



The Rainbow Journal

No. 96 August 2016

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Journal of:

The Edgar Cayce Society of New Zealand

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FROM THE EDITOR

The Chinese word for crisis comprises of two characters. One means danger and the other opportunity. It is unfortunate but true that we seem to learn more through suffering than from pleasure and that it usually takes a crisis before we change. While we are approaching a time of crisis it is also a time of opportunity for learning and spiritual progress.

Note that I have removed the copyright message at the end of the Journal as I do not know why I put it there in the first place. Readers are welcome to copy Rainbow Journal articles without seeking prior permission. The only proviso is that articles which are primarily of my own composition have my initials after them and articles without these initials come from other sources.

Some years ago I was gifted with a large number of scanned copies of the A.R.E. "Searchlight" periodical which covered many topics and contained extensive portions of the Edgar Cayce readings. I had transcribed a number of these into Word format and these files have been sitting ever since in one of my computer folders. I believe many of articles contained in these files will be of interest to readers so I have attached a copy of just one of them which was written some 50 odd years ago. If you like what you read let me know and I will attach further articles to future issues of the Rainbow Journal.

- Brian Alderson ΩΩΩ

HUMANITARIANISM

Humanitarianism may be described as the morals of kindness, benevolence, and sympathy extended to all human beings. It makes no distinction on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, age, religion, ability, or nationality. We see it constantly practised within our communities and around the world, particularly when there are natural disasters, when people and countries will rush to aid those who are suffering from the results of these disasters. Humanitarianism displays the basic goodness of us humans as individuals particularly when we join together into groups and organisations that have a primary aim of helping people in need.

It is however unfortunate that true humanitarianism plays no part in modern capitalism, politics and business ethics. The classical lines in the movie "Wall Street" epitomises the attitude of large corporations: *"The point is, ladies and gentleman, that greed - for lack of a better word - is good. Greed is right. Greed works. Greed clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Greed, in all of its forms - greed for life, for money, for love, knowledge - has marked the upward surge of mankind. And greed - you mark my words - will not only save Teldar Paper, but that other malfunctioning corporation called the U.S."* Even the U.S. courts have confirmed that the sole function of corporations are to make money for their shareholders. Anything else is secondary and must not detract from this sole purpose.

It is the same with politics. People seem always to take second place when it comes to political decision and law making where money is involved. In New Zealand, especially in our major city, Auckland, there is a housing crisis where people have been forced to live in their cars and whole families are living in garages because of the escalating housing shortage and prices with a major cause being

attributed to extremely high rates of immigration in recent years. A local survey reported that current rates of New Zealand's immigration rates per capita are the third highest in the world and our prime minister's (whose name appears on New Zealand's rich list) response: "its good for the economy."

The behaviour of the big pharmaceutical companies in placing greed before any sense of humanitarianism is astounding. Their insatiable greed at massive costs in human life could easily be seen as criminal. In fact the only reason why their actions are not crimes against humanity is that law makers have not the power or guts to control them. The insanity of the current situation is seen in my own country, and no doubt in most countries around the developed world, where cancer sufferers are dying because they cannot afford the cost of drugs that could cure them. At the same time we are asked to give money to charitable organisations for cancer research. One would have thought that was the job and role of the drug companies seeing we are paying such a high price for their products. These companies constantly claim that the reason for high prices was the cost of research. So why do we need to rely on charity and governments for the same research? This is against a backdrop where the top eleven drug corporations generated net profits in just one decade of nearly three quarters of a trillion dollars! Despite the claims of these companies that high prices are needed for research all but one of them spend far more money on advertising and marketing than on research.

Strangely enough, on the world scene, claims to humanitarianism are always heard most loudly after some spectacular act of inhumanity. After a number of countries have been involved in inhumane acts of dropping bombs in Syria indiscriminately killing innocents as well as those particularly targeted for death, they have called for cease fires so that "humanitarian aid" can reach the survivors of the very people they have just attacked.

It is significant that we hear much about "our values" when it comes to humanitarian help in places ravaged by war, particularly when the west has been instrumental in, or indifferent towards, the creation of strife, to which we must bring the urgent capacity for relief of a concerned "international community". Only today at a U.N. security council meeting an attempt has been made to put an arms embargo on one African country in an attempt to curtail wholesale slaughter of innocents but this has met with resistance, understandably because such an embargo would be bad for business.

In such a context, it should not astonish us if humanitarian assistance is sometimes invoked even in the form of bombs, dropped to prevent greater wrongs – to protect innocent civilians or to halt the "cancer" of extremism.

One extraordinary example of humanitarianism in action may be seen in the recent appeal to help the afflicted, the mutilated and bereaved of Gaza. When the buildings have been razed, the bodies counted, the rubble turned over, sorrowing peoples are invited to offer assistance to those whose lives have been ruined or abridged; but no one - including those who were in a position to do so - invoked humanitarianism to prevent the carnage from happening in the first place. Humanitarianism after the event savours of hypocrisy as much as of philanthropy.

This suggests the humanitarianism of our age demands - in Iraq, Afghanistan, Gaza, Libya - flattened cities, heaps of corpses, strife and bloodshed in order to find its fullest expression. Should it surprise us if the imperialists of compassion

themselves sometimes contribute to the supply of scenes of misery, which then call forth their exhibitions of altruism before a wondering world?

As stated in the beginning of this article, most of us are humanitarians by nature. We care for one another and desire peace and harmony, not only in our neighbourhoods but also in this little planet we all live on. Our weakness is that we allow large, rich corporations and governments greatly influenced by these corporations to rule our lives and to send our children into battlefields. It is time we ceased being complacent and make a stand for what, in our hearts, we know is right and the humane thing to do. - BDA ΩΩΩ

THE TIPPING POINT

SYNCRONICITY Def: "the simultaneous occurrence of events which appear significantly related but have no discernible causal connection."

Yesterday, following the typing of the the first couple of paragraphs in this article below on the topic of 'The Tipping Point' I ceased writing for the day. In the evening for relaxation I turned on the TV to find the program I watched was a re-run of the movie title "The Day The Earth Stood Still."

*The plot of the movie is about a spaceman, Klaatu, who came here with a mission, as he stated, to "save the Earth." To do this he would have to eliminate the cause of the Earth's precarious situation – human beings. He connects with a scientist Dr. Helen Benson who takes him to the home of Professor Barnhardt, a Nobel Prize winner. They discuss how Klaatu's own race went through a drastic, collaborative evolution to prevent the demise of their own planet. Barnhardt pleads that while Earth is at a similar precipice, and acknowledged that while mankind has destructive tendencies, we too have the ability to change. Although we may stubbornly ignore the warning signs because of our behaviour it was when matters reached a **tipping point**, that we display this ability to change.*

*So the plot in this movie concerned the very subject that I started to write about earlier - that we are reaching a crisis, a **tipping point** when the very survival of our race is at stake. - Ed*

The tipping point, in the context used in this article, may be defined as the point at which an issue, idea, or situation, crosses a certain threshold and gains significant momentum that results in a major change of course or even a revolution for a whole population. An alternative description may be in the phrase "the straw that broke the camel's back" alluding to a situation where a seemingly minor incident causes an unpredictably large and sudden reaction, as a result of the cumulative effect of these or similar incidents.

One example we have witnessed in recent times is what has been called the 'Arab Spring', a revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests, riots, and civil wars in the Arab world that began on late 2010 in Tunisia and spread throughout the countries of the Arab League. This was supposed to bring peace and a better future for the peoples of this region but unfortunately the results for most were not what was hoped for.

Our looming crisis is coming from more than one direction.

The first is the potentially catastrophic consequences of global warming.

Unbeknown to most of us it was just over fifty years ago (November 1965) that the American Association for the Advancement of Science advisory committee sent President Lyndon Johnson a report entitled "Restoring the Quality of Our Environment". The introduction to the report noted: "*Pollutants have altered on a global scale the carbon dioxide content of the air and the lead concentrations in ocean waters and human populations.*" The report outlined suggested measures to be taken to curb this dangerous trend.

Over the next few decades these and similar warnings have been virtually ignored and worse, attempts were made to discredit the whistle-blowers. Eventually as the physical evidence of what is happening, such as the melting of the polar icecaps, became overwhelming, the fact that the earth's climate is heating up is universally acknowledged but despite the scientific evidence there are still many who claim global warming is a just a natural phenomenon.

To date the effects on humanity as a result of climate change have not been sufficient to cause panic nor has it become a major concern for most of us, that is unless we have been directly affected by floods, forest fires, landslides, extended draughts and other extreme weather events resulting from this global warming.

Despite a number of international conferences and promises of making efforts to curb the known causes of the warming – carbon dioxide emission from the burning of fossil fuels coupled with massive deforestation across the globe – no effective changes to our behaviour have been made. In fact carbon dioxide emission globally is still on the increase while deforestation continues unabated.

Perhaps, like the plagues visited upon Egypt because of the stubbornness of its Pharaoh, it will take the demise of millions of us from a single climate related event for us to reach the tipping point when we may, as a race disappear, or change and use our creative abilities to avoid such a catastrophe.

The other potential crisis nearing a tipping point relates to our monetary and economic systems.

In the developed world we have been witnessing the steadily increasing disillusionment over the promises by politicians of 'a better future' only to be faced with a steady decline in prosperity for the majority of people while a very few are amassing obscene amounts of money. People have been increasingly disillusioned at seemingly inability of our politicians to correct this imbalances in our societies. In the U.K. voters shocked the country – and the world - by electing to withdraw from the E.U. In the U.S. we are witnessing a surprising popular candidate who, at face value, appears to be completely unfit for the role of president in the upcoming election. The people's choice of this candidate appears to be mostly motivated by the lack of faith in the current government as the wealth of the very few keeps escalating while that of the middle classes have stagnated and for the rest poverty and homelessness is on the increase.

Even in little New Zealand despondency is emerging as, for the first time in living memory, we are witnessing people begging and living on our city streets. Workers are living in cars and family are paying exorbitant rents for the privilege of living in garages. The possibility of buying a house has become completely out of reach for the average worker with mortgage repayments and rentals now consuming up to 80% of their take home pays.

Money, which is the backbone or basis of our economy was once backed by

gold and silver but not any more. Instead it is backed by debt and to keep the value of money from collapsing debt must ever be on the increase. To recover interest charged on this, debt repayments must also be ever increasing which means that our economy must also expand so that more money will become available to finance indebtedness. And so it is an escalating spiral until one day our whole monetary and economic system will simply collapse. The supply of money will dry up and the economy disintegrate. It is just a matter of *when* this tipping point will be reached.

So what are we as individuals to do at this time when we may feel so helpless in the face of these crises? Obviously as individuals we cannot stop the rising of the Earth's temperature or change political and economic systems. The best we can do is what a wise man once wrote "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15 ESV). When asked what the greatest commandment was Jesus replied: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments"* (Matt 22:36-40, ESV)

Then, we may ask, how do we love God with all our heart, soul and body? Edgar Cayce gave much advice on this. We love God by following the example set by Jesus in our daily activities and in the way we treat others, which should be with unconditional love.

"Then, let your ideal and your purpose be not in the gratifying of yourself but that your life, your body, your mind, may be a channel through which the glory of a risen Lord may be known among your fellow man. Live the life; not by profession, not by rote, but by deed day by day!" 1233-1

(Q) In what way can I best serve God and fulfil the real purpose of my life?

(A) "Studying to show yourself approved into Him, rightly divining the words of truth, keeping self unspotted from the world. Use what ability you have in hand and the next step, my child, is given you." 920-2

As to the looming crises, concerning climate change, the very least we individuals can do is to leave the smallest possible 'carbon footprint' through our activities. When it comes to money we should live within our means, not by borrowing on the future. Follow this advice then leave fear and worry to God. - BDA
ΩΩΩ

FEAR AND RELIGION

“Religion is based primarily upon fear. It is partly the terror of the unknown and partly as the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and disputes. Fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death. Fear is the parent of cruelty, and therefore it is no wonder if cruelty and religion have gone hand in hand. It is because fear is at the basis of those two things. In this world we can now begin a little to understand things, and a little to master them by help of science, which has forced its way step by step against the opposition of all the old precepts. Science can help us to get over this craven fear in which mankind has lived for so many generations. Science can teach us, and I think our own hearts can teach us, no longer to look around for imaginary supports, no longer to invent allies in the sky, but rather to look to our own efforts here below to make this world a fit place to live in, instead of the place that the churches in all

these centuries have made it.” — *Bertrand Russell, Why I Am Not a Christian and Other Essays on Religion and Related Subjects*

Although Bertrand Russell claimed that religion is based on fear, and there is much evidence to support his argument, the founder of Christianity never showed fear, never taught fear, and never gave anyone a cause to fear him, even though it appears many people in his time did fear Jesus because of the effect his radical teachings may have on the populous. He taught and showed nothing but love and love was his central message. In fact, while he gave many instructions there was only one actual *commandment* that he gave his disciples and followers. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” So we may argue that the founding fundamental law on which Christianity is based is this commandment of Jesus.

There is one type of fear which is a purely animal instinct. It is an emotional response to a perceived threat. Fear serves as a vital survival mechanism triggering the fight-or-flight reaction in most living creatures, ourselves included, when faced with imminent danger. We feel fear physically as our bodies release chemicals like adrenaline.

We can sense fear in others in a way that is often compared to the sense of smell. We have adapted it for use it as a weapon, not only to intimidate, but to motivate. Fear is one of the most powerful copy drivers used in marketing. And we have all seen the political campaign ads where the opponent is cast in grainy black and white while his or her positions are grimly outlined by a deep sinister voice intended to make us afraid.

The dark nature of fear raises the question: can someone genuinely love what they fear? Sure. It’s true that many people love Great White sharks, but are reluctant to jump in the water with one because of the obvious risk. Sharks are not evil, but the really big ones are indeed fearsome. But this not the fear we are referring to here.

A striking example of another sort of fear is the fictional, yet infamous, Ministry of Love, imagined by George Orwell. The Ministry of Love was a place where loyalty to the dictator was enforced through terror and torture. It was a windowless building where bright lights were never turned off. “The place where there is no darkness.” As the story goes, the victim was exposed to such intense fear that they learned to genuinely love their abuser because, ultimately, the two physical emotions were made indistinguishable from one another and, given the choice, love was the more desirable feeling. Orwell was not inventing something new. He was merely fictionalizing, to an extreme, the application of a real human capacity for psychological manipulation. One needn’t look further than the cult-of-personality found in North Korea to see a real example of Orwellian love.

Religion has always relied on fear as its own strong nuclear force. Fear, more than any other characteristic, is what perpetuates religion and keeps it from falling apart. The bible uses the word “fear” more times than the word “love” although, to be fair, there are two different uses. One use is as in “fear God” and the other as in, “fear not”. However, it is merely two uses of the same word and, in both cases, it has the same meaning. Why fear God? He is all powerful, capable of great wrath and terrible vengeance if you do not show him the proper respect. But if you give him what he wants, namely unconditional devotion, you will not need to fear other

perceived threats. Interesting enough, this is how a Mafia protection racket works. But ask virtually any Christian and they will tell you they love the Lord. Fear is masked by love.

If one pursues answers in the Bible one may become very aware of the absurd logical fallacy of childish Christian beliefs. And as one reads the Bible in more detail, particularly the first few books, one may begin to question why anyone would love this deity, let alone feel any real admiration beyond the natural feelings of awe toward something that had such power; a power expressed so often through terrifying malevolence against those he sees as his enemies. Then there is the fear that our conclusions, questioning the validity of parts of the Bible using the best of our abilities to think and reason; the fear that the conclusion one reaches will not be pleasing to this deity.

One may wonder: As we who once repeated worn and rote platitudes among the incurious flock of compliant Christian sheep become awakened to the truly comforting reality of our temporal lives in a natural universe, free from the bondage of unknown terrors that lie in wait for the slightest miscalculation of dogma or the insufficiently penitent, can we ever indeed be free from the physical harm done to our young developing minds, instilled forever with abject irrational fears, yet seemingly hard-wired to carry them for life, despite our better knowing?

Fear is the last tactic of the prognosticating evangelist. When all else fails to make an adequate case, an appeal to the most primitive and highly-tuned aspect of our animal firmware is either what keeps someone in the fold or causes one to consider hedging their bets to be on the safe side. No matter who we are, fear is one of our lives' earliest emotional experiences and certainly one of the last we will have. We are all too often easy prey for those who would use fear as a weapon of coercion. Fear shouts over reason's murmurs. When we do, at last, walk away from the fictions of belief, we cannot expect those instilled fears to remain behind. They stay with us longer than our feelings of love, our desire for social acceptance and our false hopes for that strangely nebulous eternity. Our best therapy is to continually reinforce our reason with knowledge and thoughtful observation. Over time, fears of angry gods will go the way of monsters under the bed. - *Various Sources ΩΩΩ*

FEAR AND LOVE

For some time I had intended to compose an article on fear, particularly as seen by many to be the antonym of love. However this morning, after learning the results of the British referendum, I was reminded how fear can be such a motivating force for it appears that a great number of voters, in choosing to exit, were motivated by fear. They chose to vote to secede from the European Union because of the fear of the effect on their lives from the large number of immigrants that were entering Britain on E.U. Passports.

One type of fear is instinctive and exists in all animals. It is referred to as the "fight or flight" response in the presence of immanent danger. Under the proper conditions, instinctive fear actually serves as a useful survival tool when dealing with this fight or flight response stimuli, and helps to keep one safe and alert to potential dangers that may lurk around the corner. In the wild, fear is often used as the major adrenaline rush that helps wild animals, and us, to respond appropriately

to an impending danger, either by running away or fighting. Afterwards, the feeling subsides and is replaced with contentment and a focused existence in the here and now.

No emotion is more palpable in these changing and uncertain times than fear derived from our thoughts. Thoughts of what may happen in the near or distant future because of the rapidly changing times. They have been spawned and stimulated by a lack of the feeling of protection and security in the things we used to take for granted as always being there for us. With our current world economy in a state of fiscal unrest, with the emotional roller-coaster that drives the stock market and other financial engines, with unemployment rates increasing causing great job insecurity, we have been rocked to our core in terms of our faith in the things we have held for so long as the foundations for our modern existence and protection.

The latest cause of fear has been generated by the overwhelming number of refugees flooding Europe and surrounding areas as a result of war and conflict in the Middle East. Although there are a number of issues involved there is no doubt that the vote by Britain to decide whether or not to exit the E.U. was swung in favour of exiting by fears over immigration. This fear has also been a major player in the upcoming U.S. presidential election, where Donald Trump has blamed immigration and immigrants for much of the woes in that country today. It reminds us older people of the strategy Hitler used in Germany during his election campaigns when he blamed all the ills in Germany on the Jewish population.

In many other countries, including Australia and New Zealand politicians have used this emotional motivating force of fear to influence voters. We who are searching of the path of self-realisation, seeking companionship with God as He is manifested in all life should be mindful of our fears reminding ourselves that we are more than bodies and that we are all from the same source so it is important that we must begin to care for and take care of one another. It starts small and grows into concentric circles of influence and action. The mantras “Pass it forward” and “Love one another” have never been more important than it is now. The knee-jerk tendency is to hold back and hoard, but now more than ever we must begin to work for the collective good. There is enough, there is abundance. We have just been led to believe that there is limitation. This is an illusion.

The choice is yours and ours. Do we become a cause for good in our lives, or do we slip deeper down the hole of victimized effect. Our thoughts, our feelings, play a significant role in what we create and how those thoughts out-picture in this physical universe. It is always important to remember that we are more than the physical bodies that we occupy. We are a part of an amazing multi-layered universe of existence. Our perceptions may temporarily be compressed into the limited viewpoint and spectrum of the physical, but we are all so much greater; so much more than what we are being led to believe in this limited physical existence. As we begin to wake up more and more to our true identities, we begin to understand the illusion around us and the games perpetrated on us. We begin to realize that this multi-chaptered stage play we call life and existence is just a minute percentage of our overall existence and beingness. We begin to realize that the mundane realities we have focused our attention on for so very long are but creations of our own manifestation, and that we can rewrite and recreate them both individually and collectively by virtue of what we choose to place our attention on. Fear or love; this

is the choice.

As Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, "...there's nothing to fear but fear itself." The call is and always will be to awaken to the oneness that is in us, that is us. Within this awakening, fear does not exist. Our existence depends directly on our collective ability to evolve and embrace the love that is at the true core of our being. It is about love; not fear. Love and fear cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Love is stronger than fear because love is the pure positive energy of Source. We are love; we make up its energy. We can choose whether or not to allow fear into our hearts and minds. We are to take control, to accept the love; reject the fear. To show kindness and compassion to one another. We do live in abundance and there is enough. We are not to let anyone or anything make us believe otherwise. We just have to reclaim our rightful place in the Spiritual hierarchy and allow love to reign supreme. It's the way of, and to, our Creator.

FROM THE EDGAR CAYCE READINGS

Do you doubt, do you fear the voice of men more than the voice of your conscience, of your soul? The body is temporal, the soul eternal! Do not do that which would make even your soul fearful. Rather give place to that which might be fearful in body to that which would make you fearful in the inner self. For, He is in His holy temple, even in you. All life is an expression of that divine love, as much in the warped body or mind as in the beautiful. For, it gives the expression of the desire, the will, to make manifest His Spirit in the earth. Let your will be His will, your ways His ways, His ways your ways. Not in doubt or in fear; not in doubting as to the strength of those that would aid you in finding yourself. For, He is willing. You be willing that He, the God, the Christ, the love, will guide you! 378-29

In love all life is given, in love all things move. In giving one attains. In giving one acquires. In giving love comes as the fulfilment of desire, guided, directed, in the ways that bring the more perfect knowledge of application of self as related to the universal, all powerful, all guiding, all divine influence in life - or it IS life. 345-1 - BDA ΩΩΩ

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES - "YEAH RIGHT"¹

In the Rainbow Journal I have constantly talked about love and that we should follow the commandment given by Jesus that we are to love one another - even our enemies. But do I really know what I am talking about? Can we really love one another *unconditionally* and even love our enemies?

Firstly we would have to understand what is meant by 'love' and to describe it is not an easy thing to do. If we look up the word in a dictionary we will not find satisfactory answers for all we get is synonyms, other words that can never convey the power and awesomeness of what Jesus was referring to. In an earlier edition of the Journal I offered a definition which was the best I could come up with at the time: "An utterly benevolent energy." Even that cannot convey the essence of it.

If we search the internet with the question "what is love?" (incidentally one of the most searched phrases in Google) for a meaning we will find numerous

¹"Yeah, right!" is an example of irony. Irony is the use of a word or phrase to mean exactly the opposite of its literal sense. Here it would also qualify as sarcasm.

interpretations but none to our full satisfaction.

Strangely enough the closest I witness of what may be considered as 'love' as displayed in the flesh is when I look into the eyes of a young child - usually a toddler around two or three years old. What is evident is the happiness that these children exude, which makes me believe that happiness is its natural state, born out of *love* that comes from the source of its being. I watch a child clasping hands with its mother as it skips along the street in pure happiness. It is so *natural*.

Something seems to happen as we grow up as the cares of this world begin to overwhelm us so this natural state of happiness gradually fades and we seem to devote much of the rest of our lives trying to recapture that state. Did not Jesus say: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."? Is it if we have lost contact with the source of our being which was there when we were so little. Perhaps when we go on our "Search for God" all we are doing is trying to recapture our connection with this Source we once had as children.

FROM THE EDGAR CAYCE READINGS

"For, as He taught, and as you learn more, "Suffer little children to come unto me" is indeed the greater promise to the earth. For unless we become as children we cannot enter in; unless we learn as they. No faults, no hates remain in their experience, until they are taught to manifest such. Hence these may give you greater insight into the meaning of it all." 1992-1

"While the entity is not stingy, it is not too easy either with that which is attained or gained by itself. Its desire to reach its goal, its desire to know and to have, to be, becomes rather the part of the entity. Do not let these become a selfish thing. Let them be rather as He gave, when He blessed you - "Except you become as little children, you shall in no way enter in"; unless you are as forgiving, unless you are as generous, unless ye are as dependent as little children - these become in their deeper sense the meaning, the influence that arises in the experience of the entity." 1532-1 BDA ΩΩΩ

IDEALS AND GOALS.

Nowadays nearly all larger organisations and corporations have a 'Mission Statement.' This is a brief declaration, often consisting of only one sentence, setting down the core reason for the existence of the establishment. For example the mission statement of Google is "Organise the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful" while for Microsoft it is "A computer on every desktop and in every home, running Microsoft software." The reason for having a mission statement is to provide a guiding principle to encourage support and loyalty and to remind executives and employees in the organisation of the overall purpose they are expected to pursue.

Once this mission statement is set down an organisations can then proceed with Strategic Planning. This planning usually is made up of three steps. The first step is to review the current state of affairs of the organisation and examine its strengths and weaknesses. The next step is to set down goals and objectives to achieve the 'ideal state' of the establishment and finally work out ways and means of obtaining the goals and objectives. Usually these strategic plans cover a reasonably

long period of say, between five to twenty years - planning well into the future. After the strategic plan has been adopted annual detail plans are then drawn up each year to set particular targets and goals for the following year.

The mission statement is like a compass which is a steady guide to point the general direction in which the organisation should be heading while the strategic planning sets down the particular goals to be achieved along the way.

While businesses and other organisations have benefited greatly from having mission statements and strategic plans few people as individuals have their own clearly defined goals let alone 'mission statements.' It could be argued that it is easy for a business to set down what it does, as for an example a store which is there to 'sell goods at a profit.' We humans are a much more complex organism and cannot be compared to organisations. Very few of us have any understanding of either why we came here in the first place or the reason for our existence so how can we develop a mission statement without this knowledge? Even if we cannot answer these profound questions we all have our particular traits, characteristics and qualities. We also have the ability to choose. We can choose what we hold as special; we can choose what virtues we consider we would like to exhibit; we can choose to emulate someone we revere.

Perhaps one may not see the necessity of having set goals, but how many times have we said or heard the statement "I never seem to be getting anywhere." The answer of course is simple, for unless one is going somewhere we can never expect to get there! We need goals then for a sense of direction and to help motivate us.

An ideal is something we aim for but unlike a goal it is a concept or a standard of perfection or excellence that we would work towards or a person embodying such a concept or standard for us to adopt as a model to imitate. "Ideals are like stars: you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you reach your destiny." - Carl Schurz. As a concept or standard, an ideal may never be achieved but as with an organisation's mission statement it is like a guiding compass to which we can measure the correctness of our thoughts and actions.

The goals that we choose must then conform to our ideals for we cannot set a goal which would conflict with our ideals as this would be like trying to go in two directions at once.

How then can we set ideals and goals especially if we do not are not sure of what we really want or what we would want to achieve? Here are some suggestions in this regard:

1. Spend some time looking at our present situation and contemplate what is currently motivating our lives. We should ask ourselves questions such as: What do I enjoy doing that leaves me satisfied afterwards? What makes me happy? What makes me enthusiastic? We should also ask ourselves what changes we would like to make in the way we behave and in our environment.

2. Having spent some time exploring where we are, the next step is to make decisions as to where we want to go, to decide on what changes we would like to make to give us greater fulfilment in this life's journey. We should consider what qualities are most important to us and what sort of relationships we would like with

our families, our friends, workmates and all those we come in contact with.

3. From this we may come up with our spiritual ideal. We are to decide on what quality or person we would like to emulate. It may be a human quality of love, or kindness or it may be a person such as Jesus or Mahatma Ghandi or whoever we hold in great esteem and awe.

4. Cayce suggested that as well as spiritual ideals we should set down our mental and physical ideals. Our mental ideals could be those attitudes and way of thinking we would like to adopt taking into account our spiritual ideal and our physical ideal could be our ideal physical body. For example we may set down love as our spiritual ideal, a positive mental attitude in all circumstances and our mental ideal and a healthy body being a fit temple for our soul as our physical ideal.

5. Once we have chosen our ideals we can then start planning our goals. These can be long term aim or can be minor objectives for the short term. Many people have reported great success after writing down precise details of targets together with a specific timeline for achievement. Once they have been written they can be put away and forgotten and it is quite amazing how people have come across these recorded goals much later to find that what has been written has been achieved.

FROM THE EDGAR CAYCE READINGS

"As to the activities in the earth, these as indicated indeed are quite varied, yet these are presented as a pattern. While all are not given, these may be a pattern for the entity, and may be applied or used in the ways and manner in which the entity may find peace and harmony, as from the spiritual source. Remember, the mind and the body and the soul must coordinate as one, for harmony. These necessitate, then, that ideals be attained or set, and that there be the attempt to attain such ideals; not that these will ever be reached, but an ideal must be set towards which it is able to keep working or to answer whatever questionable experiences may arise in the experience of the entity." - 5040-1. BDA
ΩΩΩ

FROM HERE AND THERE

THE BEST DAYS

(Q) What are the best days of the month for me to operate business and what years of my life will be the most productive ones and why?

(A) *EVERY day!* -1999-1

IT'S IN THE BOOK!

The Bible can and does say practically anything someone wants to interpret it to say. As religious scholar Resa Aslan points out, "People don't derive their values from their religion - they bring their values to their religion." And then they often use their religion to justify their beliefs and actions. - *The Good Men Project*

ON PEACE

If all would only realise that peace must first come within, before it can come without, many problems would be resolved. - SFG Book 2, P17

IS GOD REALLY OMNIPOTENT?

The Absolute cannot manifest its will in our world and that this will manifests itself only in the form of mechanical laws and cannot manifest itself by violating these laws. There is a school story that illustrates this:

The story is about an over-aged student of a seminary who, at a final examination, does not understand the idea of God's omnipotence.

"Well, give me an example of something that the Lord cannot do," said the examining bishop.

"It won't take long to do that, your Eminence," answered the student. "Everyone knows that even the Lord himself cannot beat the ace of trumps with the ordinary deuce."

Nothing could be more clear.

There was more sense in this silly story than in a thousand theological treatises. The laws of a game make the essence of the game. A violation of these laws would destroy the entire game. The Absolute cannot interfere in our life and substitute other results in the place of the natural results of causes created by us, or created accidentally, as he can beat the ace of trumps with the deuce. Turgenev² wrote somewhere that all ordinary prayers can be reduced to one: "Lord, make it so that twice two be not four." This is the same thing as the ace of trumps of the student. - *In Search of the Miraculous*, P.D. Ouspensky. ΩΩΩ

CHRIST IN YOU

PART III

THIRD LESSON

“Seek and Ye Shall Find”

The question may be asked: Why are so many people still in bondage even with this knowledge? We are in earnest, and are willing to be and to do what we can. It is good to give your heart to the understanding of wisdom. Knowledge is not understanding. To know God we must be God-like. Because we long for perfection we are already at its beginnings. Do not regard any of these things as distant or outside yourselves: that is the spirit of separateness. Let us meet the seeming difficulties together, the weights and hindrances of your everyday life, for the truth will set you free.

Many of you seem to be in bondage to the climate, to lack of heat or to unevenness of temperature. Your bodies are subject to many influences. I too suffered in this way, and I would gladly help you with my experience. How could I understand that what I needed was within? I thought it necessary to be warmly clad, to avoid chill, and to take food to sustain life. Ah! If I could only show you for a minute a spiritual being who has passed this stage, you would know beyond all doubt that Christ is the bread of life, the true daily bread, nourishing both soul and body, able to supply your every need.

When you awake in the morning you look outside and see cold; now you both see and feel cold. You must see before you feel a truth or a falsehood; this is a law. We shall straight away begin to reverse the order. You will look within and see only God; you will feel and understand God. Your feeblest effort in this direction will

² Turgenev was a Russian novelist, short story writer, and playwright.

have its rewards.

Read this truth into every details of the day, and live in the assurance that God cannot fail. See reality, God, behind every shadow. As you go into the outer, cast out fear. Be not anxious and the very elements will be at one with you. This is the rule of the spiritual. Your whole supply for every need is within yourself. The day is at hand when man, on the earth, will be a true spiritual being. Even now you have expressed yourself in the present phase, and the God-man is seeking a higher form of manifestation; but all must co-operate, and you are learning the laws of the spiritual kingdom for this end, that sorrow and sighing may flee away, that the sons and daughters of God may hunger no more. Your responsibility is great, but your work is for eternity. Do not lose heart. Be of good courage. The work may seem slow, but God is in it. The result in yourself will be first a sense of command, and later you will smile at your old fears and limitations, for you will be at home and at rest in any climate or circumstance.

Do you not see for yourself how your thought has been concerned with your dependence upon material warmth, food and sustenance? Later you will put these in their true place, and life will open out its treasure. At present your whole time and thought are given to caring for the daily outer life. Think what the spiritual being with its higher faculties could enter into if you gave half as much time and thought to the true life!

Live simply. Take no anxious thought for the things of today. Let the dead bury their dead. Follow Me, I am within. - ΩΩΩ

LETTERS

This issue was sent to a few friends to review and below was a response from one of them.

Hi Brian,

There seems to be a double standard in this issue as we read in the first article 'Humanitarianism' that immigration is causing major problems in New Zealand yet in the article 'Love and Fear' you write that people's response to immigration is fear. Is that not being a little hypocritical.

Regards,

Frank.

Hello Frank,

I can understand your point but in the article on Humanitarianism I was referring to the motive behind our government's policy on immigration. The policy appeared to completely ignore the negative effects that such high immigration rates are creating with the only objective appearing to be that it helped in maintaining the nation's positive GDP rates.

At the same time our government is being criticised because it was only after great pressure that it increased our quota of refugee immigrants from 750 per year (a rate that has been basically the same for 30 years) to 1,000. Refugees are seen as a cost to our economy so the numbers allowed in are kept to the minimum. Its all about money, not people.

Brian

Editor - ΩΩΩ

LOVE



OUR CLOSING THOUGHT

“What is it all about then? ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, your body, and your neighbour as yourself.’ The rest of all the theories that may be concocted by man are nothing, if these are just lived. Love your neighbour as yourself in the associations day by day, preferring as did the Christ who died on the cross rather than preferring the world be His without a struggle. Know, then, that as He had His cross, so have you. May you take it with a smile. You can, if you will let Him bear it with you. Do it!” 3976-29 ΩΩΩ

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