

# **EVER-CHANGING LIFE & EVER-LASTING EXISTENCE**

## **The Eternal Path of Mankind Toward Tranquility of Mind**

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After only 80 or 90 years of life, we must face certain inevitabilities. Aging, illness for some, and finally death, are all a part of life. There is no telling who, when, where or what kind of calamity is in store for yourself or for those whom you dearly love.

No matter how high you are crowned with honor, position, possessions, power, or how deeply you love or hate, or how strong your faith, a gust of wind in this ever-changing world can end your life, causing you to leave behind everything you ever earned. Nothing in this world stays the same, and nothing remains safe. So it is with life. You cannot sign a covenant seeking something absolute, for the truth in this world is a mere mirage. A wise man once said, "Destiny is like a flash of light, and what remains is like the morning dew." This is a warning to those who would let themselves be tossed into worldly desires which only waste precious time.

In this reality mankind is tested in the choices it makes for itself. And in this reality we are given the opportunity to determine the fate of future generations through our virtuous deeds or through our evil deeds. An individual's fate is determined by the long thread of past generations, shaping the direction of a nation and the earth itself. This is because each individual's will is not commanded by an awareness and sense of value of his own, but by that awareness and those values passed on to him by the generations which preceded him. In this sense, an individual comprises the whole, and the whole forms each individual's awareness: when brought together, it gains force and shapes an era. Power such as this has brought changes to the world in every generation.

The path mankind has been taking has led us to the reality of today. Whether the path was chosen with wisdom or not is here for us to see. The destiny we face is the apparent result of choices made in the past.

The choice each generation makes will determine the destiny of the generation to follow. We are struck with awe that the choice is in our hands, and we must be careful how we exercise it.

History has been evolving around the ego, filled with wild ambition, danger, plunder, and war. An individual's ego is absorbed in the ego of the whole, whether that of a race or nation. Whether that of the whole or on an individual level, the ego's destructive power has strengthened as generations passed on. The confrontation between egos caused near destruction of the planet.

By the rule of the universe, this generation also must give its answer to the question other generations had to answer: "How do you want to live? What is your choice? Are you saying you don't care about future generations?"

Today's situation being as it is, what is the best choice we can make for future generations when we respond to the universal law which inevitably carries the result of our deeds to them? Choices are few if we hope to avoid a disastrous end; and yet the duties we must carry out are overwhelmingly great.

This is the universal law showing us the path we should take. Refusal means we are handing down a legacy of despair to future generations.

Look at the world and see how feeble, dangerous, selfish, and unreliable are the deeds which were brought about by humankind and its humble wisdom.

We have become a culture of fractionalizing and specializing: We only see parts. We now need to realize that responding to the universe's question by breaking it into segments and assuming certain conditions will not answer the question at all. First, we must be aware of the greatness of nature that gives life to all; in nature's grace, each individual must aim to establish his awareness as a life which lives on this earth.

This awareness is the elementary foundation upon which a sound structure for future generations should be built. This awareness removes the curtain hanging over the portrait of a vague future, clarifying our responsibilities.

It is then that this generation, the future generation of the past, can share the same goal of the world, and go beyond national boundaries, ideologies, religions, momentary pleasures, and selfishness. Through recognition of the self as being one life on earth, each becomes a responsible person who is always aware of the danger of slipping into destruction.

Our inherent nature has absolute respect for the self, which demands also that we respect others at the same time. When we realize this, the true nature of the soul of an individual begins to shine through.

Today, if we want to see mankind exist throughout eternity, each person must overcome the tendency towards self-centeredness and aim instead for the happiness of all. We must educate ourselves in this area.

Otherwise our powers of judgment, controlled by our limited wisdom, can only judge matters of minor importance. Under such judgment, politicians tend to act confrontationally, placing absolute priority on their own country and race, science, and technology. Confrontation is solved only when the individual ego is overcome.

Since the ego is recognized as a human characteristic, it is natural to have to take measures against the destructive force released when it is misguided. This is an urgent and crucial task.

One practical step is to put a stop to today's trend which allows the continuous development of tools of murder, of killing, particularly nuclear weapons. One person's opinion cannot change this course. Yet, each citizen's new awareness and action collectively can change national policies. It is important that each nation abandons war as a means to protect itself instead of waiting for others to do so first in order to evolve into a civilized, healthy nation that can explore options for a better future.

Our politicians are confrontational and belligerent. Their hearts are full of suspicions, deceit,

and their own selfish desires. No one except the people of a nation can change this situation. Unless the people, the core of the nation, refuse to depend on politicians for their welfare and take action for themselves, change cannot take place. People can create a government that is free from the self-centered manipulations of politicians. People will decide to act when they realize that their choices now will determine the course of future generations. There can be no ego in their actions.

Education is teaching us that the individual must act for the benefit of future generations and live a life the way nature meant it to be. In this ever-changing world, it is necessary to have warmth and pride, and enjoy a richness of life in harmony with others, to the end of each person's life. Indulging in luxury is selfish and egotistical. It is a desire that lacks patience, consideration, and concern for future generations. Luxury prevents a person from being happy with himself. It causes anxiety over nothing, and makes the person doubt even the smallest things. Peace is lost, and worry and vanity control his life. Abandon such a life, where material things and technology dominate, and turn to the deeper, warmer satisfaction of the spirit. Then each person can live in harmony with the strict law of the universe.

Our life is so short a time in comparison to eternity. It exists for only a flickering moment and disappears amidst constant changes. Understanding the essence of the universe is to understand the essence of life.

In the past, this moment right now was the future. This moment now will be the past in a future time. The present thus can be either the future or the past. At the same time, there is an eternal present that has neither a beginning nor an end. In this eternal present there is no ego, and no person can possess it as his own. Reality, as we know it, is the worldly manifestation of this present.

Another way of saying it is this: Just as the past and future occur at the same time, both cause and effect coexist. The time of this coexistence is the present. All we are doing is to forever build and rebuild relationships with our worldly surroundings. These surroundings are, in turn, built on these ever-changing relationships.

In this eternally changing world, we live our lives. Because we live only for a short moment, our lives should be blessed with trust and gratitude, not crowded with egotistic desires, doubt about others, and worry.

Life is this moment. The future, or future generations, exist nowhere but in this moment. But this moment is also an eternity, an infinite universe. If we learn this fact, the ego will dissipate. The ego will be replaced by permanent peace and love that brighten the world. We will find eternal life in an absolutely safe world. This is where we are meant to dwell. This is the salvation of mankind.

The world can be saved permanently by our salvation. All we have to do is to become aware of the truth of the Present.

Bring light to your life by searching for yourself. Seek salvation of self to save the world. Have faith and act. Just remember that dependence on others and egoism will bring the destruction of all. Let us love and respect each other. Then peace will be with us.