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**INTRODUCTION OF VICTOR SHAMAS, PH.D.**

Dr. Victor Shamas has devoted his life to exploring and understanding the experience of being fully alive. As a psychologist, author, lecturer, and spiritual adventurer, he offers a unique perspective on the role this type of experience plays in creativity and well-being.

1. For more than two decades, he has mentored and brought together free spirits from every part of the world, through:

* The two non-profit groups he co-founded: Global Chant and PlayHaven;
* His four books, which include *Deep Creativity: Inside the Creative Mystery* and the Amazon best-seller, *Repose: The Potent Pause*;
* The global events he has organized, which have attracted more than one million participants in 40 countries;
* His speaking engagements, through which he has connected with audiences on four continents.

2. He has put his ideas about Deep Creativity into practice and demonstrated their effectiveness by:

* Producing over 200 videos that have been viewed by more than 185,000 people;
* Writing several hundred musical compositions, many of which can be found on his two music CDs and his YouTube videos;
* Developing and teaching 25 undergraduate courses in psychology for the University of Arizona;
* Creating an anti-inflammatory health program, called Victor’s Inflammation Mend (VIM), to lower the risk of chronic illness;
* Directing the Intuition in Pregnancy study, which has been featured in *USA Today*, *Pregnancy* magazine, and NBC’s *Today* show.

3. He is a free thinker who has promoted:

* Alternative higher education free of grades and majors;
* New models of spiritual community for those who do not identify with traditional religions;
* A radical new vision of human creativity

He is here today to speak to us on the topic of Deep Creativity. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Victor Shamas.