



EP28 Woo²

The Meaning of Prosperity

with Colette Baron-Reid

Colette:

Welcome to INSIDE THE WOONIVERSE. Woo². That's a little bit of woo, x2. In these shorter episodes, you're going to hear more of me like an audio journal on Wooniversal topics, like abundance resilience, working with the moon, manifestation, meditation, and much, much more.

Connie:

Colette, do you remember that you did a holographic prosperity, like a 40 day plan? Do you remember that?

Colette:

Sure, yeah. A long time ago, but it's one of my favorite courses.

Connie:

Yeah. And I remember I went through it and I thought this would be such a really wonderful topic to discuss in a Woo². What do you think?

Colette:

Yes. Yes. You know what? I'm glad you brought that up because I was just thinking of that course the other day. Because I remember when I wrote it, I wanted it to be very specifically not about money. Because people have a tendency to think of the word prosperity equals financial or environmental things. They think of things, they think of materialism. And I wanted to invite the person taking the course to expand their view on what prosperity is to include their feelings, how much love they have in their life, how many friends they have. To really look at self-actualization as kind of a driver, a driving force on the concept of prosperity.

Because listen, if we only looked at prosperity in terms of what we have, it's always a moving target. It's always like, okay, how are we going to talk about this? When, if we look at what's



going on in the world, make any sense. So I think I'd like to approach the idea of prosperity as a way in which we are extraordinarily grateful for the life that we have, not necessarily the things we have. Although things are good. There's certainly a level where people can be comfortable. And then beyond that, it's all extra. But what is prosperity? Prosperity is energetic, that's why we called it holographic prosperity. It's an energetic experience of abundance. It is the experience of abundance. And abundance in the form of energy, of love of creativity, of achievement, if you will. For some people, it's the achievement, but what is achievement?

A friend of mine was just talking with me yesterday. She came to my house and was talking about the achievement that she had, because she had had a brain tumor operation and that she could move the side of her face. For her, that was a huge achievement. So she had a brain tumor that paralyzed the side of her face and she was saying, "Yeah, I can smile like this now." That's a huge achievement. Right?

Connie:
Huge, yeah.

Colette:
So each individual that listens to this, I'm going to invite you to think about what is the definition that you have for prosperity. What is a prosperous life for you? I think prosperity also includes generosity. What do we give to others? There's definitely giving and receiving here. It's that law of reciprocity. I think abundance is a lot of that. Compensation, which is what you put out, you receive back. But it's also not with the expectation of receiving anything. So the act of generosity is also a very prosperous feeling. You feel like, "Oh, I could help this person, even if it's tiny."

So I want to bring us back to the idea of what I thought prosperity was. So I was raised in a family where my parents believed that money would make you safe. Money and status. So the kind of status in society, I'm a first generation Canadian my mom was Polish German, living in Germany, but Polish heritage and my father was Serbian. So I'm literally 95% Slavic, of any kind of Slav, right? Came to Canada, anglicized our last name stuck us in a private school, very waspy. I think we were the first brunettes in the school, I don't know. I make jokes about that now, but it was pretty painful. But they believed that if they could give us the best education,



work really hard and that money would make us safe. And that was what prosperity was, that you had status and money.

So what I learned in recovery, so I have to always bring recovery into my story because I bottomed out at 27 in 1986 and then I began my recovery journey. I realized that money, property and prestige would divert me from any kind of clinging on to using those things as my markers of success would actually be very harmful for me.

Now, my parents lost everything a few years before I got clean and sober. So they lost literally everything that they believed was important, and safe, exactly. And listen, they came from World War II. My mom was a Holocaust survivor, that came out too. So there's a lot of information that came out after the fact that was extremely scary. So when I moved on in my recovery journey and I started doing readings full time, because I went from a series of day jobs, if you will, I was still trying to pursue my career in music. But when I had my "real job", which became my real job, which was doing readings, there was a period where I didn't know even how I was going to feed myself. I had left a relationship that I was in, a bad relationship, I got my own place. And I was like, "Okay, now what? Crap." And this is when my parents died. So it was early in my recovery. They died back to back in, I think I was 32 or whatever.

So here I am, a few years sober. And yet again, coming into another financial dive, it's like, okay. So I went to Unity Church and they were doing treasure maps. They were showing people how to do treasure maps. And I bought all these books. I was obsessed because all my other sober friends, we started going to unity church and buying these books by Catherine Ponder and Florence Scovel Shinn. And the idea that everything in the Bible could be translated into something to do with prosperity and abundance. But we wouldn't be seeing it through the lens of materialism.

So it was a really beautiful way for me to understand something when I had nothing and I felt the most prosperous I had ever felt in my life. Because A, one of the things that you learn in the sobriety is that you can't keep what you aren't willing to give away. So you really talk very openly about yourself in these meetings. And then you realize, wow, you actually save somebody's life by telling them about all the shit you did. You know what I mean? And that you're trying to also overcome. So there was the first time I ever felt really successful ever in my life was in there.



And then when it came to material things, and I was lacking greatly in that area, they taught me how at Unity Church to basically surrender my material needs to my higher power and to basically tithe and give away whatever I had basically at the end of the day, like 10% of whatever I had. And I started doing that. And I will tell you, I remember not knowing how I was going to get fed. I was like, "Ooh, I got to feed my dog." And then I'm like, "Oh crap, there's no food in the fridge. And I just paid my rent. I don't have any money." And the neighbor who pissed me off that weekend because they were making so much noise down the hall, actually knocked on my door with a big giant plate to lasagna and said to me, "Listen, we have all this food left over from the party. Would you like some?" And I'm like, "Yes please."

But it was too much. I had too much food now. I went from no food to so much food. What was I going to do? So then the phone rang and a guy that I had met through recovery called me up and said, "Listen, I'm tithing." He also went to church with me. And he was like, "You really made an impact, your stories have made such an impact on my recovery. Do you need your apartment painted? I have all this extra paint." He's a painter. I'm like, "Hell yeah, I need my apartment painted." So he came over and I go, "Do you need to eat? Because I can't pay you. And I have all this extra lasagna." And then I was like, "Oh wow, this is crazy."

And then stuff like that happened to me just when I didn't have anything. The phone would ring, and then I got clients. I would have nobody booked to do readings. Because at the time, remember no internet. Remember this, no way for people to know, I couldn't advertise myself, there was no place to advertise. You had to rely strictly on word of mouth when people would find you. So I had to hope and I was on my knees literally every day, if I'm the real thing, let the people come. If I'm not take it away. If I'm the real thing, just let the people come. And then there'd be a few days when nobody would come and I'm like, "I must be it, no, I must be not doing it." And then the next thing you know, the phone would ring, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. And I would be booked enough to pay all my bills with just enough, just enough extra for bus fare for food, for all these things. And then it'd be like, the cycle would happen again.

Eventually, that's not how I lived, but I lived with just enough for years. Yeah. So I'm just saying is that my concept of prosperity became wrapped around the idea of trust in spirits. That spirit had a plan and that if I did the work of cleaning up, doing my inventory, doing the things that I needed to do to stay on track with my spiritual progress and my emotional sobriety and cleaned up my



act and one day at a time, to the best of my ability, because I've made more messes and cleaned them up. Then I would be taken care of. And it's exactly what happened.

Connie:

And so what's the point where the container that you held, where you were getting, like you said, just enough to have your material needs met, meeting needs of food and shelter, et cetera. Can you describe the process of increasing that container?

Colette:

Absolutely. Then I'd started working on increasing, because I was tired of it just being when I needed it only.

Connie:

Okay. So you got to a breaking... or not a breaking point...

Colette:

It wasn't a breaking point. I'm going to tell you something, I didn't believe I deserved more at that time. I really didn't. I didn't feel that I had the capacity to allow myself to receive more. So I had to start working on the concept of receiving. And I struggled with that because I had a lot of shame and I was still working through a lot of the lack of mentality that I had experienced and fear, and now I'm not safe and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And I'm like, I'm a big blot in the... and to start really trusting that there could be more.

And I see a lot of, not so much now, I don't run into them as much now, but I do know that the struggle for asking for more or wanting more for some people and for me, I struggle with it, "Oh, but I'm doing spiritual work. I should not be asking for any more than just enough." So I had to really grapple with that. Is this okay? Because I was really anti materialism at that time too, going, "Look." And then I was like, "Yeah, but I don't like this." So then I got to a place where it was like I'd like a month in advance. And I swear to God, I decided I affirmed that I would be booked six weeks in advance. And within two days I was booked six weeks in advance. But that's all I could handle. Anything beyond that was [inaudible 00:11:12] forget it. Right?



So bit by bit. I was the gate keeper. By the time I got to creating the holographic prosperity class, I had had life experience where I could see very clearly where I was unable to receive and what it took for me to trust that by me creating more, then I could give more. So that also helped me a lot. And also I was healthier. I could have better food, I could give my dog better food, I could live in a nicer place, I could be more self-sufficient. So there was all of this. I literally had to learn how to live from scratch when I got clean and sober.

So I always say, I'm basically really only 36 even though I'm [inaudible 00:11:57] Well I'm 64. So anyhow, the prosperity concept is something that evolved for me. And it still evolving for me to be quite frank. It still is evolving for me. The questions being now I have quite a big company and the first things that Marc and I think about is, like when we had the pandemic and all that is like, how are we going to take care of our people? That was the first thing we thought of. We didn't think about ourselves. It was like, okay, how do we make sure? Because we didn't know what was going to happen next.

So I'm at a place now where a lot of people depend on me. Their families depend on me, etc. And so there's more coming in because there's more going out. And so it's now this very major flow state and the holographic prosperity class that I had created there gave all kinds of different tips and tricks so that you were constantly surrounded by, in your environment even, with things that didn't try to tell you stories about yourself. Or you don't open your closet to look at shaming clothes. I had a lot of clothes that were like, "Look at you. Don't touch me. You can't get into me." Right? You know what I mean? Things like that.

And anyways, so my idea of prosperity may be different from other people's. And I think that's also really important to note, your experience of prosperity's going to come in stages for some people. And it has to be right for you. Because I was the richest person on the planet when I didn't have a lot. I really was. I was the happiest. I'm very happy now, I'll say I'm the happiest I've ever been in my life right now. But when I look back on those years, I call it those lean years, when it was me and God, my sobriety, my little dog and my music and my readings and how they just evolved. And I literally followed the crops. That spirit place in front of me, I trusted. And the more I trusted, the more it came.