So it's through an organization called *Resolve*, used to be called *Mediation works*. They're a non-profit in Medford, Oregon, and they do a class for kids that have gone through their criminal justice system. The kids are required to go through this class. Its five hour-and-a-half sessions. In that class, they learn to take responsibility for something they've done that has got them caught up with the legal system.

Ba Luvmour: Give us some examples of that, and also the kind of ages that you're dealing with.

Pete Young: Yeah, these are teenagers, and typically vandalism, or got caught breaking their probation, or getting in fights, caught up with drugs. Typically, that leads to other things. So they've been adjudicated. They got through the system...and part of the court order is that they go through a class and learn to take responsibility for what they did. And then ideally, they meet with the victim, and often the victim doesn't want to meet with them.

And so, there are some alternatives. There could be a surrogate victim, somebody who's experienced something similar to what the true victim has [gone through], or they come to this process that I

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

offer through an organization called *Alliance of Generations*, in partnership with *Resolve*. And it's a two hour meeting with, it's always a teenage young man and three men, and ...

Ba Luvmour: Three men who are colleagues of yours?

Pete Young: Colleagues. We're all volunteers, [or] parents...

Ba Luvmour: Same three men every time?

Pete Young: No, it varies. I lead all of them but the two others vary, and we try and make it look like we're just hanging out and talking, but it's a very thought out process. Twenty minutes of just listening and deep listening, and showing great interest in what they have to say, and what they're doing is talking about probably the worst thing they've ever done in their life and got caught. We just listen respectfully and don't share any judgements.

Ba Luvmour: But I mean they must be a little reticent to get into it, because they're talking about something they probably feel, some sort of internal shame or guilt about.

Pete Young: They are. They show up and really don't want to be there. And it doesn't take long for them to sense how curious we are and how we're not gonna judge them. In fact, we say that, "We're not here to judge you. We're not like most adults that kind of talk down to you. We're just here to hang out, and we all make mistakes. The important thing is to learn from our mistakes, and you know, maybe we can figure out what you've learned from all this." And really, it doesn't take more than five minutes when they really sense how non-judgmental and respectful, and no hierarchy.

We're just all in this thing together that we call life, and I look for every opportunity to appreciate something they say, or respect their effort, or their honesty, or their courage to actually come in the room and sit down with three men they don't know. You know, just a little bit of stuff like that, and they just open up. It's a very phenomenal experience.

Ba Luvmour: Give you like a case history, or make it an amalgamation. I'm not asking you to reveal anything confidential, of course.

Pete Young: Yeah, and we always start with that confidentiality. Well, this one time real recently, we start with the confidentiality and then a check in. And the men go first, and we talk about how our day was and why we show up as a volunteer on a Wednesday night, and then this kid just started talking about his girlfriend wants to get pregnant,

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

and just right off the bat, he sensed how safe this was and he was scared. He didn't know if he was ready to be a father and he was almost in tears. This was five minutes into us meeting him.

But more often, it's a series of things, and this was the straw that broke the camel's back in terms of the criminal justice system, and so finally they get in trouble and go through a process. So there's often fighting that got serious and somebody really got hurt, and so you know that's a theme that I love to tie that into democracy, and how our military risks their life for democracy, and who are we to be judges of other people? What kind of a culture would that be if we all decide for each other what the right thing to do is? That people put their life on the line to defend democracy.

You know, I just love twisting things around and reframing violence, or reframing the possibility for them to contribute in a positive way, where if they have come from a drug affected parent/family, they're uniquely qualified to reach out to other kids who are going through the same thing, and they can speak that language and they can be of support. So, it's just any number of possibilities actually.

Ba Luvmour: So what happens in the next...after the listening? And then, do you give them feedback, or does it turn into just a mutual discussion? What happens then?

Pete Young: Well, we try to draw the wisdom from them, and then reframing something sounds ... well, actually, let me go back to the format. It's that we listen deeply for 20 minutes and don't really say much. We just deepen their story by asking questions that keep the conversation going. Then we open it up and tease out things that were already said. You know, "You said this and I'm curious about it. Could you tell me more about that?"

Another theme is, "we all make mistakes". As I said earlier, "We all make mistakes, what did you learn from this?" As an example, "I think I heard you say a minute ago, that you don't want to have a life like your parents with the addiction, and you know what you don't want, what do you want in your life? What do you see happening in the next few years?" And there's a whole process I have created where we walk out into the future once they identify what they want. What's the first step? So you get that. You graduated from high school, you got a good job, and you go out 30 years, turn around and look back. So what does this 14 year old need to hear from you as a 50 year old, to believe that he can actually get that?

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

- Ba Luvmour: Wow. So what's happening for you internally while this is happening?
- Pete Young: Yeah, for me and what makes this really work is, for the other men who are showing up, there isn't a whole lot of preparation. We show up, we're there for two hours. Total investment and travel time, maybe three hours. But it's so gratifying, because I think all men really would like to have it set up where they could have a meaningful conversation with a teen. I don't know about all, but I know many men would really love to have that opportunity. They just don't know how. And this is a set up for that.
- As it plays out, these young men feel safe and they start confiding, and we have an opportunity to notice their gifts, their talents, the brilliance of things they say, and reframe some to the things so they really take ownership of some of those gifts. And in fact, the very last thing we do for a half hour, twenty minutes, is we recap what we've heard and tell them what we've seen, that are qualities they have that our community needs. And often it's a reframe; you know right next to the *shadow* is the gift. Often, we can reframe it in a way that they see for maybe the first time, some qualities they have and things they can give back to the community.
- Ba Luvmour: And internally though, back to that, what are you learning? What are you learning during this time?
- Pete Young: Yeah.
- Ba Luvmour: Yeah.
- Pete Young: Yeah. I mean the point I was making is, it's just so gratifying men keep coming back. So but yeah, anytime an adult shows up in a way that meets the needs of a child, they're healing any of that, that they didn't get themselves as a child, of course.
- Ba Luvmour: You say of course, and I appreciate of course. We've known each other a long time and have, kicked this back and forth many, many times, and I agree of course, but not a whole lot of people really understand that. So I just repeat it, just for the fun of it.
- Pete Young: Yeah, well when you experience that...
- Ba Luvmour: When we meet a kid, any kid really, in the teens for a lot of us. And when we meet them and there's a mutually beneficial dialogue and connection, then we heal whatever was hurt in ourselves.

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

Pete Young: Yeah, over and over again, I've experienced that. And, Michael Mead talks about, *we become olders or we become elders*, and my way of saying it is, an elder is somebody who, there's this polarity between being connected to youth in a contemporary way, you know the youth of your generation, and that defines the elder. One defines the other. You can't be an elder, unless you have a connection with youth. Youth can't grow unless they have this eldership, and I've come to believe, that's one of the biggest things I get is, you know it defines me as what's emerging in me as an elder. This love and connection, and understanding of what is contemporary in youth, somehow I just find extraordinarily invigorating, and relevant to my being who I am at my age.

Ba Luvmour: So friends who are listening, just so you know, the whole feeling and quality in the room has changed into something... Perhaps you hear it in Pete's voice. I see it in his eyes as we're sitting here and I feel it myself, and I'm just really appreciative of that wisdom and how that lives in you. And it just radiates out from you.

So connection is a lot of what you do, and connecting seems to be really important part of your life. I mean you were the creative force, or a major creative force, sorry, about through *Alliance Of Generations*. So connection seems to run through your work in the world. Is that a fair comment?

Pete Young: Yeah, I mean I think, every generation has to understand what a rite of ... what's a relevant Rite of Passage. And to me, that's what's missing in our culture is connection and relationship that then serves as a foundation of Rites of Passage. So, I mean it's just absolutely fundamental to the work we do, is first create a connection and a relationship. Then have a conversation, or then have an opportunity to engage in a deep and meaningful way. It's just the foundation to everything. It's the opposite of addiction according to Gabor Maté. It's just...

Ba Luvmour: So your beginning part in all this was with the teen coming of age, Rite of Passage, is that correct?

Pete Young: Well, actually it was my own Rite of Passage through the *Mankind Project*, New Warrior Weekend. And having done that a few years, a bunch of us men recognize how it really needs to happen for a teenager, right? Why are we waiting until men reach 40, 50 years old to do a Rite of Passage? We should be reaching out to our teenagers, and so that's what we did, and started looking around, found a program that originated in San Diego, *Boys to Men*. Went up to Portland to witness it a couple times on a weekend and then

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

brought it down to Ashland. And that was about 15 years ago, and we've been putting on one or two weekends every year.

Ba Luvmour: And have you maintained connection with some of the youth that went through that? They're obviously not youth anymore.

Pete Young: I'm looking at one right now in the room.

Ba Luvmour: Just for everyone out there, just so you know, he's not looking at my dog, Janaka. He's looking at Dimitri. Dimitri is here with us today, and as you all know, Dimitri is our sound engineer, and a huge support and participant in our podcast. And Dimitri has been through some programs with Pete. So, we'll get to Dimitri in a minute, because we'd sure like his take on that. But just in general, Pete?

Pete Young: Yeah, it was just last week, I was pumping gas and there's this kid, I wasn't sure if he was gonna make it. He became an addict and really had a hard five years. He just came bouncing up to me, and he said, "Oh, get out of your car, I want to give you a hug." It's great. And he's going to college next year to become a marine biologist, and you know, he was just alive. So, it's a risky business, but this one made it.

Ba Luvmour: Yes, and when we go through Rites of Passage and everybody on the podcast knows of my commitment to them, and the many that I've participated in. And when we go through Rites of Passage, it's a spectacular and fair to say, spiritual experience in the sense that we contact deeper parts of ourselves, deeper wisdom, and in some ways, things that aren't ordinarily available to our everyday way of living.

So, Pete came to a *Natural Learning Relationships* workshop, how many years ago now, Pete? We're shaking our heads here. So we both had more hair. He still has some. And at the workshop, we were taken with one another, and we've done many things together since. But Pete took the understanding of Rites of Passage, and combined it with understanding of Natural Learning Relationships, and came up with something we call the *Raven Training*. Talk about that a little bit, Pete.

Pete Young: Yeah. I'd been four years into running the Rite of Passage for teenagers, and it just didn't make sense to wait until kids, boys, young men were in their 16s and really did not want to listen to their mom and show up on a weekend like this. And it was hard to get teenagers to come to our weekend, so I was recognizing how much more powerful it would be to start with somebody who's 10,

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

11, 12 and gain their trust and mentor them for years, and then invite them to a Rite of Passage. That way, when they do the Rite of Passage, they're being supported by a community they just felt more, in my mind, like what a Rite of Passage should be—an initiation by men that you know and trust. And so we started something that was nature based, and made a few attempts that slowly grew. And over time we added a lot of Ba's teachings on Natural Learning Rhythms back then, [Natural Learning] Relationships now.

Ba Luvmour: That's how far back we go, friends.

Pete Young: Yeah, and it's just, every year we do something by mistake that's perfect, and we keep it, and it keeps getting better and better, and now we even include Ba and Josette and we are opening this up to both men and women, and girls and boys.

Ba Luvmour: I can't say how unique and fantastic that it, and I'm fortunate to have friends in the native, in the indigenous communities in America, and they have, well they've never heard of, the ones I know, never heard of doing an intensive weekend—at least a weekend together—with boys and girls together. And that just took a tremendous amount of bravery. But that seems to be your MO, Pete, I have to say. Because you just keep organizing these things that no one else seems to do. And I'm very grateful for them myself.

It's Teaching Story time. Briefly, Teaching Story's invite us to see the world with a new perspective, often featuring a wise person, a wise fool, or a trickster animal. It can be humorous, and often have many shades of meaning, shining throughout the story. I have told Teaching Stories for the past 40 years, and I love them, and I have to tell you, each time I tell one I learn much more myself.

Today's Teaching Story is entitled, *But For The Grace*. Seeing a white shape in the garden in the half-light, the wise fool asked his wife to hand him his bow and arrows. He hit the object and went to see what it was, and came back, almost in a state of collapse. "That was a narrow shave. Just think, if I had been in that shirt of mine hanging there to dry, I would have been killed. It was shot right through the heart."

Let's have some fun interpreting this Teaching Story. Become a Patreon Supporter at [patreon.com/remarkableeducators](https://www.patreon.com/remarkableeducators), and you have access to our detailed comments on how this story applies to education and parenting. Of course, that's just our perspective.

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

The fun comes with community dialogue, as the many shades of the Teaching Story come alive. See you there.

Ba Luvmour: Let's talk about the Raven Weekend per se, and in full disclosure friends, we're doing one September, the last weekend in September, the [28th, 29th, and 30th] I think, but you can all consult your calendar. And Josette and I are gonna be there, and it's gonna be boys and girls together again. Which is super exciting, because of the way that brings in female [what I'd call] pod leaders, or facilitators, or parents to help with the weekend as well. So it really opens up the whole conversation in a different way. But as I said, Dimitri is here, so maybe Pete, you and Dimitri want to talk a little bit about the *Raven Training*. Dimitri, here you go.

Pete Young: Dimitri's the expert, because he's the only one in the room that's actually been on the weekend. I've always led them, I never got to participate.

Dimitri Young: So, personally, I'm curious. I haven't actually been, and it's been a while since I was on my first time, 18 years old now. And when I did my first one, I suppose I was 12, 13 or something. And I'm having trouble imagining what it would be like with both boys and girls. Could you tell me how that went? Was there any sort of problem that you saw at first that turned out to be a non-issue?

Pete Young: No, I mean, I thought it was incredible. But there was no difference. I mean, everything we did on your weekend with boys, we did with boys and girls. And it was just a little layered, richer, and deeper, and more complex. I remember sitting in an appreciation circle that we called *Golden Hot Seat*, and this one teenager ... no, it was a 12 year old boy, was being asked to say good things about a girl sitting in the hot seat. And he wasn't comfortable with that. It's not something he normally does, and so I said, "Well, let's imagine this is a different, like we're reinventing the world here, and we're gonna do it differently, and just, this is a human being here. Just say whatever you notice about her that's awesome."

Dimitri Young: I actually really see the value in that.

Pete Young: And it was, yeah, he just went right into it, and there was no hesitation. With that invitation, he went to this deeper place.

Dimitri Young: Right, because I mean, I guess I certainly experienced that sort of, I mean I actually have memories of talking about girls with other campers, way back in the day. And I mean, with that whole lens in

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

mind, it's kind of just the way that young boys think of girls is really this weird, off thing that is completely not a representation of actually what's going on. I guess that could really be helped by a co-ed.

Pete Young: I think you hit it on the nail. That's exactly what the intention was. Because, it's just to normalize relating between boys and girls as humans.

Dimitri Young: Yeah, that's intense. Did it work?

Pete Young: Oh, in my opinion it worked very well.

Dimitri Young: I'm glad.

Pete Young: But, to your question, I think there's something amazing that happens when men show up for boys. Because it's so rare. That part's a little different. When men, only men are showing up for boys, it's different than when mothers and fathers are together with boys and girls. There's something unique about that all male weekend that wasn't there. It's just different. I'd love to do another all male, father/sons, boys and men, because it's so unusual for men to show up for our youth, in a respectful, honorable way.

Dimitri Young: Did that spark the thought of considering an all-female weekend, or is that...I don't know?

Pete Young: Kind of leaves me out.

Ba Luvmour: I think we're experimenting now. It's hitting me, that's for sure. Because I'm always thinking, "How can we move it out? How can we allow more people to participate?"

Pete Young: Yeah. I would love to support that.

Dimitri Young: What do you think? Yeah, I mean I guess we couldn't really participate with that, quite so much but...

Pete Young: We could help.

Dimitri Young: Who would we nominate? I wonder if Josette...?

Ba Luvmour: Dimitri, I'd like to hear you talk about your actual experience in your Raven Weekend. How long ago was it, and what do you remember? And what was exciting, and what didn't work for you?

Dimitri Young: Let's see. Sheesh it was so long ago.

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

- Pete Young: Remember, we hiked in, got surprised at the very beginning with our...grand welcoming...
- Dimitri Young: Oh right. I mean I just remembered the location, and it's kind of coming back, so was at this sweet lake place, that was like...yeah [sigh]. Okay, I certainly have fond memories of it, and I remember coming back and being like, "Wow, I'm different." Just like I remember, kind of having trouble in school with figuring out who I fit in with, especially from, I'd just switched from a conventional elementary school to kind of more of a charter type school that was a lot smaller and I didn't know anybody. Kind of the weekend, when I came back afterwards, the feelings of not fitting in, and yeah, just not being part of the group that I sat in when I got the lottery to be accepted in the program, kind of were alleviated by, I guess just more self-confidence honestly.
- I guess it was too long ago for me to remember any particular moment that sparked that, but it was a C change for me, definitely. And I also met a number of people that I still am in contact with, that have been extremely valuable. Particularly, shout out to freaking Alex Harris, Rah Rah, that guy totally inspired me to pursue music and sound, and I just wouldn't be here doing this podcast, doing any of my other music stuff if it weren't for him. And there are a couple other people, it's just such a supportive atmosphere and it can be life changing for everybody involved... absolutely.
- Pete Young: Yeah, that's a really important part of the weekend, just creating a culture of respect and mutual support, unconditional regard. We overtly appreciate each other by speaking what we've noticed in each other. Tell it.
- Dimitri Young: Right, and that was something so alien to me at the time, what you're gonna actually ... like when we go around in the circle and have the exercise called the [Golden] Hot Seat, where we are literally overtly saying nice things about the person. It's like some of these people have never had an experience like that where it is that somebody just said to their face, "I like this about you," in a way that is sincere. I feel like that's a unique thing practically, to that program alone.
- Pete Young: And that energetic follows the weekend from the moment you arrive. There's a huge celebration, and the last thing we do is, each participant, you remember the last thing where somebody wrote a story or created a skit or a poem, or something. You wanna talk about that?

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

Dimitri Young: Right, right. That's the thing where, yeah so you're assigned a group when you get there, and basically you do a bunch of activities with the people in that group, and you have one or two adult mentors per group? What is that?

Pete Young: One per person, and there's three or four in a pod team.

Dimitri Young: Oh yeah, at the end, the entire pod team, with the adults and the kids, will put on either a little skit, or sing a song, or do something that's just basically enumerating the wonderful things about that particular individual.

Pete Young: Each kid gets to experience that one at a time.

Dimitri Young: Yeah.

Pete Young: Sometimes they're hilarious, sometimes they're funny, and sometimes they're just tearjerkers.

Ba Luvmour: So Dimitri, you were say the person's name was Rah Rah, who?

Dimitri Young: Yeah.

Ba Luvmour: Right, so I just want to give a shout out to Rah Rah, too, because without you Rah Rah, this podcast is not happening, so even though I don't know you, I'm feeling you brother. Okay, so one of the things I think's missing in this conversation, as being very intimate with it, is that there's these very meaningful and significant processes that we go through during the weekend, and I just want to briefly mention, too. One is that, elders who represent every decade of life stand up and speak about what life looks like from that decade. What does a 40 year old look like, what does a 50, 60, 70, and one of the first one I attended, there was an 80 year old fellow there. And that has a wonderful effect on everyone, because we've either been there or going there. So, it awakens that in each of us.

And the one that's really very, very important to me, and I don't think people really know a lot about this is, that people at this age, 9 to 12, are really concerned with the nature of mortality and death. And there's a part of this, Pete, where animals who have died in the vicinity, and it's usually done in a country environment. The dead animal is brought into a circle and who's in that circle, Pete?

Pete Young: I select just a handful of people that are gonna be able to match the energy of the process, which it's really complicated because kids get kind of jittery when they see this dead animal. I mean it has to be somebody that knows how to be at ease with children and help

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

guide them. So there are maybe three adults, and then all the participants, and then maybe one or two youth staff, kids that have gone through it before and then come back. It's an intimate group. It's in a kind of a like a little depression or surrounded by trees, private, like a little cocoon.

Ba Luvmour: Almost like a natural cathedral is what it feels like when I'm in it, and then the questions then go, "Well, here we are, we're looking at death," and I tell you, I've had experiences in Raven and also in my life, and the conversations that happen would rival any philosophical conversations about the nature of life and death. They're so moving, and these kids are open about it, and to bring death into life, it's just so important. So, is that a particularly strong part of it for you too, Pete?

Pete Young: Yeah, and it's on a Sunday morning, when everybody feels connected, and they recognize how supported and safe the weekend is, and the series of questions slowly deepens, and it ends with, "So given everything we've said, what have you come to believe about life and death, and the connection between those two?" And that's where these profound things are said.

Ba Luvmour: So moving, I just can't encourage any and all of you, the Pete's information will be on the show notes, on the website and I'm sure, just contact him or somehow, you can contact me as well. And I would love to see just more and more people understand what this is about, and use it because it has everything healthy about it. It's really transformative.

So, how're we doing, Pete? Are you enjoying yourself?

Pete Young: So far so good. Are we being edited out here now?

Ba Luvmour: No, not necessarily. Do you want it to be edited out?

Dimitri Young: We'll see.

Ba Luvmour: We'll see, who knows? I'm sure our listeners are used to me being slightly this way.

Pete Young: I know I am.

Ba Luvmour: We're having a good time. So what else should we talk about, Pete? Do you have anything else that I didn't ask about? What else would you like to bring forward here? Oh, I know, I would like to ask you some personal questions. So, what made you decide to move into

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

this really non-ordinary, unusual way of being with children in these different ways?

Pete Young: I mean, the simple answer would be that I was influenced by other men who had gone through this adult Rite of Passage, and we all decided to do it, but clearly there's a lot more to that, because I've jumped in 150% for 15 years, and so I mean, it goes back to your question. Just for my own healing, I mean there are things that happened to me growing up, that just get, like layers of the onion, they get revealed to me. And then I get to heal by offering what I didn't get to youth, and by increasing my self-knowledge, and reflecting on these things. And it's just a really powerful way of doing personal growth. For me.

Ba Luvmour: So, would you say that, it's true for so many of us, that the wounding and confusions from your youth, what allowed you ... so many people have those woundings and confusions, what allowed you to take it and try to transform it, and use it and relate to it in a different way.

Pete Young: The New Warrior Weekend, Mankind Project ...

Ba Luvmour: No, but what brought you to that?

Pete Young: What brought me there was a divorce. It felt like my life was imploding. Everything was a picture of a skyscraper intentionally imploding on itself, and this good friend of mine said, "You know what? You need to do this weekend that I did." And a month later, I did it and there's been no turning back. Really highly recommend the weekend, *The New Warrior Weekend with Mankind Project* for any adult men that are ready to look at life a little differently. It's completely up to each person that goes through. It's not a religious experience, and all religions are accepted and encouraged, so it's a process that can be individualized easily.

Ba Luvmour: And are there opportunities to do that around the country?

Pete Young: Around the world, yeah. It's moved into Europe and all over the place, Africa, Japan, Canada...

Ba Luvmour: Great, great. Super.

Pete Young: So that sparked this curiosity and taste for self-awareness that was ... it feels like it was always present, but it just really accelerated it, and brought it in the forefront.

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

- Ba Luvmour: So, behind this and behind all the wounding, and even the actuality of the divorce, there's something in Pete that yearns for, or is drawn to self-awareness. Is that a fair thing to say?
- Pete Young: I would like to extrapolate that to all human beings, to some extent. I don't know that I can do that, but it certainly has always been there for me. I grew up, my father was a professor and used to sit around the Sunday table, and he's bring in guests, and I would listen. "Boy, this guy's crazy, what are they talking about? This is nuts," or you know it was brilliant.
- Ba Luvmour: I thought he was a missionary?
- Pete Young: He was, he was a missionary in Japan, and he was a professor at a seminary over there, teaching people. And he wrote books, and historian, and became a professor in his later life in Tennessee.
- Ba Luvmour: So that piqued your interest?
- Pete Young: Yeah, it had me, I just can't remember a time when I wasn't a skeptic, and listening carefully to what philosophy and things that had deeper meanings. Growing up with these Japanese people who were very kind to you...when you're young in Japan, you're treated very kindly. Once you get into school, it gets pretty intense, but my experience with the Japanese as a young person was, they were wonderful people, and here's my family trying to save them, and set up this cognitive dissonance and, even as a 10 year old, it's like, "What is real here?" That's kind of evolved into what I do now.
- Ba Luvmour: That may be the best question of them all. Really. All right. Well, thank you, Pete. Thank you so much. I know that you made an effort to come up here, down from Ashland, up to Portland, and just really, really appreciate your time. Is there any last thing you want to say?
- Pete Young: Thanks for what you do, and you and Josette, and contributing to the dignity of a child's experience in the world. And yeah, it's been an inspiration and added greatly to my experience, so thanks.
- Ba Luvmour: ***Meetings With Remarkable Educators*** is brought to you in part by our friends and supporters on Patreon. If you enjoy our podcast and want access to enriching gifts for parents and educators, please visit patreon.com/remarkableeducators, and consider becoming a patron. Your support means the world to us, and will allow us to continue this essential project.

Meetings with Remarkable Educators

Our sound engineer is Dimitri Young, our webmaster is Nathan Young, and our all-important social media maven is Cleo Young. All podcasts are transcribed with show notes, and can be found at **remarkable-educators.com**.

This is Ba Luvmour reminding you that holistic relationships with children leads to joy and self-knowledge with the adults in their lives, with respect for you and for children everywhere. See you next time.