

MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

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For those of you who have already read my essay on "The Humanist Collective", you know that it is my very strong belief that the true purpose for the existence of each and every one of us, aside from the expansion of consciousness which is relatively autonomous, is to make the world a better place than we found it when the time comes to leave the physical side of life.

The mind set required to make the world a better place than we found it, is, in and of itself, a vitally important expansion of both consciousness and the awareness of the unity of life that is of all developments, the most important to all of life.

For the rest of you, while I strongly suggest you read that essay, I want to emphasize that making the world better for everyone is the best way we can spend our time. Sticking our head in the sand (or another place I can think of) and "meditating" or "praying" does absolutely nothing to make the world a better place for anyone.

Of course, it is equally true that devoting all one's energy to the acquisition of wealth and power has quite the same effect as contemplation of one's naval. At least it does as far as making the world a better place for all sentient beings is concerned. I think it only fair to say however, that the people who are crazed in their lust for wealth and power do far more harm to the world than those who merely contemplate the glories of their self-hood. For these people are devoted to "preying" rather than "praying". I am definitely not saying that people of great wealth do not make the world a better place; some of them do so very significantly. But many of them don't, and one of the things connected to really great wealth is that its possessors, at least those who did not inherit their wealth, tend to have made the world a much worse place in its accumulation.

The very best way a person can spend their "allotted span" is in thinking of the needs and pains of others and not of themselves. Far too many so-called "spiritual types" are inordinately self-centered and all puffed up with pride regarding how "spiritually advanced" they are. Well they aren't, actually they are spiritual infants, or at best, spiritual adolescents!

In the course of these many essays, I have written often about the fallacies I see in the attitudes and actions of the so-called "New Age Community" and the "Occult Community". They clearly don't make the world a better place for everyone. Their common problem, as I see it, is that they are primarily concerned with themselves and with making their personal worlds a better place for themselves. What's worse is that far too many of these people are simply

interested in glorifying their own opinion of themselves. Their excuse for this utter absorption is that in making the world a better place for themselves it will become better for all those around them. This I disbelieve entirely!

I disbelieve it for the very simple reason that most of these people are simply socially irrelevant, and because of their encapsulation in their own needs and wants there is very little possibility that they will have any real effects on anyone except their immediate families and even that is questionable. The primary effect that these people have on their immediate family and connections is that because of their total self-centeredness they make everyone about them miserable.

Another aspect that disfigures the view of these people is that they tend to be intolerably smug and self-satisfied, very much like Fundamentalist Christians. Again like fundamentalist Christians they are utterly intolerant of any disagreement whatsoever. But then the approach these people take to their so-called "spirituality" is religious and only religious.

One of the most important fallacies I see in these two communities and in the religious communities as a whole is that their notions and conceptions of "spirituality" are rather dreadfully harmful! The reason I say this is that for centuries the human race has very mistakenly been separating spirituality from physical life and that is very wrong headed indeed!

If you've been reading my many essays and my book, you will know that I view "spirit" as intelligent and conscious energy. You will also know that I view consciousness/energy as the only true reality. Physicality, all aspects of it, is simply a manifestation of the imagination of non-physical consciousness or "spirit". In that case, how can it be at all possible for "spirituality" to be in any way separate from the physical manifestation that is "life"?

Someone recently wrote to me that for them the important thing is "taking care of the Ethereal", by which they meant their Virtual Reality consciousness. But, that's really silly. The two non-physical consciousnesses of which each and every sentient being is the manifestation are not in need of attention from their manifested physical experiential remote. What this person is actually doing is hiding on life, and life's experiences by pretending to being "above it all" which they definitely are not.

The entire monastic movement is a perfect exemplar of this kind of mistaken view of existence. This is the same sort of syndrome that the early Christian "hermits" represented, and I don't only mean the ones who sat up on poles. For the entire monastic-convent system is simply the communalization of a group of hermits. Of course monasticism is simply one of the many views of "spirituality" which proves that the religions have absolutely no understanding of the subject at all. Many, many people have written to me telling me of the various and sundry "spiritual practices" in which they indulge, such as Reiki, Martial Arts, Yoga, etc. to gain "spiritual advancement". But this is futile and backwards, the

individual physical form of any sentient being is simply the tool used by the non-physical consciousness to gain experience for itself.

What exactly is "spiritual advancement"? It is an entirely fallacious human conception for a process in which humans are simply "training aids"; they are not in any way the controlling factor. The evolutionary expansion of consciousness and awareness, which is what physical manifestation is all about, is something that happens regardless of human actions. Human actions are an ingredient in the expansion of awareness but they are not its cause. Human Beings are not irrelevant to the expansion of consciousness and awareness for, of course, that is the goal of manifestation. Human beings, however, are not a controlling factor in that evolutionary process, and they are most certainly an intermediate stage in evolution and distinctly not an "end product". The most useful thing a human being can do is increase their knowledge and awareness as much as is possible for with the increase of knowledge and awareness comes an increase in understanding, and these things make the physical personality and it's "body" a better vehicle for the purpose of the infinitization of consciousness and awareness.

For centuries, the silliest notion of which humankind has possessed itself is the idea that humankind is the focus of existence. It is anything but. Protagoras of Abdera notwithstanding, Man is NOT the measure of all things! Human kind is just one of those many things.

Evolution of Consciousness is a thing that takes place regardless of any sentient beings actions or thoughts. Until people realize this, and fully grasp the concept, they are going to be playing ego games with the idea of "advancement" as a motivation and in the process doing themselves and everyone else a lot of harm.

Mankind is not the end product of evolution, what it is can be better described by using the metaphor of describing mankind today as existing in the same relationship to it's future destiny as a caterpillar does to a butterfly.

But now let's talk a little about "Making the World a Better Place". It's very easy to see how a Plato, or Socrates, or Cicero, or Francis Bacon, or Ben Franklin, or Marie Curie, or William Roentgen, or Thomas Edison, or Jonas Salk has made the world a "Better Place" but what can the rest of the people who aren't geniuses do? The answer is a very great deal.

I think it a fair assumption that deep within themselves everyone knows what is right and what is wrong. Not religion based "morality" but what is actually right and wrong in their relationships with the lives around them. If a person roots out any bigotry, hatred, and greed from themselves, they will be a better person and a role model for others. Lets look at three ordinary people, Viola Liuzzo, Andrew Goldman, and Michael Schwerner. They were Caucasians, who therefore were members of the dominant social group and they had perfectly safe and comfortable lives, but the three of them left that comfort and security and went to Alabama and Mississippi where all three lost their lives in trying to obtain better

lives for people to whom their only relationship was as fellow human beings. They died, and unpleasantly so, but in so doing they made the world a far better place for their having lived in it.

Now, it is far from impossible for any person, no matter how "ordinary" and unimportant" to make a difference by simply standing up and being counted among those who support the rights of others. Any body can point out bigotry and hatred when they see or hear it, if enough people loudly demand that these things cease, then it will make a difference and eventually cease it will. While racism is still alive among us, it is not at all "going strong". Thanks to people like those three and so many others, racism is now something people try to conceal. The same is true of Anti-Semitism or rather the hatred of Jews. It still exists, fairly strongly so, and anyone who says it doesn't is a fool, but the people who are "Jew Haters" have to pretend, at least in public, not to feel the way they do. It is no longer socially acceptable to be a racist or a Jew hater. Now it hasn't happened yet, but slowly and surely it is becoming socially unacceptable to be a homophobe. It was the efforts of thousands upon thousands of perfectly "ordinary" people who brought this about. Ironically in all three instances, it has been the excesses of the racists, Jew haters, and homophobes who were very helpful to those people trying so hard to bring these things to an end.

The murder of Matthew Shepherd never should have happened, but the absolute horror of that death caused many people who never thought about it before to call a halt to it! The same was true of the murders of Viola Liuzzo, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner. Suddenly the racists were clearly shown to be the raging beasts that they were, and now they have to hide their feelings.

Now these, of course, are extreme examples, and not everyone is prepared for martyrdom, but that doesn't mean that well-meaning people can't make important changes in the world around them. Look at the problems I pointed out in my (still incomplete) series on "The Psychopathic Society", isn't it obvious that well meaning people, banded together can do an enormous amount to end those things?

One thing everyone who is well meaning can do, and that is to ameliorate the anger that is so prevalent in all our societies. Let's look at the recent protests against "globalization". The protests, many aspects of which I fully agree with, were notable for their uncontrolled hostility and violence. But how shall that be seen as an answer to a problem that exists only as a part of planetary evolution? "Globalization" when freed of the greed that presently drives it, is the beginning of the end of Nationalism which is one of mankind's two greatest plagues. There is no benevolent side to Nationalism. That I have to say is unlike the other plague which is Religion, which at least has some beneficent sides to it.

Peaceful protest is a very good response to things of which one really disapproves, but violent protest is worse than the thing it attacks.

As a society the population of this planet really needs to object to violence of any kind and for any purpose. There is no such thing as justified violence and though sometimes military action might be needed, there is no such thing as a "just war", at least not as far as the pacification of human society is concerned.

Considering Germany's actions and the Nazi agenda, the Second World War was clearly a necessary thing, but no one should ever pretend it was a "just war"; many innocent people were killed by both sides. The primary difference was that the Germans engaged in a conscious act of genocide, They brutally and oh so efficiently massacred immense numbers of people because of their race, religion, or orientation or political attitudes. Now it is equally undeniable that the Allies in the course of that war killed a great many non-combatants, or what is popularly called "Innocent Civilians." It was cruel, it may in fact have been counter-productive, but it wasn't Genocide. It was viewed by the Allies as a surgical operation designed to remove the cancer of Nazism from the body politic.

Another thing the people of this planet need to do is object to constant lies by Governments and media. People need to demand to be informed accurately and completely, they need to demand information that is not presented as entertainment. They need to demand information that is not presented in tiny "sound bites" but in fullness. They need to demand that sensationalism be rejected in favor of balanced reporting. That probably means removing the profit motive from the news media, which isn't as "unfair" as it may be claimed. The public owns the airwaves and it's their rights to demand that they be utilized for the betterment of society and not for the profit of a few media Barons.

I could easily go on pointing out problems such as these for many, many pages, but it seems to me that these things are very common knowledge, what is needed is a common determination to do something about these things and make our world a better place for us all!