


# Communal Reverie

A Primer for  
Deep Alignment Sessions



Sam Hinds



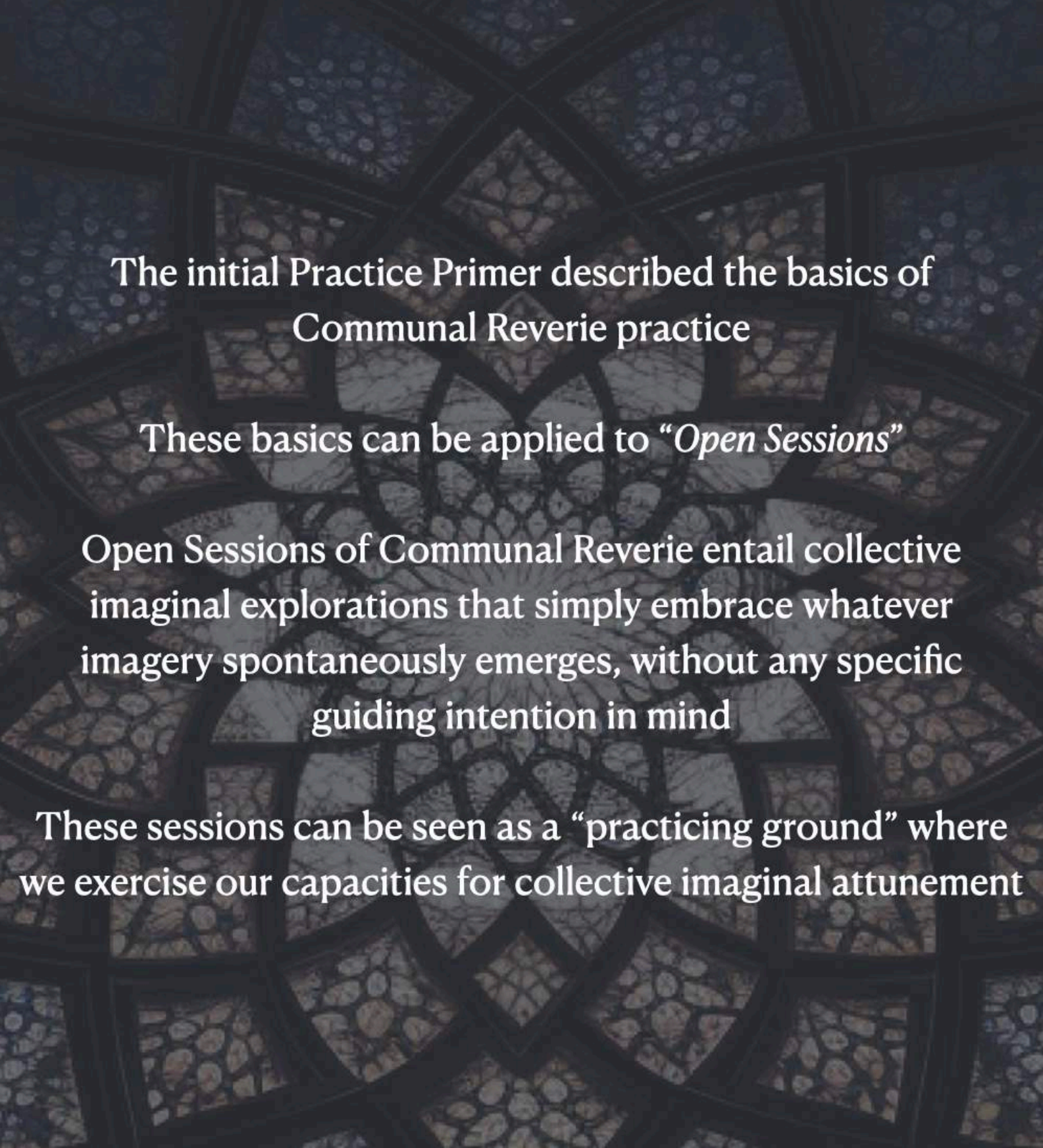
Deep Alignment:  
Placing oneself in service  
to callings that arise from the  
depths of Soul in service to Life

# **New Experiments in Communal Reverie**

This primer builds upon the material presented in  
“A Practice Primer for Aspiring Revericians”

If you have not done so already, I recommend you  
read the preliminary primer before continuing...

It can be accessed at [samhinds.com/communal-reverie](http://samhinds.com/communal-reverie)

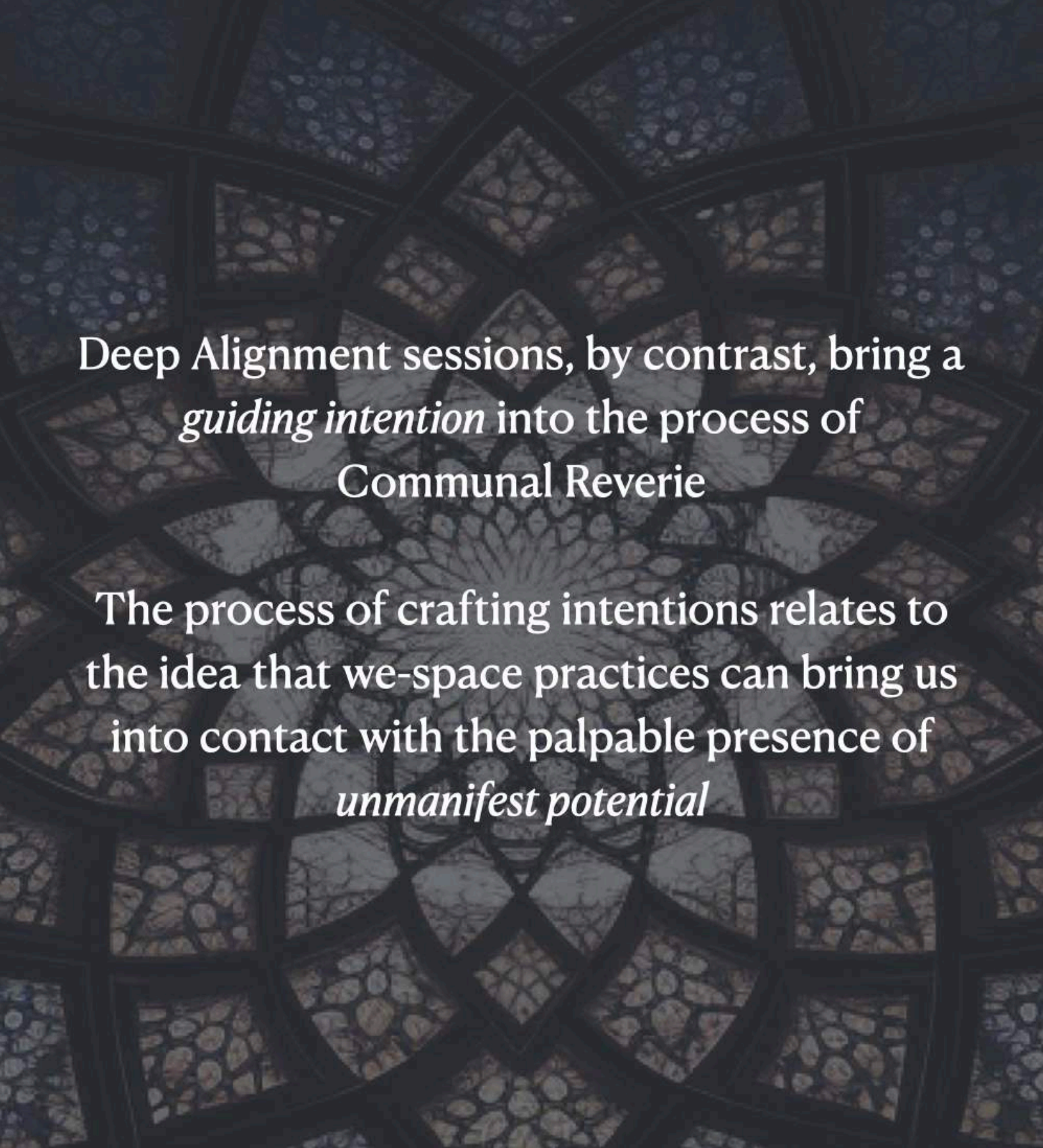


The initial Practice Primer described the basics of  
Communal Reverie practice

These basics can be applied to “*Open Sessions*”

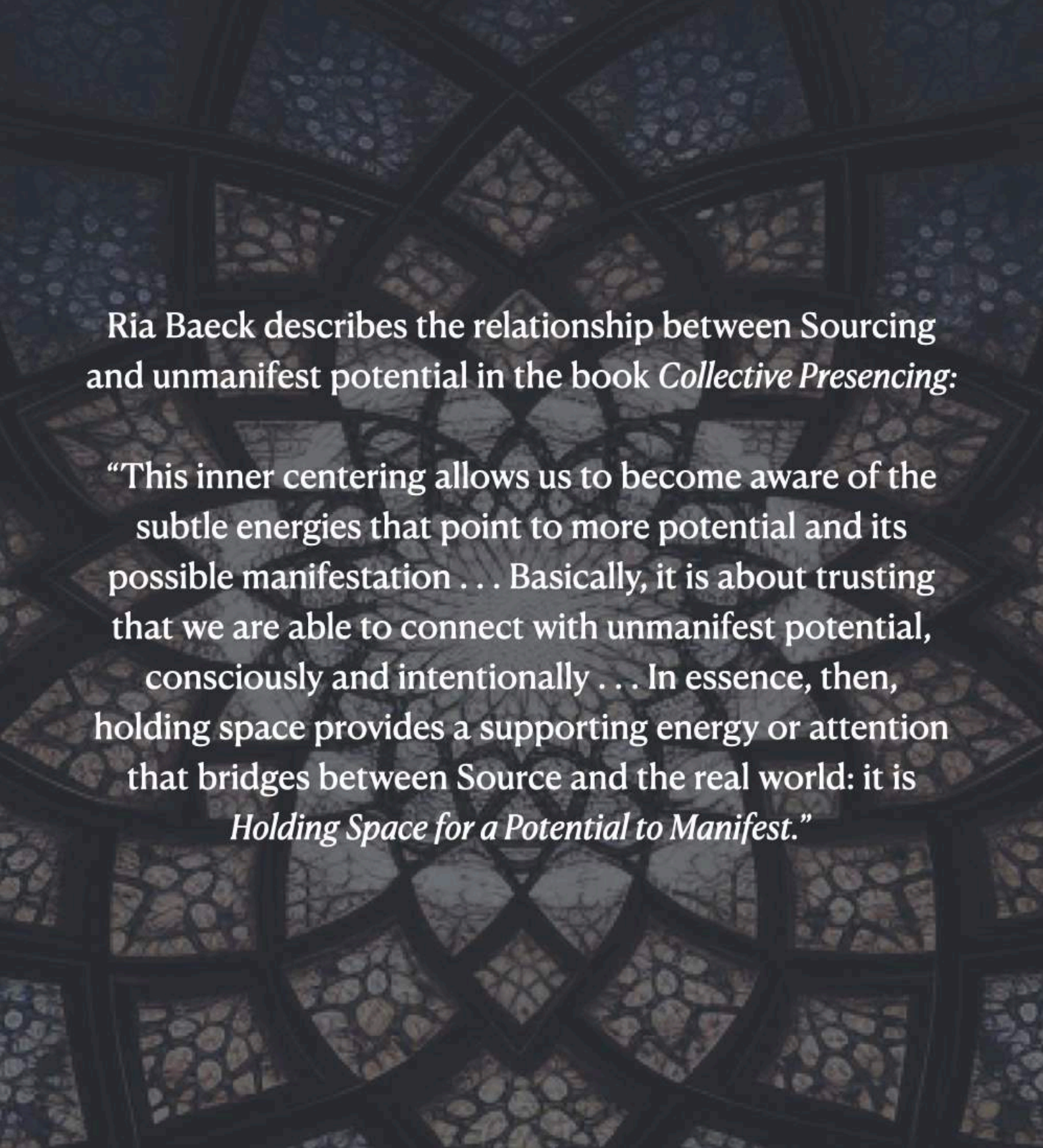
Open Sessions of Communal Reverie entail collective  
imaginal explorations that simply embrace whatever  
imagery spontaneously emerges, without any specific  
guiding intention in mind

These sessions can be seen as a “practicing ground” where  
we exercise our capacities for collective imaginal attunement



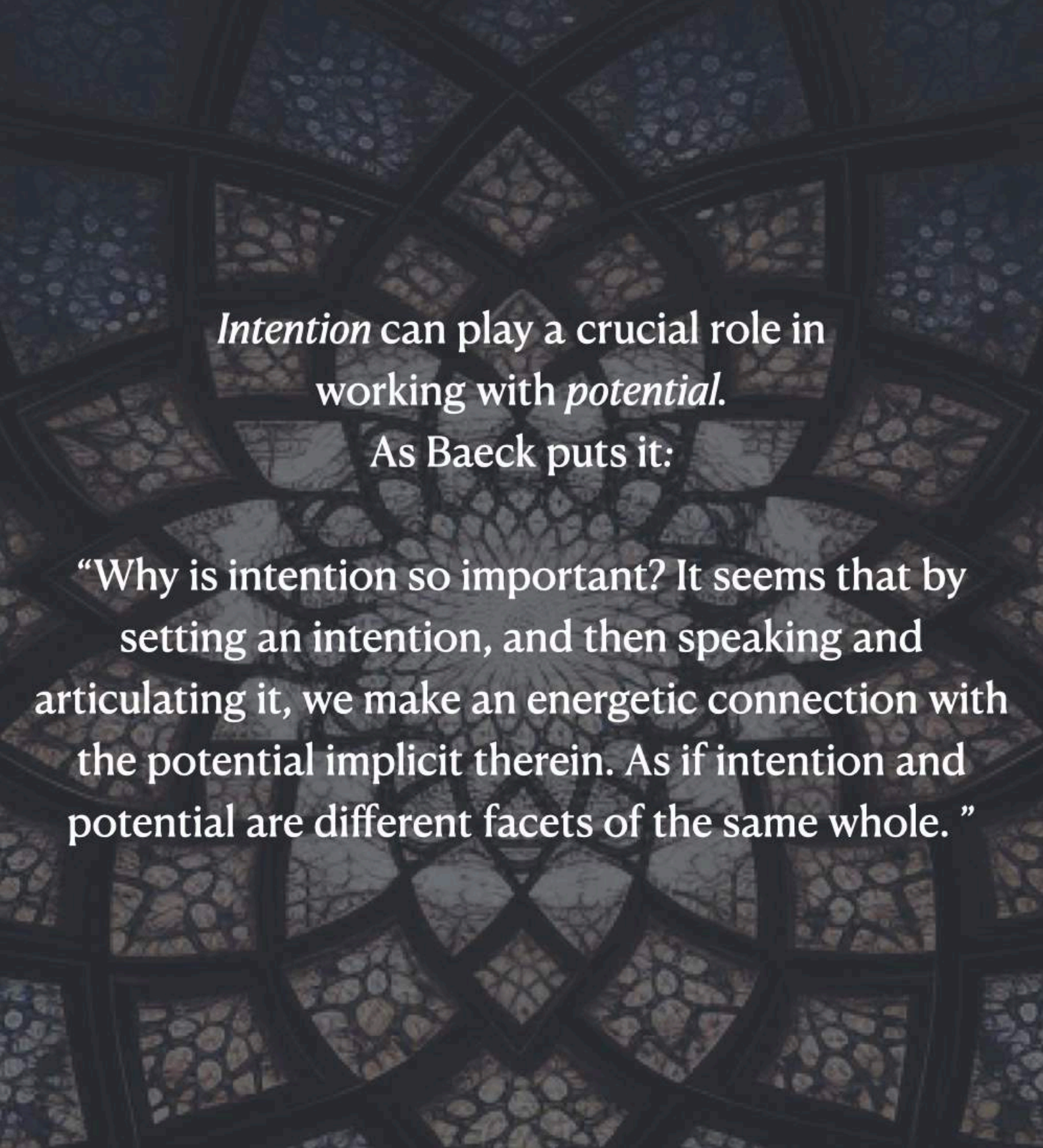
Deep Alignment sessions, by contrast, bring a  
*guiding intention* into the process of  
Communal Reverie

The process of crafting intentions relates to  
the idea that we-space practices can bring us  
into contact with the palpable presence of  
*unmanifest potential*



Ria Baeck describes the relationship between Sourcing and unmanifest potential in the book *Collective Presencing*:

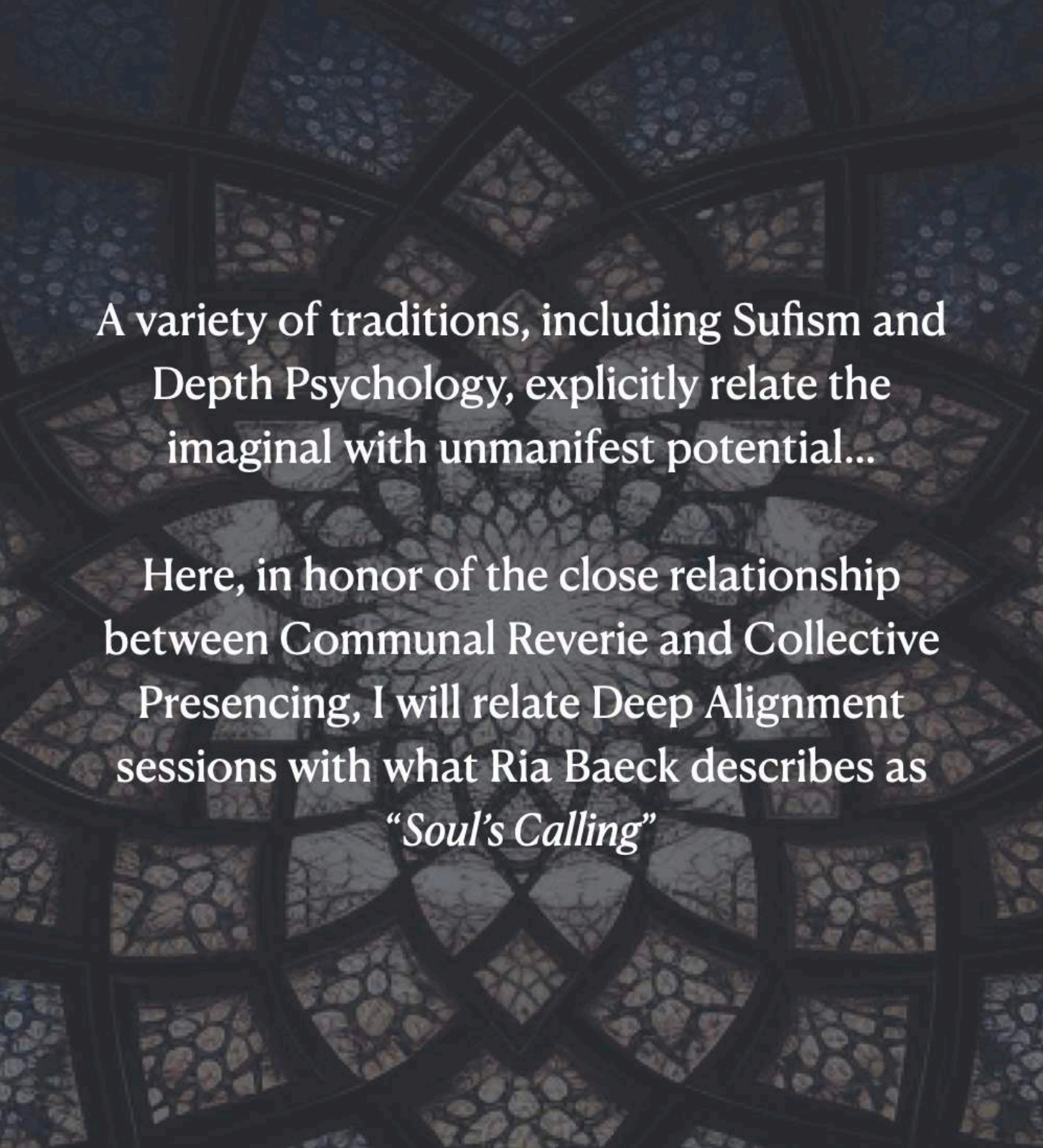
“This inner centering allows us to become aware of the subtle energies that point to more potential and its possible manifestation . . . Basically, it is about trusting that we are able to connect with unmanifest potential, consciously and intentionally . . . In essence, then, holding space provides a supporting energy or attention that bridges between Source and the real world: it is *Holding Space for a Potential to Manifest.*”



*Intention* can play a crucial role in  
working with *potential*.

As Baeck puts it:

“Why is intention so important? It seems that by setting an intention, and then speaking and articulating it, we make an energetic connection with the potential implicit therein. As if intention and potential are different facets of the same whole.”



A variety of traditions, including Sufism and  
Depth Psychology, explicitly relate the  
imaginal with unmanifest potential...

Here, in honor of the close relationship  
between Communal Reverie and Collective  
Presencing, I will relate Deep Alignment  
sessions with what Ria Baeck describes as  
*“Soul’s Calling”*





How does one discern their Soul's Calling?

Baeck suggests the following questions as a starting point:


“What is genuinely you?”

“What makes you feel really alive?”

“What is deeply exciting and satisfying to you?”

“What is it that you cannot *not* do?”

“What's the possibility you came here to create?”

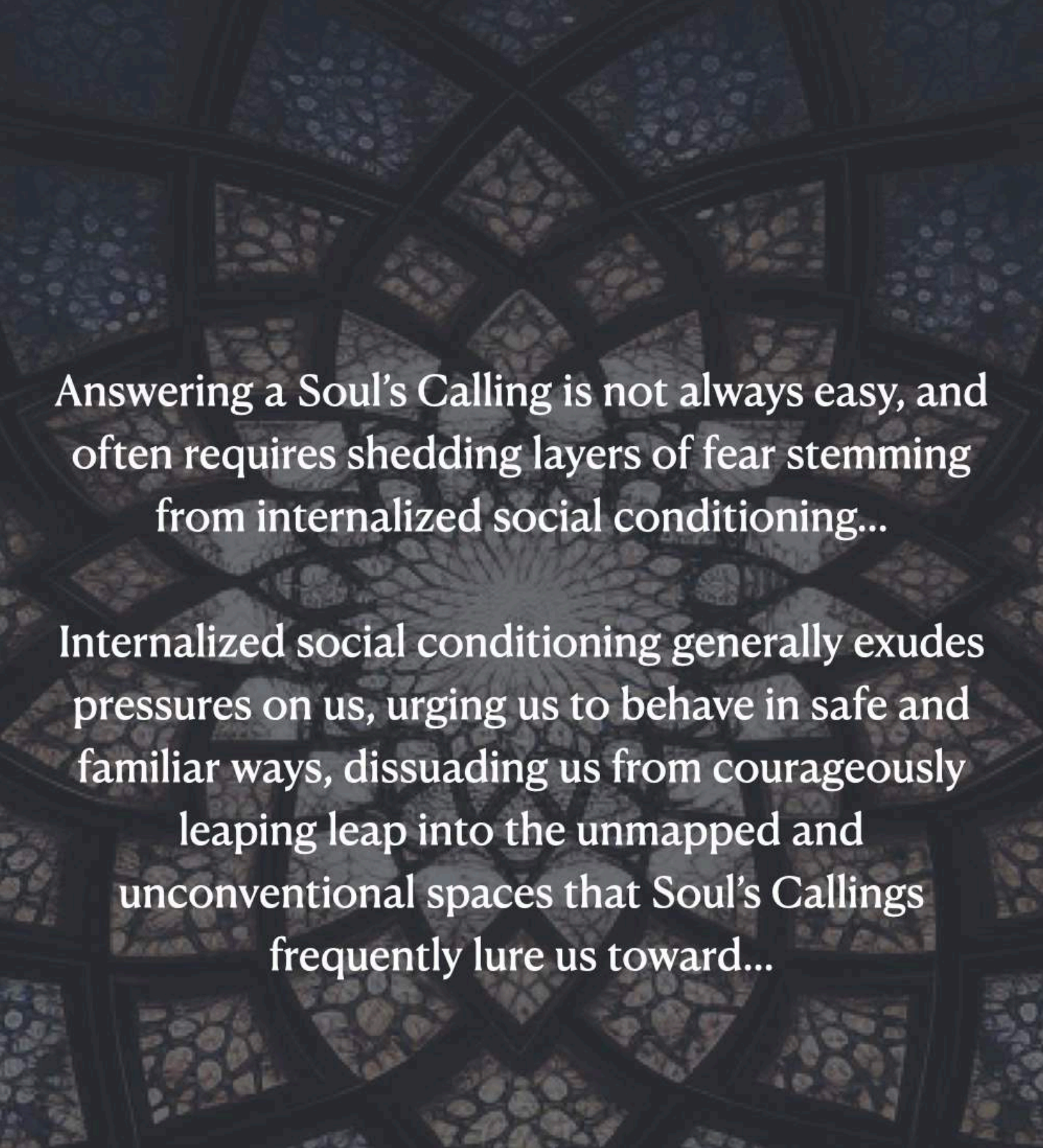


Deep Alignment Sessions begin with an *invitation*:

Consider that what is *most authentic* to you, what truly *brings you to life*, what fills you with *intrinsic motivation*, even in the face of challenge or work that requires perseverance...

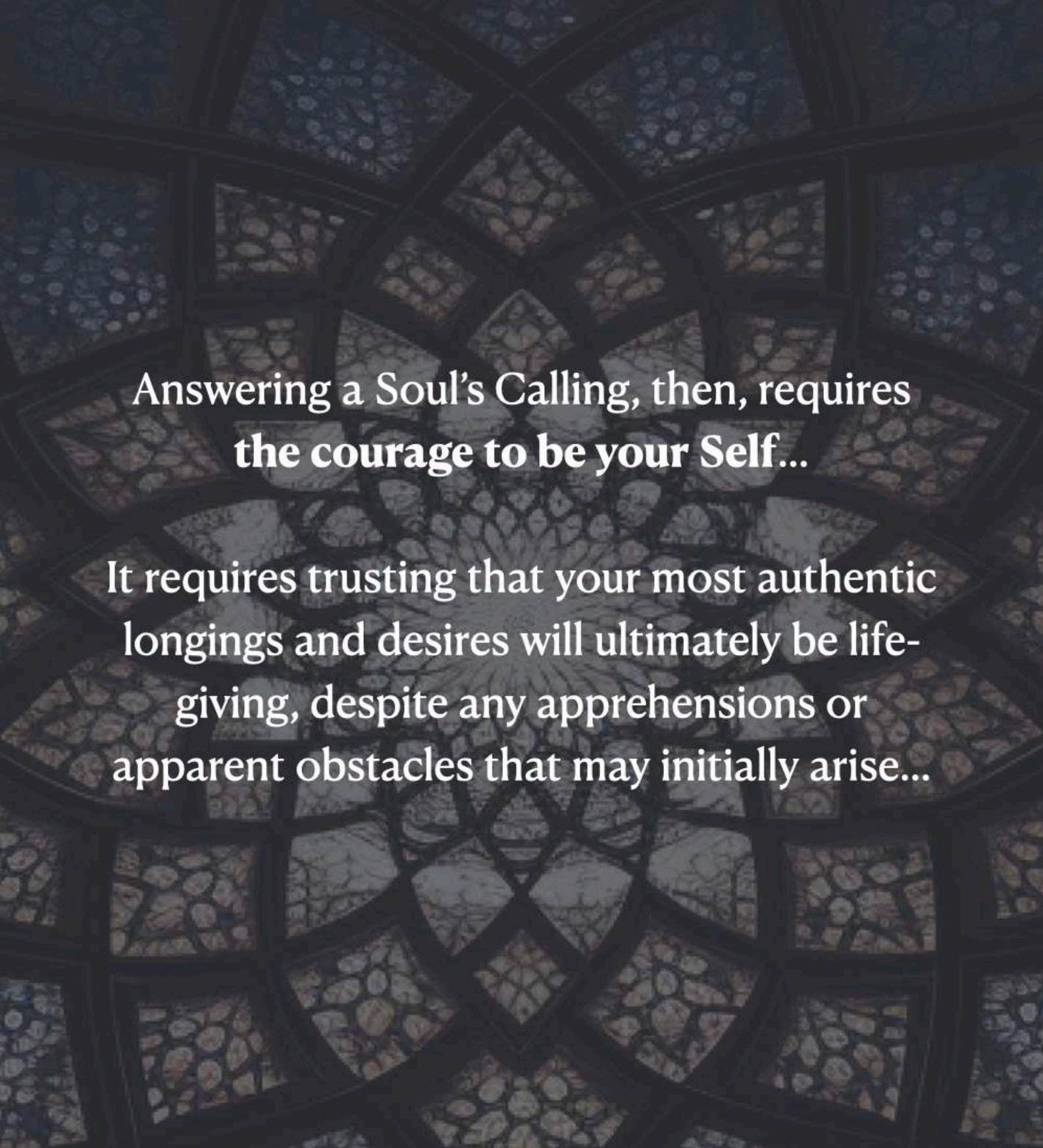
...also connects you to the wider whole, *to life itself*

Imagine that your Soul's Calling is the attractive power whereby the world itself seeks to summon forth what it needs in and through your creative impulses



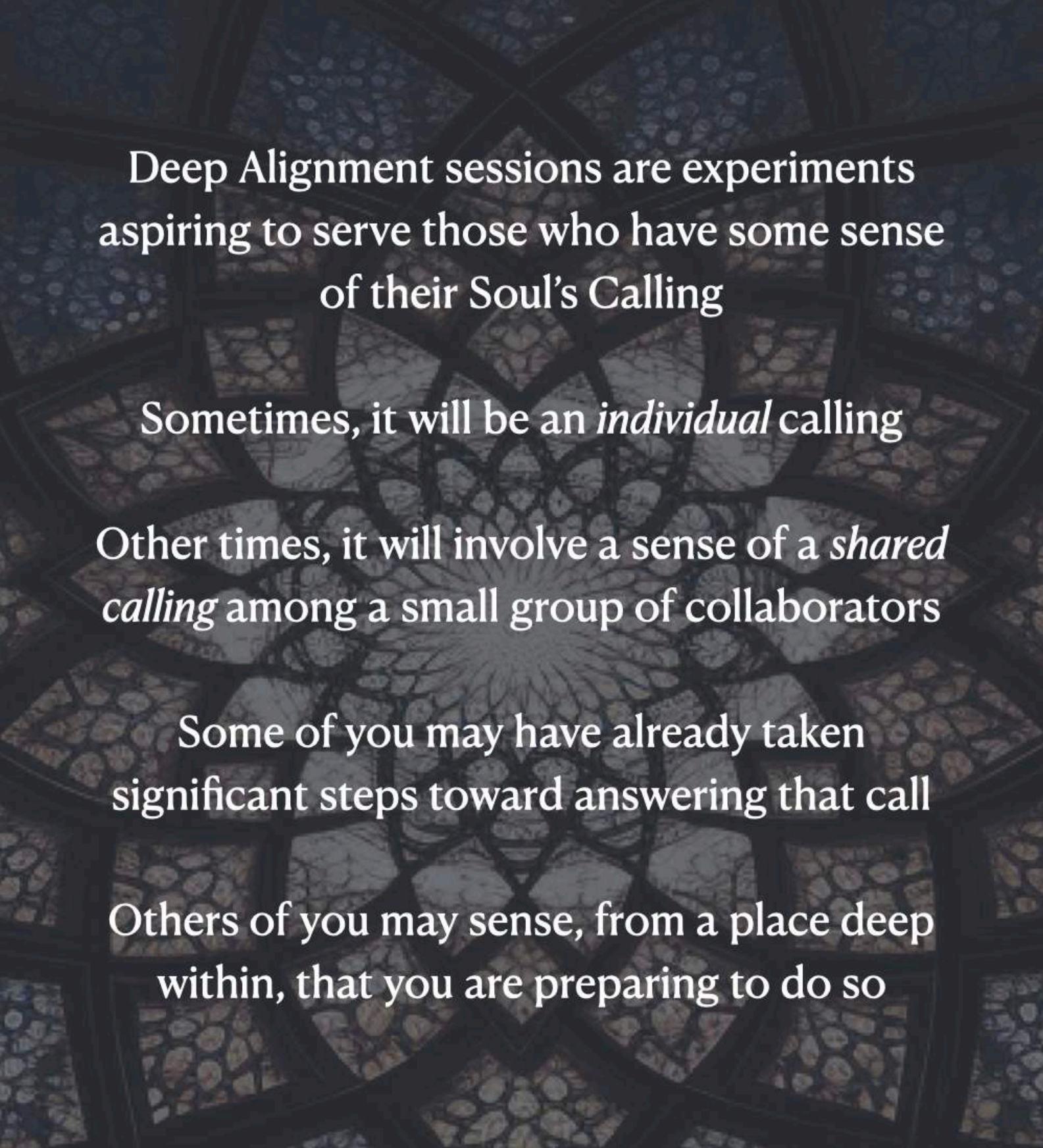
Answering a Soul's Calling is not always easy, and often requires shedding layers of fear stemming from internalized social conditioning...

Internalized social conditioning generally exudes pressures on us, urging us to behave in safe and familiar ways, dissuading us from courageously leaping into the unmapped and unconventional spaces that Soul's Callings frequently lure us toward...



Answering a Soul's Calling, then, requires  
**the courage to be your Self...**

It requires trusting that your most authentic  
longings and desires will ultimately be life-  
giving, despite any apprehensions or  
apparent obstacles that may initially arise...



Deep Alignment sessions are experiments  
aspiring to serve those who have some sense  
of their Soul's Calling

Sometimes, it will be an *individual* calling

Other times, it will involve a sense of a *shared*  
*calling* among a small group of collaborators

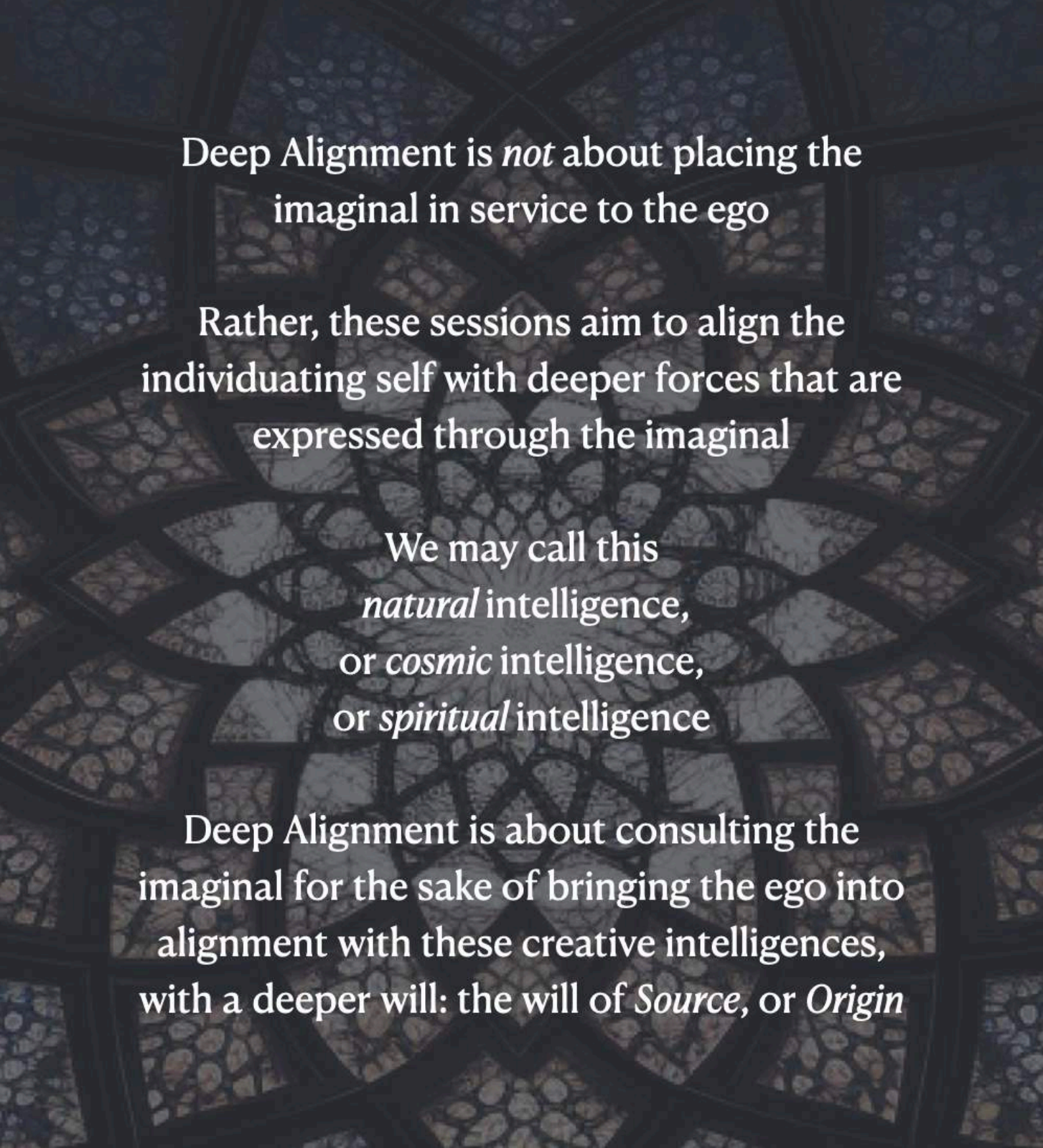
Some of you may have already taken  
significant steps toward answering that call

Others of you may sense, from a place deep  
within, that you are preparing to do so

Deep Alignment sessions experiment with  
the possibility that Soul's Callings have  
*roots that run through the Imaginal*

The core premise is that Soul's Callings  
may be understood as having *their own*  
*autonomous existence* and, under the right  
conditions, may reveal themselves in the  
poetic form of imagery

By bringing *a small group of chosen*  
*individuals* together and drawing upon the  
support of the group field in service of  
collective imaginal attunement, Communal  
Reverie may support individuals or groups  
in discovering or maintaining Deep  
Alignment with their Soul's Callings



Deep Alignment is *not* about placing the imaginal in service to the ego

Rather, these sessions aim to align the individuating self with deeper forces that are expressed through the imaginal

We may call this  
*natural* intelligence,  
or *cosmic* intelligence,  
or *spiritual* intelligence

Deep Alignment is about consulting the imaginal for the sake of bringing the ego into alignment with these creative intelligences, with a deeper will: the will of *Source*, or *Origin*

Deep Alignment sessions begin by articulating a  
“*Seed Phrase*”

The Seed Phrase attempts to capture, both as *concisely*  
and *completely* as possible, the whole intuited situation or  
condition surrounding the Soul’s Calling


We therefore begin by discussing the situation or  
condition surrounding the sense of calling or purpose,  
getting a sense for the whole picture

Then, we collaboratively work toward articulating a  
simple phrase that best encapsulates all that we discussed

One way of knowing when an adequate Seed Phrase has  
been discovered is that it carries a strong *resonance* with  
the felt sense of the calling guiding the inquiry

The Seed Phrase will *feel right*

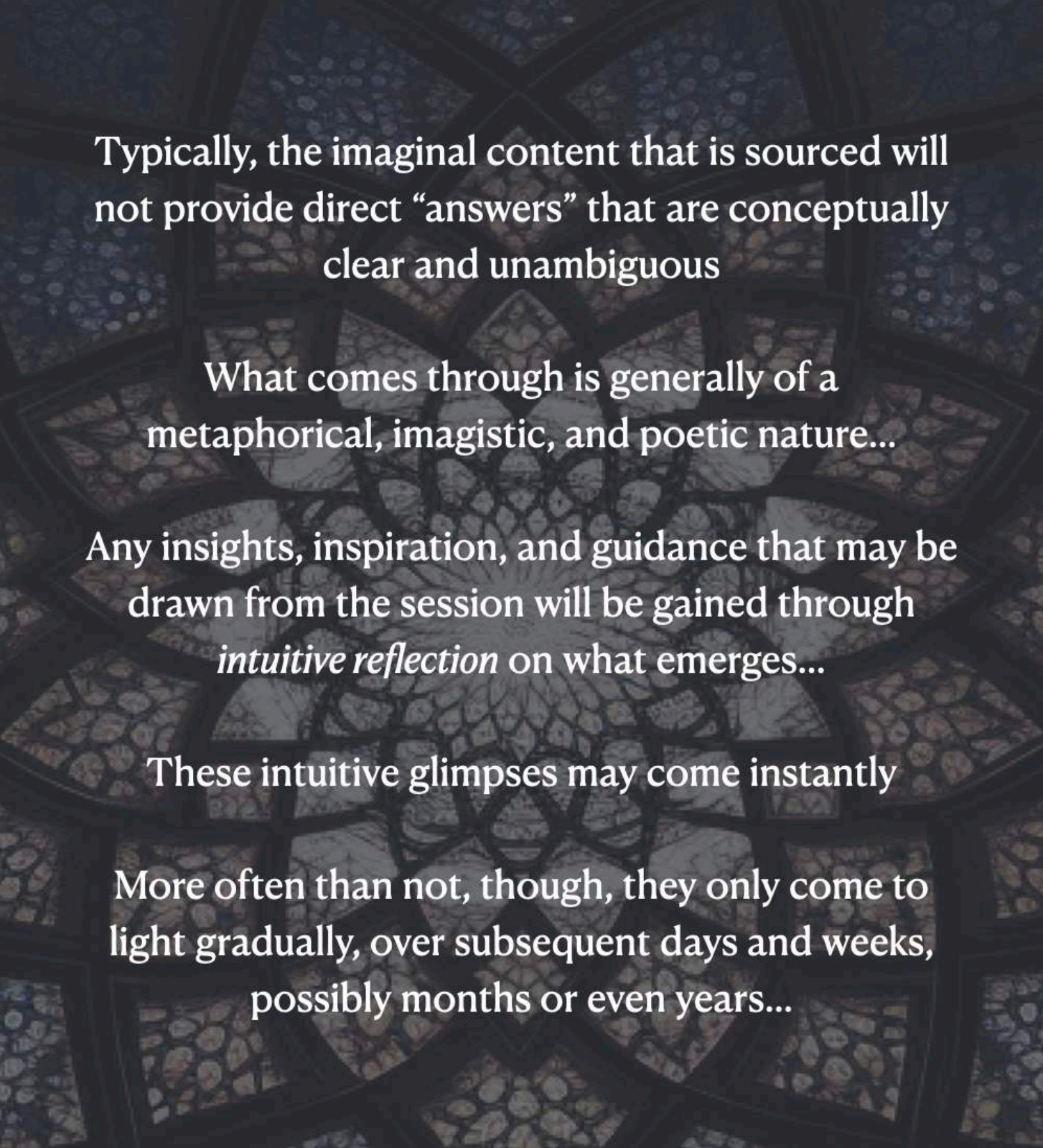




Once the Seed Phrase has been discovered, we are ready to move into Communal Reverie practice

The Seed Phrase is spoken into the middle, often two times, so that the mutually understood meaning can resonate among the practitioners present

From there, the group engages in collective imaginal attunement as described in the introductory primer



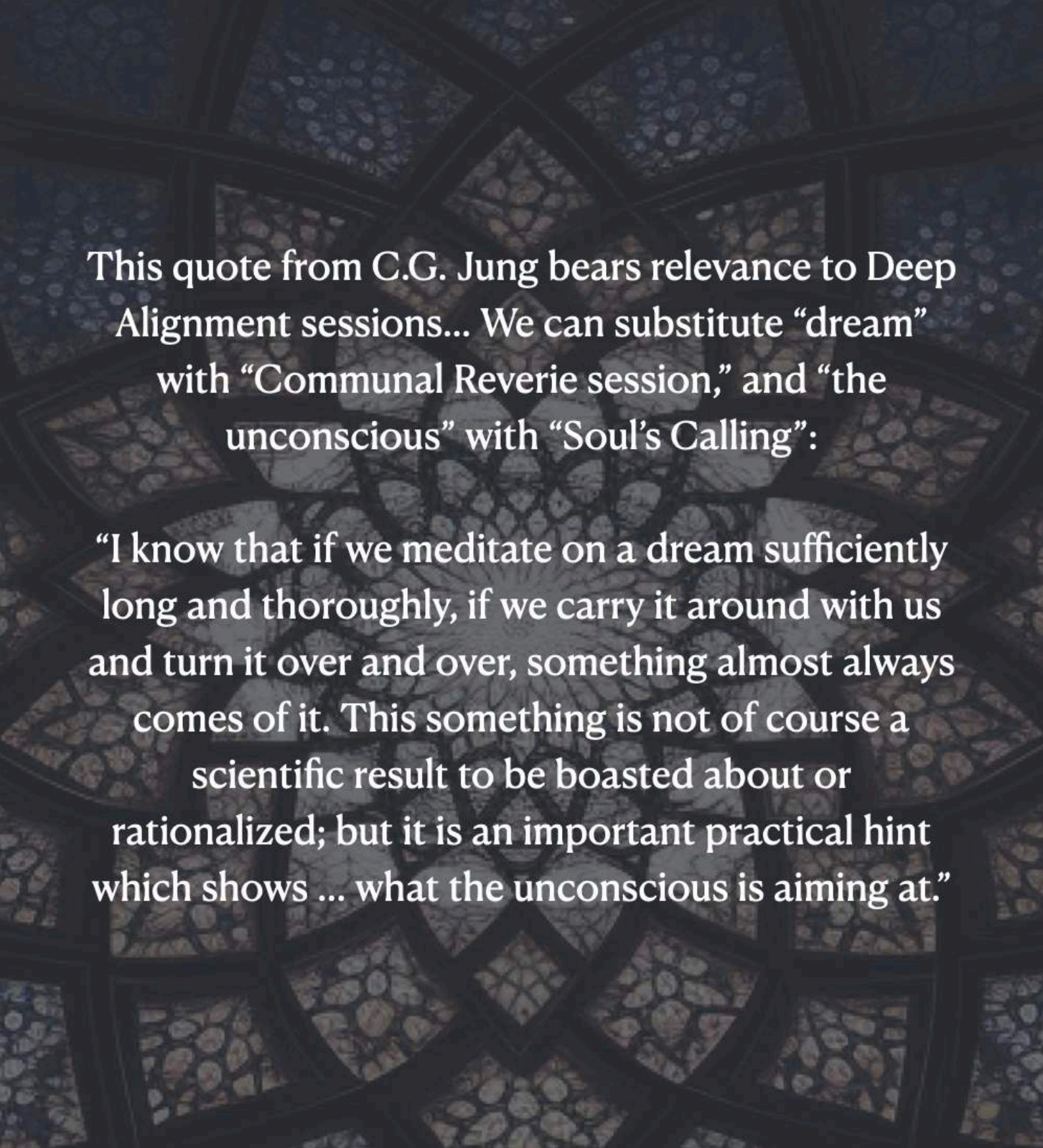
Typically, the imaginal content that is sourced will not provide direct “answers” that are conceptually clear and unambiguous

What comes through is generally of a metaphorical, imagistic, and poetic nature...

Any insights, inspiration, and guidance that may be drawn from the session will be gained through *intuitive reflection* on what emerges...

These intuitive glimpses may come instantly

More often than not, though, they only come to light gradually, over subsequent days and weeks, possibly months or even years...



This quote from C.G. Jung bears relevance to Deep Alignment sessions... We can substitute “dream” with “Communal Reverie session,” and “the unconscious” with “Soul’s Calling”:

“I know that if we meditate on a dream sufficiently long and thoroughly, if we carry it around with us and turn it over and over, something almost always comes of it. This something is not of course a scientific result to be boasted about or rationalized; but it is an important practical hint which shows ... what the unconscious is aiming at.”

Once again: Deep Alignment sessions are an *experiment*

These sessions are designed to investigate the claim of a number of recent philosophers and mystics: *that we may be preparing to enter into a new intensity of **conscious collective participation with Origin**, the mysterious wellspring from which the deeper, autonomous currents of the imaginal arise....*

Only time and experience will either substantiate or repudiate the question of whether Communal Reverie practice may offer one avenue toward realizing this claim...

If you intuit that you have a Soul's Calling that may be well-served  
by a Deep Alignment session, and are interested in  
engaging in this experiment with me...

**Do reach out.**

*"We must be still and still moving  
Into another intensity  
For a further union, a deeper communion"*

—T.S. Eliot

