A SETTLER’S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE

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***If these don’t seem like myths, recall: Normative narratives operate as stories that are taken to be true without question (as hegemony). It’s so hard to not believe them. Yet, they can be quite problematic. How so?***

Activity1:

1. check the one's that you think are part of the national common sense (they seem normal & true to you)

2. go through the list again, why didn't you check those ones?

3. star the ones that make you mad, or feel something (in your body) in particular - why? Can you counter these?

4. add one or two to the list

Activity2:

Look for these discourses in magazines, etc. or in daily conversations and interactions. Which ones do you notice (often as hidden normative narratives)? How do they demonstrate particular forms of hegemony?

1. YOU MUST NEVER QUESTION THE LEGITIMACY OF YOUR NATION

2. YOU MUST VALUE **WORK** AND **MONEY** ABOVE ALL ELSE

3. YOU MUST NOT QUESTION YOUR ANCESTRY

4. YOUR FATHER IS YOUR FIRST AUTHORITY

5. YOU MUST MARRY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE **ECONOMY**

6. YOU MAY **TRAVEL** ANYWHERE YOU LIKE (AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE MONEY AND APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS)

7. YOU MAY ACQUIRE WHATEVER YOU LIKE FROM WHEREVER YOU GO (AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE MONEY)

8. YOU CAN AND SHOULD MOVE WHEREVER IN **OUR GREAT NATION** TO WORK

*9.* WORKING *IN GENERAL* IS MOST IMPORTANT, NOT WHAT YOU DO *IN PARTICULAR*

**10.** **NATURE IS AN OBJECT**

**11.** EARTH IS PROPERTY AND CAN BE BOUGHT AND SOLD

12. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS SPIRIT

13. YOU MUST SPEAK **ENGLISH**

14. YOU MUST CONFORM TO SPECIFIED **GENDER** ROLES ACCORDING TO WHAT YOUR GENITLES LOOK LIKE; THERE ARE 2 GENDERS AND YOU MUST PICK ONE

15. YOU MUST PROCREATE, IF YOU CAN (FOR THE ECONOMY!)

16. YOU MUST WORSHIP THE YOUNG, SKINNY, AND FAMOUS

17. YOU MUST FEAR AGING

18. YOU MUST NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF ‘PROGRESS’

19. YOU MUST PUT SETTLER WELL-BEING AND INTEREST OVER ALL OTHER FORMS OF LIFE

20. YOU MUST BE RATIONAL AND LOGICAL

21. YOU MUST TREAT FOREIGN IDEAS AND CONCEPTS WITH FEAR

22. YOU MUST NOT JEOPARDIZE OUR GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM

23. YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT NEWER IS BETTER

24. YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT FASTER IS BETTER

25. IT IS OKAY TO USE VIOLENCE, IF IT PROTECTS YOUR INTERESTS

26. YOU MUST NOT QUESTION THE SUPREMACY OF OUR DEMOCRATIC MODEL

27. DON’T THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE INDIGENOUS TO THIS PLACE

28. YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT SETTLER CULTURE, BELIEFS AND KNOWLEDGE IS THE PINNACLE OF HUMAN INGENUITY

29. VALUE MALE OVER FEMALE, AND WHITE OVER ALL THE OTHER RACE CATEGORIES WE CONSTRUCT (WORK /ECONOMIC OUTPUT HIERARCHY)

30. IGNORE YOUR INSTINCTS

31. HUMANS ARE THE PINNACLE OF EVOLUTION.

32. HUMANS ARE SEPARATE FROM AND SUPERIOR TO NATURE.

33. GROWTH IS PROSPERITY, PROSPERITY IS HAPPINESS, HAPPINESS IS THE MEANING OF LIFE.

34. NATURE IS A SET OF RESOURCES TO FUEL HUMAN PROSPERITY.

35. THE INDIVIDUAL IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE COLLECTIVE.

36. TECHNOLOGY IS PROGRESS. THOSE WITH LESS TECHNOLOGY ARE INFERIOR.

37. COMPETE, DON'T COLLABORATE OR COOPERATE.

38. THE WORLD IS SIMPLE, MECHANISTIC, KNOWABLE, AND CONCRETE (NOT COMPLEX, LIVING, UNKNOWABLE, OR SPIRITUAL)