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




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Author	Topic: The Great Turning
<p>Linnea Meyer Dread Pirate</p> <p>Posts: 6200 From: Upon the High Seas ~ Aboard the FANTASTIC Registered: Apr 2000</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>posted 23 July 2001 02:08 AM</p> </div> <div style="margin-left: 10px;">  profile </div> <div style="margin-left: 10px;">  mail </div> <div style="margin-left: 10px;">  edit </div> <div style="margin-left: 10px;">  quote </div> </div> <hr/> <p>From an interview with Joanna Macy in the "YES! - Journal of Positive Futures".</p> <p>Sorry for the length - but felt it might be of value to many here</p> <p>Joanna: The term "Great Turning" is just one way to name the vast revolution that's going on because our way of life cannot be sustained.</p> <p>There are three main dimensions of it that I see. The first involves holding actions that slow the destruction caused by the industrial growth society. This economic system is doomed because it measures its success by how fast it uses up the living body of Earth – extracting resources beyond Earth's capacity to renew, and spewing out wastes faster than Earth's capacity to absorb. It is now in runaway mode, devouring itself at an accelerating rate.</p> <p>Holding actions are important because they buy time. They are like a first line of defense; they can save a few species, a few ecosystems, and some of the gene pool for future generations. In Seattle this week we saw how holding actions – in this case nonviolent blockades – can slow down efforts to give transnational corporations a yet freer hand in plundering our heritage.</p> <p>But holding actions are not enough to create a sustainable society. You've got to have new social and economic structures, new ways of doing things. And these seem to be springing up at a faster rate than at any time in our human history. I consider YES! so important, precisely because you are pointing to these innovations, which are rarely reported in the mainstream, corporate-controlled media.</p> <p>Alternative structures and analyses constitute the second dimension of the Great Turning. They were sure evident in all the teach-ins and resource sharing going on this week in Seattle. People are wising up to the assumptions and agreements that allow a few to get richer and richer while more and more people sink below the poverty line. Fresh social and economic experiments are sprouting, and new alliances are</p>

forming too. Yesterday I marched alongside farm workers and longshoremen, and I was moved to see how labor unions and environmental groups are making common cause at last.

But new coalitions and new ways of production and distribution are not enough for the Great Turning. They will shrivel and die unless they are rooted in deeply held values – in our sense of who we are, who we want to be, and how we relate to each other and the living body of Earth. That amounts to a shift in consciousness, which is actually happening now at a rapid rate. This is the third dimension of the Great Turning, and it is, at root, a spiritual revolution, awakening perceptions and values that are both very new and very ancient, linking back to rivers of ancestral wisdom.

I loved the banners and banter of yesterday's marchers, how they conveyed these values with such exuberance and humor, making fun of our greed and shortsightedness, and celebrating solidarity with all life from sea turtles to butterflies. The ancestors were in our midst, too; every block or two, a United Farm Workers' group with drums and feathers stopped to perform an Aztec dance.

Of course, a consciousness shift by itself is insufficient for the Great Turning; you also have to have the holding actions and the creation of alternative structures. These three dimensions are totally interdependent and mutually reinforcing. I love seeing it this way because it gets us off that dead argument: "Is it more important to work on yourself? or Is it more important to be out there on the barricades?" Those are such stupid arguments, because actually we have to do it all. And as we do it together, it gains momentum and becomes more self-sustaining.

You know, I often imagine that future generations will look back at us and say, "Oh, bless 'em. Those ancestors were right there in the Great Turning! There was so much they had to change, and they didn't even know if they could pull it off."

And we might not pull it off. There's no guarantee that this tremendous shift will kick in before our life support systems unravel irretrievably.

Actually, the very fact that there's no guarantee of success is what will draw forth our greatest courage and creativity. If I could give you a pill or potion to convince you that everything is going to be okay, that would hardly elicit your purest creativity and chutzpah.

We could wait around forever before we act, trying to compute our chances of success. But our time to come alive is right now, on this edge of possibility.

From our own life experience, we know there's never a guarantee – whether we're falling in love, or going into labor to birth a baby, or devoting ourselves to a piece of land, turning the soil and watching for rain. We don't ask for proof that we'll succeed and that everything will turn out as we want. We just go ahead, because life wants to live through us!

Continued...

<http://www.futurenet.org/13newstories/macy.html>

Linnea Meyer
Dread Pirate



posted 23 July 2001 12:45 PM



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edit



quote

Posts: 6200
From: Upon the High
Seas ~ Aboard the
FANTASTIC
Registered: Apr 2000

The total indifference of the usual morning posters here at this forum - speaks very loudly.

Hmm? What Planet are y'all from?

IP: [Logged](#)

LisaA
Buccaneer



posted 23 July 2001 02:56 PM



profile



mail



edit



quote

Posts: 1625
From: Colorado
Registered: May
2000

quote:

Originally posted by Linnea Meyer:
From an interview with Joanna Macy in the "YES! -
Journal of Positive Futures".

... in our sense of who we are, who we want to be...

That's the basic thing that we have control over: Whether we are acting out the life of who we want to be. So I think this is the most germane point. The rest looks like fuzzy stuff that, pardon my candor, is how the world's problems would be approached if New Age therapists were in charge.

I just think it begs quite a few questions and well... we can think about what would make a healthy land and yet there are other nations that are crazed and they would love us to be peaceful and green so they could bomb us.

[This message has been edited by LisaA (edited 23 July 2001).]

IP: [Logged](#)

Adam Warlock
Pirate



posted 23 July 2001 05:41 PM



profile



edit



quote

Posts: 13
From:
Registered: Jul 2001

quote:

Originally posted by Linnea Meyer:
Hmm? What Planet are y'all from?

What Planet are we from indeed? Maybe that's our problem.

IP: [Logged](#)

LisaA
Buccaneer



posted 25 July 2001 03:14 PM



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edit



quote

Posts: 1625
From: Colorado
Registered: May
2000

Yes, we do need change on a large scale! I propose that it won't happen if someone just proclaims it needs to be so. It's more like a hundredth monkey deal, where someone sees a good idea and copies it.

I am positively on fire to get some alternative transportation for myself. I had the use of a battery powered bike for a week and in a small way it changed my life. I must have one! I'm a fairly mundane person and I think if I liked it, many more will like the same thing.

IP: [Logged](#)

sandy
interrante
Buccaneer

Posts: 426
From: chicago, il
60618 USA
Registered: May
2000



posted 25 July 2001 04:30 PM



profile



mail



edit



quote

I know that it is important to practice environmental conservatism and to look for alternatives. However, most of us really enjoy and depend on the technological advances we have made. We can work where we please because of autos and buses that take us miles beyond our neighborhoods. After the recent heat spell here in Chicago, I thank God for air-conditioning, cold water, refrigeration, etc. We can communicate in an instant with phones and computers. In winter, we have warm homes. Our food and water supply is top notch, subjected to government standards. I've seen programs on TV about the early 1900's where the air was polluted with coal residue, the streets flooded, food shortages, illnesses that couldn't be treated because of lack of knowledge.

One of the pressing problems in the future will be where to find more landfills to dump our garbage. There is too much waste in our country. I've known some people who refuse to drink our tap water, but who will only consume bottled drinking water. Where do they think all those plastic bottles will go? Alternatives take time, but we do have to get about from day to day. If we return to the old ways, people will start dying off before they're 50, so we won't leave future generations much legacy.

I think the worst problems will be socio-economic: the influx of immigrants, the breakdown of the family, acceptance of immorality and irresponsible behavior, lack of jobs that people once took for granted such as factory work, investment, even the Internet field. Yet, strong moral values and standards will help to keep people on the straight path.

IP: [Logged](#)

LisaA
Buccaneer

Posts: 1625
From: Colorado
Registered: May
2000



posted 27 July 2001 10:03 AM



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edit



quote

I think there's even deeper issues than all the details about plastic bottles, petrochemicals and air conditioning. Don't mean to dismiss you... It's just that I think we all have the urge to make everything so "just right" that everything is also really wrong.

IP: [Logged](#)

Cherry Kelly
Swashbuckler

Posts: 3452
From: Belton, MO
USA
Registered: Jul 2000



posted 29 July 2001 08:40 AM



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mail



edit



quote

Whats the old saying about can't see your nose in spite of your face? Everything is important in one way or another - but going overboard on issues does not work either.

One little corner at a time....

IP: [Logged](#)

Linnea Meyer
Dread Pirate

Posts: 6200
From: Upon the High
Seas ~ Aboard the
FANTASTIC
Registered: Apr 2000



posted 29 July 2001 07:44 PM



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quote

Yah - you're right - I can see the article may be a little cutsey putsey!



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