

Dear Yohan,

Thank you for reaching out to the Board of the Biodynamic Association with your concerns and thoughts. We apologize that it has taken us so long to acknowledge your letter and reply and appreciate the ability to further the dialogue. The title of your letter, Returning to our Roots, implies we share a common source and looking to the plant for a picture- an essential aspect of humanity that is connected to the soil/Earth which conveys nourishment to us all. In reading your letter, one could ask, what does returning to our roots mean and look like for all of humanity? It is clear that you aim to foster connection rather than division. We agree wholeheartedly that a path of fellowship and community is the only way towards our roots, the unifying spirit living deeply in the Earth.

The BDA's core beliefs and its diversity, equity and inclusion statement acknowledges that much needs to be attended to on the land we call the United States, in order that soul/soil remediation, or true healing and wholeness for all can occur. Mainstream agricultural economics and systems that carry much power in our society were created by a narrative that divided people as less than and thus displaced many spiritual ways of working with the land. This narrative permeated colonialism and contributed to the exploitation of land and peoples. Historically, race as a social construct was used to try and validate injurious behavior and beliefs towards people of color for certain gains. This divisiveness has permeated our inner and outer environments with present-day implications injuring ALL of us.

The first page of the BDA's website states the overall mission: The BDA awakens and enlivens co-creative relationships between [all] humans, and the earth, transforming the practice and culture of agriculture to renew the vitality of the earth, the integrity of our food and the health and wholeness of [all] our communities." The BDA seeks to acknowledge the realities of all people in our society and in doing so seeks a togetherness towards partnering in uplifting the future of our Earth and Humanity as they are intertwined. The BDA doesn't aim to put down white people or to demonize Rudolf Steiner for being a white, European man, and therefore Biodynamics. We believe in changing a narrative that divides. By acknowledging true history and learning from it, we aim to foster unity in understanding, as much of what creates division is unconscious - within us and outside us. If we do not overtly acknowledge the implications of our history, we do not recognize the present day realities of many people who continue to suffer the consequences of forces that divide; inequity in land ownership and resource access, privatization of stolen seeds, mass incarceration of people of color, etc... This lack of recognition discounts many realities and the responsibilities we all have towards change which is necessary to truly perceive and allow the "human being" in everyone to manifest.

We are in support of Liberty, Equity, and Cooperation and the realization of the Threefold Social Order by calling out wrong philosophy, not people. Spiritual Science has much to offer us in understanding what is truly human and in developing accurate perceiving capacities and an artistic approach towards our social life, which includes the life of agriculture. May we all wake up to and collaboratively work with those beings who will help unify our heart-felt seeking of one true human family.

In continuing dialogue and on behalf of the Board of the Biodynamic Association,



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