

FUTURE *takes*

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The Future Calls for a New Way of Seeing, of Being, of Doing

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Frequently our solutions for a better future are on a surface level, such as in the area of technology, business, addressing terrorism and other areas of concern. While exploration in these areas is needed, a deeper spiritual exploration is required to create a new and sustainable foundation and to create a world of peace, justice and harmony for ourselves and for generations still to come.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us we are “all tied together in a common garment of destiny.” That is a good first step toward achieving unity, harmony and peace. It means first of all recognizing we are all people of body, mind and spirit, worthy of respect, encouragement and opportunities for growth.

a. We need to name the structures and systems we have created that have fettered, disempowered and starved the majority of human beings across the globe. Beyond naming, we need the moral courage to put people before acquiring and possessing and begin relating to one another as brothers and sisters, not as Black or White, Brown or Yellow, experts and ignorant, rich and poor. With this kind of vision, we will have the motivation to work for peace, justice, equality and compassion for all people, rather than exploiting and destroying one another.

b. We need to name the violence we have institutionalized as a way of getting ahead and holding on to power and even of solving international problems. We have used violence as a way glorifying power and a sense of superiority and keeping the vast majority of the world's population poor. We need a new vision for sharing power and resources for all people.

c. We need to redirect the trillions spent on armaments toward education, health care, job creation and other human needs. By continuing the armaments race, we are adding to the world's violence and conflict.

Change of consciousness in ways named above and imagination to move from vision to action will make a difference. Such consciousness and thoughts move from head to heart, from one individual and group to another and can make a vast difference in the long haul. This will entail struggle and pain and paying the price. We are already paying a high price, when we look around us or at the evening use and see images of victims of war and crime, economic and political disparities, hunger and devastation of every kind. We need a different way to organize our lives and our actions.

Consciousness of our human value is the only place to start. Vaclav Havel, former President of the Czech Republic got it right when he said: “*Consciousness precedes being. Hope starts in the human heart.*” He believed we need to get in touch with the real truth about ourselves and all human beings and from there create systems and structures that support human life in all its forms.

When we reclaim our inner spiritual resources, that will enable us to have the moral courage to bring about needed change, starting with ourselves. As Gandhi once said: “*We must be the change we want to see happen.*” We must go deeper to have the courage to go broader and higher. By connecting with people globally who are on a spiritual path, it will make all the difference. It is a journey worth starting and sustaining. Let us begin today courageously.