

Similarly with government and industry. As in film and fantasy, the mythic man of action establishes the tone and sets the pace. He weds cold reason to bold action in the heat of the moment, let the chips fall where they may. If his actions were to spring, instead, from ideas drunk from the well of compassion, the resulting compromised competitive edge would surely be his undoing according to the patriarchal stereotype of the American zeitgeist.

In the past we modeled our world according to a hierarchy wherein God ruled man, the most powerful men ruled society, and mankind ruled Nature. In the present this hierarchy is under attack from many quarters. As a result, there now exists a complete disconnect between major actors in the public dialog, and between these actors and present-day reality. In the future—when the dust settles—the hierarchy will be reversed; Nature will be seen to rule humanity; social needs will precede personal goals; and deities will be recognized as cultural artifacts. This will not be so because we will it. Our survival instinct will force this reordering upon us. Many have embraced it already.

We have entered an era calling for leaders in whom deep compassion for the human condition informs daring ideas, judiciously executed.

## **WAKE UP TO REALITY, AMERICA--11/22/07**

America's young, for the most part, seem oblivious to the true challenges of our era. They seem hypnotized by the lure of personal fulfillment in a virtual world populated mostly by virtual-world playmates much like themselves. No matter they're real-world condition, they seem disconnected from their virtual-world's origin in the real-world of hard, sweaty labor. For all of us, young and old alike, surviving indigenous societies provide our only true experience of what real life was like up until the last few hundred years.

In the last few hundred years an already highly advanced level of human cultural evolution served as the foundation for an ever-quickenning crescendo of scientific and technological discovery and innovation. This symbiotic, progressive harnessing of humanity's intellect and skill had no counterpart in the vastly slower rate of human genetic evolution. Thus, technology became a spear in the hand of a cave-man body dressed in a business suit. With virtual sight and sound, technology embraced the function of sensual gratification as well as those of weapons and tools. Again, this to a body and brain of unchanged ancient origin.

We humans apparently differ from all known animal species in having a sense of our own personal identity separate from our surroundings. With this comes the sense of our own mortality and with that a tendency toward anxiety about the future, resulting in speculative planning, and the asking of unanswerable questions. Our social relations spring not only from our genetically in-built survival and reproduction drives, but from the specifically human sense of personal responsibility for our own actions (or the denial thereof) toward others. The volatile nature of the interaction of these forces within the human psyche makes for an unpredictable actor in social relations. Ghandi and others have stressed the need for general human evolution (rather than any plan devised by the intellect) in order to achieve stable and non-violent human social relations.

Failing this, we set up institutions to regulate our relations with each other. Unfortunately, the social institutions set up by humans tend to enshrine violence, greed, and ignorance in the process of channeling them. For instance, the protocols surrounding the division, possession, and use of land descend from military conquest. Even though individuals are persuaded that they can "own" land, the state retains eminent domain and makes continued possession contingent upon payment of taxes. In the final analysis, the state—the successor to the original conqueror—allows us the illusion of private land ownership only as long as it suits its purpose.

Similarly with money. Money (as presently created and used) is a figment of the imagination of the wealthy. Those who create and own it, define it in such a way as to benefit themselves. The necessary invention of a medium of exchange has given away to a medium for the automatic increase in the value of money by those accumulating an excess amount of it. Counterfeit is just as real until caught out.