

Conscious Evolution— Creating a World That Works

KENN GORDON

Centers for Spiritual Living's purpose is to awaken humanity to its spiritual magnificence; its vision is to help bring into being a world that works for everyone; and its mission is to do this by providing spiritual tools for individual and global transformation. Under all and everything we do is a conscious understanding that we live in a world that is perfectly evolving in the manifestation of that vision.

There is only one life, that Life is God's Life, that Life is perfect, and that Life is my Life now. —ERNEST HOLMES



Science of Mind teaches that everything we require lies present but often invisible within the collective Mind of humanity—the Mind of the Creator Itself. Our goal is to set the intention of our vision in that Mind and then do all we can so that the vision appears in our experience. We do not create transformation; we need to rise to a consciousness that is large enough to recognize it. Our vision is not a goal; it is an intention. A goal requires an understanding of the recipe required to make it so, whereas an intention is outside of our current understanding and resides in a mind of faith, trust, and enough patience to allow consciousness to evolve to a new level of awareness, and, at the same time, maintain an indomitable will that does not sway, surrender, or back off from the potential and reality of a world that works for everyone.

Dr. Raymond Charles Barker, a giant in Religious Science and metaphysics, a former president of Religious Science International, and the founder and senior minister of the New York Center for Spiritual Living, once told me that when he was facing a challenge or discomfort in his life, he would retire to his den and say to himself, “Barker, you need a new idea.” What I

believe we need in our world today is a new idea. There is no question that we now have sufficient resources, technology, intelligence, creativity, and information for each individual to live in a quality of life that exceeds any that has been lived before. Violence, poverty, starvation, and disease are no longer an effect of material lack, but are instead the effect of a societal ignorance and a scarcity of will and intention. As a society, we are still motivated by fear and lack. We still govern our world from the reptilian part of our brain rather than the limbic; we celebrate competitiveness and ignore creativity; we reward form over substance and status over fulfillment. These are not conditions caused by form; they are conditions caused by a limited consciousness. These are not questions of substance; they are questions of a repressed evolving consciousness. They do not require that we have more stuff; they require that we know more, become more, and be more than we are today.

Courageous Thinkers

Many courageous thinkers helped to shape the world we know today. I am reminded of George Warren Fuller, one of the greatest transformative and forward thinkers of the

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nineteenth century. Fuller was involved in developing a new water system for Jersey City, New Jersey, in a time when typhoid fever and other waterborne diseases and death were accepted as a fact of life. Although Europe was building filtration plants that produced safe water, there were none of these plants in the United States because they were thought to be too expensive. Fuller, who had studied bacteriology in Europe, was asked by Dr. John Leal, also trained in microbiology, to work with him to provide safe water for Jersey City. Together, they came up with a new idea and, in the face of opposition, courageously built a water-treatment sterilization plant using chloride of lime to produce pure and wholesome water. The plant, which opened in 1908, was constructed in ninety-nine days and defied the backward thinking that viewed all chemicals as poison and the treatment of water as expensive and unnecessary.

After the Jersey City success, Fuller went on to act as a major

force in building one hundred similar water treatments plants, which were critical in the elimination of typhoid and other devastating epidemics. The filtration and chlorination of water is considered one of the most significant public-health advancements of the twentieth century.

One of George Fuller’s colleagues, Abel Wolman, furthered the advancement of safe water policies. During New York City’s water shortages in 1951 and 1965, he proposed that water from the Hudson River be purified for use, and the city finally agreed. In addition to being influential locally, Wolman also was recognized internationally. He acted as an adviser to countries in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Africa, and was a member of the delegation founding the World Health Organization (WHO). In a 1940s speech to the WHO, Wolman stated, “I want water for people to drink and water for people to wash and children that survive. Too many children are dying.” Although the technology has been available for more than century, too many around the globe still die because of a lack of safe drinking water.

In 1985, R. Buckminster Fuller identified the problem and



potential present in a modern world when he proclaimed, “We are blessed with technology that would be indescribable to our forefathers. We have the wherewithal, the know-it-all to feed everybody, clothe everybody, and give every human on Earth a chance. We know now what we could never have known before—that we have the option for all humanity to make it successfully on this planet in this lifetime.” Fuller also understood the factors that limit our potential: “I learned very early and painfully that you have to decide at the outset whether you are trying to make money or to make sense, as they are mutually exclusive.” But must these be mutually exclusive? Think of what can be accomplished with inspired vision and clear priorities.

Consciousness, Not Currency

Recent years have taught us that our problems are not about money; they are always about a requirement of a new idea. We saw in excess of 3 trillion dollars dedicated to shoring up financial institutions after the meltdown in 2007 and 2008. We witnessed the expenditure of an estimated 3 to 4 trillion dollars between 2003 and 2010 on the wars in Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. That is 6 to 7 trillion dollars over

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normal operating costs expended in less than a decade from the United States alone.

Imagine what the future could be if technological advancements were available to the whole world, not as a form of currency but, instead, as a basic human right. Imagine a world where technology was expanding even more rapidly because advanced education was provided for everyone, where war and violence were unthinkable and intolerable, where everyone had enough to eat, where unneeded human suffering was eradicated by a collective society that served rather than competed, where medical technology was a human right and not a corporate commodity, where societal injustices were considered not only avoidable but unacceptable. If humanity knew that such a world was possible, and I mean really *knew*, few if any on this planet would expect less. This future is possible—we can start today to transform our expectations and apply a new attitude.

Freedom from Fear

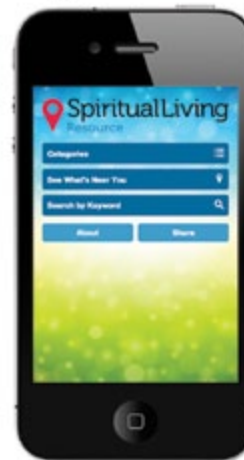
What is the challenge before us today? Two major beliefs obstruct transformation. One is the motivator, fear—the fear that there is not enough and that by sharing with others we limit ourselves and may lose what we have. The second is the defense, withholding, which allows us to maintain our comfort, as uncomfortable as it may be, by not taking into consideration the requirements of others. This response is inevitably self-destructive. A point in fact is the incredibly high rate of poverty on our own doorstep. The frequently

asked question “Why should we transform the world when people, right here, are suffering?” is both evidence of withholding and a false excuse for doing so.

Futurist Jacque Fresco writes, “The progression of technology, if it were carried on independent of its profitability, would make more resources available to more people by producing an abundance of products and materials.” And I will add that this abundance has the potential to make available jobs, abundance, and fulfillment for those who participate in sharing technology with the world. It

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is time for us to reject fear as a motivator in our world and put aside the nonsense that we must fight with each other in order to survive. When individuals join together cooperatively, the power they generate far exceeds that which they can generate alone. When we open ourselves to the energy, wisdom, and assets of everyone on this planet, the world will be able to work for all. Imagine, if you can, the power we could generate if we truly entered into alliance with all, not just those who by a quirk of fate were born in the same country. The spiritual wisdom of the ages teaches that as we give we receive. To withhold our gifts is a surefire way to ensure lack.

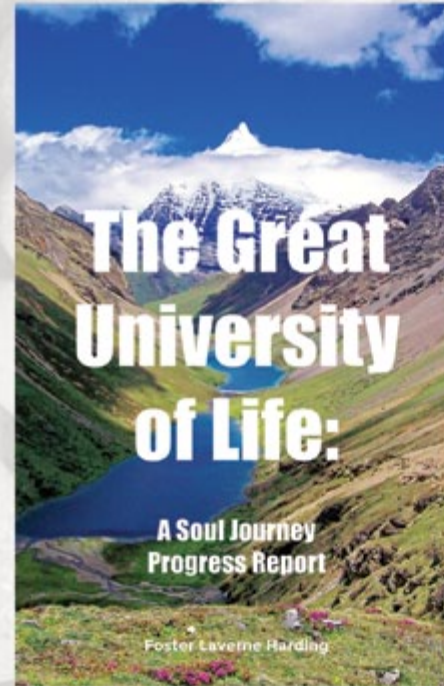
We Are the Ones

Science of Mind has been actively involved in the pursuit of conscious evolution for nearly one hundred years. We have already educated, transformed, and touched millions of lives by teaching individuals to honor and love themselves, to think proactively and positively, to share their light and stretch for their dreams.

Our world does not grasp its potential. We are called by our vision to graduate beyond the one-on-one and move into the corporate, political, and institutional fields to effect a

transformation of the culture of the world itself. Our challenge is to stretch out and teach society how to live productively and abundantly. To do this, we must first have faith in the possibility; second, we must model the behavior ourselves; finally, we must teach it to others. We are people who believe in conscious evolution, and we are called to help facilitate the evolution of our world.

Mahatma Gandhi wrote, "Constant development is the law of life, and a man who always tries to maintain his dogma in order to appear consistent drives himself into a false position." It is time for us to set aside the dogma of fear and lack. It is time for us to shine. Either we follow what we know to be the truth, or we yield to fear, old customs, and a reflex conditioned by past experience. With our vision set in intention, a world appears before us waiting to awaken humanity to its potential. R. Buckminster Fuller perfectly summarizes what we are called to do: "We are called to be architects of the future, not its victims. [The challenge is] to make the world work for 100 percent of humanity in the shortest possible time, with spontaneous cooperation and without ecological damage or disadvantage of anyone." ■



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