

The Evolution of Desires:

There are many traps in life that are attractive on the surface to human beings. Just a few examples of these traps would be money, drugs, inappropriate or unwise use of power, control seeking, attention, drama and sex. Another less obvious sort of trap is that affects much of the world is relatively low cost (in comparison to other energy sources) availability and usage of fossil fuels. Fossil fuel usage has paradoxically led to a world technological revolution and mass food production capability. It has also resulted in vast pollution, over-population, development of weapons of mass destruction and global dependence upon a rapidly dwindling energy resource.

We can effectively wield our individual power without getting trapped by any of these influences. Yet even if we pursue desires without understanding the implications of doing so, and for their own sake, we will eventually gain valuable experiences in our pursuit. Understandings may come through a slow series of repetitive and painful experiences or very rapidly through very difficult circumstances. Through pursuing our desires, we attain learning and understandings about how to manage ourselves in ways we could not have understood without first having explored our impulses and obsessions. Through this dynamic we gradually evolve our understanding of self and the world to a higher level. We learn what is not in our best interest, and also how to achieve more worthwhile goals without harming ourselves, those we love or our environment in the process. This is a dynamic of trial and error and is part of what makes us human.

In a similar way, the global challenges we face on the current world stage make it a fertile learning environment, designed specifically to help mankind to learn to evolve and to better work together. It is just important that we learn better and faster than we damage our environment. This evolutionary process is happening despite all our past cultural momentum, conflicts, political and economic structures, beliefs, religious institutions, priorities, desires and fears. The pressures of these challenges are developmentally necessary. They exist because they are the best inspiration (though often negative in appearance) that we have thus far found to reexamine and thus overcome our stubborn and limited old ways of functioning.

Many of us are driven more by personal and family survival, economic self-interest, and personal gain of various kinds, than by conscious wisdom. Yet we have all functioned in this limited and limiting way at some point in our lives. At the moment many people in the world are caught in their attachments to fossil fuels, money, luxury, comfort zones, nationalism, ego and the unwise use of power. This is not a new situation of course (aside from the relatively recent usage of fossil fuels); we have been facing these same distractions throughout human history. There are many other aspects of life we can become attached to as we pass through life on this planet, and we are now developing a long list of new ones via the wonders of technology. I suggest evaluating our lives for this type of circumstance and making wise choices based upon the results of our process of self-evaluation.

Historically, it has been difficult for the world to be motivated to make fundamental adjustments to more wise ways of life and decision-making. In effect, we only became motivated when we were fearful. Rather than being motivated by wise understandings. In the past, we have needed a situation undefined enough, big enough and dangerous enough that we, as a world population, would allow ourselves to be herded by our fears (if not by our wisdom or love) to act to change ourselves and our world for the better. In effect, based upon traditional fear driven decision-making strategies we could not become motivated to fundamentally change until and unless one of our fears significantly “trumped” another of our fears.

Today we need all people to function in a collaborative and proactive manner, rather than being driven by reactive fear and other negative emotions. We need to operate from a set of pristine values that consider the value and potential of all of humanity. Is that possible? Could humanity work together for the betterment of all human beings and the world as a unified whole? In this moment of our development as a species we need the challenges we are facing. Without these challenges, we would be unwilling to move and grow in the directions

and understandings that are most important for all of us. Those directed efforts will eventually allow us to learn to function peacefully and wisely as a world. Without these motivations, we would be unwilling to prioritize peace, achieving shared goals for the good of all, and international teamwork more highly than personal self-interest, greed, power sought only as a tool of self-interest, nationalism, fear and personal survival.

The reason we are experiencing this rapid change, confusion and apparent barrage of complexities is that humans as a species have an innate spiritual need to continue to become more complex and ultimately enlightened. Like growing plants leaning toward the light via photo-taxis, we are all growing toward the light of God. The challenges that we face and the solutions we create for ourselves are the road we are traveling and the ladder we are climbing. Thus we need to transcend these challenges and attain understanding via facing these challenges.

All these opportunities/perceived problems have been created by us in our earlier and less sophisticated stages of consciousness, existence, development and choice. This was the only way we could find to validate all the effort and sacrifices that will be necessary in the future for cultures, nations, politics, science, technology and economies to flow together, work together, and transform and integrate with one another. It is our grudgingly chosen way to motivate ourselves to arrive at shared understandings, new decision-making models, hybrid social structures and creative leadership models that will be supportive of compassionate global teamwork and collaboration. It is a costly path, yet the one we have all collectively chosen to follow. A model we may use in future to generate such new paradigms of social success can be seen in the EteRNA experiment by Carnegie Mellon and Stanford Universities in which video games allowed thousands of internet game players to work together to solve incredibly complex genetic problems.

The internet can also be utilized to create cyberspace-centric for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. These organizations can in turn create software-supported flexible organizational and operational structures that would in turn support the development of effective coordinated cyber-cultures. These organizations would have the power to accomplish real-world altruistic projects and create collaborative not-for-profit solutions to global problems via entrainment of the energies of the general global population. These organizations could be funded and implemented by like-minded people with aligned intentions and accomplish goals which governments and existing organizational structures and cultures are too inflexible or limited to accomplish. Much of the work they accomplish could be contracted to coordinated groups of existing brick and mortar organizations.

There is also the potential for the future creation of cyberspace-based sovereign governmental entities complete with internationally recognized citizenship status. This concept is currently being discussed for large space based stations, that could function as sovereign nations. These developments would mean that NEW cyberspace governments, which contain all aspects of governmental, political and judicial function, national economy and banking systems and corporations could be created with no geographically defined physical territory to protect or police, and which people could choose to become citizens of. These artificial cyber-entities would potentially evolve much more rapidly, cost effectively and globally competitively than existing “brick and mortar nations”. They could even lead the way for evolution of the rest of the world’s nations, as these cyber-nations are more rapidly prototypable and testable national models of all key aspects of national entities. These developments could include prototyping of new national economies, political systems and cultures. Eventually they might supplant geographically existing national entities.

For this type of coordinated effort to be consistently and sufficiently motivated and funded we need to define a new set of global goals, meaning a set of goals that outweigh all other day-to-day life considerations and values. These types of goals are currently being generated by the realization of our global problems. Once achieved, these superordinate goals will significantly improve our personal, social and national accountability, conscience and consciousness.

It is no accident that we are facing the global challenges that we are. Our current challenges are a direct reflection of humanity's prior actions, desires, level of consciousness, education and understanding as individuals, nations and as a species. These challenges and problems mirror what we do understand as well as what we do not yet understand. The problems we face today will teach us exactly what we need to know in order to evolve humanity. In truth, our current list of global challenges have been carefully crafted in order to produce a situation where all of humanity will finally be motivated to learn, work and solve problems together. Our challenges will ultimately reduce the common human tendency to fight or argue about the nature of our shared issues or to descend into fear, selfishness, judgment, blame, nationalism and accusation.

This is where the beauty and power of the dynamic of living in an incarnate state in time and space comes in. In that "time itself" is a buffering mechanism designed to support us in having "time" to reflect upon and thereby learn from the results of our prior choices. Material reality gives us a place to see the results of our choices acted out, to see cause-and-effect in action, and then we can fully learn from our choices and ultimately attain conscious wisdom. It is also how we eventually learn to wisely manage our power as individuals, groups and nations.

At this point in humanity's development we have a rapidly shrinking window of opportunity to deal with the challenges we face. The reason the window of opportunity is shrinking is twofold. First, all that is happening in the world each day is "speeding up" while we are simultaneously learning to technologically affect our world so much more rapidly and powerfully, so that we could inadvertently destroy what we call civilization in several ways if we do not quickly become wise and discerning enough not to do so. We are simultaneously running low on resources. Therefore, our "global system reaction time" and management techniques must improve along with our technology, and our application of discernment in this process is key to these improvements. Learning to succinctly manage global transformative stresses of all kinds (i.e. cultural, religious, economic, ecological, etc.) is also imperative. Time is a valuable resource that must be well managed and not be wasted.

It takes time to learn from our choices as well as the intention to do so. Our choices literally manifest our experienced reality. It can often take years for individuals and even for nations to arrive at deep or complex understandings based upon past experiences. The choices we make, and our associated learning process, can create major negative or destructive occurrences. If our choices create negative situations, which unfold too rapidly, or enough smaller problems are created all at once, we may not have the time to truly understand and learn from our experiences. Thus, we may not have the time to solve the problems we have created. If we do not learn optimally from our choices and experiences how can we successfully and safely proceed and navigate as individuals, nations or as a world.

Our growing awareness of the lack of available time itself to deal with our problems will eventually and ever more rapidly require us to work together and to see past our previous tendencies of bias, conflict or judgmentalness. We have needed a set of global challenges that would require the achievement of interdependence and collaboration of all nations in order to solve them. Therefore, the United States and other nations are simultaneously learning that they cannot achieve solutions to global problems alone. We are learning more clearly every day that globally we all sink or swim together. This is a very important step in the growth of global consciousness.

I am not, by the way, making a case for any specific type of future world government by these previous statements. I do believe that at some point this development will occur, simply due to ongoing integration of economies and cultures, technological connectedness, shared international infrastructure requirements, population increase and migration, and the rapid spread of free information. However, if it is achieved, world government itself would not have been the goal, it would only be the natural outcome of fulfilling world needs. (Many people fear this perceived consolidation of global power, the changes it could bring, and its potential misuse or disempowerment of the individual).

The achievement of world government would be the symptom or logical result of our having learned to work together more efficiently and effectively as a global consciousness. In this way, we can, as a world, effectively manage global issues and set global priorities, which will be a requirement for our global survival. Currently we have no efficient, effective and fair method or mechanism to allocate and apply natural resources, money and energy to the solution of international/global challenges. This is due to the fractured nature of our world's nations, economies, cultures, religions and politics; however, this is changing.

In this global evolutionary scenario, many different political and economic models are being "tried out" by different nations, and each is to a degree competing against the others. Although internationally competitive, conflict producing and often not very positive, this act of proselytizing nationalistic economic and political systems is potentially useful. In effect, it gives more grist for the evolutionary mill, ultimately leading to the creation of future world economy and political systems. In effect, it is a necessary step in global learning via tested and proven results. It is also a process which is helpful to determine what specific and tested elements will comprise the essence of the global economic and political system or model that will ultimately be adopted. It is also a situation of each powerful nation trying to, perhaps selfishly, influence the choices made in the development of the arrived at global political and economic system. Ultimately this process will determine the most workable, necessary and appropriate system(s) of governance for the future world. Quality assurance in evolving governance will become ever more important as world complexity increases. The same is true of the need for unshakable integrity in and between governments and the elimination of corruption.

Of course, no existing single model of government or economy will answer all future world needs, therefore it will benefit all nations to learn from one another. The world is watching the political and economic systems of China, the European Union, Russia, the United States and others to see which works best and why. Certainly, each of these entities has its own intentions, agendas, beliefs, values and goals as they proceed forward, and some of them are even destructive to the others. Each is learning and evolving in its own way and at its own speed. That said, in the end we must all set aside limiting, negative and self-centered intentions or face the catastrophic global and national consequences of our shortsightedness.

This may appear to be a stark or even harsh way to view and discuss our reality and a challenging vantage point from which to approach our global situation. If we ignore the world situation while we chase personal gain, survival and desires, or nationalistic agendas, we do so at the peril of all we most love. If we are not motivated in our interactions with others by conscious self-accountable wisdom, love and compassion, we will not make our choices in a socially wise manner. Functioning in this more consciously caring way is becoming more important every day. If we cannot get to this level of globally conscious understanding, it may be difficult for us to be motivated to attain the requisite awareness, discipline, depth of understanding, wisdom, knowledge and technical know-how to resolve the growing world issues.

If we do not accomplish these goals, we may fall backward as a world and as a species. This potential detrimental situation would also profoundly affect the United States, despite all its economic and technological power. This is true because now all nations are completely interdependent, and trying to pretend that this is not true is folly. Yet global economic, ecological or technological collapse need not be a component of global transformation, if we are guided by conscious discernment. Optimal global transformation is the ongoing process of mindful, balanced, managed and coordinated deconstruction of the past and construction of the future. This process, like all other things in life, is based upon the choices and actions of individuals. All of our choices matter and all of us as individuals matter.