

We Are Better Than That

Extensive, worldwide destruction comes from ever-ongoing wars, including in countries that don't receive physical attacks, when the firing of weapons and the explosions when the weapons impact with their targets pollutes air that circulates around the world, when awareness of death and destruction touches consciousness around the world.

Further degradation of our environment results from careless, extravagant consumption. Greed and lust for power over others adds to warfare and to over consumption, to loss of identity and to death.

Human history has proud and good advancements too, but a predominant progression toward the end of most or all life, even toward the destruction of our planet gets stronger as time advances.

We severely reduced our consciousness of the results of our individual actions, our consciousness of the results of the actions and direction of intentional groups in the culture, the results of cultural direction itself as the industrial revolution helped guide humankind away from awareness of our responsibility to all life.

The lack of consciousness of the possible deleterious effects of our actions on other forms of life, on all existence may have always been part of the possible ways that humankind could be, but the industrial revolution increased the possibility of our not seeing and, therefore, not realizing, and, therefore, not much caring about damage we have done thousands of miles away by pushing a button or otherwise launching an action from where we are, a large advancement for effective warfare and a great loss for the retention of effective conscience in individual humans, a large advancement for the effectiveness of mob rule, at the cost of erosion of individual identity and conscience

Conscience as it affects reverence for life, as it affects concern for the welfare of all existence apparently weighs little or nothing in modern times. Individual exceptions to this generalization seem to get wiped out as large groups of humans move into hate and destruction in verbal expression and hate and destruction expressed in physical violence, including war.

During mob rule, consciousness of individual identity and individual responsibility for the effect of communication weakens or is lost entirely. Modern communication erases

much of person-to-person communication and thereby can abet mob rule.

I can communicate with you with neither of us seeing each other, without you knowing my name or where I am or anything about me. I can arrange for complete secrecy from any personal identification during communication, thereby ensuring many of the prerequisites for mob rule.

I greatly reduce the effect of my conscience if I remove any of my personal identity from my actions and communication, since the strength and defining structure of our conscience is influenced by opinions of others about our identity and actions. It is easier for me to do something my peers, my social group, would not approve of if I can do it secretly. It is far easier to communicate from this position of secrecy in modern times, when secrecy in communication is easy to achieve and, often, approved of.

Education that teaches growing citizens how to separate truth from propaganda is too weak and destined to get even weaker as rulers win power through skillful use of propaganda and often disguise the sources of the propaganda they use.

We are in a time when conscience is our remaining guide to behavior.

Only each individual knows the limits of behavior, the principles that define existence. We seem to be in a time of chaos, without consciences that define life and all of existence as sacred.

But we are better than that.

We are better than to participate in or otherwise allow actions that degrade the sacredness of life, the sacredness of this existence that is given to us as a gift, filled with the beauty of love for all existence.

We are better than world-destroying hate, greed, the desire for power, ongoing wars and destruction seem to define humankind in action.

We are as good as Love. The ability to respect, to revere all existence, the ability to exercise compassionate conscience exists in every individual.

We are as good as Love.

We need to hold that thought in our consciousness and strive to fulfill that definition in every action we take, in every thought we think.