

# sister who's perspective

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## Overview

I assert that one cannot create one's own reality, because reality includes other individuals with values and choices different from our own as well as the environment and climate of the world within which we live. It is not just we who must share the world, but every rock, tree, animal, insect, ocean current, and weather pattern as well. Nonetheless, loving harmony remains a very real possibility.

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

## Social Climate Change

I still remember when I first appeared in ritual garb more than twenty years ago, being accused of being "too conservative" and "not radical enough." Now, it seems, I have become more intimidating to larger numbers of people, but a glance at my creative and ministerial work from the very beginning to the present time would confirm that I am not the one who has changed.

On a similar note, there seems to be some ongoing debate about whether the climate of the earth is really changing in response to irresponsible human behavior or whether we are simply discovering the larger patterns of global weather variance.

What seems to have been overlooked within this debate, however, are the various ways that interpersonal relationships may be experiencing similar shifts. Where once parents spoke of working to create a better world for their children and virtually everyone seemed to agree that it was wise to invest in the strength and health of at least one's immediate community, narcissistic individuality seems to have become a potentially lethal epidemic. The contrasting relational individuality that created amazing collaboration between eccentric individuals and their communities in other times and places, seems

to have either been displaced or to be going through the low part of its natural cycle.

Not that long ago, almost everywhere I went, I was told to avoid living in fear and to oppose fear-based systems of organization and manipulation. Now, such dynamics seem to have become the norm and numerous societal and global problems are the logical, measurable, and truly insane result. Cynicism and skepticism have become so common that it is difficult to find individuals who still openly confess to having idealistic values. Within every person who turns violent because of an inability to withstand the demands of unmet mental and emotional needs, however, is yet another wake-up call to humanity to finally address issues of mental health inclusively.

There is no question that the world within which we live is changing and will therefore make new demands upon us, many of which were unknown to the generations of humanity which preceded us. A most important question to answer, therefore, is whether we will respond with solidarity and vision or wait for the negative counterparts of these to become inescapable.

When money is all gone, banks closed, and businesses unable to function, we will still have each other. If we take the time and make the effort to rediscover and value each other now, no societal disaster will occur. The Divine in Its peculiar wisdom and love, however, has left the collective decision to us. Together, we get to decide what humanity's future will be.

Love can lead us to a season of healing beyond our wildest imaginations, but, as phrased a number of years ago, "whoever wants the muscles, must lift the weights." That our globally interconnected social climate is changing, there is no doubt. Whether our clothing, housing, communities, and societal functioning will be ready to meet the challenges of that, remains to be seen.

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

## Economic Climate Change

A witticism observed years ago declared "I have been rich and I have been poor; rich is better." What the witticism failed to notice, however, is that the ability to be rich or poor is not merely a matter of choice, but rather is more accurately a measure of relationships. In the management of one's financial resources, is the clearest indication of whether one's values have slipped into being ignorantly focused exclusively on one's own survival, or whether one remembers that none of us lives or dies alone; that every participant within an economic system has an effect upon all others.

On the level of immediate experience, a common struggle is to satisfy the bills that arrive in the mail. In considering the larger picture of life on earth, however, the real struggle is to ensure that everyone has enough, so that it will be unnecessary to resort to violent or criminal ways of satisfying one's needs. In defining what it is to have "enough," it is imperative that we also include mental and emotional needs. Because such needs are invisible, they are often neglected, but become astonishingly conspicuous whenever someone reaches a mental or emotional breaking point and reacts with shocking amounts of violence.

As stated within a calendar I created a number of years ago, "the visible is always affected by the invisible." More directly, lingering mental and emotional needs do in fact have economic effects upon communities and individuals. An example of a constructive shift in economic climate, would be a collective choice by a city, region, or nation to leave behind methods overrun by selfishness and greed and to embrace more effective ways of ensuring that all basic needs are met in individually appropriate ways.

A basic inescapable fact is that our needs are not all exactly the same. Within a healthy family structure, the amount given to each person corresponds to each individual's needs, rather than being a set amount which in actuality will be less than what some need and more than enough for others. A two-year-old simply does not need to eat as much as a teenager, but the two-year-old will eventually become a teenager and the amount given to

the two-year-old will therefore have to be adjusted over time.

The economic needs of each individual are similarly subject to change over time, as are the needs of a community, a region, or a nation. Certain limits on the availability and distribution of global resources recommend that we continuously use our individual and collective ingenuity to try and keep up with whatever changes occur, making our individual and collective use as efficient as possible in order for the availability and distribution of resources to effectively satisfy needs. The common dismissive protest, "But we've always done it this way!" is quite literally a step toward stagnation, failure, and ultimately death.

A healthy economy, conversely, depends upon ongoing and effective circulation of monetary, material, and intellectual resources. What makes circulation effective within one time and place, however, may prove to be less effective or even completely undesirable within a contrasting context. If we are awake and attentive to what is occurring, however, this is not a problem.

On an individual level, the possibility remains, as the witticism at the beginning of this essay noted, that one may experience both wealth and poverty and various times within one's life. To the extent that we nurture our communal interactions (that is, our relational individuality), however, the poverty we encounter at various points will not destroy us.

Within the farming communities of my childhood, it was always understood that it is normal to have good years and bad years; that one should not be wasteful during good years such that one has inadequate resources to survive the bad ones. In similar fashion, times of economic abundance are not blessings to be used for irresponsible personal indulgence, but rather opportunities to invest in communal relationships. When times of poverty return (as they will, from time to time), one's community is the reliable insurance policy against personal catastrophe, as resources and needs—like weather—continuously shift from place to place.

Our security does not therefore lie within the things we possess, but within each other.

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

## Political Climate Change

A primary and ongoing problem of life is that we are usually standing too close to the present moment to remember what has been effective or ineffective within other times and places. This may be especially difficult for people within the United States, because the history of this nation—unlike that of people within other parts of the world—does not include particularly diverse forms of government. The histories of other nations, conversely, includes experiences of being ruled by monarchs, committees, parliaments, and despots—each with a differing set of advantages and disadvantages to consider. A significant but perhaps indirect benefit of this may be the realization that other forms of government which contrast in various ways with the current one, are absolutely possible.

Underneath all of the systems of government, lies a fairly constant and relatively short list of basic needs which must be satisfied in order for any government to survive. Among these are the traditional basics of food, clothing, and shelter, but within modern times this list has expanded to include transportation and communication as well. Any attempt to govern which does not effectively answer these needs, lives in constant fear of being displaced or even assassinated.

The wise governor, statesman, or politician, consequently, pays careful attention to shifts in political climate. If needs are so unsatisfied that a violent revolution becomes necessary, the transitional period of turmoil—as with any example of open warfare—ensures that no one truly wins, but that all are losers in one way or another. Exactly what sort of phoenix will rise from the ashes of such conflicts, is extremely difficult to predict and even more difficult to control.

*"Truly living is not a matter of collecting answers, but rather of refining questions."*

-- Sister Who

My objective here, however, is to encourage attentiveness within people and their leaders to changes in political climate that are actually attempts to alert everyone involved that old systems are no longer effective and that new ones are needed. I believe, for example, that the time will eventually come when we realize that money is no longer effective, that assigning inordinately great amounts of power to individuals is unwise, and that what matters most is taking care of each other as holistically as possible. A great amount of time and struggle may ultimately be required, but I do believe that such a time will eventually come. I recall being told at the time that the movie "Contact" was first released, that Carl Sagan once commented that if humanity's forward progress had not been slowed by wars and other conflicts, we would have made our first voyage to the moon in the 1700s.

To the extent that we are willing to leave violent methods in the past and embrace greater degrees of love and wisdom, I remain confident of humanity's ability to revise and improve governmental systems so that all needs are peacefully met. I know of nothing that would prevent this, except perhaps ourselves. The construction of better forms of government or of better response to shifts in political climate, however, is dependent upon the ways that we have dressed or equipped ourselves to deal with climate-related effects.

What will be the metaphorical equivalent of sunscreen, umbrellas, or winter coats within future times? How will we equip ourselves to respond to metaphorical tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes? How will we engage in collective decision-making that effectively avoids cruelty to the individuality and ingenuity that have so often been our salvation? As long as we have each other, I know we will find the ways.

At the heart of all such political and societal shifts, is the ongoing challenge of finding ways to trust each other, because without trust, collaboration is impossible. We may create trust within documents, principles, or consistent behavior, but a political system without trust, will not endure. The practice of love, however, makes us all winners.

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

## Spiritual Climate Change

Since early childhood, Godde has been described to me in many diverse ways. My basic understanding now considers Godde to be the embodiment of highest wisdom, greatest love, infinity, and eternity. Perhaps obviously, however, it is not Godde who has changed, but rather my perception and consequently my experience. Similarly, I continue to be amazed at how Godde has made Godde's self known to a virtually infinite number of diverse individuals in an equally infinite number of ways.

One could thus reasonably conclude that my life journey and my spiritual path have traveled through a wide range of spiritual climates. Thankfully, within each, awareness of the Divine has remained constant. The four qualities mentioned within the first paragraph have thus been similarly present, allowing for continuity, throughout my spiritual growth.

It was imperative, however, that I respond to the specific challenges of each climate through which I journeyed, no matter how diverse those challenges appeared. In each case, whenever a particular type of storm had passed, I found that my soul was even bigger than it had been. Consequently, I could not return to living within the smaller previously encountered doctrinal shell. Even to this day, I continue to find that truth is still bigger than me, but reveals itself only little by little the further I go. Perhaps it would be too overwhelming to encounter truth any other way.

Within each differing climate, the usual seasons each wear a slightly different mask, but underneath is still the basic character of the season. Winter is winter, for example, everywhere around the world, but exactly how winter looks, varies according to the local climate and environment.

As one intent on living life as completely and truthfully as possible, I must learn not just the season of winter, but winter's many possible faces as well. To even begin to know Godde completely and truthfully, one must be similarly open to experiencing the myriad of faces Godde may choose to wear, since each one has something essential to communicate.

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

## On a Personal Note

Through rain and mud and dark of night... yes, in one form or another, life goes on and the only thing that makes sense is to persist in responding in the best way that I can, to whatever opportunities and resources are available—no matter how weary I may be, no matter how inadequate available resources may seem, no matter how uncommunicative others may be because of certain challenges, and no matter how insane the world in general seems to have become. We must persist in putting good into the world—individually and collectively—if good is to come from the same.

The Metaphysical Fair last week was significantly different in tone, but nevertheless wonderful. I think we are all just very much in the midst of growth and evolution at present.

An attempt to create new episodes of "Sister Who Presents" was sabotaged by uncooperative audio equipment, but with perseverance I still expect that twenty-four new episodes will be completed before the end of the year, including episode number 300.

Possibilities for video recordings of three modern "morality plays" are being explored, but a date of completion for this complex project is still unknown.

Preparations for production of the 2014 calendar have begun, with the calendar itself hopefully to be completed in early November.

Through all of life's challenges, the dogs and I continue to hope for—and to work toward—a tomorrow that is even better than today.

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

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