

Chapter 4: A Positive Prognosis *(For those who unselfishly dedicate themselves)*

Really now, given the huge number who spawn more children than they and those around them can adequately nurture, and the large proportion, even of those who are not overproliferative, who want to gratify themselves more than to creatively contribute, how in heaven's name will those of us who are conscientious and caring manage to improve Life on earth? Just what do we have to look forward to?

As of this writing, ecological breakdown is well underway. The fabric of Life on our planet is falling apart. The culmination of such trend is predictable but not preventable because all too many are either so undiscerning that they don't appreciate what appropriate action would be or so enslaved by immediate self-interest that, even when aware of what is called for, aren't willing to so do.

We therefore will experience a period of "great tribulation," as was foretold at the outset of a similar phase in our still cyclically repeating process. Populational pressure and resulting distress will escalate to levels many will find quite unbearable. Not a few will fall by the wayside; not a few will suffer severe trauma. Within the life-span of those now being born, Life's parameters will narrow considerably, and its course will get a lot rougher.

There is no point in denying this. The writing on the wall is quite clear. Leeway for oversight and error have already begun to lessen. Transgressions are resulting in penalties that are increasingly severe. There can be no other conclusion: People will flounder and perish unless and until, in keeping with the fact that we are interrelated components of a single living Entity, we prove more constructive and reciprocally reinforcing than detrimental and unregenerate as a group.

The decimation will follow a pattern (in many areas, its outlines are already apparent). Broadly speaking, in terms of individuals and groups: Those who have not acquired requisite knowledge and wisdom, lacking foresight and appropriate values to guide them, will be lost amidst the turmoil and turbulence they themselves create or otherwise encounter. Those who have uselessly squandered or hoarded their assets instead of becoming more resourceful will be found wanting when and as, because Life's contingencies become more demanding, greater capabilities and a higher level of contributiveness are generally required. And, as anti-communal activities become unaffordable and salutary cooperation essential for continued sustenance, those who are abusive or neglectful of others, will find themselves shut out in the cold or, worse, cast into the fire.

Many argue otherwise, regarding the last of the foregoing criteria in particular. They rationalize that, if any, those who are the most skillfully selfish, by obtaining and maintaining access to the most, are the ones most likely to prosper and succeed, particularly when and if, because of ecological stress and disorder, there really isn't enough for everybody and systems of sharing break down. And many become convinced that they are right because those who are most self-enhancing do gain the upper hand in the early stages of such a happening. However, their presumption is misleading; this is not the long-run outcome.

What turns things around and puts such speculation to rest is Life's fundamental psychospiritual dynamic: ***Attitude and intention are root-factors which determine the course of events.*** Ultimately, for better or for worse, with "[our] conscience...bearing witness, and [our] thoughts...accusing or else excusing one another," everyone is decisively affected by what others think and feel about them.

During periods of opulence, the impact of such judgment and response is not as clear-cut because attention is then focused on the excess that is available, and opinion and will are generally tempered by contentment. Selfishness and personal attainment are not strenuously objected to, often they are even encouraged and admired, because many then see nothing wrong with focusing on pleasing themselves and, because they feel there is more to be had, are inclined to be easygoing and accepting of others doing the same. However, as resources diminish and choices regarding their allocation become crucial, tolerance for excess and waste decreases, evaluation becomes more critical and interpersonal reaction, accordingly, more acute and intense. In proportion to how beneficent or detrimental one is perceived to be, one is then resolutely either endorsed and supported or rejected and opposed by others in one's ken.

As the ill effects of ecosystemic deterioration become more assaultive and inescapable, the process progressively becomes more energized and all-encompassing. The impetus to identify and correct what has gone wrong intensifies to the point where all that is of consequence is examined and a referendum based on conscience is held. 'Apparent' words and deeds are scrutinized; underlying attitudes and intentions are clairvoyantly assessed. Not just gross unwholesomeness, charades of piety and legality are judged for what they are, as mores are seen to be mere 'forms' of expression and the spirit which gave rise to them is redistilled and clarified. Dialogue and debate lead to consensus and conviction. Spokespersons and exemplars emerge in all quarters. What is necessary and beneficial is earnestly espoused and advocated.

What is wasteful and counterproductive is equally earnestly abhorred, and those who engage in such behaviors are censured and castigated. (Though we have clearly embarked on such enterprise, much more is yet to be said and done on this score, in the current macrocycle {note: this was written before the turn of the Century}.)

Consequences follow in increasingly rapid succession. Whether because they exclusively focus on enhancing their own or their own kind's welfare or for some other reason, those who lack appropriate regard and concern for the developmental needs of others are identified as detractors from and traitors to Life. Simply called to honor conscience, confronted, and given a chance to change at first, those who obdurately remain violational are soulfully condemned soon thereafter. A significant portion of the yearning for conditions to improve is channeled into wishes for their comeuppance and elimination from Life's arena. Such desires finally becomes so focused and, in combination, so intense that, personal privilege and power notwithstanding, that very train of events is psychospiritually impelled.

The demoralization and demise of those who don't accede to and accord with the prescriptions of conscience is assured by their own apprehensiveness—they are simultaneously afflicted from within. Particularly when others around them increasingly suffer, because they then cannot escape knowing that selfish excess is unjustified and denying others their due is a sin {*sin* = whatever is anti-Life or Life-degrading}, personal misgivings and anticipation of retributive misfortune overshadow their thoughts and feelings. Their fantasies become more troubled. Horrible happenings haunt their dreams. They keep imagining not obtaining what they want and losing what they already have. More and more, what is strikes them as personally insulting. However much may actually be available to them, they experience what isn't as a significant denial. A sense of incompleteness and insatiety dogs their heels. Feeling more and more alienated from others and less and less a part of Life's flow, they find being alone and doing nothing 'grand' unpleasant and disquieting.

In conjunction with the effect of the psychospiritual reactions they evoke from others, such wretched thoughts and feelings psychospiritually operate to guarantee them consequences that are most unfortunate. In proportion to how callous and destructive they are, judgments and forebodings see to it that they become foci for what, to those who are naive, appear to be 'chance' accidents, 'natural' illnesses, 'inadvertent' errors in judgment and 'unavoidable' catastrophes. However hard they try, wherever they may be, those who are not aligned with

Life's greater expression suffer eventual ill fate as, in realms of Mind and Spirit, they accrue more and more negativity. One way or another, those who don't lovingly do what they can to advance our common cause go awry; if they don't change for the better along the way, irretrievably.

Life will not sustain their impetus. The energies of those who remain greedy, withholding and antithetical finally falter, as they engender antagonism from without and are inwardly debilitated by their own sense of sin. Instead of flowering to fruition, their creative thrust is thwarted and perverted. When storms eventually strike, their connection to Life is severed. At the end of each evolutionary cycle and beginning of a new one, such malcontents are excised from the field of thought and feeling that constitutes our species.

The converse holds true as well. The very same dilemmas and difficulties that overwhelm the ignorant and impede the unresponsive provide vital impetus to those who are inclined to become more understanding and constructive in relation to others around them. And the very same dynamic which proves disastrous to the adverse and the recalcitrant serves to reinforce and nurture those who choose to become more benevolent and collaborative.

Creative development is no chance happening: As suffering becomes more widespread, conflicts more severe and imbalance more glaring, those who are empathetic and caring seek to comprehend the etiology of surrounding circumstance and aim to intercede in ways that stimulate the development and exercise of healthy response-ability, facilitate creative problem-solving, and promote self-expression that is communally constructive. Knowing that our attitude is impartial and our purpose is to be contributive, that it is right and fitting we should succeed in such undertaking is something we single-mindedly think and whole-heartedly feel. Unconflicted thought feelings psychospiritually serve to propel us forward. Instead of getting derailed or sidetracked, we learn from mistakes and setbacks how to avoid pitfalls and overcome problems along the way. Immune to demoralization, no matter what the odds, we persevere with integrity.

As we conscientiously reexamine and reinterpret the truth, shells made of limited beliefs and shortsighted goals give way. Inner Intelligence bursts forth with transcendental perspective and unleashed vitality. Recognizing everyone else as a fellow participant and the whole as our very own, we ignore impulses and inhibit behaviors that are detrimental, choosing instead to enhance and express those that are beneficial to everyone. Enlightened by knowledge of the fact that each of us is an integral part of Life, we see through the specter of personal transience—instead of

becoming embroiled in hate or getting caught up in greed or fear because we or others we care about may not have, and possibly may never get, what we or they personally want, we respond to crises creatively, deliberately acting in ways that make the most of *That Which Is*, the eternally reverberative I-Am-That-I-Am living in each and everyone.

Though, at the outset, such motivation is ‘brought’ to Life by a relative few, our ‘movement’ gains momentum because benevolence is exponentially self-potentiating. Especially when many are troubled and need is great, since we conscientiously serve the cause of Life, our efforts are psychospiritually welcomed and endorsed. This not only sustains our impetus but, despite ongoing expenditure, keeps it growing. We thereby inspire others of like mind and heart to join us in common cause. And, as we continue to stimulate and enhance one another in synergetic coaction, our energy eventually builds to the point where, linking up with that of other similarly motivated groups, it sets off a chain reaction. A tremendous stream of Creativity surges forth in due course.

Consequently, trends and events around us increasingly confirm our faith in Life’s power, heightening the degree and extent of our positive expectations. Our ability to know and discriminate is psychospiritually thereby boosted ever further. And we become more and more creatively potent as our capacity for constructive relationship transcends one after another boundary and limitation. As even those not initially so inclined are salutarily touched and affected, they begin to resonate responsively as well. More harmonious modes of thought, feeling and behavior take hold and spread, further augmenting the process. In time, as the clutter and debris of past inadequacies and failures are swept away, the entire pattern of Life’s earthly expression is radically transformed.