

The Forgotten

Hasn't silence always been the cry of the forgotten? This country spends billions, trillions, on warfare where we have no business being, while shrugging off the needs of forgotten millions at home. Can a "globalized" planet survive big armies, big money, big propaganda; big lies?

Perhaps some are waking to the fact that governments and the world-wide corporations—our collective greed—are phantoms. We made it all up when we created a world upon the planet.

Humans imagine themselves apart from Nature and our natural being. We have made ourselves something imagined. Most of us have no time or don't know how or where to find who we really are. A president said all we needed to be was consumers: don't worry, go shopping. Spend. They have not told us what we need to be if we have no more money to spend. TV gives slogans, "our country back," whatever that means. Who took it away? Immigrants? The Democrats? No, Big oil, Big banks, Big Pharma, Big everything. Do they want to go back to the 18th century, but keep their TVs, their cars, cheap gas, refrigerators, iPods, and *smart* phones.

Thomas Jefferson would not even understand our language.

Who-we-have-become is almost the opposite of who we, our species, were at the beginning. Different from who we were even a hundred years ago. We could not have survived thousands of years without knowing that what there is, is all there is. We knew not to destroy the earth, not to overkill the life forms that fed us. We relied upon Nature, knowing that she worked well enough as long as we didn't meddle. We knew how to live with each other: we avoided conflict, or learned how to resolve before too much damage could be done.

None of the worlds we made ourselves work, we must continually fix this and that and it's only getting worse. Our overwhelming so-called civilization is about control. Our owners tell us we make nations by occupying them and teaching them to have modern armies and all the weapons we will sell them, an air force they cannot possibly afford. We talk democracy; we destroy for profit. We never mention capitalism although the most brutal form of that system is what we accept as inevitable. The path we are on we think the only and probably the best. We are told that a *free market* will be the solution to whatever ails us. Can we still believe that?

We, all of us, humans, are stuck in webs of slogans. Words like free market, a level playing field, the will of the people... Can we believe any of that?

How about nature's way. Do unto others... Adapting to circumstances rather than making worlds of our design. Anything manmade takes enormous efforts to maintain, Straight super highways cutting through mountains, spanning rivers, need billions of dollars worth of constant maintenance and repair. Sooner or later they will crumble. Anything not nature wears out, fades, rusts, needs constant maintenance. Keeping things going requires control.

Can you imagine the relief when you can let go, let go. When it rains, I need somewhere more or less dry, but it does not need to be a two story house. To build that house we cut trees, cement a driveway, a lawn of only one kind of grass. Even in my own younger years we lived comfortably in houses half today's normal and infinitely simpler. We ate well enough from what grew around us. Sustainable. No need to import food from halfway around the world, and certainly no need to manufacture food so loaded with chemicals that it is no longer food.

I am told that, all over the world, some people are opening their eyes. Looking around at what is going on out there. Millions of our fellow humans dispersed, moved across borders,

without water, no shelter, no food. Fear lives deep within the seven billion of us on this earth today. Do you know that half—that is three and a half billion—of those people live in cities, not in the high rises but in immense, rapidly growing slums. I've seen documentaries. and read books about some of those favelas, as they are called in Brazil. That opened my eyes. They live like humans, as we used to be, before we invented owning and money. They know their neighbors, they help and care for each other. They don't eat much, but what food they have they share. True, they have no privacy. What is there to hide when we are all in the same boat.

I think it is quite possible that we will open our eyes on a very old reality that is not about remembering dead heroes, but about the living world of plants and animals that feed us and on who we depend for our lives. We must learn again to share, not compete. Generosity, not greed. We can learn compassion again, not war. Any war is against people but perhaps more damaging it is war on Mother Earth.

Have we ever really thought about “war?” Why do we fight wars? Oh, sure we are given reasons, cleverly orchestrated with leaked bits of information that the Media headlines and dress up with learned professors who give thoughtful comments to flesh out guesses. Is it all about oil? Money?

Would it not have been enormously much cheaper and simpler if we had made friends with the people who happen to sit on the biggest reserves of oil that is easy to get? War is exploding away wealth, killing people, destroying cities, making wealth for a few.

The world economy is in shambles. The most powerful nation on earth—not the wealthiest any more—is in dire trouble. We threw our wealth away, now borrow to fight more wars. Isn't there something obviously totally wrong about the way we “designed” our world?

One way of being positive is to see that our crippled world is inevitably creating a chaos from which new ways of living can emerge. In the end it is the Meek who shall inherit the earth; not the billionaires. When global MORE implodes we can have small communities again, villages rather than mega cities.

Seeds are sprouting all over the world. Real change, essential change, always comes from the bottom. The bottom where the forgotten are is beginning to ferment. A new world must grow in the manure of our crazy, unbalanced world. Planets are not designed, cultures are not planned. People do not need leaders to radically change reality. They need examples perhaps, and see for themselves that simpler *works, and works better.*

But do expect an ever heavier boot to step on us until the boot explodes in the chaos.

For locals, in this country: Of course this is not about the tea party movement. They are not the forgotten; they are a project of a few hyper rich men who see to it that they are headlined every day. Tyrants through the ages have known that people can be bought to act fanatically for a cause that was never theirs.

Real change comes from much farther down. The forgotten are closest to remembering who we really are. Human nature is not hating but caring and sharing.