

sister who's perspective

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Overview

The phrase has long been with us, "Think globally and act locally." The blur of too many demands that occupy most of our days, however, invites a forgetfulness that is ultimately adversarial to creating the most value and beauty within our lives. Please contemplate, as you read these words, that humanity remains one vast interconnected family, desperately in need of remembering specifically how to love one another.

Global Awareness

It is perhaps the most fundamental quality of growing from infancy to adulthood, that the dimensions of one's awareness are forever increasing. Where once it was difficult to understand that the dynamics of other families, communities, and nations contrast with those of one's own, one can similarly move into a global way of perceiving and understanding that specifically because the world is both a shared and a limited space, symbiotic relationships are simultaneously both needed and required. More concisely, as much as we need them, knowing more and more truth inspires us to also want them.

A symbiotic relationship is most precisely that each participant provides something that others need but cannot produce. At the same time that this interdependence grows within conscious awareness, unconditional love can also grow and wisdom can expand to create even more positive possibilities.

Nonetheless, just as an artist conveys depth within a work by integrating light and shadow, awareness is grounded by knowing both ends of possibility's spectrum. Fighting for inappropriate control, pushing others toward surrender, and hoarding what ideally must be shared, drives wedges between one's own soul and those of others--

fracturing, isolating, and wounding those who might otherwise become our symbiotic partners in overcoming new challenges.

The only true insurance any of us has against future misfortune is each other. If we have not learned to love, however, we will find ourselves more alone than any soul is truly able to survive--realizing perhaps too late that walling out trouble walls out love as well. It is not walls that keep trouble at bay, but rather the hands, hearts, and minds of all who are able to love us rather than leave us.

A primary challenge of the current time is economic obsession that has so completely infiltrated our world and all of its systems that many have forgotten to value what money is unable to measure. Tragically, whenever no monetary value can be legitimately assigned, financial systems generally omit any mention of what they thus cannot grasp, as if those things did not exist--but they do and life goes on only because they do. When we finally remember why it is that life goes on and that the most important reasons are not grounded within any monetary system, awareness becomes truly global rather than superficially described by financial transactions.

Ultimately, money measures nothing more than certain movements. How we respond specifically because of emotions and beliefs that transcend the reach of money, is the breathing and circulation by which life is able to continue. That this responsiveness also flows between and confirms the symbiotic relationships between spiritual and material worlds and realms of experience, forms the stage upon which we live out our lives--hopefully ultimately leaving this world better than we found it.

Just as a past world preceded each of us, a future one will follow--each of which has a symbiotic relationship with the present one.

This too falls within global awareness.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.

Global Dedication

Without diverging into a political debate of any sort, it remains true that with or without any governmental validation, we are by the fact of our existence, citizens of the current world. Specifically because this world is a complex interweaving of an infinite number of symbiotic relationships, our survival is dependent upon its survival and actions of ultimate self-sacrifice could be required of us at any time. In contemplating this particular relationship further, it occurred to me that anyone who would refuse to lay down his or her life for the best interests of his or her family, community, region, or nation, does not deserve any of the protections or blessings those entities may provide.

Most of us are rarely, if ever, called upon to make such sacrifices. If we are unwilling or unprepared to make such sacrifices, however, the tendency is to slip into apathy, complacency, and neglect of the moral and spiritual health of all that surrounds us. At the heart of what I am naming as global dedication, is precisely this inner attitude of being both willing and prepared; in the words of governmental commitments, "to defend against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

Central to dedication is thus awareness--mentally, emotionally, socially, politically, and spiritually. A challenge to this, however, is avoiding any tendency to regard as enemies those who in truth are not. As elusive and fluctuating as definitions of truth may be, however, the pursuit of them should not for that reason ever be neglected.

Global dedication especially includes a persistence of contemplation and integration of scientific, spiritual, experiential, social, and psychological perceptions. None of these has all the answers and none of them is without a truthful contribution to make. By reason of the extreme complexity inherent within such integration, a mere computer is inadequate to the task, a single human mind is insufficient, and an ever-increasing global community of minds, perspectives, and civil dialogue is very strongly recommended.

Perhaps the most important thing about

life is ultimately to live it--no matter what form or what spectrum of forms it may take during its journey from birth to physical death. The mixed blessing is the diversity of experience it includes. Making the journey with any degree of honesty thus requires dedication, which is perhaps why some avoid doing so, instead embracing a false and empty refuge within fear and perceived weakness.

As much as I have limitations which must be respected, specifically because I am a living soul, I also have the ability to rise to ever-higher levels. More concisely, I have the ability to grow and, within that, the ability to heal and to transcend any scars created along the way. Specifically because of a sort of global dedication to the unfolding of life within myself and all around me, as a living soul I retain ever and always the ability to rise out of any hole into which an adversarial event or circumstance has pushed me.

While on one hand, I often plead with the Divine to be spared such experiences, I do find that I am more than I ever would have been, once the experience has passed. In the meantime, I try to remember that I am standing too close to fully understand and appreciate how the current moment is transforming me into more than I imagined would ever be possible for me. Dedication is thus sometimes nothing more than my refusal to give up; my stubbornness, my mule-headedness, or whatever similar term one may wish to use for my choice to persevere against all odds.

I am reminded again of the quote from the movie, "Black Knight," spoken by a wise and courageous young woman on the evening before the final battle: "I can live with losing the good fight, but I cannot live with not fighting it." Within this discussion, the good fight is that which includes all living things--regardless of social, financial, or any other demographic characteristic. To be dedicated to life is to be dedicated to all life, rejecting selfishness and greed as the pathologies they are, specifically to fully be the spiritual/physical integration one is also.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.

Global Service

Within every moment of physical life, a human body must (with or without conscious awareness) breath air in and out of the lungs and circulate blood to each and every cell of each and every part. In a similar way, for our spirits to truly live, they need both expression and response. One could even say that this is the language of life. Without expression, whatever truth or insight we possess, remains unknown and unfinished. Without response, we have no way of knowing whether or not or to what degree our expressions have been understood in ways that empower others.

Dialogue is similarly essentially an action that validates our imperfection while inviting us to refine inaccuracies and short-comings in any way we're able. It is specifically due to the fact that I rarely say anything perfectly, that I need opportunities and invitations to clarify and refine my word choice--regardless of whether my "words" are expressed as text, sounds, pictures, or actions. The same courtesy is obviously also true in relationship to others--that I need to invite and provide opportunity for others to grow and improve without imposing or projecting any personal expectations onto them. The fact of the matter is that I have insufficient information to know with any certainty, what exactly would be best for anyone other than myself--and, at times, I'm not even certain about that.

All of which is why all interaction and service to life needs to begin with humility. If

*"It is not enough to say
that one does not have to be
only the embodiment
of one's past;
one must also reach
for being more than merely
the embodiment
of one's present."*

-- Sister Who

I begin an interaction with anything else, I sabotage my own work and, unconsciously perhaps, drive my life in a direction that I would actually rather avoid.

By driving my life in positive directions, however, I unavoidably also thereby perform acts of service to the world around me. An important consideration, however, is that acting in ways that are selfish or narcissistic does not fall within the scope of moving in positive directions. At the heart of such deplorable actions is actually disconnection from those around me.

At the heart of holistic approaches to life is a recognition that everything is ultimately both interconnected and interdependent. By wisely living according to holistically healthy principles, one serves not only one's own survival, but equally that of others also. The service that is so essential, consequently, is not only service to one's individual self, but indirectly service to everything within the global circle of life, love, and wisdom.

I could say that what this service most directly is, is living with authenticity and integrity--but that statement is a vague generalization and as an autistic man makes no applicable sense to me. To become a valid statement, I must translate those words into specific concrete actions within the specific relationships I encounter within each moment of my life. While some spiritual traditions and paths stress an avoidance of asking why, I find such questioning to be essential to any subsequent positive growth.

What is not essential, however, is the accomplishment of quick, easy, or immediate answers. Some questions and some acts of service to life, will require perseverance and patience, perhaps analogous to a gardener waiting for a seed to become both a plant and a flower. Nothing will force the process to happen any faster than its utilization of available resources makes possible.

That, of course, is a daily question for each of us: whether or to what extent--in service to life--our resources are being utilized toward the greatest possible good.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.

Global Life

I have previously written that if one does not live for something greater than one's self, one's life has a tendency to become small and petty in its true dimensions. While on one hand this does not mean one should neglect activities that may be considered small (i.e. daily chores, basic cleanliness and maintenance of one's environment, etc.), it also does not mean that public life is all that matters. At the heart of being global in any sense of the word, is being wisely inclusive.

Inclusivity, truly lived out, is concerned with both the individual and the group being embraced in a non-competitive manner. I find again and again that the time within which we all live is one that needs a general and inclusive transition from thinking in terms of "either... or..." to instead reaching for ways to think and live according to "both... and..."

Each of us is here for a reason--a very complex reason that may require our entire lives to fully understand. Nonetheless, we are here within our respective times and places specifically because of what we can potentially contribute that will empower not only ourselves but everyone around us also.

The goal toward which we are hopefully thus moving is simply to be more complete; to be less fractured; and to know more of the true fullness of life as we do so. Perhaps the reason it is so difficult to do this quickly and easily is because of how overwhelming such perception would be if it were introduced to our limited human minds too abruptly. I have thus often prayed at various times within my life that I will not be given more of anything than I am able to effectively manage. That being said, I am impatient to more quickly learn effective management of greater and more empowering resources and abilities.

Suffice to say that I'm doing the best I can and always looking for ways to expand the love and wisdom with which I embrace each moment of life that comes. My most earnest prayer is that my words and actions also empower everyone else to do the same.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.

On a Personal Note

As with every creative work, I suppose, an enormous amount of struggle unfolds "behind the scenes" before the final mostly polished work is openly shared. Two days of rather intense video and photography work, assisted by a local acquaintance, has thus accomplished very nearly all of the video needed for an updated introduction to the ongoing television series, "Sister Who Presents..." as well as half of the photos needed for the 2017 inspirational calendar.

Without sufficient resources to be more proactive, all I can do for my dog Gawain is pray, but he does seem to be doing at least a little better than he was for a short time after somehow injuring the knee of his left hind leg. My other two dogs, Percival and Bedivere thankfully seem to be doing fine.

I sometimes notice various stress-related physical ailments creeping into my life, but, as with Gawain, there's not a lot I can do about any of that--other than to persist in praying for life to get better and watch for any opportunity to push it in that direction.

The next major activity that will hopefully occur within the next four weeks, is video production of the content for twenty-four new episodes of "Sister Who Presents...", to be recorded in four sessions, each of which is carefully planned to accomplish six individual episodes--which is the usual norm for me.

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