

Navigating the Tides of Change

As I write this editorial, California (CA) is experiencing not only an energy crisis, but also a trickle-down crisis that is continuing to undermine our natural resources. The most recent casualty has boiled down to our water infrastructure. More unfortunate is that what happens in CA will soon sweep the nation.

As the Burning Bush administration continues to slash and burn our environmental policies and resources, and continues to defy the Kyoto treaty, we are about to see a serious undermining of the quality of our air and drinking water right here in the US. So far, this administration's policies have had their greatest impact in CA, where the majority of the public is in favor of pollution-free and sustainable energy, to the point where CA gave the presidential vote to Al Gore. That didn't sit well with the Bushes, their oil buddies and shareholders, who need coastal oil drilling and nuclear energy to sustain their own elitist lifestyles even if it is at the expense of others. So they are punishing us.

Right now, this administration's energy policies and the recent restrictions of energy to key services in CA are about to have a profound effect on our water system. This makes me wonder if the Bush plan, all along, has been to destroy the vital life resources here on the planet so that only the wealthy survive – those who can afford to purchase their life services as part of a private entrepreneurial system. Our water system is now the biggest issue in CA, next to energy. Unrestricted power blackouts are undermining our infrastructure, and there is a frantic call to protect emergency services from failure. However, only so many services can be accommodated. The latest casualty is our water system, which is unable to process the contaminants from our water during blackouts of more than just a few minutes at a time. For some strange, unbeknown reason, this is of little concern to our current administration, even though this situation threatens to spread through the country.

While those with money may well be able to purchase their own water and even build sustainable solar systems if they are environmentalists, the problem goes deeper and, ultimately, is a foreshadowing of our future. Money will not change the course of our future. Neither will drilling into the past by recreating a slash and burn economy based on depletion of our resources and our labor force. It is our own lifestyles and the ability to be flexible in the midst of chaos that will change the course of our future. Hanging on to what has always been, instead of ultimately moving forward toward a different paradigm of global sharing and caring, will be the swiftest destroyer of our planet and life.

The tides of change are here and they are getting higher, deeper and more turbulent. They are swirling around us and, as they gain strength, they are capable of destroying everything in their path. It is only a matter of time before the Earth becomes so undermined that it collapses under the weight of the turbulence. But the news isn't totally bad for those who are bold, those who have little, and those who know how to "be in it but not of it". The key to survival and restitution is to be flexible and unattached to material wealth. While many of us have worked hard to provide for our families, and have accumulated wealth in the form of material goods, remember: "you can't take it with you". When you pass, you'll pass in the same way that you came into the world: with no physical possessions.

And as the tides begin to undermine our stability and foundations--taking the forms of recessions, energy failures and water crises that effect our jobs, our homes, our lives and our well-being--the secret is not to struggle to hang on to what you have but, instead, be flexible, carry no baggage and be ready to move. That may mean giving up everything that you have accumulated at the drop of a hat. Otherwise, you will be pulled by the tides into the turbulent undertow, and drown in deep waters with your possessions and restricted values weighing you down.

However, there are those free souls who will learn to be surfers. The surfers will carry little to nothing with them. They will be still, attentive and emotionally prepared as the waters rush and drag them into the undertow. However, rather than fight the powerful forces of the tides, they'll go with the flow, wait for the wave to build and, then, when it reaches its momentum, they'll surf, watching for a new place to land. Eventually the waters will recede carrying away the debris of the past. Those of us who make it will be given opportunities to jumpstart new communities and methodologies based on caring, sharing and respect for the Earth.

And the irony of it all is that the Burning Bushes, who are driving the destruction of the planet and driving the turbulent tides of change for monetary gain and greed, will eventually get caught in the undertow of their own forcefulness and contempt for the Earth. In their struggle to hold on to their plundered wealth, they will be pulled deepest into the raging waters and lose everything, including their souls.

As an ending, I'd like to share a Hopi prophecy by Zachoree, recently emailed to me:

There is a river flowing now very fast.

It is so great and swift, that there are those who will be afraid.

They will try to hold on to the shore,

They will feel they are being torn apart and will suffer greatly.

Know that the river has its destination.

The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river,

Keep our eyes open, and our heads above the water.

And I say, see who is there with you and celebrate.

At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally, least of all ourselves,

For the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey come to a halt.

The time of the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves.

Banish the word struggle from your attitude and vocabulary.

All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

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