

Think With Your Heart

The cascading crises of global warming, peak oil and suicidal terrorism are making it obvious that we are all on one lifeboat together. In the midst of this crisis, we cast about for pieces of flotation, and there are many within reach when we look beneath the surface chaos.

How we think about, how we frame, what we are doing is so much more important than what we are doing. When we define ourselves as independent agents competing for mastery over a finite set of circumstances, we imply that we are surrounded by enemies in a hopeless situation. When we humbly see our place in the context of the larger system of humanity, we are much more likely to cooperate in solving complex problems which may have otherwise seemed overwhelming. The willingness to cooperate is the new touchstone of sanity that leads to not just survival, but an abundantly joyous survival.

When we reframe global warming or peak oil as our opportunity to cooperate in expanding our access to resources that have been until now unavailable to us, we open a vision of new possibilities, and so it is with building the peace. Terrorism is our opportunity to access communication skills that have been previously unused. Real strength, real self-esteem, comes from relating to people instead of dominating them.

We are no longer limited to life as victims of a system of win-lose, manipulation, separation, and exploitation of sex, money, and power. We have the power to take responsibility for our role in shaping the culture in which we live. We have the power of imagination, the greatest gift, with which we can and will subvert the domination system. Our struggle is no longer with an external "enemy," our struggle is to imagine ourselves using our innate ability to communicate honestly and openly, to use our vulnerability to get our needs met, to transcend our fear of other people. This is our gift to the world. This is the revolution which will turn the world upside down, for the better.

When we imagine ourselves being fearless in genuine relationships with other people, when we escape from the fantasies about how dangerous other people might be --- how they need to be controlled, dominated, or even eliminated --- there is no struggle, there is only surrender to a wonderful sense of belonging, trust, and safety. Is that not what we all really want, anyway? Are we willing to try something different: creating power with others instead of over them, surrendering to the needs of the greater good instead of clinging to the egotistical needs of the individual?

On the face of it, our culture will tell us this is not a "rational" course of action because it doesn't fit with the familiar, short-term goals of win-lose. Yet on deeper examination of long-term goals (i.e., what is good for the seventh generation?), the strategy of win-win and cooperation makes the most sense. Do we really have any choice? The winner in a win-lose paradigm automatically becomes a victim of their own self-isolation, and they have lost the joy, wonder, and power of people working together in community.

We can change history so that peace is no longer impossible, it becomes inevitable. It is like building a birdhouse. When the space is ready, the dove of peace arrives. Today, the space for

conflict resolution without violence has been researched, tested and designed. When we share a detailed vision of steps towards peace, and each step follows a logical sequence, then the visions of war and violence begin to lose their validity.

I see that we are in an upward spiral of knowledge and abilities that will establish something like a Department of Peace, to promote the healthy growth and development of children worldwide; prosperity and safety for adults; as well as cooperative learning and problem-solving. Such genius will flower that sometime in the future as we look back at the current state of humanity, it will seem as if we were like the dodo, and we will wonder why and how we were saved from extinction. Can you imagine that?

The design is ready, let's build it.

The really important things don't happen in space and time, they happen in our hearts. Think with your heart, Peace is waiting for you there. Give yourself to Peace, and you become the Gift. Your Gift is the breath that blows the seed of passionate Love to Earth.

David Hazen