

## **Creating Heaven on Earth.**

*The definition of Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and getting the same result, but expecting a Different One. Albert Einstein*

### **Endless Ignorance and Conflict**

The destruction of life and property and the grief of all national conflicts have raised innumerable voices to the heavens with prayers and pleading to the favored gods to stop the enemy from proceeding in the annihilation of the population and destruction of the Homeland. These pleas for divine intervention to halt the carnage and to provide victory over the enemy have been put forth by people of all the different religious point of view but to the avail of none. Even in what was thought to be a just cause for the beginning and participation in a war, again and again victory was not given, nor suffering alleviated by divine powers.

Watching the Armistice Day ceremonies this year I was reminded of the famous H.G. Wells comment about World War I being *'The war to end all wars.'* One understanding of Wells' comment is that Europe but also the whole world was so devastated both in terms of the killing of sentient beings and destruction of cities, villages and infrastructure, humanity would never again allow themselves to engage in such suicidal and destructive behavior. After that war, the League of Nations was developed to resolve conflicts between nations in a rational and just manner rather than through conflict. However, as we now know, only 20 years later the whole world launched itself into an even greater and more destructive conflict of war, mass destruction and annihilation.

In a longer review of human history, this horror of war has been written about and discussed since time immemorial. For example, 16th-century Protestant theologian Martin Luther wrote, *"War is the greatest plague that can afflict humanity; it destroys religion, it destroys states, it destroys families. Any scourge is preferable to it."*

All these wars have been created in the mind and emotions of Humans. They are conflicts of ideas, identities, economics and cultures. All the past and present world-wide pain and weariness, fear and anxieties, the bloodshed and destruction, the misery and waste of millions of human beings, animals and crops, are the consequences of greed, hatred but primarily ignorance. The crucial step to be taken for future prevention is not to destroy things or people, but to transform the group of dysfunctional and wrong perspectives that have continually created this suffering. The record suggests that no matter how atrocious war becomes, humanity even now, in its present ignorance, will never say, "Enough is enough." Even the abhorance of World Wars I and II - with the use of the ultimate horror of nuclear bombs in WWII- did not convince humankind to put away war.

Indeed, the sorrowful lesson of history that a different paradigm must be incorporated into the human project of existence continues to be so poignantly clear during the Armistice memorials. A different approach not based on merely good intention and hoped for cooperation among different political, religious, and ethnic groups. Nor can the prayers for divine intervention any more be considered effective and useful in the controlling of humankind's immaturity, ignorance, greed, anger and foolishness. It is clear that a radically new perspective must be promoted and implemented in the education of not only ethics but the comprehension of the reality of this world and the human cognitive construction of their world. As H.G. Wells came to see, it will require a complete change of human nature and a defeat of all ideas that lead to separation, alienation and war.

### **Transcendant Psychology**

One of the clearest and most profound teachers of non-dualism is the Buddha. He was an innovator, genius, healer and Psychologist in the perspective which I describe as Transcendental Idealism. He saw that sentient beings suffer and after years of introspective study he understood through his insights the source and the possibility of the

cessation of that suffering. He then taught a Program for humans to follow to end their suffering. While his focus was largely on the individual's psychological and moral/ethical progress of understanding, there are significant applications to the suffering created also on a macro level of human interaction with other sentient beings and with nature. For as long as human's interactions with each other and nature are based on the ignorance of dualism that creates greed, alienation, insecurity and hatred, great suffering will continue.

The perspective of non-dualism has already been clearly enunciated as well as established in human thoughts and condition. It is a perspective based on human insight into the conditions and workings of the human mind, emotions and environment. While this is an ancient wisdom, it is also modern and is verified through contemporary science and the social sciences. Therefore, since the Buddha taught observable truths and empirical observations, he is not the only human in the past or in the present who has gained the insights and understanding of this perspective. I would also add that basically since the Buddha refused to attribute any divine intervention in human affairs, this perspective can be best understood and appreciated as a holistic Transcendent Psychology. Therefore, the total possibility and responsibility of the course in human affairs on all levels, is based solely on human knowledge, intent, and morality.

### **The Creators of our Own destiny**

Indeed, the path of human existence is solely in the hands of humans. This is a path that requires a training, a discipline, a giving up of selfish, immaturity and unethical living to achieve a human existence resulting in well-being, happiness, compassion and wisdom. As the expression is: *"If we have not found the heaven within, we have not found the heaven without."* While this project of the construction of peaceful coexistence, dignity, equality and prosperity

for all sentient beings at first glance might seem if not impossible, very difficult, it is possible.

This needed profound change in our fundamental model of understanding correctly how reality is, while paradoxically not new, it finally needs its rightful place of importance and actuality in human's operational definitions of sanity and wisdom. Therefore, humankind must shift from the predominate dogma of dualism which creates most of our problems, to a non-dualism which is not only different, but also better. Non-dualism is a radically different way of understanding and organizing personal beliefs, complex systems and organization policies, by transcending dualistic thinking and organization.

Both the principles of a life based on Transcendental Idealism and a course based in Transcendent Psychology require recognizing a very different even radical approach how to live our lives as successful and prosperous human beings. But, as history has continually shown us and human behavior continues even today to destroy, murder, annihilate and create massive suffering not only for all sentient beings but also the destruction includes the earth - transformation from ignorance is absolutely necessary. The course is clear and the guidelines are well situated and proven. What is needed as in any important human endeavor is not only the desire, which in this case, humans want peace, prosperity, and happiness, but also the correct effort and knowledge for success.

### **The New Possibility**

The simile which expresses well what will it take to reach this new phase of harmonious human existence on earth is that of the butterfly. To actualize its beauty and freedom it must emerge from the darkness of a cocoon. However, through the natural process of giving a birth to itself, with the correct effort and intention, the butterfly larvae slowly emerges from the cocoon into the mature and capable butterfly. Similarly, following the path away from immature greed, anger, and ignorance into the light of the day and out of

darkness is the basic thing humans must do in order reach a level of stability and peace. Ultimately, the way we understand and think about existence, a paradigm shift must be advanced which will change our human character and end further suffering.

This opportunity of living in a world without the horrendous suffering and destruction of war and conflict created through ignorance has long been recognized by visionaries as a possibility since it is solely in the hands of human beings to do this. It is only through taking responsibility for our actions, thoughts and emotions and living in a way that will we create our own peace. We also see that by not including others in this vision, we are still living in the cocoon, in ignorance, selfishness, and in anger which is based on our old dualist mindset rooted in separation and alienation.

The lesson is that our deep happiness depends on our mental/emotional state as well as living conditions. And in both cases, we have the possibility of creating positive, realistic and pragmatic mental states which include the living conditions that promote, foster and sustain our well-being. This project depends on the way we understand and implement it. Our suffering is created by ourselves; therefore, the ending of our suffering is also possible by ourselves together.

Looking to each other to remove the ignorance and hindrances to our vision of a life on earth without the suffering created through wars, greed, hatred, ignorance, and injustice is a must. As Wells wrote during WWI: *'This monstrous conflict in Europe, the slaughtering, the famine, the confusion, the panic and hatred, and lying pride, it is all of it really only in the darkness of the mind. At the coming of understanding, it will vanish as dreams vanish at awakening. But never will it vanish until understanding has come.'* For the mind enmeshed in ignorance, greed, and anger feeds on itself and, therefore, has difficulty letting go and rising above the quagmire in which it remains.

This blindness needs an empathetic and compassionate approach to assist in showing how it is possible to live in a world without the pain and distrust and suffering created through the ignorance. And the path can be clear and successful without much difficulty. What is difficult is allowing oneself to give up the hatred, the anger, the greed, the points of view of egoism and selfishness – like those of a child. In the book, *Lost Horizon*, there is this passage: *‘Look at the world today. Is there anything more pitiful? What madness there is! What blindness! A scurrying mass of bewildered humanity crashing headlong against each other. The time must come when brutality and the lust for power will perish by its own sword. When that day comes, the world must begin to look for a new life.’* The new paradigm is away from that, and instead, the whole movement is a development of maturity of perspective and therefore action with wisdom about the way we understand and think about existence. Therefore incorrect ideas and beliefs have to be renounced, which will change our human character and end further suffering.

For as the Buddha taught and is now clear through scientific investigation, humans and the environment are deeply enmeshed and co-dependent on each other. This is one world and every action by all living and non-living forces interact with and alter the previous reality- some more than others. Therefore, once we are inspired and apply the truths that the Buddha discovered and now are explicated in more modern terminology and description, there is a real possibility for a heaven on earth without the distraction of seeking supernatural intervention. The heaven on Earth can briefly be described as a world of humans acting through wisdom and empathy and compassion.