

## New Age Principles for the Millennium

Today the clouds are dripping on the Douglas firs and the firs are dripping on the ferns below, and the Azalea Parade has left me floating on a cloud. Music can do that, especially a good marching band with drums.

I am comfortably achy and relaxing to watch an old favorite on TMC, "Friendly Persuasion", a lovely movie about Quakers and the Civil War.

Gary Cooper's young, red-headed son pops up in church and shouts "God is Love" and sits back down. A girl prays aloud for God's strength to resist the temptations of fashions and adornments. Moments later the Quakers' meditation service is interrupted by an officer of the Union Army striding in to make a fiery recruitment speech to the congregation of avowed pacifists. Gary Cooper's wife is the worship leader of the day, and she has an impassioned response for the soldier.

Religion can pull us in opposing directions--or is that conscience? Or both?

In 1957 my father took me out to study the night sky and find one of our first satellites going by. As he explained that the Sputnik was high above Earth's atmosphere, I asked him "how long will the oxygen last in our atmosphere before we use it up?" He laughed and said that we had no worries of that happening as long as there was a healthy Ocean and healthy forests and jungles all over the Earth! My father, bless his heart, was a naturalist AND an aerospace engineer.

I get to see the world change in ways my father could hardly imagine. I get to see that earth's orbit resembles the spiral of life in the DNA chain model, and both are designed by the one God. We see things floating in between the galaxies that resemble things swimming in the oceans of Earth. Our Creator has charted our infinite possibilities with the grandest and most intricate of illustrations, and this is the millennium for revealing things that were in the past invisible to humans' naked eyes.

Ideas like these:

- \*All mankind is one family
- \* Women and men are equal, as the two wings of one bird.
- \* Science and religion are equal, as one cannot exist without the other the seen and the unseen.<
- \* All economic and environmental problems have spiritual solutions, which means those virtues which mitigate the culture's rampant materialism.
- \* Every child's education revolves on learning virtues and spiritual principles, and allowing each one to express the talents and gifts one discovers within the heart, mind and soul.
- \* All human beings are spiritual beings in their essence and require spiritual sustenance, which

means virtues and qualities,  
the first and foremost being Love.

\* All human beings have a part to play in the great scheme of things, and therefore must be allowed and encouraged in their diversity and the development of their gifts and talents.

\* All communication and cooperation among nations revolves on learning one universal language of international networking.

\* When all these things come to fruition, we will be well on our way to conscious evolution, and the realization of Universal Peace.

In my study of the Baha'i Faith and our responsibility to "know thyself", I have come to believe-- Religion must be pragmatic -- to benefit every one--and it must be organic -- to grow in a natural, healthy way--and it should be utilitarian -- something we can all live with.

These are the principles and tools of the Baha'i Faith. Baha'is all believe we can do it together, step by step, and it's the small things that make a difference, so we can all "Be the change you want to see." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Submitted by Kathryn Justman to the Curry Pilot Newspaper and published in similar form on May 30, 2015.