

Why mythopoetic men's work?

A core premise in men's work is that there is a lack of soulful connections with other men, and empathy with other men on matters uniquely male, e.g. gender identity, fatherhood, shared fears, challenges & feelings of hollowness, emptiness & longing. The Mythopoetic approach offers a unique inroad into the male psyche in the way it bypasses the familiar linear, left brain activities. Its effect is much deeper than normal male shared time such as intellectual discussion, sitting around a card table talking, hunting and fishing, or simply spending time in front of a TV.

It enlists imagery & symbolism to tap into aspects of the psyche not commonly stirred in our usual ways of being with one another. It accomplishes this through the use of myth, rich imagery, art & creativity, addressed in the language of poetry, not prose. Over time, as men develop new tools & avenues for relating, feelings of isolation & alienation vanish & a powerful sense of connectedness results.

To sustain this new sense of deep affinity, men usually must nurture that new reality. They can do so through restorative occasions of connection with other men during which they intentionally travel to that deeper place in their psyches together. When men are able to maintain this sense, their experience entering into activities with one another or with a significant other is richer and more satisfying. Even mundane activity is richer. And when alone, one feels solitude, not isolation, and a deep peace knowing that connections made still thrive as "invisible means of support".

Bill Rose