

Love Shift

When you look at the world, what do you see? What does the future look like? What vision do you hold for your children and grandchildren?

These and other questions are on the minds and hearts of millions of people today. There are no easy answers. But one thing that is emerging is that, in the absence of a shift in thinking, and a change in our culture, we have little chance of handing future generations a safe and healthy planet on which to live.

This booklet is meant to stimulate thinking, and to provide a way of facilitating the emergence of a new culture. That culture would be sophisticated, fully inclusive and dedicated to the wellbeing of the entire global community. To begin, let's look at "will", that mysterious energy that gets us up in the morning, and helps us through the day.

Part One: Concepts

Will

What is will? Is it uniquely human, or do other animals have will? Do plants have a will? What about Earth – or even the universe as a whole. Does it have will? Here is a simple experience to help us get started.

Take a minute and review your day. You probably started the day in bed. Think back... imagine that you are asleep. You awaken, its morning. You become present to the beginning of a new day. Now ask yourself, what caused you to get out of bed and begin the day?

What is that? We call it will, but what is it really? Where does it come from? Do we make it, or is it somehow pre-authored into our very existence? And how much control do we have over our will? Where does our level of control end? We will come back to will later, but, for now, let's acknowledge that we have will and begin to observe how it functions in our lives.

Our Journey

Where did we come from? Where are we going? What do we need to do in order to survive? These questions take us to our origins, and to the issues associated with the future and our role in its design. So let's look back, and see if we can find our place in the grand trajectory of life.

Find a quiet place where you will not be interrupted for ten minutes or so, sit in a comfortable chair and ask yourself, "Where am I." Try to see yourself in the room or area where you are

seated. Then, let your mind move up, above yourself, and see yourself from above. Try to see yourself in your city, then your state, your continent... and keep going up (with eyes closed) until you can see the whole gorgeous planet.

Ask yourself, "How long have I been here? How long has Earth been here? What has it taken to put me here, in this chair, right now?"

When you are finished, let yourself come back to where you are seated, and think about the trajectory of evolution that has produced you.

The scientists say our universe is 13.7 billion years old, and Earth is over 4 billion years old. Where were you all that time? What keeps the system going? Does it have a will? Did you inherit your will from that system? And, if so, can you sense your connection to the life process?

This booklet makes, as a first hypothesis, that each of us is authored by this context, and that, if we can learn to see differently, we can emerge a new, more successful culture. A second hypothesis is that the Universe itself is alive and has culture – a culture of meaning, evolution, life, consciousness and love. The final hypothesis of this booklet is that the entire system is perfectly integrated at all levels and, therefore, that every atom, every thought, every action matters and contributes significantly to the condition and future of everything else.

Love

Now there is a word we are all familiar with. Let's look at it with openness. What is love? Where does it come from? To experience love, and explore this mysterious energy, let's do another meditation. Think back to an experience when you felt totally loved? What were the circumstances? Why did you feel loved? Who loved you? How did you feel?

Now, with that experience in mind, let's look deeper into love. Do we create it, or does it pre-exist our personal lives? Is it exclusive to humans, or perhaps general to the whole living system? Are we sophisticated regarding love, or immature and irresponsible?

If love is an essential functionality for life, then we would be wise to understand it, and do whatever we could to raise our capacity to love in every situation.

With that in mind, let's look at two energies that relate to love: resistance, and inclusiveness. Let's take resistance first.

Resistance

Resistance is a very immediate experience... we can validate it for ourselves. Someone disappoints us, is rude, whatever. Any objection we have is a form of resistance. So, again, let's work with this energy in meditation.

Think of a moment during the day – this day – when you felt resistance, where you did not get what you wanted. What happened? How did you feel? And how did the resistance affect your ability to see? Were you free, or was your sense of inclusiveness changed or contracted in some way? If we watch ourselves, we will see many cases where we get our buttons pushed, and where we experience changes in our ability to be open and see what is really there.

Where does resistance come from? How does it relate to love? And how does it relate to the emergence of a culture of meaning? More questions... Let's continue.

Inclusiveness

What does it mean to be inclusive? Inclusive of what? Why be inclusive? Imagine you are in school. A math teacher writes the simple formula, " $2+2=4$ " on the blackboard. You can see that it is right, and you can accept it without resistance. You might be able to have a dual response to the expression, and say to yourself, "Right, right".

Now, imagine that the teacher wrote this expression:

" $2+2=5$ "

The first reaction is "wrong." Can you shift this reaction and accept the statement as it is, and respond "right" instead? Can you say, "Wrong, right"? This little meditation is a quick way to experience inclusiveness. It is a hypothesis of this booklet that being inclusive is required for real thinking to occur. In order to love, we need to see resistance as a gift, and to learn from it. If we do, we can become as wise as the system that produced us. If we do not, we have little chance for emerging a more successful culture and a loving global community.

Moment in Time

Earlier we looked at our journey. Let's examine this moment in time in the context of that journey and see what it is trying to teach us. What gift is being given? How are danger and opportunity working together to help us see what to do?

Take time, look around and let the multitude of images register in your consciousness. Can you see the context evolving? Can you sense the mutuality of all life? Probably not. It takes a special awareness to see this. But, in fact, the whole system is interconnected, and is emerging the next instant out of what just happened in each living moment before!

What does this have to do with culture, and the future of life on earth? One answer is that, if we could maintain a sense of wonder, and explore the context we have been birthed into with openness and curiosity, we will have a better chance of discovering how to love.

So how are we doing, globally, at thinking and seeing like this? How much of our culture is oriented to this endeavor? In the rest of this booklet, we will propose the importance of the emergence of a new culture which has, at its center, the value of culture itself. You might say it is a culture based in the importance of culture. In addition, in Part II, we will suggest that action is required for cultural change to occur.

Change

The word "change" comes from the Latin root, *cambire*, which means to exchange. We think of change meaning modification. But the word really means to give up one thing in order to get another. Let's look into this further.

Think of a time when you "exchanged" one thing for another. Was it returning something at a store, changing your address, or evening getting married? What was the nature of the event? Was it a modification, or a full exchange?

Now, as a second experience, think (or write) about a time when you changed something totally. No modification, or partial, or sort-of change, but a total shift. What happened? What made it total? How did it work out? How did you feel about what happened?

The reason this is useful is that, if we are to survive, it is the hypothesis of this booklet that we shall need to emerge a new global culture that is radically different from the one we have today. Instead of an identity based on city, state or nation, we need a radically new, more inclusive identity. We need a global culture. Instead of a culture based on power, money and control, we need a new culture based on cooperation, consciousness and love.

We each can change our address, or last name, or personal life in some way. But what about the whole of humanity? How is that going to change? If it is difficult to change our patterns of behavior on a personal level, wouldn't it be virtually impossible to do this in the collective?

Let's look at this question. How we answer it may have deep implications for the success of entire human enterprise.

The Human

In 356 BC, Aristotle said, "The true nature of anything is the highest it can become." What is our highest nature? This may be the most relevant question of our time. Let look into it now.

Think back over your life. Your family, career, maybe sports, the raising of your children, or your education. When have you functioned at your highest? Highest relative to what? What made the experience special?

Is highest the most money? What makes something higher than something else? One way to work with this idea is to look at the word "relevant." To know what is highest – or higher, we need, first, to answer the question of relevance... relevant to what? The word relevance comes from the same root as the word "relief" which means to raise up... as in a relief map. We say, when the news is good, "What a relief." So perhaps we need to keep in mind that, when we are called to discover our highest nature, that we shall also need to know what it is that we are designed to become. We need to keep in mind, "Highest relative to what?" More questions.

Collective Mysticism

It has been said that journey of discovery is not about seeing new landscapes but about having new eyes? New eyes meaning what? How do we gain perspective? Can we do this in isolation or do we need each other? How do we raise our capacity to love?

Enter the power of the collective! We are a mutual, emerging, multi-form energy event – a community. We are one. What is fortunate is that, in the collective, there resides a powerful force which can be used for the benefit of all life. What is this force? Let's look together.

Think over your life, and try to remember times when circumstances moved as a whole. Some examples might be the ending of the Cold War, the phenomenon of Cabbage Patch Kids, the holocaust, or use of cell phones. Can you think of others?

When we see how things change at a macro level, the promise of collective mysticism becomes apparent. We do not have to get seven billion people to change their thinking and functioning in isolation. We can move together and experience a global mindshift! And, what is provided by this moment is the energy - the danger and opportunity - to make this possible.

Interested? Let's keep moving...

Conversation

Eleanor Roosevelt once wrote, "Either we are going to die together, or we are going to live together. And if we are going to live together, we have to talk. "

Talk about what? Why?

How we answer these questions is determinative in the emergence of a new culture. Here's why. This moment in time is so new – so unprecedented, that we need each other to discover how to proceed. Like astronomers seeking to maximize the light they gather in their mirrors, we

need as much insight as possible, to make good decisions in this uncharted territory. But, to continue the analogy, the astronomers have stopped building bigger mirrors, and have turned to designing arrays of smaller ones, linked by wires, sharing information based on what is called an algorithm.

Could we be creating a human array with the Internet? What is the role of face-to-face conversations? And, perhaps most important, what is our algorithm?

Identity

The psychologists and sociologists have taught us much about identity. They say we have identity crises. That we identify with this or that – a university, city, sports team, nation or ethnicity. Let's look into identity. Here is another brief meditation.

Ask yourself...

What do you identify with? Take out a piece of paper and make a list. What are the beliefs, values and assumptions that lie beneath those identifications? How do they constitute your worldview? How do they influence your perceptions, actions and the outcomes of your life choices? How do your identifications contribute to your personal culture? The culture of your family, job or hobby?

What would be the highest identity for each of us as individuals and as a global community? What would it take for us to emerge a global culture committed to life? What is identity?

Distributed Functionality

Our society is comprised of individuals. "We the people." So one question we should address is whether our society – and its culture – can outperform the culture of its individuals. Yes, there is synergy in the collective. But, ultimately, we comprise society and it our consciousness, as individuals, which enhance or limit the evolution of the culture of humanity as a whole.

So why don't we operate with greater responsibility? How do we leave it up to the other guy to get things done? And why do we feel so powerless when it comes to global issues?

Good questions. Let's look at possible explanations.

Problems vs. Vision

As we become ever more interconnected, the issue of responsibility rises closer and closer to the top. What is responsibility? Response – ability... the ability to respond. But, as long as we are problem based, we will never get where we need to be because problem-based models can

only oscillate... like weight gain, then weight loss. They never yield permanent evolutionary change.

Think of treaties, and the recurrence of war of the last 1000 years. Every war was seen as the last war. There was a treaty, and all was well. Until the next war, and around we went again.

So what is the alternative to problem thinking? The answer was best described by Robert Fritz in his book, Path of Least Resistance. His answer: vision. Systems based on fixing problems, Fritz suggested, contained structural conflict, and oscillate. Systems based on vision, on the other hand, had what he called structural tension, and resolved in the direction of the goal.

Hey, this is just what we need... a new goal for humanity. But what would that be?

Global Community

Global community is the goal. If we were collectively oriented toward emerging this vision, our world would have a chance. But the gap between the "is" and the "ought" (as George Shultz put it) is broad and deep.

Let's try to experience the closure of this gap with another meditation. Imagine that you are hiking up a mountain. You are told at the top is a special chalice, a special cup filled with clear water, which contains the key to life. You begin the hike, and when you get to the top, you find the cup filled with this clear water. At the bottom of the cup is a key... the key you have been seeking. This key, you are told, will allow you and all life to enter into another dimension, a new realm, a paradise on earth. What does this new reality look like? What is its foundation? You feel safe – why? Is it loving? Why? How does it feel to be there? What instinct do you have regarding the value of this place. Take time to describe this place to yourself through art, writing or even poetry. If you could make it anyway you wanted, and give this to your children, how would it be? And, in your chalice, was there a key in the water? If so, what was that key?

All is One

All is one is a blueprint for survival. It is a shorthand expression for the foundation for global community – that everything is interconnected and interdependent. As we emerge the new culture of our gorgeous water planet, All is One is indispensable.

Authority

What is the action implied by our context and the current crisis? This image may be useful:

Image you are sitting in front of two Dixie cups of paint, one containing blue paint and the other containing yellow. You mix them in a third cup. What color does it make? If you know your art, you will recognize that blue and yellow make green. Now what is useful is to realize that you

have the choice of whether or not to mix them, but what blue and yellow make is not for you to decide. Blue and yellow always make green.

At this moment in time, if we are to function, both individually and collectively, to the highest, we need to learn from resistance, align with the trajectory of life, and "love the green."

If we will do this, the future will be bright. If not, we will continue to suffer.

The choice is ours to make. Let's move on...

What must we do to be effective agents for the conscious evolution of culture? What must we do to survive?

Part Two: Culture

Ignorance

Harry Rathbun wrote, in his wonderful book, Guide to Fulfillment, that, "Our problem is ignorance." Now there is a statement you don't read every day. Let's look into it further.

If you look up the verb, "to ignore", it means "to disregard." "dis" meaning not, "re" meaning again and again, and "garde", from the French, meaning to "ward off evil." So ignorance is the state of regularly, in an ongoing way, not doing something. What would that something be?

From Part One of this booklet, the hypothesis was made that that something has to do with will, resistance, conversation, identity and change. Now, it is time to look into culture. Change made at the cultural level has the quality of continuity. It is lasting. It can be passed on to future generations. It is vision based, and it works at the root-cause level. And it outlasts the participants of the society that emerges it.

Culture

This booklet has presented a number of hypotheses, to be examined with openness and honesty, in the spirit of the scientific method. So what about culture? How shall we look into it? What exactly is culture anyway? How does it relate to our beliefs, values and ideas? How does it relate to identity? And how does it affect our ability to see reality and do what is right?

The primary hypothesis of this booklet is that All is One. The second hypothesis is that everything matters. With regard to culture, we can now make this statement.

The Cultural Hypothesis:

"In order for us to survive, we need to consciously and continuously evolve in ways that make the quality of our culture a super-ordinate value within our society. To do this, we need to

think, talk and act with integrity for the benefit of all life. Our new culture needs to be founded on the vision that love is the prevailing human function. To emerge this culture is our highest human endeavor. To emerge this culture, we need to talk. The evolution of culture is the action we need to take in order to survive.”

Action

Action is critical to the evolution of our new culture. Without it, we don't have a chance. But what exactly is the right action? Who has enough power to make change happen? And how can any one of us make a difference?

On the surface, it might seem individuals don't have enough power to make a difference. What can one person do when the problems are so great? Let government, or church, or the universities handle it. Right?

Here is the truth about change, and it is good news indeed. Our system, the universe we have been birthed into, is so wonderfully designed that EVERY action matters. Each of us has tremendous power and influence. Each of our actions significantly affect the living whole.

If you don't believe this, try to extract a single second from the past. Try to remove one atom from the universe and discard it. Or try to undo a single event that has already happened. It can't be done! Similarly, each word, each step, each moment has profound influence on the future of everything. We are perfected agents. We are power incarnate!

What to Do?

With the Internet at hand, there are an infinite number of actions we can take. We can learn how to be less wasteful. We can discover and share ways to be more loving. We can resolve conflict more creatively. We can teach our children to be more responsible. The list goes on and on. Here are four principles which may be useful in your quest:

1. Be consistent with how you live. Walk your talk. Be the change you want to see in the world.
2. Talk among your friends, family, workers and acquaintances about the need for the emergence of a new, more inclusive culture.
3. Spread the word. Use your email, or social media sites, to share what you have learned from this document and others.
4. Do the will of the loving system that produced you.
5. Acknowledge, surrender and learn from resistance.
6. Continue indefinitely.

With these concepts in mind, the opportunities for each of us are limitless. The Internet, blogs, and social networking sites are there for us to use. We can communicate almost instantaneously with each other every day.

We can learn how to live. We can learn how to love. We can be present to one another. We evolve our culture and make the quality of that culture a personal and social priority.

We can take creative initiative.

Working together, we CAN make a difference!

Resources

Here is a partial list of some Internet resources. More will be added online as we learn together.

www.globalcommunity.org

www.global-mindshift.org

www.hookedonnature.org

www.loveshift.com

www.oneconsciousness.com

www.greenpeace.org

www.chopra.com

