

## CHAPTER TEN BHUTAN

It is shortly after dawn. Scarlet and lavender rhododendrons join white magnolias at twilight, a single cornflower in the distance. Members of The Council sit on their mushroom swivel seats. The seats' mirrored backs ensure each member, when speaking to another, will face their own reflection.

### **MECONOPSIS BETANICIFOLIA**

"I am BLUEPOPPY.

Before we begin, we have seven guests who have asked to speak.

### **MARMOT**

"I am PURITY OF PURPOSE.

Excessive preoccupation with ourselves does not lead to real knowledge of ourselves. Happiness depends, instead, on gaining freedom from this particular kind of self concern. In our opinion, minimizing of self concern is also an important step in the process of constructing a happier web of human relationships, and of transforming man into a less intrusive and destructive force in our natural and human environments"

### **PEACOCK**

"I am LUDDITE.

Know when to act and when not to act."

### **RHINOCEROS**

"I am HAHN.

Conflict, like anger, can serve a purpose. Leadership can be a lonely place."

### **FLAMINGO**

"I am BEGINNER'S MIND.

Humans are capable of wonderful things."

### **SCORPION.**

"I am WILBERFORCE.

Though there often has to be an incentive, hope can never be destroyed."

**WARTHOG**

“I am MOMENT OF CLARITY.

Success or failure depend solely on one’s attitude.”

**TIGER MOTH**

“I am BERNERS-LEE.

Vulnerability in the face of intimidation, maintaining honor in the midst of struggle, tempering idealism with reality.”

The marmot, peacock, rhinoceros, flamingo , scorpion, warthog and tiger moth leave the clearing.

**BLACK NECKED CRANE**

“I am PEMA.

The young ones are learning to look at patterns.”

**WHITE BELLIED HERON**

“I am DORJI.

They are adolescents. Though they are inexperienced, their brains tell them there is nothing they can’t do.”

**CORNFLOWER**

“I am CURTSY.

It’s not always wise to believe what you think.”

**GAZELLE**

“I am KUBLER-ROSS.

They’re talking openly with each other about their prejudices, how they’re not comfortable with some of their beliefs. They’re asking themselves why they believe what they do.”

**PORCUPINE**

“I am KAZANTZAKIS.

Only when they value who they are, will they automatically value others.”

**ANT**

“I am HARRIET.

They now understand that different cultures have different traditions, beliefs and faiths, often contradicting one another. Tolerance.”

**RABBIT**

“I am BETTELHEIM.

To enlist the help of the young ones, we sent them each a dream. Seeing a white crow, they were more curious than afraid. Sending dreams to attorneys and judges might have the opposite outcome.”

**CARP**

“I am WHEREIBELONG.

Though the young ones want to please others, they know being true to themselves is more important.”

**WHITE CROW**

“I am McCAY.

When you’re afraid it’s hard to make good decisions.”

**TAKIN**

“I am HILDEGARD.

Everyone has the freedom to think.”

**BLUEPOPPY (MECONOPSIS BETANICIFOLIA)**

“All will be well. Even in the face of opposition, each of them will stand up for their beliefs.”