

A compilation of some of my activism via essays and writings

From 1999...

Cyrus J. Mehta

www.lifetoolz.org

Felicitations posted in Dec 2010 on Avaaz.org, an NGO where I am honored to be a member.

Namaste Members of Avaaz. And Best Intentions are sent herewith for all of you to experience a Very Happy New Year.

Mark Twain said: " It's not what we know that gets us into trouble, it's what we know for sure that just ain't so."

Makes one smile doesn't it, and it's hardly a moment or two after that when our smile becomes a bit rueful thinking of the state of affairs because of just that: Those in power think they know for sure what just ain't so.

Creating a shift in consciousness is the need of the hour. A new education for living in the 21st century has to be implemented, whose end result and success is the firmly established experience within an individual of his/her Humanity as his/her main identity and the common denominator and this context, thereafter, takes precedence much before ideological and cultural preferences which are pushed back to distant second. When those in power, corporate and political, experience this shift, it would be safe to assume that ingrained imperialist mind-set of superiority and infallibility would shed rapidly and policies would become more holistic and equitable.

Avaaz is preparing the ground, with right action, for this shift.
Kudos and Love.

After the 26-11 Mumbai Attacks

A letter to Editors of the main newspapers in the UAE sent shortly after the 26-11 Mumbai Attacks

Hello,

I was born in Mumbai, lived in Colaba a min or two from the Taj. There is a heck of a lot of pain and indignation after the attacks on Mumbai last week.. However, while debates and forums are going on there is a silent pain of all those who have suffered directly from this tragicy inhuman attack.

I have uploaded a video on You Tube that offers an effective technique known as Thought Field Therapy to assist with the healing of the many thousands who have been traumatized. Please consider mentioning this on air with the name of the video "Mumbai Attacks – Trauma Treatment". I am sure that this will provide much needed relief to the thousands of victims of this truly global tragedy. Our Mumbai is a truly global city and I consider myself fortunate to have been born and raised there.

The links are:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xJOOgrhv80> This is the version in English

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a83R6wL3wmU> This is the version in Hindi

There's a lot of talk about what can be done. I would think that assisting people to be educated with this simple effective technique is a small step in directly helping hundreds of individuals whose trauma and pain can be alleviated. I would be pleased to see 7 Days take a proactive stand on this and shares this news appropriately through your fine newspaper

Many thanks and Kind Regards

... I also posted a comment (one that was not deleted) shown below, on Dina Mehta's blog after seeing her on CNN [<http://dinamehta.com/blog/2008/11/30/why-i-am-deleting-comments/>]

Why I am deleting comments by Dina on November 30, 2008 ·

12 comments in Blogs & Blogging, Indian Culture

I'm getting a huge load of comments around the politics of religion, of division and hate at my last few posts on the Mumbai terror attacks. While religion and politics may have a lot to do with the state of our world today, my blog's not the forum to air or feed these divisions. I almost feel it's a violation of my own person. So I am deleting them. Sorry.

All other comments and conversations are welcome, as always! The Mumbai Twitter feed is now flooded with them too. I'm stopping watching it. I'm certainly not playing. For all those who feel they have lots to say – I'd recommend they do something more constructive. Start by reading Ingrid Srinath's post titled This is not India's 9/11

Namaste Dina, Hi.

Saw you on CNN with Jim Clancy and appreciated you. My appreciation and my affinity increased when I read up a bit on you. Kudos Dina. Good you delete manic comment, just a thought is enough to accurately surmise what would have been said.

I did read Ingrid's note and found it as thoughtful as it was powerful. I have been kinda peeved for sometime now – at us as a species. While I feel exhausted after over 25 years of direct action in working to transform our environment, both outer and inner, I have this- almost an infirmity I think – tenacity of will. I feel like it's killing me because I sometimes just want to stop my care, my pain at not being able to do enough to stop our planet from this horribly slippery slope we are on. No just as an Indian or as a Mumbaiker (I lived at Elysium Mansion close to the Taj until I was 16) but as a Human Being. The blasts in my childhood city and neighborhood is terribly heart rending, but everyday, for me, is like this. There IS NO SEPARATION! The pain of a mother who saw her boy getting blown up in Baghdad hurts as much, the sickness of a girl in Africa feels, to me, as worrying and painful as when my own daughter is unwell. Shouldn't it be this way? Shouldn't we look after our neighbor? Our Planet suffers daily, on all levels and the species that is responsible for its degradation ecologically and sociologically is the same species with the capability to pull the planet away from this slippery slope. Irony, almost quintessentially eh?

What is happening around the world is the result of a lack of education.

Not the contemporary curriculum, which anyways is barely more than a 100 years old (Ken Robinson's TED talk at Ted.com is illuminating); What is needed is an education that brings forth a new identity within each individual. An identity which is shared with everyone. One that makes Being Human become the common denominator and everyones Main Identity; Where our Humanity henceforth becomes our first consideration, and our ideological or cultural preferences and other considerations all a distant second. I know that it's possible.

Give me a room of people for 2 days and I have seen that essential identity being irrevocably established irrespective of the cultural, religious or other ideological preferences.

Having worked with a few thousand people from over 60 countries, and from all walks of life I have seen, first hand, that this is clearly achievable.

The trick seems to be that how fast we expand such an education, how fast we replicate and translate it to be taught worldwide from urban centers to villages, how fast we can get the needed financial muscle and sinew to fuel this vision.

We need to get those in power do get such an education. This new identity will allow the mindset of industrialists and business persons like Jamsetji Tata and Anita Roddick to be emulated by business people from Wall street to Main Street. It is this identity, of Being Human first, that will transform the mind set of those who chose public service to emulate the mindsets of a Gandhi, Mandela and a Obama. This is the mindset that needs to be inculcated, by a forward thinking education, for the present generation of public servants. Ingrid is right. Werner Erhard is right. You are right. And man, many others. Action born of Intent and Integrity is the need of the hour. I see and feel the injustices and inequalities of India, of our world. You certainly feel it too.

I get royally peeved at cocktail party conversations where upon asking someone "how's it going?" the answer so often is a smug " Nothing to complain about!" @##*(&! that's enough to set me off, really. One Planet is being held at ransom by One Species – Ours! And there is nothing to complain about. To have a man like Ted Turner say that he gives us – our planet – a 50:50 chance to survive the next 50 years! Okay, who's Ted Turner anyway. How about Sir Martin Rees – Eminent Cosmologist,who thinks that this could be mankind's last century! (listen to his talk on Ted.com) That the truth of what's happening is not being seen by all as clearly as the force of gravity, is to me as bewildering as it generates in me of even more intent on my part.

I could do with some help to expand the reach of the program. I find it valuable enough to have made a submission for the Google Award for ideas that can change the world.

With Cheers, Love and Best Intentions

Primitive versus Holistic: EGO-Centric versus ECO-Centric

(a letter written to the Editor of a local newspaper in Dubai in 2005)

I was absolutely appalled on Donald Trump citing his views during the symposium of entrepreneurs last week. "When someone does you in, you go after them get them and hit them hard. It's good for self esteem" "Don't trust anyone" "Be paranoid"

Is this 2005 or 100,000 years BCE?

This is a primitive thought process –Neanderthal!

The view of this real estate and investment tycoon who amasses wealth by his aggressive "survival of the fittest" approach is a sign of a system that has lost its way. By system I mean capitalism as we know it. I would like to think that his voice is a minority, though my awareness says that the reverse is more likely. How do people give credence to such a ridiculous approach?

His comments brought up to the fore my humanity which has been and continues to be scrutinized by me vigilantly, day after day. I had done the business school stuff, graduated Cum Laude, worked in a multinational, etc. Then I initiated this entrepreneurial drive into India offering the finest technology to eliminate contaminated drinking water in the rural areas, other eco-friendly technologies to eliminate human exposure to hazardous environments like the inside of a crude oil storage tank or tanker, a nuclear power reactor.

With fledging success at best! Largely because of those with vested and special interests who would scuttle the deal. Bureaucrats who spent more time shuffling files and intent only to preserve their 'seat' from one govt. to another, stifling creative thought. Others, in public office, under oath to serve the public first, who were more interested in exploiting their position to enrich themselves and their families. Competitors, who, in spite of knowing that our technology is superior, used their behind-the-scene skills to kill the transactions.

Alas! I had neither the muscle nor the financial wherewithal to fight the system killing yet another humanistic approach.

That's the environment Donald Trump would thrive in whereas my own ethics and good conscience would intercede. Where he may work on 'all that is necessary to get the deal,' I would not be willing to sacrifice my integrity and honour and my commitment for the highest good of all concerned. Where he would become distrusting as the rule, I became smarter each time I was cheated, and maintained my trusting nature by choice.

One the other hand, you have Anita Roddick, who also spoke at the symposium in Dubai. What a woman! What a Human Being! Hers is a vision that will help to transform the world. Her vision is one that you and I ought to have. Her vision and entrepreneurial drive created a multi million dollar company. The Body Shop, now a public company, which still operates with her vision of the way Big Business needs to operate - radically different from the 'profit first, profit last' context of operation in most corporations.

She operates from a holistic point of view. She inspires me. She will inspire you! Visit her website, www.anitaroddick.com Join forces with her. Visit the websites that are linked to hers.

There is a contextual shift that needs to occur if we, humanity, can be sustained by our Living Planet.

We live with a You OR I context, at all levels, individual, family, community, corporate and inter-nation. We treat each other like we are from different planets! Such views are espoused by Donald Trump and his ilk, while the planet and the majority of humanity are sliding down a precipice.

Unless a shift to a You AND I context is made, Life as we know it could disappear in just a few generations.

We need to think holistically – by which I mean all-inclusive. A view which holds, that we are all in this together, as humanity.

One Humanity-One Planet! This context is the only way there will be a world where our grandchildren will have an opportunity to thrive and live happy and satisfying lives. Anita Roddick's life, mine and indeed, many others operate in a You AND I context. Where our inspiration and happiness emanate from work and human interaction which makes the world a better place for all.

This is a quote from an article she put up this month on her website titled "Slavery is NOT History". "12.3 million People worldwide are enslaved. That's more than the entire population of the state of Georgia in the United States or the entire nation of Cambodia. That is more than the historic population of the great Incan Empire. The labour of these modern slaves provide their "employers" with upwards of \$30 billion a year in pure profit, and more than 50% of those profits go into the pockets of businessmen and corporations based in the U.S. and Europe. We should all be nauseated by the numbers".

A gentleman, Gary Day, wrote to 7 Days on April 7th about how Dubai's meteoric growth has been on the backs of lowly paid labour. It was a comment that I wanted to applaud.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Gary Day for speaking the truth. He suffers just like any human would suffer when he sees his fellow men being treated so inhumanely and unfairly, while a minority lives in comfort. Deplorable!

Just today we hear about major charities also succumbing to the need for profit and contracting 'sweat shops' in China for millions of dollars worth of bracelets to be worn for a life affirming cause. If that is not 'Irony' then I don't know what is.

I have been reading letters flying thick and fast about opinions about peoples' dress codes. For Pete's sake, we need to focus on real issues that are threatening our existence as a species on a planet that is being destroyed by us, rather than dress codes. Tribes in Africa, Asia, South America and South East Asia live naked, revere the land and respect each other and all other human beings. Would that be an affront to any religion? What utter nonsense. All religions, at their core, recognise that there needs to be tolerance and this, when practiced, will lead to peace. These tribes are doing exactly what their culture prescribes. So, are they heathens? There IS only one God, by any name. And Gods love is unconditional. And how one dress, how one prays, are preferences we make, individually. And every human is free to do so.

Like the survival of our planet and our species, our individual freedom is also under threat. There is no one way to God that is better than another. Those who think like that are not in touch with their humanity. What is needed most is a sense of Humanity. Humanism - stressing an individual's dignity and worth and capacity for self-realization through reason. There are as many ways to interact with God as the number of people on the planet. Every individual's path is his/her path. Why do we get into semantics? It smacks of the You OR I context and that does not work.

There are more pressing issues that need our attention rather than the pros and cons on hijabs and bikinis. The whole universe is one big body of God. Everything is Divine. Life is Divine. We should have respect for each other, for the earth.

Anita Roddick and many others experience that and live their lives in an exemplary manner.

On the other end of the spectrum is the way of Donald Trump and the legions of carpetbaggers and multinational corporations where each one is for himself, where 'survival of the fittest' is the motto, where a You OR I, dog-eat-dog context is in full maturity. It is deeply painful to me that this approach is more prevalent at this time.

Donald Trumps way is primitive, life depleting. Approaches taken by Anita Roddick, Neale Donald Walsch, and thousands of other individuals and companies are holistic and life enhancing. Alas, even while our numbers grow by the day, we are, as yet, still a minority - but an effervescent one with unending tenacity.

Some of us have been working on this for a long time, educating people on this for a long time: That the only sustainable path for humanity can ultimately only be a 'You AND I' context. Or else life as we know it will disappear. The You OR I approach is killing the planet.

My own personal agenda has been to Transform Man's Environment, both Inner and Outer and I have been working with this for over 20 years.

I leave you with a quote by George Soros, the well known billionaire financier whose skill in playing with hedge funds is the stuff of legend. And this is addressed primarily to all those who endorse the You OR I context, the EGO-Centric versus the ECO-Centric. To let you know, that there are those in your camp who are realising that the "survival of the fittest/wealthiest" approach is not working.

This is what he says in an article a few years ago in an article published in the Guardian News Services:

"Insofar as there is a dominant belief in our society today, it is the belief of the market-place. The doctrine of laissez-faire capitalism holds that the common good is best served by the uninhibited pursuit of self-interest. Unless this is tempered with the recognition of a common interest that ought to take precedence over particular interests, our present system- which, however imperfect, qualifies as an open society – is liable to break down."

That is a man who has seen the inequality, the drug of greed, man's incessant oppression and has evolved by recognising his humanity. His words show his vote towards a holistic, eco-centric context, where one's Humanity comes first and all other preferences are secondary.

The following 3 essays were written and posted on the internet shortly after 9-11

The Only Perspective That WILL Transform Humanity

My collective mind is seething with wrath and indignation. Seething with anger and bewildered by the enormity of the deeds in the USA on September 11th. The senseless destruction of lives, the horror of the gore and the anguish of the living paint a harsh and scalding stroke in my consciousness.

And yet I wonder as I have so, so many times in the past when air plane crashes, rail disasters, terrorist bombings occur, why do we feel so completely human Only at times like this. Why does our human heart feel empathy and compassion Only during times like this? Why are we jolted Only at times when dastardly acts are put smack 'in our face'?

On any other day, we 'live' insulated in our small cubicle of circumstance: while over 28,000 children will die from hunger and malnutrition EVERY SINGLE DAY! While Millions have no place to sleep and no food to eat EVERY SINGLE DAY!; While thousands upon thousands of acres of the Bio-Sphere of Mother Earth is burnt EVERY SINGLE DAY!... While we move about like numb humans PRETENDING that all is Okay!

Does it need a September 11th sort of scenario to take place to shake us out of our colossal stupidity to see that unless we realize that we are all ONE, this will never stop. Unless we move away from the 'you OR me' approach to a 'you AND me' approach, scenarios like this will not abate. Indeed, with technology now accessible throughout the planet, indeed it could get far worse. Imagine no planes crashing into a building, rather a hand held multi-megaton Nuclear device detonated in the center of Manhattan!

Only if we move AWAY from the separation context to a unification context can this stop. Only if we recognize that there are Billions nay Zillions of ways to reach God will this stop. This absurdity that 'one way is the only way' is creating a monster scenario. Something I know that God HAS NO PART OF!

Unless we see each other as part of One Being, that indeed -THERE IS NOTHING BUT GOD, Anywhere, Everywhere! -our myopic viewpoints and our Ego based context will inevitably precipitate into an apocalypse of a magnitude unimaginable at this point of time.

I have suffered this torment now for over 20 years. I know you who read this have too. I know this because your heart and mine are ONE, have always been ONE and will always be ONE. I have seen the pain of refugees in a camp after the genocide in East Pakistan and the painful birth of Bangladesh. I have felt anguish at the sight of decades of famine and despotism in Africa, the rise of fundamentalism around the world from Asia to Ireland.

Only when we begin to see that there is no difference between us. That we may have different skin pigmentation, different cuisine, different language and a different approach to GOD, yet we are all ONE. That there is no death as such, that life is a process without beginning and without end. Only when our collective consciousness begins to 'feel' this truth, will the absurdity of destroying something stop. Because we do not die, ever. And so how can death and destruction be used as a means to an end, when there is no end, when there is no death, only a shift in form and consciousness moves on. Only in this recognition will there be an abiding peace and love. You and I have the power of Intention. Let us use it Every Moment of Every Day to bring forth a new Vista, Right Here Right Now.

Intention for Wisdom to Prevail

I tried in vain to get on to CNN's Q & A program yesterday. It was strange that I could not get through because there were not many callers in yesterday's program, and yet I was constantly getting a busy tone!

What I wanted to share was this:

It is imperative that the US govt. and others do not make this into an 'ideological' fight. There is absolutely no way one can justify the horrendous deeds of Sept 11th. Yet, one needs to be cautious, indeed full of the wisdom of a Super Power and take action after getting all the facts together.

Attacking Afghanistan can possibly bring the world into a conflict of a dimension and of a magnitude we just cannot envisage now. It is surely going to create an ideological premise for the conflict and the US will be one of the first to suffer with internal strife against its own citizens, be they of a minority, they are nevertheless citizens and legal residents with the same rights as any other. and I might add with the same anger and hurt by the dastardly deeds as anyone else. let us not forget what happened in L.A. a few years ago!

On an earlier Q & A hosted by Zain Verge, one of her guests was Bernard Haykel from the Centre of Islamic Studies. This man ought to be right there, right inside the inner circle of advisors of the US President. He gave the most clear and effective counsel on the way forward that would have the US achieve its goals, and I might add here once again, with the wisdom of a true Super Power. He said that the way forward ought to be to bring to book Osama by getting the worlds Muslim leaders, one by one, come forth and clearly denounce this act and it being completely away from anything even remotely Islamic. He went on to suggest that this would then slowly bring about an increased awareness amongst all Muslims everywhere about the un Islamic nature of this awful deed and that the Muslims themselves will ostracise Osama and hand him over to a court of justice.

I also had the opportunity to watch the "Hard Talk" program hosted by Tim Robinson yesterday on BBC World and they guests were Steve Simon - Former Advisor to the US Govt. on National Security and Tom Benn, a British Statesman.

Both gentlemen were completely at odds with each other all throughout the program. I must say that, in my eyes Mr. Benn came away with the most appropriate and wisdom-filled argument, while Mr Simon was rather obstinate and refused to accept the deep wisdom of his co-guest opting only to maintain the US's invincibility and it being incorrigible at all times.

What Benn suggested was to first not make this into an ideological 'war'. This could be disastrous for humanity at large. To do so would bring up the ghastly Crusades mentality and if this is what we choose to do, in this 21st Century then indeed we are not capable of considering ourselves a civilised species, in any sense of the word. He went on to state that this act indeed has a political motive. One should do the needful to bring the perpetrators to justice, after hard and irrefutable evidence, and simultaneously determine what is the Political motive. because there IS a political motive. He touched on a few points that were indeed too much for his co-guest to bear.

But here was someone, in his seventies, who had been through the London Blitz. A time of ghastly horror and carnage when the entire city of London was bombed non-stop for weeks on end. He was one of millions who clearly understood that a World Body had to be formed to prevent the scrooge of World War from ever occurring again. The founding of the United Nations was to achieve just this. And he went on to say, and one could visibly see this proper English Gentleman in pain to point out, that we are moving at the brink of another world-wide conflict, the likes of which humanity has never seen. He correctly stated that no one nation has the right to go outside the mandate of the United Nations and its resolutions. And painful as it is, and especially at a time like this, we need to recognise that indeed it is the US that has been regularly moving outside the mandate of the UN.

But he went on to say, and this is hitting at the truth very clearly: The United Nations has been reduced to being an impotent force! And it had been made so most clearly by the actions of the United States, one of its founding members. The US has become the world's policeman - without the mandate of the world. And this behaviour has laid the foundation for an enormous struggle world wide. For example, the no-fly zones in Iraq - there are no UN resolutions for this. Only the US and the UK act on this. All the others have in fact condemned it: France, Russia, Germany, China etc etc. Only the US veto's the removal of the the sanctions against Iraq, even 10 years after the Gulf War. Only the US veto's each and every resolution condemning Israel! The list can go on.

Let us listen to this English Gentleman, who has seen two world wars and feels very deeply inside him , that this could well be the start of the third. How I intend that his voice his heard. How I Intend that Bernard's voice is heard by those in power to take the initiative not with brawn and swagger by with brain and wisdom and so defeat the enemy of humanity rather than also becoming and mirroring the same qualities.

The US must move to a time of wisdom filled choices and there has never been a time like now.

The US - Soviet Era created a strange phenomenon. They called it MAD i.e. Mutually Assured Destruction.

Einstein, when asked about what would be the weapons of the third world war, he replied. "Sticks and Stones." Think about that for a moment...there would be nothing left.

Do you know that this week, while the back of the world is turned, the UK Prime Minister has given the go-ahead for the mixed -oxide plant to be operational in Sellafield, UK. This plant will produce huge amounts of plutonium, some of which could land up in the hands of terrorists. Such an event would have been front page news and would have been condemned by all and sundry. Now no one is paying attention.

An eye for and eye will make the whole world blind! Gandhi had got it spot -on!

Let us be Vigilant, and let us Intend that the US - a land of such grace and wisdom, of such beauty and generosity, of such love and compassion does get led by feelings of fear and revenge.

Searching For Why?

Greetings,

Days have past, the pain remains... the question "Why" now branded in my consciousness.

Feel much sadness and pain which does not go away even through the daily chores and tasks that I do.

And I reminisce...

I spent many formative years in the US during the seventies. Played baseball and American football, was a pledge-master in a fraternity and president of the student body, was best man at my American friend's wedding, graduated cum laude. The 'culture' and I amalgamated - so to speak.

The American I love is one who first and foremost trusts you, take what you say without doubting it, one who will support you in times of difficulty and will be honest with you about your shortcomings, and above all has no place for discrimination, at any level.

From what I see today, I think that the above simple values still exist amongst many. Importantly, they are strong and alive amongst those who are in US colleges and universities. All over the US from Harvard, Yale and M.I.T. to University of California at Berkeley, and scores of colleges and universities. September 21st was declared a Day of Action. There were student demonstrations denouncing the need to respond militarily the attacks of Sept 11.

In my eyes, this is the true American spirit. To question the deed, and use wisdom and artfulness to weed out the perpetrators and thus bring about justice.

And we need to trust and listen to the young ones, for indeed all progress depends on the young... or we would all still be in caves.

Cyrus - of India

PS: I ask that you read what an American Neil Reichline of the LA Times has written below.

Neil Reichline - LA Times

I am an American. I sat with my 87 year old New Yorker father on Tuesday Sept 11th as he cried all day in front of the TV for his beloved city and for the feeling of loss that prevailed that day. I suffer for my fellow citizens who have lost family and friends in this heinous crime. It hurts right down to my soul to think that we lost those lives and perhaps, too, the glorious openness of our society. And, of course, I feel like all Americans, that we must end this awful terrorism that has smacked us in our unbelieving faces.

But I do not support George Bush's plans for war.

The president has offered us protracted and painful war. He talks of 'vengeance' and 'victory over evil' through the unyielding power of our machinery of war. Why is this the only alternative being considered?

What does war bring us, exactly, a sense of revenge? That same quest for revenge becomes multiplied over again by the next generation of those we have made war against. They become the next wave of terrorists, so the cycle of revenge goes on and on. Instead of one bin Laden we end up facing many.

So tell us, Mr. President, where does it end? What is your endgame? How, indeed do we win at this? I don't think we can win by massive, extended military action against innocent people. The people of Afghanistan didn't ask for the Taliban or Osama bin Laden. They have suffered greatly and are not our enemy. The people of the larger Islamic world are not our enemy either, but if we continue in our arrogance to think that we can impose our will on that part of the world, we will make enemies of even the most temperate of those peoples.

Sadly, I don't believe George Bush has the capacity to understand this.

I can tell that just listening to what he's said in the midst of this crisis. "We're gonna get rid of all the evildoers in the world." "Make no mistake, we're tough" " We're going to lead the world to victory."

Platitudes, and pep rally cliches. Where's the thoughtfulness? Mr. Bush is giving us his best John Wayne in a white hat act, when we really need a Martin Luther King. We need a leader who at the very least, can deal with the most important questions posed here: why does any group of people hate us so much that they would do such an act of terror? Have we done anything ourselves to bring this on? Shouldn't we be asking ourselves these questions instead of strapping our guns on like cowboys and daring anyone to draw?

If we were more thoughtful, we might discover some things. America is so great, in so many ways, but we are not perfect and in the world outside our borders we have sometimes (not always) not even been good. We have by stealth, overthrown elected governments (if Bush senior was more honest, he could tell us a lot about that). We have propped up corrupt regimes. We have exploited and controlled the resources of other peoples without care for the people themselves.

This president has strutted American hegemony everywhere he goes, saying in essence that America is going to do what it wants and we don't care what everyone else thinks. He pushes Star Wars no matter anyone's objections. He denigrates every treaty, every effort made by

his predecessors to bring peace and stability to the planet. He refuses to participate in conferences where our point of view is questioned. He's going to do what he wants come hell or high water. Well, hell and high water have come.

So, what do we need to do? I'd like to suggest two things. First, we need to gather our brightest minds, our most highly trained men, our best equipment and we must find these terrorists and punish them. But, we don't punish anyone else. We don't punish innocent people. The moment we do, we just become our own brand of terrorist.

Secondly, and simultaneously, we gather the entire force of the world coalition that is now behind us because of this tragedy, and we go to the Israelis and Palestinians to let them know that enough is enough. That now is the time for the violence to end. It's not for the sake of their own people alone any more, it's for the sake of the world. The Palestinians must have their country and the Israelis must have theirs, and they have no other choice but to live in peace. They must share the land, they must learn to live together as neighbors in harmony and mutual respect, then they must teach their children the same. They must share Jerusalem and dedicate it as a city devoted to peace and disarmament amongst all peoples. Arafat and Hamas must be made to realize that this is the best chance for their people to have the country they've wanted and died for.

Sharon and Israel must understand that this is their best chance to live their lives, for once, at permanent peace. The countries that now form a world coalition against terrorism must shepherd and nurture and stick to the job until it's done, until both sides have disarmed. I believe this could be the boldest, bravest initiative ever taken by the world. Am I dreaming? Maybe. But my plan has an endgame.

The world is brought back from the brink. The reservoir of despair that produces terrorists is lessened and the cycle of revenge and violence is broken. The moderate voices of Islam gain strength and there is a non-violent model for resolving dispute. As well, we and the rest of the world learn, in the face of the most intractable obstacles, that together, we can make peace happen instead of war. That's my endgame. Again, I ask, what is George Bush's?

We're just going to keep killing and killing for how long? years? decades? Until all the "evil doers" are dead, all the while fending off more attacks on our shores? What a horrible future for us all.

The greatest evidence that my plan can work is the list of dead and missing New Yorkers published in the newspapers yesterday. Thethousands of names reveal the truth about our country. If you get a chance, look at them.

There are Americans from every corner of the earth on that list, every religion and every race. We are a multiethnic, multiracial, multi-religious society and that fact alone is our greatest strength. It is proof that people can live and work together in harmony. We're not perfect at it. We've got our jerks trying to screw it up. We've had bad moments in our history. But, we've come a long way and we've learned a lot about living with our differences.

I just wish George Bush, or someone in his administration, had the wisdom and fortitude to take this fact and use it as a springboard for peace, as an example, as an inspiration, as an answer to those who insist that war is the only way to resolve differences.

The last thing I'd like to say is the hardest for me to say, because, quite honestly, I'm not sure it's true. But in my heart and soul, I believe it is true. If the survivors of all those killed in the terrorist attacks were given a choice between a lengthy war involving the death of innocent people, the death of more Americans and the possibility of further attacks on our shores, or a boldly groundbreaking bid for peace in the Middle East, I believe they would choose to honor their loved ones with the bid for peace.

What a tribute it would be to be able to say "We had a one day war. It was in New York City. My loved one died, but his death woke us all up and inspired us to make peace in the world."

..an email sent shortly after the 9-11 attacks.

Greetings to all of you.

I sent you an e mail yesterday with an intention that you will join me in a shift in perspective that will help shift global consciousness. I share below Deepak's essay ' The Deeper Wound', and you will note a similar pain. The truth is that We all have the pain. It is just time to REMAIN CONSCIOUS DAILY of the economic inequities and the religious rigidities prevailing currently, and carry the INTENT to shift the context from fear to love!

(2.5 billion people live earning less than US \$ 1.00 per day, 1.5 Billion live earning less than 3.00 a day !! 1% of the world's population consume 95% of its resources!!!!. I used to point out to my father in the seventies, seeing the slums and shanties growing just below our home in South Bombay named Cuffe Parade and say ' There is something seriously wrong here, Dad. And if we don't do something there will be a terrible backlash!')

By the way an error was made in my last e mail: UNICEF states that 100 Million Children Die EVERY YEAR from causes that are easily preventable.

That equals roughly 280,000 children DIE EVERY DAY ! - not 28,000 as I stated!

The Deeper Wound

Deepak Chopra

As fate would have it, I was leaving New York on a jet flight that took off 45 minutes before the unthinkable happened. By the time we landed in Detroit, chaos had broken out. When I grasped the fact that American security had broken down so tragically, I couldn't respond at first. My wife and son were also in the air on separate flights, one to Los Angeles, one to San Diego. My body went absolutely rigid with fear. All I could think about was their safety, and it took several hours before I found out that their flights had been diverted and both were safe.

Strangely, when the good news came, my body still felt that it had been hit by a truck. Of its own accord it seemed to feel a far greater trauma that reached out to the thousands who would not survive and the tens of thousands who would survive only to live through months and years of hell.

And I asked myself, Why didn't I feel this way last week? Why didn't my body go stiff during the bombing of Iraq or Bosnia? Around the world my horror and worry are experienced every day.

Mothers weep over horrendous loss, civilians are bombed mercilessly, refugees are ripped from any sense of home or homeland. Why did I not feel their anguish enough to call a halt to it?

As we hear the calls for tightened American security and a fierce military response to terrorism, it is obvious that none of us has any answers. However, we feel compelled to ask some questions. Everything has a cause, so we have to ask, What was the root cause of this evil? We must find out not superficially but at the deepest level. There is no doubt that such evil is alive all around the world and is even celebrated.

Does this evil grow from the suffering and anguish felt by people we don't know and therefore ignore? Have they lived in this condition for a long time? One assumes that whoever did this attack feels implacable hatred for America. Why were we selected to be the focus of suffering around the world?

All this hatred and anguish seems to have religion at its basis. Isn't something terribly wrong when jihads and wars develop in the name of God? Isn't God invoked with hatred in Ireland, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Israel, Palestine, and even among the intolerant sects of America? Can any military response make the slightest difference in the underlying cause? Is there not a deep wound at the heart of humanity? If there is a deep wound, doesn't it affect everyone? When generations of suffering respond with bombs, suicidal attacks, and biological warfare, who first developed these weapons? Who sells them? Who gave birth to the satanic technologies now being turned against us?

If all of us are wounded, will revenge work? Will punishment in any form toward anyone solve the wound or aggravate it? Will an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and limb for a limb, leave us all blind, toothless and crippled?

Tribal warfare has been going on for thousands of years and has now been magnified globally. Can tribal warfare be brought to an end? Is patriotism and nationalism even relevant anymore, or is this another form of tribalism?

What are you and I as persons going to do about what is happening? Can we afford to let the deeper wound fester any longer? Everyone is calling this an attack on America, but is it not a rift in our collective soul? Isn't this an attack on civilization from without that is also from within?

When we have secured our safety once more and cared for the wounded, after the period of shock and mourning is over, it will be time for soul searching. I only hope that these questions are confronted with the deepest spiritual intent. None of us will feel safe again behind the shield of military might and stockpiled arsenals. There can be no safety until the root cause is faced.

In this moment of shock I don't think anyone of us has the answers. It is imperative that we pray and offer solace and help to each other. But if you and I are having a single thought of violence or hatred against anyone in the world at this moment, we are contributing to the wounding of the world.

A Millennium Message

I decided to upload a message termed A Millennium Message on our website www.reikitech.org in December 1999. The intention being to share some of my viewpoints expressed in the following essay. I would be pleased if you would visit the website, click on "inner" and then click on A Millennium Message.

You and Me – A New Paradigm

Life IS Wonderful and Everlasting...Period!

It is L.O.V.E. - Life's Overture of Virtuous Ecstasy!

But the times they are a changing. And our individual thoughts will move and experience a painful twinge within when we see or read about the grief of those who lost loved ones in the US and assuredly, we will also feel some grief when we see children, women, the old and the young starving and dying in other countries. We will awaken to the fact that there is something is wrong. I personally don't subscribe to this wrong-right polarity for many years now. A better way to re phrase it would be to say that there IS SOMETHING THAT IS NOT WORKING!

Our lives are lived in a You OR Me context. At the family level, the community level, the national level, and at the international level. In our personal lives, in our friendships, in our business dealings, we are constantly jostling for positions of advantage versus the other person - a perennial play in a You OR Me context!

Experiencing the shift, at a deep, individual level, from the You OR Me context to a You AND Me context is one way to usher in global peace and harmony.

Which means setting in global consciousness, the simple truth:

That personal harmony is available for everyone and a security that each and every persons needs would get taken care of, for all the days of one's life - Period!

Before you write this off as sheer fantasy, let me share the the framework that I envisage for the world which will soon be recognised as an option that will work.

Our Collective Vision has not shifted much since we lived in caves. We have a primal You OR Me context existing in the majority of the humans on this Planet. And an extraordinary irony is that this you Or me context includes many who see themselves as 'evolved', 'at a different level', 'not one of "them" ', 'very spiritualistic', 'living holistically'. Many of them would not even consider visiting India or Indonesia because of the pollution, the cuisine, the quiet distaste of the 'brown people' some feel within but live a pretentious life of superficial acceptance, and a host of other 'positions' held by an the individual 'who meditates regularly'. Yes, I dare say that the malaise of a Your Or Me context exists within every group.

Now if we truly want to change the world then we have to begin by recognising that just as islands only look as if they are apart when in fact each and every one is connected to the same planet, we too have the privilege to delight in our individually but becoming every so conscious that we are all connected by the 'field of energy' that we exist in. This is the connecting celestial fabric within which we are all wrapped, and playing therein as an individual part. Who said Life could not come up as being... The Greatest Game in Town.

Internationally known figures from all walks of life say that this is the only way. And yes, that includes capitalists too! You see the smartest of them know that unless the ever widening gulf between the rich and the poor and disenfranchised is reversed they themselves will be wiped out. It is the simplest logic to see that when out of 100 people there are 95 or more people poor, starving and disenfranchised that sooner or later 'the 5' better watch out!

Internationally known financier, George Soros says:

*"Insofar as there is a dominant belief in our society today, it is the belief of the market-place. The doctrine of laissez-faire capitalism holds that the common good is best served by the uninhibited pursuit of self-interest. Unless it is tempered by the recognition of a common interest that ought to take precedence over particular interests, our present system - which, however imperfect, qualifies as an open society - is liable to break down."**

[The above is a direct quote by George Soros as it appeared in a an article written by Larry Elliot and published in the Guardian News Service and subsequently in The Khaleej Times.]

He is not alone in this approach, there are many on the planet who envisage this to be an essential element to effect truly global change. Where the highest good of all concerned IS the Context.

The way of the world is for individuals to move toward a eco-centric viewpoint rather than maintaining an ego-centric viewpoint that can never have a chance of expanding its state to creating harmony around itself.

What the need of the hour is Wisdom which is Knowledge in Action.

If we keep on going about it with, right versus wrong, might versus right, you or me, good versus evil', all of which are positions relative to the individual observer and so can never be reconciled from within the argument itself. The only way to move from this intractable position is to a 'jump an orbit', having a 'leap of faith', to establish a new context of existence.

In my travels and experiences, I have come to realise that when a person is secure in his day to day needs i.e. shelter, food and at a level that is a good & comfortable i.e. not wringing out a miserable life working at \$ 0.50 a day in some sweat shop in S.E. Asia for some multinational company. No, I mean good and comfortable. The way You and I live!

I tell you this, if the US could spearhead a Coalition and establish a Global Plan for Peace and Harmony designed around The Marshall Plan which went into effect after WW II, but this plan would be of a magnitude many times higher, starting from a NEW & POWERFUL GLOBAL INTENTION.

You take the hate and fight out of someone if you ensure he will ALWAYS HAVE A COMFORTABLE LIFE. When this IS A GIVEN those who now ferment extremism will become impotent and devoid of any power to rouse the rabble and then will Truly come the time ' When the meek shall inherit the earth'.

Important at this time to: do Reiki etc, exercise at least 20 minutes vigorously, and check to see if you are 'centered' regularly. That way when you have an 'intention' for Global Harmony it will actually manifest.

Where thought goes, energy flows and results show.