

# Talking Story with Author, Speaker & Teacher Dr. Wayne Dyer

By Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez

**L**ong-time Maui resident Dr. Wayne Dyer has often been called the “father of motivation.” Dyer says he lives on Maui, “...because it’s where I was sent. It’s where I was told to be. When the plane lands I always feel at home.” For nearly 30 years, since the publication of *Your Erroneous Zones* in 1976 at the age of 35, he has been a respected author, teacher and lecturer in the field of self-empowerment. His books have repeatedly topped the bestseller lists of the New York Times in both hardcover and paperback. Dyer has a doctorate in counseling psychotherapy and has worked with authors such as Deepak Chopra, with whom he co-authored the classic *Creating Your World the Way You Really want it to Be*. Known to many for his appearances on PBS, he has helped to raise over \$100 million in support of public television. He has just completed his latest book, *Inspiration Your Ultimate Calling* that will be the basis of a new series to air on PBS this fall.

Dr. Dyer prefers to be addressed without the “Doctor” in front of his name. “Call me Wayne,” he says, as we prepare for the interview at his Kaanapali condominium. Perhaps, because he spent the first ten years of his life in an orphanage and foster homes on the East Side of Detroit—he was abandoned by his father shortly after his birth and it took 10 years for his mother to regain custody—Dyer is also a loving father who asks his daughter if she needs anything, and if she has money before she leaves the house for an sunset dinner cruise with friends.

Looking about the living room, I try to get a sense of the man and his vision from where we are seated. The walls are painted a deep purple. “Why purple? I ask. “I don’t know,” he replies, “It’s something my wife did.” It’s part of the reason people are attracted to Dyer and to his vision of life. Forget the details. Look at the big picture. The details will emerge. As Dyer relaxed on the couch, I moved some pillows aside, sat down across from him, and we began to talk.

**REMS: You have written and spoken about something you**

**call the Power of Intention. What do you mean by that? Is it just working hard with a goal in mind?**

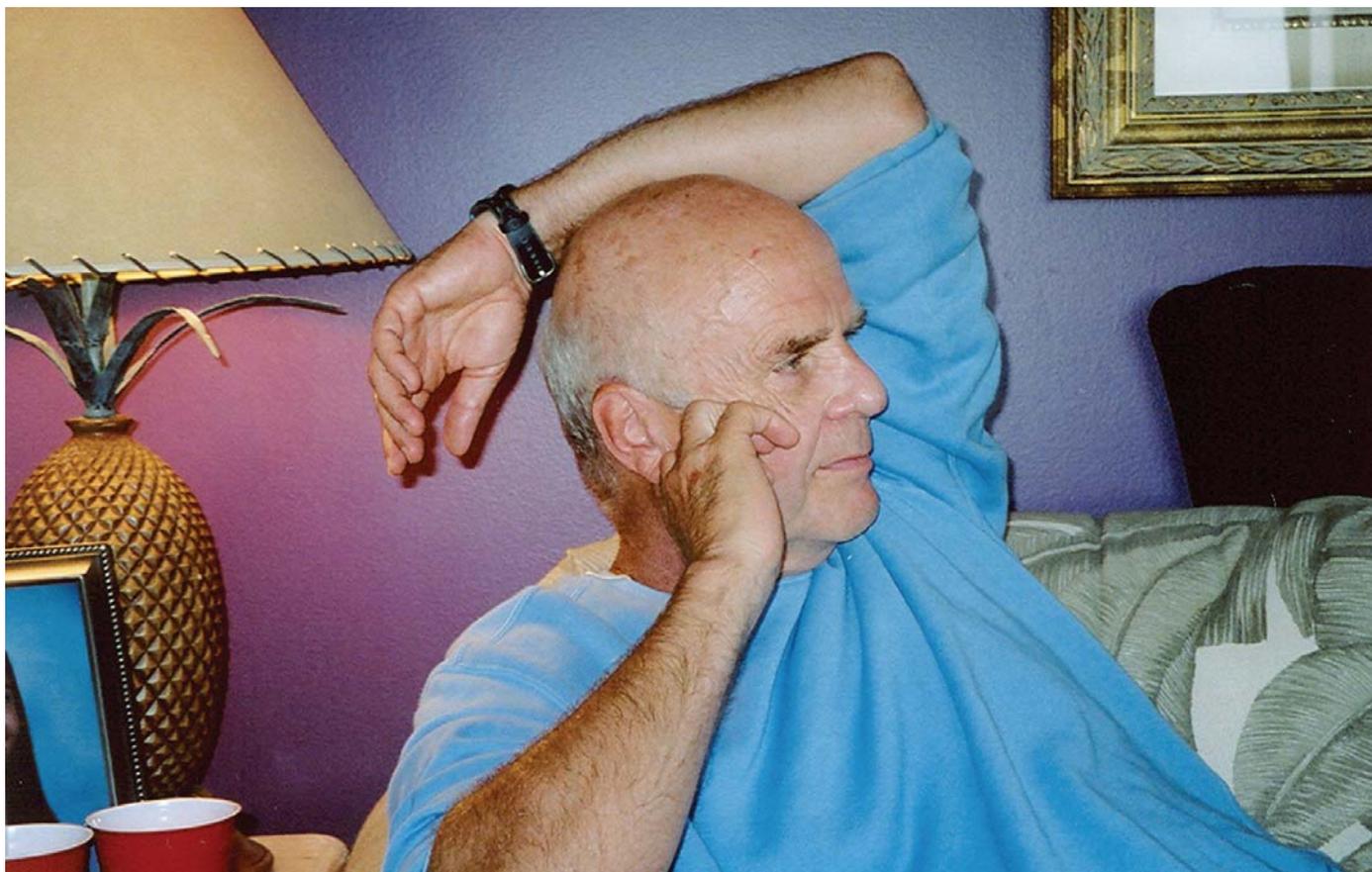
Intention is generally viewed as a state in which a person has a very deliberate sort of undertaking, and is highly motivated and will not allow anything to get in their way. It is my intention to create wealth. It is my intention to get a job. We think that when you use this word that somehow the use of that concept of the intending gives us additional power.

I’ve taken a completely different point of view on that, based on some of the teachings of Carlos Castaneda, particularly the anthropological studies that he did in the 1960’s and 70’s. His great teacher was a nagual named Don Juan Matus in northern Mexico. (Ed. note: nagual is a term used in the books by Carlos Castaneda to describe a person who is able to lead people to new areas of perception.)

Don Juan told him that intention is not something that you do. It is a field of energy from which all things are intended. Everything that shows up in this universe was intended here from a source, and that we are all connected to that source. If we’re breathing, if we’re alive, including all the animals, the plants, the minerals, everything is connected to this source.

**REMS: We are all connected to this Source?**

The question isn’t whether you’re connected to your Source, the question is how rusty is the link, how dirty is the link between yourself and this field of intention. He said that something like sorcerers—meaning people who live of the Source or God—are those who are not so much concerned with managing this field of energy but with cleansing it of all of the numbing effects brought about by living at ordinary levels of consciousness. That if you can shoot beyond the ordinary and move into a place that he (Castaneda) called God Realization, where all of your thoughts and all of your actions and all of your feelings are



I read 728 books in 18 months when I was in the Navy and every word that I came across that I didn't understand, at the end of the day I wrote it down in a vocabulary book just to improve my vocabulary.

in harmony with the source from which you came, then and only then can you regain the power of the Source.

**REMS: What is the power of the Source?**

The power of the Source is the power to create, the power to manifest, the power to attract into your life the perfect health, divine wellness, manifesting anything—attracting the right people, making circumstances work for you, moving beyond the laws of the material. All of these things are what the source does, and when you're in harmony with the Source in all of your thoughts, then you gain that power of the Source.

**REMS: You've spoken about the existence of a force in the universe. Can you expand on that a bit?**

Well, if you study anything, if you study quantum physics even at a very superficial level, you discover that particles themselves do not create particles, and that's what metaphysics have been teaching us for centuries. Jesus said, 'It's the spirit that gives life. The flesh counts for nothing' and even in the opening lines of the Torah in Genesis, it says, 'The spirit of God moved across the water and all things emanated from that spirit.'

So, that if you were to take the particle that began you, for example, and break it down to its atoms and then subatomic

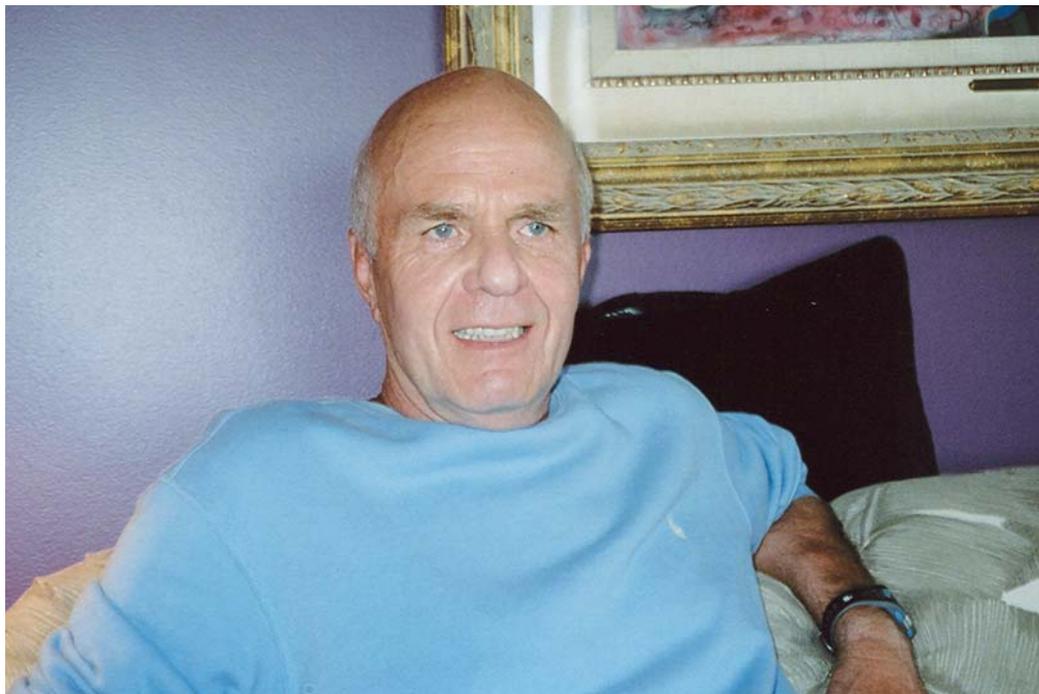
particles and ultimately try to find out what was the thing that began you, you find out that it wasn't a particle, it wasn't your parents, it was an invisible energy field that we call 'Spirit', or 'Source', or 'God', or "Consciousness", or 'Awareness', or 'Divine Mind', or whatever.

It doesn't matter what you call it. This is what activates and motivates and creates, is the source of all creation in the universe. That's what the people that I studied under, Castaneda particularly, taught me to teach. That this is a field that is called 'Intention'. It's called Intention because everything is intended out of this field.

**REMS: You've discussed a concept in your work that you refer to as "God Consciousness." What do you mean by that?**

Within your body is an observer, there's a noticer, there's a watcher that is constantly appraising and seeing all of this, and if you can get that noticer, the observer, the watcher to be in harmony with God, which is what I call 'The Faces of Intention', there are seven of them, Love and Kindness and Joy and Non-Exclusivity, and so on— if you can stay in your mind in that, you stay in what we call 'God Consciousness' or 'God Realization.'

If, on the other hand, you move out of that and you leave God Consciousness, which means that you have a thought—for example



I see it so clearly now, at the age of 65. I look at it and think I signed up for this before I came into my mother's womb. I signed up for this in the world of spirit. I've spent my life teaching people self-awareness, and then teaching people about consciousness and about love and about how to get along.

*(continued from page 13)*

God Consciousness, the consciousness that creates everything, gives life to everyone and excludes no one— if you have a thought that excludes anyone one you've left God Consciousness. So, if your concept of yourself is one in which you belong to an organization that says that some of us get in, some of us don't. Some of us are better than others, and all of this stuff that we in the field of psychology have come to all Ego, which is really a sort of an acronym for 'Edging God out'.

When you edge God out you think in ways that God doesn't think, and the purpose of being 'In Spirit' is to think like God thinks...you do have a free will, and the free will that you have is the free will to decide whether or not you're going to be connected to your Source or not. To me, that's the only choice we get. One of the great teachers in my life was Carl Jung, and he said that at the same moment that you are a protagonist in your own life, and you are making choices, at that same moment you're also a spear carrier or an extra in a much larger drama, and that you are actually doomed to make choices.

So you have to live with that paradox and living with that paradox is what's difficult...if I have a free will, how can I have a free will if everything has been ordained for me? If I come from a place which says this is what I'm going to be, and then I'm not that, am I really making decisions or not? The fact is that you have to live with both of those ideas at the same time; you have to live with them simultaneously.

**REMS: Live with them simultaneously?**

You must make choices, but within a context of choices already

being made. That's just the way the universe is, and the reason for that, the way to understand that, is to see yourself as a paradox. In other words, you are actually in two different awareness's or two different universes at all moments of your life. You're in a universe which has beginnings and ends. You have a body that began and a body that ends. You have physical form and you have five senses and you touch things and you see things, and those things, all those things that compose, decompose, so there is a physical you that goes by certain material laws.

Then there's also a you that is observing all of this; that is noticing all of this, that is processing all of this, called your mind, your thoughts, your consciousness, your awareness, that has none of those

rules at all. It doesn't begin and it doesn't end, and it doesn't have any form and you can't touch it, and you can't smell it and you can't see it, and yet it's who you are.

So you're both of those things at the same time. And you don't go around saying 'I can't be these two opposites, that's just not possible' but you are that at all moments in your life. It's getting comfortable with that paradox and saying that I have choices within a context of choices already being made.

**REMS: That being said, how would you define success?**

I define success the way that Thoreau defined it at Walden Pond. He said that if you advance confidently in the direction of your own dreams, and endeavor to live the life which you have imagined, you will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. That's how I define success. Success is leading the life that you feel internally you were destined to lead and knowing that when you get to the end of your life you're not going to die with your music still in you. You played the music that you came here to play.

**REMS: You had what some would say was a successful academic career early in your life and you left it.**

I left a tenured position as a professor with a major university in New York City. I was only 36 years old. I had everything. I had a guaranteed income for the rest of my life and a job they couldn't fire me from.

**REMS: You had written your first book?**

# Maui Style | *Living Maui*

(continued from page 14)

I wrote *Your Erroneous Zones* and I had what I call a quantum change experience, what Maslov calls the 'Peak Experience,' but it's something that usually when they come, they come by surprise. I was driving down the Long Island Expressway and I remember exactly the day, where I was, and what exit I was going by, and I just decided that it was time for me to resign, to leave that, to go out and do what it was that I came here to do, which was the writing and the speaking. I walked in and I resigned from my tenured position.

**REMS: You live here on Maui and you could live anywhere. Why have you made Maui your home?**

It's because it's where I was sent. It's where I was told to be. When the plane lands I always feel at home...Maui has called me. My wife and I have seven children together. Let's see, I think we conceived four of them here. We were married on this island. We spent every summer of our lives here on this island. I started writing books here with a book called *Gifts from Eykis*, which was years ago, 1981, I think I wrote it, maybe 1985, 23-24 years ago. The only fiction book I've written. I wrote it right here, right out here on Kaanapali Beach, and then I just started doing my writing here.

You could sort of define what it is about the islands and what it is about the sun and all of it, but I think it's more than that. I think that it's something about being in the middle of the ocean—there's islands everywhere—there's something about being in the middle of the ocean, totally surrounded by thousands and thousands of miles of ocean, and having these places just emerge from bottom of the ocean, which is all this is.

All this is is volcanic eruptions. It's the earth coming up from the bottom of the ocean, coming up from the bottom of the ocean, if you read *Hawaii*, by James Michner, that first chapter is so brilliant, and then it comes up and then it peeks its head just above the surface of the water and then it's what Alan Watts called, it 'Peoples.'

It will People. He said that if you blow up the whole planet, and one little volcanic eruption appears a million years from now it will People. It will People again. It will start with the volcanic thing, and then some kind of an amoeba and something will crawl up over the ground, and a bird will fly over and it will poop on something, and a half a million years later, eventually, it will People. It's a process, and we're a part of that creative process in the middle of the ocean.

**REMS: You had a rough life in the beginning, you were in an orphanage, you were in foster homes and you left that and then served in the Navy. How have those early years affected you?**

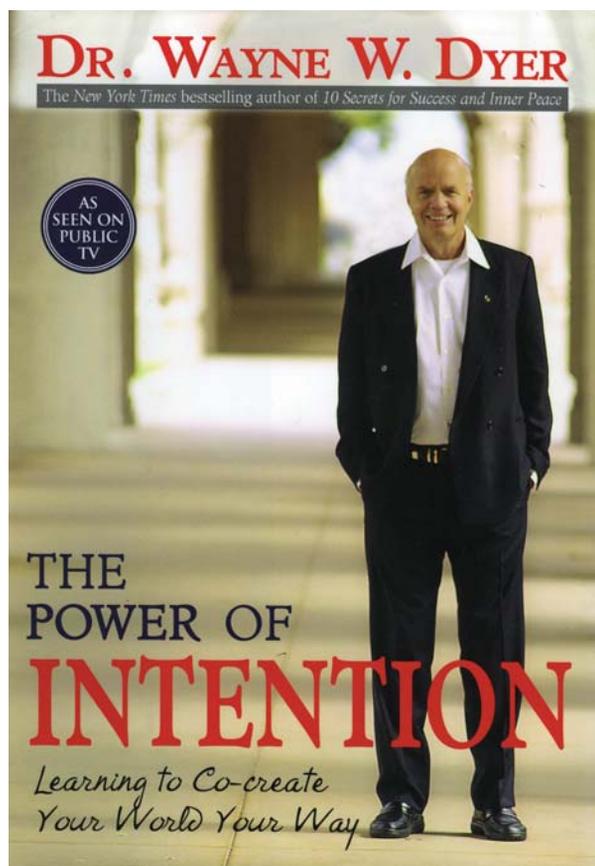
I don't think of any of those experiences—my years in the orphanage, as a foster child, my years in the service as an enlisted man—this is what I signed up for; this is the path I had to take. I can see it so clearly now, at the age of 65, I just look at it and think I signed up for this before I came into my mother's womb. I signed up for this in the world of spirit.

I've spent my life teaching people self-awareness, and then teaching people about consciousness, and about love and about how

to get along. And the way that you learn to teach self-reliance is to spend 10 years in an orphanage. What better way is there to teach self-reliance than to be forced to rely upon yourself?

**REMS: I know that there is a significant teacher living on Maui who is close to you. That is Ram Dass and he had a stroke in 1997. Did you want to say anything to our readers about what you are doing to help him?**

I started coming across his work back in the 1960's. He was a very courageous being. He left Harvard. He was a Harvard professor. Very similar things that he did that I did, only he went to India and I stayed in the West. He donated all of his proceeds. He didn't take royalties for his books...he also didn't take lecture fees. He just donated everything to helping people, just totally surrendered his life to serving others.



I wrote a letter explaining the situation and put it on my website and I'd love it if people read it and send contributions. (Ed. note: the letter concerning Ram Dass and Wayne Dyer's efforts can be viewed at [www.drwaynedyer.com](http://www.drwaynedyer.com))

There's like a divine dance going on between Ram Dass and myself. I didn't even meet Ram Dass in person—I met him a few times along the way at lectures I think, but he didn't know who I was. But, I've taken it on almost as a personal assignment to make sure this man is taken care of. I take him medicine and all the money that comes in comes through me, and I direct to him.

# Maui Style | *Living Maui*

(continued from page 16)

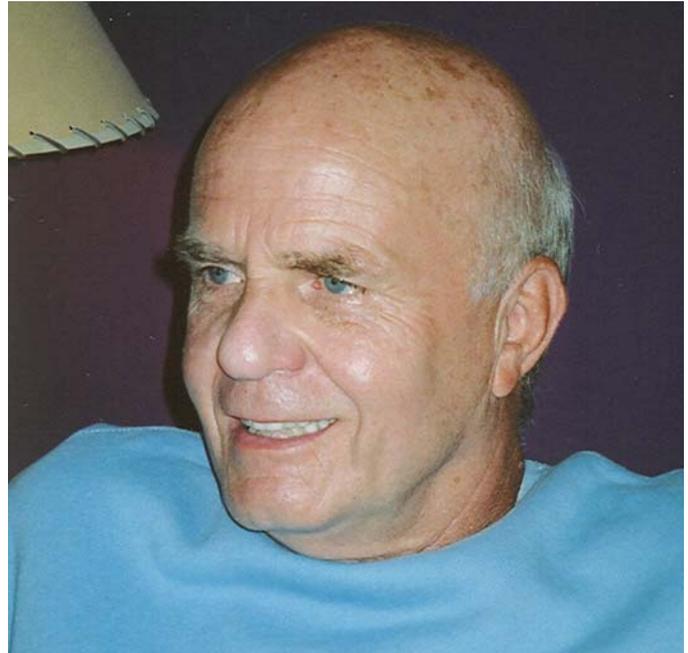
**REMS: In your letter about Ram Dass you wrote, "Maui is a healing place." Why did you write that?**

Well, it just always been that way for me and it's what I know to be true. I use the word healing, but I don't mean healing in the sense that most people think of healing. Because, I think, again, that the Source that we all come from doesn't have any sickness in it, doesn't have disease in it. Sickness and disease are manifestations of ego, of our having separated ourselves from well-being. If you live that well-being, you don't get sick, you don't get overweight, you don't get high cholesterol, you don't get any of that.

And so healing—generally people think of it as overcoming a disease, but God is only well-being. God is only well-being, then God doesn't recognize sickness. It is only well-being, how can it recognize sickness? So, healing in that sense is a misnomer. Healing isn't meant that way. It's meant more in the way that Maui is well being. It is pure unrestricted well-being.

I feel close to God here.

**REMS: Thank you for your time. I look forward to seeing your upcoming series on PBS. REMS**



You just have to stop edging God out. You have to slay your ego. You have to destroy it. The ego is an illusion. It's the false self. The authentic self is the God Realized Self.

## Aloha Package Homes

*Hawaii's Premier Affordable Package Home Company*

Presents

# 2005 Tropical Designs

ALL  
THE MATERIALS  
TO BUILD AN  
AFFORDABLE HOME!

Hamaku Shack—Artist Reproduction Tile—Courtesy of Artistic Images & Designs

www.colorsofparadise.com

Tropical House and Cottage Plans plus—  
First Quality AFFORDABLE Building Materials

INCREDIBLE

2 BR / 1 Bath  
700 sq. ft. Living Area  
222 sq. ft. Lanai

Pono Hale Cottage

INCLUDES:

- Certainteed® Vinyl Windows
- French Doors
- DeWils Cabinetry
- Formica®
- James Hardie®
- Ceiling Fans
- Recessed Lighting
- ...And Much More!

ONLY \$36,880

FOB HAWAII DOCK

All plans may be modified and rearranged.

For more information visit:  
www.alohapackagehomes.com  
Or Call (808) 573-1522

Pricing subject to change without notice.