

GLOBALIZATION & MULTI-CULTURALISM: ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL HUMAN ONENESS

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The term 'global' implies over-arching studies that are international, inter-regional, and inter-disciplinary. One should look at geo-politics, culture, business & trade, environment, population, conflict and many concerns through a single disciplinary lens as they are global in nature.

Globalization implies widening, broadening and deepening in the larger context. Phenomenon that once affected a particular country or region now has broader implications and out of necessity, must include a large number of nations with various actors. Problems which were considered discrete historically can now no longer be understood in isolation as the solutions are also complicated. What happens in one particular sphere of life inevitably spills over into another sphere. In this contemporary world of the 21st century, there is an astounding finding, the mindset of the industrial age still dominates today's workplace and it simply will not work in the Knowledge worker age with the complexities of the new economy in this process of globalization. It is a fact that people have taken this obsolete controlling mind-set home as they communicate and deal with people in a controlling manner. People are treated as an expense and machines are treated as assets and investments in the balance sheet. This lack of understanding also prevents the managers of today to tap into the highest motivations, talents and genius of people. ***Knowledge worker age has a new paradigm and it is called the "whole person paradigm".***

Body--physical—to live--discipline

Mind--mental—to learn--vision

Heart--emotional—to love--passion

Spirit--spiritual—to leave with meaning and contribution--conscience

A new philosophy, a new way of life is not given for nothing. It has to be paid dearly for and only acquired with much patience and great effort. It is as if all the intractable problems facing humanity today have been fused into one common concern for everyone.

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On the one hand, there is a greater opportunity for integration, codependency and interdependence, within the region and around the world. On the other hand, we find some of our dearly held values being torn apart at the roots. Our peaceful existence and lovely environment has once again become the site for a nuclear testing ground that threatens our very survival. We understand that everything is subjected to the (immutable) law of change, law of chaos or perhaps decay. Change is constant and it is an evolving process, from simple to greater levels of complexity.

We also understand that human civilization has evolved over thousands of years through various stages of growth and development. Purpose of civilization is to bring about equality, justice and the provision of livelihood to large majority of people so they can lead a reasonably happy and comfortable life. Civilized countries have been able to achieve this vision by producing literate, educated and productive human beings who can contribute to the society as whole in this global village.

Happiness does not mean the pursuit of hedonistic pleasure. Happiness is relative and it means different things to different people. In civilized societies, they have managed to crush the EGO element in their people to a large extent as *EGO focuses on one's survival to the exclusion of others. Ego can't sleep, it micromanages, disempowers and excels in control, it interprets all data and information in terms of self-preservation. Conscience on the other hand sees life as a continuum and it's capable of complex adaptation. It democratizes ego to a larger sense of the group as a whole, the community, and the greater good. Conscience empowers as it has the patience and wisdom to decide what to do next through self-control.*

Relative happiness can be achieved by cultivating an open inquisitive mind, purging oneself of deep prejudices and rituals and showing deep respect and love to others. We should explore what these new bases of happiness are in achieving human oneness for the betterment of all. *Conscience profoundly alters vision, discipline and passion by introducing us into the world of relationships. It moves us from an independent state to an interdependent state. Relative happiness and human oneness can be achieved by transforming passion into compassion by the usage of conscience. Compassion is the interdependent expression of passion. People who do not live by their conscience will pretend to show kindness from time to time, they will use subtle forms of manipulation and will engage in dictatorial behavior.*

We certainly can never achieve human oneness without having shared vision, shared values and shared trust and compassion. Today a vision of a new world order is being conceived, as demonstrated by a rising tide in humanity's desire for universal peace. It is characterized by the yearning for universal justice for all, and to end all wars and conflicts, and the elimination of all forms of prejudices, a world in which men will assume unhesitatingly the ownership of the concept of the equality between themselves and women.

We should direct our efforts toward the formation of such good institutions who can preach such laws for society where evils of nationalistic attitudes, ritualism, cultural and religious fanaticism should find no place. Oneness of mankind will be confirmed unshakably in the consciousness of all people. All nations will become under the global banner, and mankind will witness an unprecedented moral development. Knowledge and economic prosperity will surpass all achievements of the past and universal law with shared vision and values will become the remedy for ridding the persisting cancerous ailments of today's international body politics.

Historically speaking, we find that civilization and barbarianism have always been there for thousands of years. They are like light and darkness. The light of civilization has illuminated the world of mankind throughout the ages. Communities and societies have been always been advancing and progressing in form or another. Great civilizations have come and gone either through natural disasters or barbaric wars that annihilated everything. However, alas! ***"History is the mirror of the past and the lesson for the present"***. We also understand that during the last 7,000 years mankind have never been free of wars and battles. Wars have gone on since time immemorial and they are still being fought at every front.

All true religions have taught a message of love, faith, belief and unity, so that bonds could be created through true friendships in harmonious ways. Prophet Moses assembled the dispersed tribes of Israel, united and educated them, increased their capacity to think through shared values of religion and develop the ability to transform themselves for the goodness of all people, it took them out of degradation and abasement into the glorification of Jews.

Prophet Jesus Christ not only established bonds of love but made the very principle of love the mission of his life. "Of all the commandments I have given you, here is the greatest: ***you must love thy neighbor as yourself***".

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also gathered the warring tribes of the desert and united them in the name of Allah Almighty so that animosity and warfare could come to cease. A civilization came about with great effort and sacrifice, where centers of learning were established and the knowledge of religion and science was propagated and it spread into Europe when it was passing through the dark ages of barbarianism and conflict. Europe saw light and came out of the darkness and began to set up centers of higher learning, preaching and discovery.

Consider Mahatma Gandhi's teachings; ***“wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, politics without principle and science without humanity”***.

Buddha and Krishna taught a message of love and tolerance that reiterated the fundamental principle of all religions. ***“Few of us can do great things, but all of us can do small things with love”***

It is very unfortunate despite the transforming powers of spiritual luminaries to unify, build and transform the characters of their followers and despite the influence of various religions in establishing world civilizations through shared values, past and present history is full of barbaric acts perpetrated in the name of religion.

Question remains, how can the present world filled with the notion of globalization be changed to a civil global village where people can live in harmony with shared values? Barbarianism will disappear and humans will begin to live in unity, discipline, faith and love.

If we look closely into ourselves, into our container which carries the true voice of conscience we find the underlying causes that are giving rise to the barbaric nature of men. These are religious, racial, political and cultural prejudices and all of them stem from bad education, illiteracy, religious ignorance, unending greed and lack of belief and faith.

Perhaps, the wisest course for us is to begin to pursue most diligently a thorough investigation of reality, unfettered and unrestrained by any trace of prejudices or preconceived notions. Without developing the consciousness about the oneness of humanity, we will see nothing but deep dividing differences. The humanity will continue to be subjected to political, religious, cultural, racial and sectarian prejudices.

We should create a global civilization filled with oneness of humanity through closeness of multicultural human existence. The present world unfortunately is divided into many civilizations with all the misgivings and misunderstanding that has led to nothing but deep dividing differences and conflict. If we understand rationally that liberty and personal freedoms are the key to a comfortable, peaceful and successfully balanced life, we may hope that through peace, equality, economic, cultural and political harmony that a global culture will evolve that will have universal fraternity, justice and equality.

John Lennon, singer and songwriter of The Beatles fame (1960's) wrote the lyrics of this lovely song ***“Imagine there is no heaven, imagine there is no country and we all live as one”***

A global civilization with shared values, achieving human oneness!