

SPIRITUALITY
CONSCIOUSNESS
HEALING

A SACRED COMMITMENT

***WE ARE ONE PEOPLE... WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SACREDNESS OF ALL LIFE...
WE SHARE AND ACKNOWLEDGE ONE COMMON VISION...
WE CHOOSE TO LIVE IN PEACE... WE CHOOSE TO LIVE IN HEALTH ...
AND WE CHOOSE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM... IN REALIZING OUR COMMON HUMANITY
AND OUR SACRED RELATIONSHIP TO THE EARTH
WE CHOOSE TO BECOME CONSCIOUS PLANETARY STEWARDS AND
CO-CREATE A WORLD WHERE HEALTH PEACE AND FREEDOM FOR ALL PREVAILS...***

I, _____ , Being Aware that many of our activities and choices are seriously endangering each other and the fragile ecosystems of our planet, choose to commit my energies to protecting and restoring the Sacred Global Web of Life Here On Earth...

Through this commitment I am now aligning my energies with millions of other conscious committed individuals who are working toward the manifestation of a sacred and realizable vision.

WHAT IS SPIRITUALITY?

Forging golden masterpieces from leaden experiences...
Acknowledging truth regardless of the form it takes...
Believing in a benevolent purpose greater than yourself...
Discovering your own unique links to the heavenly force...
Wearing your serene understanding in everyday clothes...
Maintaining a balanced state of being while doing daily activities...
Detaching from the heartache of failure to willingly risk again...
Feeding your soul with the shimmering radiance of universal love...
Loving others regardless of their thoughts, feelings and actions...
Seeing the goodness, rather than the faults, in all matters...
Establishing a calm coexistence with the child that lives inside...
Releasing the compulsive need to interfere with the lives of others.
Shifting from narrow definitions toward a broader view of all that is...
Raising consciousness actively, consistently and persistently...
Eliminating judgments while sustaining a healthy discernment...
Sharing your gifts freely without thought of return or gain...
.Reflecting often about the true meaning of existence...
Sifting through dogma to discover the essence of past teachings...
Finding love and harmony where hate and fear once reigned...
Playing joyfully within life's sparkling, ever-changing facets...
Marveling at the splendor and elegance around and above...
Seeking wisdom from whatever source presents itself...
Praying for the divine guidance that is always there...
Spending undisturbed time in peaceful communion...
Using knowledge wisely to temper current actions...
Existing more completely in the moment at hand...
Knowing you are exactly where you need to be...
Gliding gracefully through tumultuous times...
Holding firmly to a belief in a god that cares...
Making each day the beginning of a new you...
Listening to the quiet messages from within...
Freeing your spirit to sear with the angels...
Co-creating your life with a higher power...
Being who you are wherever you are...
Recognizing pure bliss for what it is...
Allowing other views of creation...
Following your own inner light....

COSMIC PRINCIPLES

WE BELIEVE IN

COSMIC PERFECTION. The awareness that Reality is a process, moving with direction and purpose, and within this movement each moment is connected by the process with the goal, and so is perfect.

COSMIC LAW. The awareness that there are no exceptions to the natural laws which govern the Cosmos, and that these laws are completely objective, operating as an interconnected unity, the highest law being the Totality of Reality itself.

COSMIC ORIGIN. The awareness that all individuals are born as the result of natural laws; that these laws continue to operate within their bodies during lives; and that because all laws are interconnected, each individual has the intimate, physical connection with the Totality of Reality, the Cosmos.

COSMIC OMNISCIENCE. The awareness that because every individual is intimately connected to the entire Cosmos by the operation of objective laws within their own bodies, there is no separateness or alienation except as a mental hallucination. Because the cosmic laws govern every aspect of ourselves, there is no possibility of hiding from the Cosmos, or avoiding the results of natural processes.

COSMIC FAITH. The awareness that the Cosmos is a self-regulating mechanism existing in a state of balance, and that as long as the objective laws which govern this balance are respected, an individual can exist in a state of harmony with Reality, moving towards his own personal fulfillment.

COSMIC WORK. The awareness that reality is best experienced as a succession of moments, each experience only as “the present” and that it is only by existing in the present that the constant unfolding of the Cosmos can be experienced. Only by working in the present can real work be done and real results achieved.

COSMIC TRUTH. The awareness that the Cosmos objectively exists now: That this existence is its own definition and continues whether an individual understands it or not; and that the individual experiences the truth of Reality most completely when he views each moment fresh, without preconceptions about what “should” be happening.

COSMIC LOVE. The awareness that though the laws which govern Reality are objective, they are not cold, because these cosmic laws inevitably lead to the creation of organic life, and that life itself, like all natural phenomena, fulfills a cosmic purpose.

5 GOLDEN RULES FOR LIFE ENHANCEMENT

- Find your purpose through your passion, and your passion through your purpose.
- Let your values determine your behavior, and your behavior determine your values.
- Develop consistency through self-dicipline, and self-discipline through consistency.
- Improve your relationships through deeper connection, and deepen your connection through improved relationships.
- Open your heart to joy and compassion, and let joy and compassion open your heart.

Jonna Knudsen

THE MEANING AND POWER OF FORGIVENESS

A Campaign for Forgiveness Research

Site of an international research project funded by the John Templeton Foundation and others, co-chaired by Desmond Tutu and Robert Coles
website : www.forgiving.org/

Cooperative Communication Skills

Site provided by Dennis Rivers, editor of the Journal of Cooperative Communication Skills, which includes wise material on forgiveness
website : www.coopcomm.org/index.htm
email : comments@coopcomm.org

Conflict Research Consortium

Conflict Management and Constructive Confrontation: A Guide to the Theory and Practice. Provides an international 'Online Training Programme on Intractable Conflict'. Based at the University of Colorado, USA
website : www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/index.html
email : crc@colorado.edu

Forgive

Although primarily a site for marketing the book Forgiveness: the Key to the Kingdom by John-Roger, founder of the ecumenical Church of the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness, the site does make available a free online email course in forgiveness, and other valuable materials.
website : www.forgive.org
email : jrbooks@msia.org

Forgive for Good - Fred Luskin

Fred is one of the most celebrated practitioners of forgiveness training (see also the entry below under "Standford"), and this site is an introduction to his superb recent book, "Forgive for Good".
website : www.learningtoforgive.com/index.html
email : learningtoforgive@attbi.com

The Forgiveness Foundation

Site being developed by Jim Dincalci, family therapist and forgiveness counsellor, with inspirational articles and wisdom to integrate psychological and spiritual approaches
website : www.forgivenessfoundation.org/
email : admin@forgivenessfoundation.org

The Forgiveness Web

The most comprehensive listing on the web of sites concerned with many diverse aspects of forgiveness, operated in conjunction with Amazon.com.
website : www.forgivenessweb.com/default.htm
email : webmaster@forgivenessweb.com

ForgivenessWorks

New site being developed by Jerry Jampolsky and Diane Cirincione, celebrated international authors and teachers. Aims to be “a catalyst at making forgiveness as natural and as important in our lives as breathing and eating

website : www.forgivenessworks.org/

email : fwinformation@forgivenessworks.org

I'm sorry - relationship repair

Site introducing Jay Krunzsky, a counsellor and behavioural consultant, and the experiences and ideas behind his new book “I'm sorry - Repairing a Hurtful Relationship” on improving and healing relationships in education, families and couples

website : www.relationshiprepair.net/

email : KRUZ75@peoplepc.com

Inner Peace

A very interactive and free programme for working creatively through healing and spiritual issues, including much on forgiveness

website : innerpeace.org

email : volunteers@innerpeace.org

Institute for Human Responsiveness

Insightful materials developed by Pascal Baute, a human relations counsellor

website : www.lexpages.com/SGN/paschal.html

email : Pbbaute@aol.com

The International Forgiveness Institute

Based at the University of Wisconsin, USA. Valuable research and writing following developmental psychology guidelines and incorporating many religious and philosophical strands.

website : www.forgiveness-institute.org/

email : webmaster@forgiveness-institute.org

Michael Henderson

Michael is a freelance journalist, speaker and broadcaster, the author of nine books, the latest being the highly valued Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate

website : fenet.co.uk/henderson/

email : michaeldhenderson@compuserve.com

North American Institute for Conflict Resolution

Site for mediator Barbara Ashley Phillips, the author of The Mediation Field Guide and other works. The site provides valuable material on forgiveness.

website : www.crtraining.com/

email : events@crtraining.com

Plough Publishing/Bruderhof

Plough is the publishing house of the Bruderhof, a radical community movement of families and single men and women founded by Eberhard Arnold in 1920, challenging many institutional assumptions

websites : www.plough.com/index.htm & www.bruderhof.org

email : feedback@plough.com

Radical Forgiveness

Innovative therapeutic approach developed by Colin Tipping and his wife JoAnna, co-founders of the Georgia CancerHelp Program.

website : radicalforgiveness.com/index.html

email : colint@mindspring.com

Religious Tolerance

The most frequently visited religious website anywhere, providing thorough introductions to points of mutual understanding for many religions, including Wicca

website : www.religioustolerance.org/

Restitution Incorporated

Restitution Inc. helps inmates on death row make restitution for their crimes through writing and original artwork : "Offenders heal by making restitution; victims heal through forgiveness"

website : www.restitutioninc.org

email : Betsy@restitutioninc.org

Restorative Justice

Another site devoted to this vision, developed by lawyer Tom Cavanagh to provide a set of core values to guide the vision of others working in this area

website : www.restorativejustice.com/index.html

email : okirish@holly.colostate.edu

Restorative Justice Online

Main resource site reflecting the aim of some US lawyers to move legal justice and attitudes from a retributive to a restorative model

website : www.restorativejustice.org

email : lparker@pfi.org

Softpower

Sponsored by UNICEF Canada and partners, Softpower develops approaches to conflict resolution using attraction rather than force. Remarkably, the whole Unicef Education for Peace and Conflict Online Manual is available free onsite.

website : www.softpower.org

email : mycity@interlog.com

Spirit at Work

Major resource site for anyone exploring the vision of a human workplace built on spiritual values

website : www.spiritatwork.com

email : spiritatwork@earthlink.net

Spirituality.com

Christian Science site developing web community for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of spirituality and life, with good resource material, and online discussions on issues such as forgiveness

website : www.spirituality.com

email : thomast@spirituality.com

Stanford Training in Health and Healing

A training programme developing at Stanford University, and also funded by the Templeton Foundation. Directed by Fred Luskin.

website : www.stanford.edu/~alexsox/forgiveness.htm

email : fredl@leland.stanford.edu

Trauma and Chaplaincy

Thoughtful site about diverse care and justice issues, published by Catholic chaplain Fr J Mahoney

website : 207.238.20.223/Default.htm

email : frjmahoney@earthlink.net

Worldwide Forgiveness Alliance

Aims to celebrate the healing power of forgiveness worldwide through the establishment of the first global holiday, International Forgiveness Day, and to broaden awareness of forgiveness

website : www.forgivenessday.org

email : rwplath@forgivenessday.org

Yehudah Fine

Charismatic NY rabbi (the “Times Square Rabbi”), author and teacher who works with many teens and with their parents, and with people with addictions, Yehudah majors on hope and forgiveness.

website : www.yehudahfine.com/

email : featherriver@mac.com

ON EVOLUTION

Our bodies, the vehicle, the temple in which we live, move and experience our life, the one life, evolved from the mineral kingdom billions of years ago. On up through the plant and animal kingdom to our present experience here on Earth... Now. This body, this vehicle, the product of profoundly powerful subconscious processes is sustained, maintained, and animated by superconsciousness itself-the Universal Life Intelligence – God.

In summarizing our awareness of ourselves, we may now acknowledge ourselves as psycho/physiological beings animated and sustained by Life itself. Through a consciously directed will, self-understanding and the application of knowledge we have the opportunity here and now to partake and further our own evolution and development. This evolution is not only occurring spiritually and psychologically, but physiologically as well. Our bodies, the corporeal intelligence, may be improved, perfected in this life so that we human beings may experience ever increasing degrees of health and freedom.

Through intuition, applied knowledge, and understanding of nature's laws we may begin to create a youthful, healthy body which will afford us greater freedom to fulfill our life's work and purpose. Clues and intimations regarding the evolution and ultimate perfection by man in accordance and unison with nature of the physical vehicle can be deduced by studying the evolutionary development of the automobile.

The first mass produced automobile was the Model T Ford. It's gone with the wind - many of us, for whatever reasons, are moving about in Model T Fords, however, many of us are not. This indicates an evolutionary precedent, a trend, a design in nature, and future possibility that a new wo/man is in the making, a regenerated humanity. Men, woman, and children will and are appearing here on Earth with fully developed faculties of mind and bodies which far exceed anything from the past.

These new beings, born and/or reborn in the light of spiritual understanding, love and power, shall create a new world order, a quantum leap from the past, a new life for ourselves (cells), a life which reflects and fulfills our deepest desires. The desire for true peace, health, happiness, and freedom will be experientially realized. And life shall reflect the truth of our own inner awareness.

The keys to our future, is contained within our own genetic code, our nervous system, our brain. Through the art of receptivity (guidance), conscious thinking (the actualization of the frontal lobe of the brain), and creative imagination - the future which is being created now is as limitless and as vast as space. We are part and parcel of polyantric, multidimensional mind whose experience of itself is ecstatic. We are programmed for bliss. We shall come to know that our limits are limitless as the light of pure reason shines within and without dissolving and evaporating the shadows and the illusions of our collective "past," leading us onward and upward into heretofore unimagined realms of pure experience.

We are awakening to our true selves – as sons and daughters of the most high, as children of the light, empowered by this light to live a life of freedom, love, and joy, consciously co-creating and manifesting a life here on Earth which fully reflects the wisdom, love, and intelligence of our Creator. Through the agency of love, the spirit of guidance and education, we, the collective and individualized embodiment of the one reality, partake of reality, this sacred divinity, and create through vision, a resurrected humanity...the keys to our collective liberation is awareness, faith, applied knowledge, along with the determination and forbearance to follow our intuitions. This is a creative process and shall lead us into

the Golden Age of Humanity – a New Epoch...a new world of freedom, a world of creativity, an inter-dimensional world wherein life is actualizing itself in love and infinite beauty. The past is dead...it is now to reclaim our “lost” heritage and creatively revision our present life in wisdom, love, understanding, unity and freedom.

Da Vid

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THE GLOBAL BRAIN AWAKENS OUR NEXT EVOLUTIONARY LEAP

Peter Russell

The Emerging Global Brain The interlinking of humanity that began with the emergence of language has now progressed to the point where information can be transmitted to anyone, anywhere, at the speed of light. Billions of messages continually shuttle back and forth, in an ever growing web of communication, linking the billions of minds of humanity together into a single system.. Is this Gaia growing herself a nervous system?... With near instant linkage of humanity through this communications technology, and the rapid and wholesale dissemination of information, Marshall McLuhan's vision of the world as a global village is fast becoming a reality.

From an isolated cottage in a forest in England, I can dial a number in Fiji, and it takes the same amount of time for any voice to reach down the telephone line to Fiji as it does for my brain to tell my finger to touch the dial. As far as time to communicate is concerned, the planet has shrunk so much that the other cells of the global brain are no further away from our brains than are the extremities of our own bodies. At the same time as the speed of global interaction is increasing, so is the complexity. If this rate of increase is sustained, the global communications network could equal the brain in complexity by the year 2000...

The changes that this will bring will be so great that their full impact may well be beyond our imagination. No longer will we perceive ourselves as isolated individuals; we will know ourselves to be a part of a rapidly integrating global network, the nerve cells of an awakened global brain. A New Level of Evolution One philosopher who spent much of his life contemplating the integration of humanity into a single being was the French priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. One of his principal conclusions was that humanity was headed toward the unification of the entire species into a single interthinking group.

The fulfillment of this process Teilhard referred to as the Omega Point, the culmination of the evolutionary process, the end point toward which we are all converging... Another philosopher with a similar vision was the Indian mystic Sri Aurobindo, a contemporary of Teilhard's. Sri Aurobindo saw evolution as Divine Reality expressing itself in ever higher forms of existence. Having passed from energy through matter and life to consciousness, evolution was now passing through the transformation from consciousness to what he called "Supermind," something so far above consciousness as to be beyond our present dreams of perfection, the ultimate evolution of Spirit...

How far away are we from the point in time when this might happen? This new level may well come even faster than either Sri Aurobindo or Teilhard envisioned. It could possibly happen within a few decades. Such a transition is going to require some very rapid changes on the part of humanity. On the one hand, an individual need only pick up a newspaper to see just how far humanity is from being a cohesive, integrated whole. On the other hand, society is much more than a collection of disassociated individuals going their separate ways. Evolutionarily speaking, we may be in a sort of twilight zone, neither one thing nor the other.

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As it turns out, this is also a characteristic aspect of evolutionary transitions. Opening Of The Heart

The enlightened person experiences a deep and universal compassion, and his life usually becomes one of service, not just service to humanity but to the whole world. In the words of a Buddhist scripture, “The fair tree of thought that knows no duality bears the flower and fruit of compassion, and its name is service of others.” The enlightened person knows a reality that lies beyond the everyday duality of “I” and “Not I” and the suffering it causes, and his compassion for humanity makes him want to help others to achieve this realization as well. For this reason many Buddhist teachings have proclaimed that the enlightened being does not rest till he has seen the enlightenment of all beings...

It is toward this goal of universal enlightenment that humanity needs to move. Those who have achieved enlightenment have generally been few and far between. But, if the world is to be transformed and a high-synergy society is to become a reality, such a shift in consciousness will need to be widespread. Unemployment Revalued One change in particular will be our attitude toward work. Traditional areas of employment may very well decrease in the future. Increasing technological innovations and automation in a diverse range of occupations will mean that society will not need everyone to work full time.

If, in addition, there were to be a significant shift toward higher states of consciousness, with a consequent decrease in our material needs, employment will drop still further. The net result will be a considerable freeing of time and the opportunity to explore other areas of our lives in greater depth... Currently most of our intellectual and mental abilities virtually stop growing around the time we finish our formal education, unless we are engaged in activities that require continual updating, reeducation, challenge, and stimulation. With lifelong education the opposite trend would occur: the continued growth and unfolding of our innate, and largely untapped, potentials will become the norm rather than a privilege.

Moreover, the current emphasis of education on facts and information will give way to a balance between the development of knowledge and the development of the knower. Society will enter a new renaissance as creativity, intuition, and personal development become valued as highly as science, technology, and economic development are today. Technological progress will be seen not as a threat to the quality of life, but as a liberator, allowing people to move on in the direction of self-actualization, thereby improving the quality of life in the most fundamental way possible...

Peter Russell earned a first class honors degree in theoretical physics and experimental psychology, and a master's degree in Computer Science at the University of Cambridge, England. He then traveled to India to study eastern philosophy. Since then his prime focus has been the exploration and development of human consciousness, integrating eastern and western understandings of the mind. Russell is author of several best-selling books, including *The White Hole In Time*, *The Brain Book*, and *The Creative Manager*.

THE SPIRIT OF CYBERSPACE

Anyone who hasn't been hibernating for the past decade knows that our civilization is going through changes of unprecedented proportions. Nowhere is this more evident than in the communications revolution. Nearly a hundred million humans are now "on-line," with the number growing ten percent per month. PC-based communications will soon become as ubiquitous as phones, fax, TV, and ground mail, and probably even more significant as a universal change agent.

The information age is upon us, and nothing will ever be the same. The fantastic dream of instant universal access to each other and all human knowledge is fast becoming a reality. Nicholas Negroponte, author of *Being Digital*, calls this communications revolution "a 10.5 on the Richter scale of social change." The "Global Village" predicted by 60's media philosopher Marshal McLuhan is here.

While the world is shrinking, our collective consciousness is expanding; as the great new knowledge repository of Cyberspace grows, becoming the electronic nervous system through which mankind is destined to know itself on a whole new level. The Internet is a pulsating earth-encompassing net of countless millions of energetically-linked, computerized "intelligence nodes," each directly and instantaneously accessible to all the others. This omni-distributed array allows the human minds positioned at those terminals to become potentially cognizant of the collective knowledge and ideas of everyone else.

The conception of a multi-dimensional illuminated living web is as old as the Vedic mytho-poetic image of Indra's "Net of Jewels," and as new as holography, the remarkable laser-based imaging technology which utilized the interpenetration of light rays to project three dimensional visions in thin air. Another ancient metaphor for the Great Matrix of Cyberspace is the Universal sensorium known in esoteric traditions as the Akashic Records. In this metaphysical realm - unlike in material, "atom-based" repositories - once information is impressed into memory, it "lives" virtually, forever something like the Mind of God. In a complex interactive feedback process between creator and creation, the knowledge-base of the digital realm is continuously being downloaded into human consciousness. How will this affect our precarious collective destiny?

What shall we do with this information-age equivalent of atomic power? Accumulate so much trivia and babble that we go into psychic meltdown? Or create a Web of Wisdom that enlightens us and, not coincidentally, saves the world? The visionary French philosopher, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, posited a "Noosphere," an emerging global super-consciousness known and experienced by all.

We may soon see the moment in history when at least most people most of the time realize their underlying Unity with everyone else and the world, and begin to behave accordingly. To quote an editorial in *Scientific American*: "Computer networking offers the soundest basis for world peace that has yet been presented. International computer networks will knit together the peoples of the world in bonds of mutual respect; its possibilities are vast, indeed."

More than a few credible contemporary observers feel that the advent of the electronic intellisphere heralds a spiritual quantum leap in human evolution. Richard Thieme, a writer and lecturer specializing in the impact of technology on culture, says: "Our transition from a print culture to a digital one is as profound a shift in human consciousness as that created by the move from oral culture to written, or written to printed. Our interaction with computers has given birth to new forms of religious community.

The Net is an imagined territory with a real spirituality in it.” Peter Russell, author of *The Global Brain Awakens* says: “The potential marriage of science and mysticism, the growth of highly efficient methods for disseminating spiritual wisdom, the burgeoning interest in development, and the possibility of direct transference of higher states of consciousness are all combining to make it possible, for the first time in human history, for the wisdom of the perennial philosophy to take a firm and lasting hold.”

The World Wide Web (WWW) is like the multi-media Citizens Band of Cyberspace, the quintessential omni-dimensional, people-to-people contact medium and knowledge base. Suddenly, artists, electronic publishers, home-office merchants, social critics, professionals and amateurs alike are opening home pages, their own digital open front doors to the cyberhood. The implications are historic. Ralph Abraham, author of *The Web Empowerment Book*, says: “The advent of the Web is a spiritual transformation in progress, a supernaturally guided miracle...it’s the only sphere where we have totally unrestricted, unbridled creativity run amuck!...the WWW is one of the most important developments in centuries, if not millennia...it may enable a major social transformation, and the creation of a sane future for mankind, in harmony with our environment.”

For now, Cyberspace is like the huge elephant, and we - at the dawn of the information age - are the proverbial blind men attempting to discern its nature. Hackers are fascinated with the technology of internetting. Research scientists focus on the data it accesses. Educators want to realize the promise of interactive learning and remote teaching. Business professionals network and communicate for profit.

Kids are mesmerized by the multi-media games. And of course, pornographers, swindlers and sociopaths have their own view of the limitless possibilities waiting on the digital frontier. My particular fascination is with the metaphysical side of Cyberspace. I am convinced that the info-hiway is potentially the best means we may ever have for conveying spirituality and wisdom to Everyman: more accessible than holy books, more reliable than gurus and churches, deeper and more interactive than television.

Three years ago I embarked on my own electronic vision-quest, full of questions and hopes: Who else out there is feeling inspired by the possibilities of enlightened twenty-first century communications? How can the new world knowledge base become a true source of wisdom and guidance? Does the parallel digital universe hold at least the potential to liberate individuals and enlighten mankind?

Is God on-line? In search of answers and the valuable tools of personal transformation, I visited spiritual home pages, religious electronic bulletin boards, New Age forums, mystical Gopher sites, goddess-loving Usenet newsgroups, and digitized sacred text libraries throughout the world. I found a proliferation of Buddhist networks, religious and esoteric special interest groups, and inspiring electronic newsletters.

There are numerous subsets of the Internet devoted to yoga, meditation, metaphysics, Christian and Hindu traditions, Jewish mysticism, “Good News,” channeling, philosophy, astrology, feminist theology, Wicca, transpersonal and parapsychology, community building “freethought,” “ageless wisdom” inspiration, shamanism, and much more. I’m pleased to report that here is Spirit in Cyberspace, and increasing numbers of cyber-pilgrims are accessing it.

But how can we recognize authentic spirituality in the vast full/emptiness of Cyberspace? Is there not even more room for pseudo-truth and self-deception out there in the etheric foam of the digital sea? Of course one person's spirituality may be another's blasphemy. The Internet approach to the quest is so democratic and so personal; all religions, sects, texts, and teachers await your consideration. You're no longer limited to someone else's idea of what you should know or believe. If the price of this on-line eclecticism is the potential for more dilettantism, delusion and confusion, still Cyberspace greatly accelerates the learning process.

Besides, can we have too much religious freedom? In Cyberspace as in life, we should know the genuine article by its effects: What good is it? Quite simply, something (or someone) is spiritual if his/her/its influence actually reduces human suffering and increases freedom: not only freedom from fear, ignorance, shame, guilt, hunger, and pain, but freedom for growth. It's not enough for a teacher (or teaching) to sound good. If it's authentic, by definition it benefits people and the planet. If it's enlightening, the soul stirs and the spirit soars from the contact, as if lifted by angels. For the first time in history we now have the option of deliberately manifesting this dynamic fabric of mutually-interactive intelligence force.

THE RISE OF THE CULTURAL CREATIVES

A New phenomenon is emerging in American culture, according to the results of a recent social research survey. We are at a watershed in history, when the country is shifting away from the modern technocratic society toward what sociologist Paul H. Ray calls “Integral Culture,” concerned with spiritual transformation, ecological sustainability, and the worth of the feminine.

For readers who espouse these values, Ray’s findings are likely to be very comforting. The standard bearers of Integral Culture, who Ray calls “Cultural Creatives,” now number 44 million. That’s one quarter of the United States population. At this moment in history, he says, “The potential for launching a cultural revitalization movement is dazzling.” Still, Ray warns, there is no guarantee the current momentum will continue into the next century, or that Integral Culture will become the dominant force. It is largely up to those who identify themselves as Cultural Creatives to create the new story. What follows are highlights of Ray’s findings, from *The Integral Culture Survey: A Study of the Emergence of Transformational Values in America*.

America is experiencing a renaissance of values, the author argues. He calls it Integral Culture, composed of the spirituality and ecologically aware. Is this the future? And are you a standard bearer? Are you a Cultural Creative?

The Values, Commitments, and Beliefs of the Cultural Creatives:

Values Held By A Majority of CCs/%of CCs Agreeing:

Need to rebuild neighborhoods and communities/92%

Concerns about violence and abuse of women and children/87%

Xenophilism: Love of travel to foreign places, of foreigners, and the exotic/85%

Nature as Sacred: Redwood groves, planetary stewardship, Gaia/85%

Ecological Sustainability: Concern for global environment, species extinction, and overpopulation; and willingness to pay to fix it/83%

Voluntary Simplicity: People should have simpler lifestyles, fewer possessions/79%

Distrust of big business: Business has too much power/wealth, is irresponsible, is too profit oriented/76%

Concern for Relationships: Creating/maintaining them, all kinds: friends, family/76%

Feminism: Equal pay for women, women should be managers/leaders, women should not have to return to traditional roles/69%

Altruism: Helping others, volunteering, wanting to create a better society, caring relationships, making a contribution to society/58%

Religious mysteries: Belief in paranormal, reincarnation, afterlife, God as immanent, importance of divine love, meditation/53%

Self-actualization: Self-discovery, creativity, psychological growth, personal uniqueness/52%

Alternative Health Care: Use of alternative health care in past year/52%

Values not held by a majority of CCs, but by more than most other Americans/% Agreeing:

Spiritual Psychology: Meditation, belong to spiritual group, developing self-awareness/40%

Activism: Wanting to be involved in creating a better America, volunteering/40%

Optimism about the country and the future/35%

Importance of creativity in life, wanting more time for creative pursuits/33%

Like all groups, CCs also define themselves by the values they reject/% Rejecting

Hedonism: High priority on getting out and having a good time, dressing stylishly/90%

Survivor orientation: Just getting by, hanging on day to day/81%

Anti-sustainability, and pro-big business positions of the far right/79%

Winner values: Achievement and job success, making a lot of money/70%

Fear of job loss/62%

Materialism: Greed, doing something for money alone, wanting to own more property/48%

Religious right: Fundamentalism, religious conservatism, intolerance, anti-abortion/46%

Financial problems and getting out of debt/45%

Cynicism: Anti-idealism, politically alienated, refusal to believe in caring/40%

VALUES OF THE CULTURAL CREATIVES

The distinctive values, commitments, and beliefs of the Cultural Creatives - the most conspicuous representatives of the emerging Integral Culture - may be summarized as follows:

ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY, BEYOND ENVIRONMENTALISM

Any aspect of ecology and sustainability you can name, Cultural Creatives are emphatically for it - and we are leading the way. They demonstrate awareness of a large range of issues, and their values include wanting to rebuild neighborhoods and communities, achieving ecological sustainability, supporting limits to growth, seeing nature as sacred, wanting voluntary simplicity, and being willing to pay for cleaning up the environment and stopping global warming.

GLOBALISM

Among the top values of Cultural Creatives are xenophilism (love of foreigners, the exotic, and travel to foreign places), and ecological sustainability, which includes concern for planetary stewardship and global ecology, and concern for population problems.

THE LOST GOSPEL OF THE EARTH

A Call for Renewing Nature, Spirit, and Politics

A passionate call for spiritual integrity and essential democracy.

Tom Hayden

Tom Hayden is a man of ambitious goals. From his early 1960s role in framing the Port Huron Statement, the founding document of Students for a Democratic Society, to his work opposing the Viet Nam War, from his Campaign for Economic Democracy to his election to the California Senate, Hayden has devoted his energies to political organizing, with social justice and participatory democracy at the core of his concerns. Now chairman of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee of the California Senate and a university instructor in ecotheology, Hayden has embarked upon his most challenging quest yet — the renewal in Western culture of an ecological ethic based on a spiritual connection to the Earth and a sense of kinship with all life.

The Lost Gospel of the Earth is a most impressive work. It clearly is not a book he could have written in the early 1960s when, in the spirit of the time, he and his fellow drafters of the Port Huron Statement called for “the industrialization of the world” with nuclear power as the linchpin. To his credit, Hayden has learned a great deal since then, much of it from direct experience of nature. His stories of meeting a grizzly bear in Alaska and experiencing the energies at Ayers Rock in Australia bespeak a firsthand knowledge of nature that goes well beyond the current politics of environmental policy. One thing that hasn’t changed about Hayden is his ability to craft a detailed case for change built on widely shared beliefs interpreted in a new way. In The Lost Gospel, he delves deep in search of a Biblical basis for a kinship model for humanity’s relationship with the environment, culling passages from Genesis, Job, and Psalms to elaborate a Judeo-Christian green ethos to counter what he calls the “lords of the universe” view that asserts scriptural support for human domination of nature. Exploring how other peoples relate to the environment, Hayden concludes that some religious traditions remain silent as the environment is pillaged in the service of material aims.

Thinking globally, but also thinking and acting locally, Hayden explores his home turf (Los Angeles and his native Michigan) and his Irish heritage, seeking deeper understanding. He recommends that each of us “rediscover the creation story of our immediate place” and that together we revise the creation story of America, “which began some 10,000 years ago when our ancestors first learned how to live in this land.” In the chapter “The Lost Gospel of Our Native History,” he applies the term “native” with refreshing inclusiveness, using it to refer not only to Native Americans but also to the Irish, Mexicans, Africans, Asians, and white Europeans, all of whom have ancestral traditions of kinship with the Earth. Hayden avoids the common pitfall of viewing Christianity, with its focus on ascension, as having nothing at all in common with Earth-based native religions. His eco-spirituality creatively blends the two. If there is a flaw in The Lost Gospel, it may be that Hayden’s vision is so broad and far-reaching that the action steps he proposes seem small and incremental in comparison. He laments that the environmental movement has not yet produced the equivalent of Martin Luther King’s “Letter from the Birmingham Jail,” or brought forth a leader like Cesar Chavez, blessed with both moral authority and a gift for political organizing. Hayden has done his best to fill the gap, and his book will inspire others to do their part.

Daniel Redwood, a Virginia Beach, Virginia, chiropractor, is the author of A Time to Heal and Contemporary Chiropractic...

MANIFESTING (Y)OUR DESTINY

Manifesting is the making expressed or visible that which is implied or invisible. How do we manifest our collective destiny, while simultaneously involved in a personal one, when everyone seems to be heading in different directions? To make matters more challenging, some people see their destiny along a predetermined course of events, while others see it as a hopeless struggle against forces that bring sadness, pain, fear and despair. Yet another potent group see their destiny as inseparable from the human species' ability to manifest higher possibilities of a greater pattern or design, which some call www.infinityaffinity.org/principles_of_action.htm G-d, Cosmic Consciousness, Infinite Presence, Christ, Buddha, the Messiah, etc. How do we cocreate a collective destiny that is aligned with our greatest potential? The answer appears too complex on the surface; yet, there is a simple way...a very powerful way.

It is time to change our attention. It is time to change our minds about our world. Destiny is a matter of choice, not about predetermination. Destiny is about choosing which patterns and structures out of the infinite possibilities in us and before us we shall draw out and make expressed. Destiny is the power or agency that determines the course of events, and that power is us! It is our divine privilege to choose and to consciously evolve.

Descartes once remarked, "Cogito, ergo sum," I think, therefore I am. I prefer the affirmation offered by Professor Amit Goswami in his book, "www.infinityaffinity.org/bookstore.htmThe Self-Aware Universe ." Professor Goswami offers, "Opto, ergo sum," I choose, therefore I am.

Yet the power is not in the choice. The power is not in the pattern, or the in object of the choice. When I say, "I choose therefore I am," it is the "I AM" that is the power. I AM is the source, the idea and the fulfillment of the idea. When we say I AM we are engaging the power to effect whatever follows it.

I AM broke. I AM hungry. I AM tired. I AM lonely. I AM afraid.
I AM hateful.

Or

I AM love. I AM abundant. I AM whole. I AM nourished. I AM peace.
I AM nurturing. I AM courageous. I AM powerful.
I AM creative.

Look at your life now and see if what you find there is not a perfect mirror of with what you follow "I am..."; make a list and you'll be surprised. Now look at our world and see that it also reflects our collective vision of "I am..." The principle is unailing because we unwittingly engage the power that creates our realities when we affirm whatever follows I AM. This is how it is closer and dearer than our own breath and heart. I AM is the clearest, least distorted statement in the human language that expresses the Infinite Presence that infuses all matter of being in the universe. I AM is our quintessential nature and our nature fulfilled. Our reality, individually and collectively, is an outpicturing of how we see ourselves, how we follow the powerful statement, "I am..."

Of course another word attempts this feat, "God"; but how can we fit something that is infinite into a limited concept. The word "God" is a concept, a limited linguistic expression of that which is infinite. The word "God" has been used immaturely and to create boundaries instead of union. In the name of "God" more violence and blood has been shed than any other single cause in the history of humankind. We can forgive our past transgressions and move on to more fulfilling, productive destinies when we return to "God" as an infinite Presence that unites us, rather than as a concept that divides us.

I AM... WE ARE... IT IS...

It sounds too simple, I know. Yet I AM describes the entire universe from beginning to end. It describes all the mathematics of motion, position, probability, relationship and change within the universe. It describes pairs of opposites across all levels of existence, from the positive and negative subatomic forces, to the love and fear of man and woman for themselves and each other. It describes our greatest dreams and our darkest nightmares. It describes all that we can become; it describes all that we can destroy. It describes all these things because it points to something that is infinite, the Truth of which can only be experienced, not discussed, measured or taught. Our challenge is to "follow the finger that points the way instead of sucking it," as Alan Watts proposed that Christianity do in relationship to Jesus Christ.

We must seek the experience of Truth in all our activities instead of using concepts of Truth as pacifiers...

We must live the Truth we know if we are to know the freedom we seek....

If you were infinite and someone asked your name, how could you answer in any other way that would reveal your infinitude? The mighty utterance "I AM" is a superb feat of infinite, impeccable logic because "I am..." can be followed by an infinite list of attributes and relationships, and thus, allows for infinite progression of expression.

Saying I AM in the genuineness of its true meaning allows us instantly to transcend the perceptual limits of time and space and manifest a destiny promised by our innate affinity for infinity . When we say I AM with the recognition that we are calling into action the Presence that creates stars, and with the recognition that we are one with that Presence, and with the recognition that we are individual expressions of that Presence, then we in that moment transcend all that separates us from our own infinite Essence. This is how we cocreate desirable and mutually fulfilling futures.

We must awaken to the fact that we are divine in nature and are unified within that divine essence, and celebrate that divinity in all life. This awakening allows us to become conscious of our abilities to cocreate with the I AM Presence. This is our charter if we expect to advance to the next level of human evolution. This is the simple way to manifest a collective destiny because here all struggle ceases and life becomes enjoyment of experience rather than lessons to be learned.

We live to experience, we live to express, and we have lessons because it is our nature to learn from our experiences, not visa versa. The growth we see as evolution, personally and collectively, is merely the unfolding of that which is infinitely enfolded, like the perennial blossoming of the fragile rose in the dancing and eternal light of spring. The Divine Idea, "ROSE," exists in the Cosmic Mind as a neces-

sary antecedent to the physical manifestation of the rose. The Consciousness of “ROSE” and a Living Energy is what animates the rose that we enjoy with our senses, and we know the Truth of it by our experience of it in the now. Is there any other way to truly know a rose?

Understanding creation in this way answers the befuddling riddle: what came first, the chicken or the egg?

Ultimately, the only way to truly experience reality and leave “lessons” behind is to use I AM in whole-some ways and to consciously affirm with our thoughts, feelings, words and actions that which we want revealed in our world collectively. This desire must come from a higher place than our own self-centered concerns. This is how we can cocreate with the knowledge and responsibility that we owe our Source and owe our six billion other soul mates with which we have incarnated now. Done with the humble recognition that “I AM” this Presence, by virtue of our Divine essence, and because everything is this Presence, we naturally tap into the Source that is inherently harmonious within Itself. If this were not the case, the universe would have extinguished itself long ago.

We must always remember that reality is plastic and fluid. The universe instantly reflects back to us whatever we are projecting by our own minds and beliefs. Consider that “mind” is a projector that uses reality as a screen upon which to project its own version of things. It projects its own fears, beliefs, conditioning, likes, dislikes, attitudes, concepts and models onto reality, then confuses this motion picture with reality itself. If we choose to distort the outpicturing of our nature by holding fear and lack in our hearts and minds, then we will experience realities that reflect these distortions. Instead, we can allow our true nature to shine and see that brilliance reflected to our senses.

It should be self-evident that reality is infinitely moldable to the life that animates it.

Can you not see this in the world about you, both natural and manmade? War and violence exist because these things are in the hearts and minds of humankind. Peace will reign when peace finds a lasting abode in our hearts and minds. If things appear rigid and inflexible it is our own rigid, false sense of identity that is rigid, and what we observe in our daily life is merely a reflection of that stiff, narrow sense of self. We experience this seeming insidious reflection of our lower nature so that we may know our greatness by contrast.

What we need to evolve beyond our current level is a broader sense of self...a living, breathing recognition that we are part of a larger Being in whom our complete fulfillment lies...but we are it...not separate from it. We only need to nurture the complete and collective consciousness of this Truth in order to see it manifest in our experience. The beginning of this experience is the moving from self-centered consciousness to whole-centered consciousness. Herein lies the promise of the ages: paradise on earth .

Simple mathematics can prove that if we concern ourselves with everyone else as well as ourselves then we can have orders of magnitude more of everything. It is the mathematics of a utopian economy: You live in a world where only you are concerned about you; therefore, you have only one person on your side. On the other hand, if you lived in a place where six billion people were concerned about you, but you and everyone else concerned themselves with the fulfillment of everyone else, then you would have six billion people interested in your welfare, and so would everyone else! Which would you rather have? Which world would be more likely to foster the manifestation of that which is (y)our highest potential... (y)our destiny?

This is the “secret” to manifesting a collective destiny where everyone is fulfilled and where we experience abundance in all areas of life. But how do we get there from here? How do we alter this in a world that seems bent on fearful, destructive, self-serving motives and activities?

We start in our own hearts and minds. We as individuals must affirm with our deepest feeling nature the I AM Presence every moment and commit to living and being now as we would in a world that already expresses a higher potential. Is there anything that is stopping us right this instant but our own forgotten choice to act out of fear instead of love? Will it ever become a reality until we do? What are we waiting for? Be It NOW!

ON PROPHECY

THE FUTURE IS HAPPENING NOW

This article is offered for your empowerment. Let us begin with a profound philosophical concept: God dwells within us as us... In our heart of hearts, at the core of our being, the Supreme Being is intimately known to us as our own immortal Self, Our magical, mystical, and majestic I AM Presence.

God/dess is All That Is. There is no way we can separate ourselves from That which Was, Is, and Shall Be. We have always been one with life, we are one with life, and we will always be one with life. Any belief contrary to this constitutes denial. This denial, rooted in the belief in separation (sin/ignorance), generates fear. Fear, a third dimensional experience, is the root cause of dis-ease and the seven o'clock news. And what is it that we are afraid of? Is it the fear of death and/or the fear of the unknown, and/or becoming who we really are? In truth, it's all, and none of these, because in truth we already know the truth... The truth IS... and whatever we believe it to be. After profound philosophical deliberations I have come to realize my truth which is: God/dess Is, and so am I... And in this New Age of Awareness, we all are becoming conscious of this profound truth... God/dess Is, and so are We.

This is what the ancient prophets meant when they spoke of the coming of a New Age, the Second Coming of Christ Consciousness. The esoteric understanding of Christianity, an evolving solar religion, is rooted in the awareness that the Son is the Sun. The ancient Egyptians who prayed to Ra (synonymous with Christ) were fully aware of this truth.... Indeed "The Son of God" is our Sun, the source of life itself... Scientists today are in agreement that we are living in a multi-dimensional holographic universe, where all is energy, all is light, and all is consciousness. $E=MC^2$

Indeed, the Ancient and Eternal Wisdom has come of age... As we become progressively aware of the fact that we are living in an organic, multi-dimensional expanding, YES UNIVERSE, we are given the unprecedented opportunity to transform our lives in accordance with the understanding that we live in an infinitely abundant, benevolent, and super intelligent universe, governed by the law of love. We are individually and collectively in the process of restructuring our fear/time based reality into a Christ Conscious reality wherein "Health, Peace, and Freedom for All" abide. This transformation, guided by infinite intelligence and love, constitutes a global metanoia, the Armageddon (the end of the world). "The end of the world," a psycho-physiological event, constitutes the end of duality, and resides in the conscious understanding that life is free and so are we!

This profound planetary transformation is being assisted by many factors/forces. The Earth has moved into the Aquarian Age, due to an actual astronomical event known as the Precession of the Equinoxes. Aquarius is the zodiacal sign of humanity, truth, and science (the search for truth). Truth sets us free. In another grand astronomical event, our whole solar system is intersecting a photon belt (zone of light and higher consciousness) in its grand cycle around the Pleiades. In fulfillment of prophecy, cycles within cycles are culminating together as we rapidly evolve into The Eternal Here and Now (the Fifth Dimension). This is substantiated by Hindu cosmology which reveals that we are now in The Diamond Age. The Diamond Age, an age of intense purification, is a transitional period between the Kali-Yuga (an age of ignorance/sin) into a Satya-Yuga, a glorious Golden Age of Light (the Aquarian Age, the New Heaven, the New Earth). The initiation of the Satya-Yuga occurs at a precise moment, "A twinkling of an eye"...

The Mayan calendar places this cosmic moment in the Earth year 2012... This prophetic moment constitutes the Earth's Permanent Ascension into the Fifth Dimension, a higher harmonic of light where peace, love, freedom, and multi-dimensional realities co-exist in joy. Also the Earth becomes an official member of the Intergalactic Confederation of Planets. What this means is that our beloved Space Brothers from other advanced, intergalactic civilizations will be free to visit, and share their awareness with us.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE MAY INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY SPEED UP THE PROCESS BY SIMPLY REALIZING THAT 2012 IS NOW!...

To summarize: We, humanity, are now passing through a gateway in our psycho-spiritual development. We have now come to a turning point in our evolution. We are witnessing, participating in, and experiencing the disintegration and reintegration of the socio-economic and philosophical matrix of this planet. We are becoming increasingly aware that we are co-creators of our own destiny. Our future is being created NOW, through the choices we are all making.

Through the agency of grace (the spirit of guidance and education) we the collective and individualized embodiment of the one reality, partake of this reality, a sacred divinity. We are now experiencing a progressive transformation of consciousness, which is leading inexorably to a "time" where ***"There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."*** The keys to our collective liberation, our ascension, are faith and applied knowledge, along with the determination and forbearance to follow our intuitions and inspirations. Now is the time to celebrate our Ascension into a Golden Age, a New Epoch, A New World where Peace,

Health, and Freedom for All . . . IS . . . Ah-Om, Selah, Allelujah!!!

Da Vid, M.D., Founder