

It is a common and almost instinctive behavior among men to look for an easy and simple cause for events, especially if those events are connected with pain, suffering, loss and death. It is equally common to never want to look into the mirror directly into one's own face, into one's own eyes, and recognize the causal links and relationships between that person and the pain and suffering out in the world, across the world, miles and years away.

We are very decidedly destroying ourselves. Our planet, our society, our nations and communities, and most of all, and at the heart of it all, our souls, our very beings as persons. We know, inwardly, what is going on. Nobody is completely blind to what is going on. All the acts of organized, politically motivated terrorism, and all of the explicit and overt wars, are truly the tips of many icebergs, or perhaps more graphically, the mere rustling and shaking of a great curtain in side the cave in which we sit, behind which there is a reality that many in the audience would pretend to deny exists, because it has been and seems to be so comfortable to go on believing in the shadows cast across this curtain, as if that is our reality.

These are very rough days for anyone to speak openly about the importance of matters that many consider to be nonexistent, outmoded, primitive, and more like relics for the archeological museum rather than tools for daily living, for solving of great problems, for sustaining our life as a people and as a planet. Today we have technology, we have multi-core, multi-gigahertz computers, we have nanotechnology and more PhDs than ever there were monks, priests or imams, and there is nothing we cannot do. The sky was the limit, and now we control that, with intelligent satellites that can see a man moving across a street, well enough to bring down a deadly missile upon his head, striking out terror in the name of democracy (alas, with yet another terror, and great questions more about liberty).

And yet, we have clearly lost the ability to see very far into our own souls, or to feel the soul of our brothers and sisters, or to know that we are all part of one family and that this family and this world are not devoid of meaning or responsibilities for each and every one of us who comes out of the womb and breathes that breath of choice.

Because of this state of affairs, because we have covered our eyes and ears and gone headlong as people and as societies including nations into the infatuation with self and self-gratification, we have created a world that is the hell, fire and brimstone of our worst fears, and we continue to create it, like slave-minions of Sauron, in spite of all our grand and impressive luxuries and mesmerizing kaleidoscopes of superficial delight.

I suppose that to find this kind of essay on a website that is purportedly centered upon an innovative technology and set of tools, the latest and greatest from applied maths and physics, and computer science, and nanotechnology, must strike some readers with a blow to the head as if they have stumbled upon the wrong URL, the wrong web page. No, this is the correct web page and there is no mistake on the part of the webmaster who

is also the author of this essay and also the author, architect, and principal scientist creating Nomad Eyes and all that goes into it.

The purpose of this essay is to give readers a wake-up call, but please understand that it is as much a wake-up call to myself that I am sharing and not something unidirectional and without deep empathy and self-examination. It is my hope that every reader will take a moment to stop and think about what we are doing to ourselves and to our brothers and sisters, in the name of whatever curtain – or rock - it is that we are hiding behind, and to think about how to change our lives, starting with our own, so that we are not dominated and controlled by arrogance, conceit, fear, greed, lust, and pride (to mention just a few of our rulers) and so that we can discover the true freedom, the only true liberty, that comes from living a life constantly directed to love and giving.

There is a reason for the five symbols of five major traditions of faith and spiritual life being placed centrally on the front page about a technology system and product that has to do with emergencies, disasters, terrorists, and unpredictable events that affect people's lives in generally adverse if not disastrous ways. The reason is that we need to understand something about the causes and effects of Emergent Critical Events and Processes, those situations like earthquakes, floods, tornados, hurricanes, and also those with human intentional factors such as mass murders, terrorist attacks, or the small-numbered and more individual terrorisms of neighborhood gangs, domestic abuse, rape, and subjugation of the spirit and body in general.

The understanding that needs to be grasped, eaten, and digested, and not ignored or brushed off because it sounds like something that someone thinks is from yesteryear, fodder for the archeologists, is that we are collectively trapped by lifestyles and behaviors that are rooted in greed, lust, pride, and the worship – not virtual worship but real in every sense - of self, ego, I, and that this is the baseline cause of that which we can only hope at best to quiet down (as with a blanket or quilt), namely the events and situations that cause mayhem and destruction in our society. Inwardly we all know that we cannot make the imbalances and evils go away with an external wave of some wand, not with techno-wizardry, not with dollars, not with words. Nomad Eyes is not the answer, really, nor is any technology, any tool, any law, any rule, any bureaucracy, any decree, any military, any king. Nomad Eyes is like any tool, something that can be used constructively and in a rational manner, but ultimately there need to be fundamental changes in all people and these cannot be substituted by something out of a techno treasure chest, nor by any legislation, nor even by any act of banking and finance, in spite of many people believing that therein lies the ultimate power and answer to the problems we face.

And why do we think, and want to go on thinking, that the change is “out there” – a matter of sending an army, a cruise missile, or a bank draft? Because we do not want to look into the mirror and address the avarice, the arrogance, the greed, the laziness, the lust, the pride.

We do not need to throw away our technology and become neo-Luddites. We simply need to recognize it for what it is, and to recognize the problem for what it is. This brings us back to the mirror and what we are going to do when standing in front of it – to ignore and walk away, or to acknowledge and take responsibility.

There are many myths, many misunderstandings, many fears, many prejudices and habits. We now have a world at war, and most of the people involved have little idea of what is really going on and who are the people who are involved, who are affected, who are dying. We have a world at war that is not between nation-states and formal alliances but between people and the reason the boundaries and battle lines seem so fuzzy and ill-defined is because this is truly a world war that has its roots and its powers and drives in every country, every race, every community. Energy, sustenance, and the desperate desire of ego to prevail is at the root. Ideologies are not at the root, but they are used wherever possible by desperate people and meme-mesmerized cliques to influence others, masses of people, especially the young, to join their side of an ill-defined and irrational suite of conflicts.

As one example, most Americans do not have a clue as to the real nature of the Islamic faith or of the histories of the different peoples and cultures that have lived for millennia in the regions that are now the heart of our new world war. A similar sea of ignorance envelopes many people in the world who do not understand that Europeans and Americans are not all like Rove, Wolfowitz, Cheney and Bush. The vast majority of people throughout the world do not have a good understanding of the psychological foundations of the leaders and instigators of the combating forces. As much as that instinct toward simple cause-and-effect wants to label things in terms of “Bush” and “bin Laden” there is no way that either can be isolated – or elevated – to the position of being the dominant cause or the dominant leader of each respective force and the meme-groups that have accreted and congealed around respective banners and diatribes.

Terror comes in many shapes and forms, and always in an unexpected time and place. That is the nature of the beast. The terror of al Qaeda and the terror of Abu Ghraib are just tips of icebergs compared to the greater and more omnipresent terror of a world given over to self, to greed, to the overwhelming dedication of life to acquiring, grabbing, having, possessing. To say that America (or any nation or cultural group) is the outstanding perpetrator in these respects is to miss entirely the fact of a human nature that is not so different anywhere or at any time, but that fact is not reason for abandoning the quest to change, to overcome this addiction. To go so far as to point the finger at fundamentalism and fanaticism in religion or politics, no matter what label, will still not suffice, because it only delays the recognition and acceptance that the problem is not with superficial demagogues but with our own individual and collective selves and the only real improvement and uplifting out of the cave of horrors in which we subject ourselves is to recognize this, link hands, work as one Community and do the constructive work to make life better, one step at a time.

Our planet is on the verge of an imminent and comprehensive collapse in many social infrastructures, and we have only to look at our climate including the social “average

temperature” to see that this is not a brief passing flux but a chronic condition. The co-creators of this disastrous state of affairs can be found in every nation, every society, on every continent. Nonetheless, there is a decided and clear preponderance of the problem and the fueling of more of the same in those countries and among those people who no longer have time for any kind of spiritual path, no time any more for God, no time for anything other than self=ego=I fulfillment on the material level. When everything becomes subservient to “I, me, mine,” when “love” is measured in dollars spent, when “charity” is relegated to not personal sacrifice of time and energy but only writing a check, no different from paying a utility bill, then it should be no wonder that there will be problems in human relations on a global scale and in relations with all of Nature.

It is ironic that the religion and culture that is founded upon a revelation and vision that all men are brothers, that all peoples are one, and that there is no God except God, clear and free of bondage to any one ethnic culture, to any one personality, to any one official dogma - is labeled by many as a force of intolerance and subjugation to one viewpoint, a force for violence on behalf of one race. I speak here in particular of misinterpretations and misunderstandings about Islam and Christianity alike. This is in part because of the actions of a few self-centered people who have tried to turn plowshares into swords, faith into a tool for ego gratification. It is ironic and sad that there is radical fundamentalism in Islam, in Christianity, or in any religion, any culture, any country. It is grievous that Christianity and Islam are misused, mistaught, and grossly misunderstood by so many people in so many countries.

We surely must know that the fundamentalist mind is the exclusionist and enslaving mind of totalitarianism, no matter what the flag, banner or icon that is waved. We see it in history but seem to fail to acknowledge that it is in our midst, and driven by nothing other than fear, greed, and pride, all in the unbalanced and out of control love of the little self, the one that appears to be the one you see in the mirror but who is in reality only a vague, rough, crude shadow of the Real Person Inside, and that is the same one who sees into the mirror anywhere, all times, all colors, all creeds, all races, all nations. That is the I Am Who Am, the only God because there is, in reality, Only God and Nothing Else.

There are those who will say that this is religion or philosophy and walk away. For them, it does no good to even look at matters of new science, new technology, new systems, new methods for helping people to be response-able for emergent and life-critical events. For them, minds are closed, and that is yet another flavor of radical fundamentalism, usually not called “religion,” but it is a religion nonetheless. Such people will not be able to understand the idea of people taking care of their own lives by actively taking care and giving care and attention to the lives, safety, health and welfare of others. For them, there is only the power of the dollar, the euro, the gun, the bomb. I pity them because they are so weak inside. It is a weakness that we all must deal with constantly – the big question is whether or not we acknowledge the problem and work at it constantly, or simply give up and choose to ignore what is to be seen in the mirror.

For others, there is an awareness and a receptivity to the idea that spiritual living matters, and that whatever is the flavor, there is an underlying harmony and can be one in

everyday living between people of diverse beliefs and practices. For them, there is the much more difficult path ahead, to work with every resource, every bit of energy and wealth, with every breath, to overcome the decay that has set in upon our world, to help clean it up so that life can be meaningful and sincere. This is the inner work that is more important and valuable than that of any piece of electronics or software, more astounding and remarkable than any quantum dot or biochip. This is the really hard “science” and the incredibly difficult “philosophy” in the original meaning of both words as quests and seekings after knowledge and wisdom.

I encourage you to read all about Nomad Eyes the technology and how it can serve people around the world better than many other things and especially many things that are in the hands of totalitarian-minded people of any nation and being used against other people to subjugate them. One of the best uses of our very advanced and intelligent technology, today, is in the communications and the communions we can make with our fellow humans around the world. We can build bridges of awareness and understanding that will help to overcome the poisons of radical fundamentalists and demagogues of all labels and persuasions who are trying to create more dissension, more strife, more fear, more war.

Most of all I encourage you to meditate and to pray and to think about how you as an individual person can make changes in the ways that you interact with other people, directly and indirectly, so that people who not be doing the things to one another that they are doing today and for which technologies like Nomad Eyes become invented, developed, and deployed.

There is a far better way. It has been revealed and heard, it has been told and written, it has been lived and recounted in the scriptures and records but most of all in the self-sacrificing lives of many people. This is the way we need to rediscover and to follow, honestly, steadfastly, and with open and free spirits. Only then will we begin to see real changes taking root and growing.

“Religion” comes from the word “religere,” meaning “to bind.” There is a good side to binding ourselves to principles of truth, justice, honor, and respect. There is a bad side that is a binding to ego, to self, to fear, and this binding is what we must overcome, myself as well as you, but all of us, or else we will not have a world in which our children and grandchildren may ever walk in peace. Do not think for a minute that this kind of change is beyond our grasp. It is freely within reach, because it is our ultimate free and true Nature. and that is a power infinitely greater than gold or guns.

mjd, 15.Sept.2007
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