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Dream

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To: Tuesday Rupp <TRupp@heavenlyrest.org>

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Dear Tuesday

Thank you for yesterday ... I am afraid that I probably talked too much ... but trying to summarize where I am after 50+ years of experiential learning is not easy.

In any event I am excited by the possibilities of a CHR hosted Forum about the Future. I love the idea of starting at a very modest scale, but with an architecture that will enable easy scaling to something bigger.

There are many reasons for my sense of urgency. One part is that I was always in a hurry when I was 17 ... which probably explains why I migrated to North America in my 20s where fast had a very different meaning than in Europe of the early post war years. But now that I am 70 something my need for urgency is a whole lot more profound ... at this juncture I don't have 50 years ahead of me!

These are the subject ideas I showed you yesterday ... I made the notes pre-meeting and there are hundreds more along the same lines that could be debated in a CHR Forum about the Future

- The spiritual dimension of sustainable development
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- MDGs ... some progress, but nothing like what should have been possible
- Lessons from Almaty ... 1978
- Root causes of radicalism ... radical Islam
- Why 19th Century 'isms' won't work for the 21st century
- What is the 'value' of religion

In my view, young people in the 15 to 35 age bracket are a huge resource ... and one that is being almost completely wasted. The modern economy with modern productivity does not need to pay them much to make the things we need so they are unemployed or underemployed and often underpaid. There are always people somewhere in the world that will do needed work for less money and more profit. On the other hand advertisers (working for companies) consider this group to be a prime target for marketing and do everything to get them to buy. Never mind that they don't have the money nor the prospects ... they perhaps they have parents that can help and student loans and credit cards are wonder money no matter what future personal damage they do. From what I know of the 15-35 year old cohort, many of them, probably a big majority, want to see a better world ... and as I see it, there is a huge responsibility for them to be helped in a meaningful way by older people and older institutions.

Bigger things are happening right now than at any time in my lifetime ... and yet the dialog about really big things is just not happening. Maybe these are bigger things than we have seen in thousands of years ... climate change ... awakening of China ... an invigorated India ... nuclear proliferation and worse ... disintegrating states ... religions at war ... implosion of the global financial system ... rule of law hijacked by the rich and powerful ... the list goes on.

The future is important ... but the future is not for sure. The nuclear bomb changed thinking because in a few minutes mankind has the ability to end a human centric world. More insidious perhaps is the idea that climate change may do this quietly over the next 100 years and we will never realize it is happening. Potentially the same outcome

Now is the time for a CHR Forum about the Future.

I look forward to follow up with you and Matt when the holiday breaks are behind you both ... exciting times ...

amazing possibilities

With best wishes

Peter

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