“What we find as soon as we place ourselves in the perspective of religious man...is that the world exists because it was created by the gods, and that the existence of the world itself 'means' something, ‘wants to say’ something, that the world is neither mute nor opaque, that it is not an inert thing without purpose or significance. For religious man...the cosmos ‘lives’ and ‘speaks.’ The mere life of the cosmos is proof of its sanctity, since the cosmos was created by the gods and the gods show themselves through cosmic life. This is why...[he] conceives of himself as a microcosm. He forms part of the gods’ creation; in other words, he finds in himself the same sanctity that he recognizes in the cosmos. It follows that his life is homologized to cosmic life; as a divine work, the cosmos becomes the paradigmatic image of human existence.”

—Mircea Eliade  
Historian of Religion

“Modern astronomy, which I have followed since the 1930’s, indicates that the universe is growing, and I feel that I am growing with the universe; I identify with the universe—the greater the universe, the greater I am. Some people feel threatened when they realize that the cosmos is so immense and we are so small. But we can be just as big as the cosmos, in a sense. We ourselves, as human beings, are capable of identifying with the whole of existence.”

—Arne Naess  
Deep Ecology Philosopher

“The other thing I can say about my affection for this place is that it’s kind of nested. I love this house, I love our immediate neighborhood, I love the greater Village Homes neighborhood, and I really love Davis I think it’s a wonderful town with tremendous values, and I have developed affection for this bioregion...the area roughly between the foothills and the delta and Mt. Shasta and the Sacramento River. So I feel like I have a nested sense of place at many scales.”

“And this is kind of the epicenter of it?”

“Right here in this living room, it goes out like a series of concentric donuts, and all of those things move in and out.”

—Village Homes Resident