

# Radical Regeneration: Birthing the New Human in the Age of Extinction

by Andrew Harvey and Carolyn Baker

*A complimentary chapter for the Open Circle Center Community.*

## Chapter 4: The Quantum Field and the Human Mutation

We must stop worshipping a dispassionate “truth” and expecting the experts to lead us to it. There’s a higher intelligence, one that comes to us via our very molecules and results from our participation in a system far greater than the small, circumscribed one we call “ego,” the world we receive from our five senses alone. New understanding from quantum physics and information theory points us away from the cool, detached, solitary genius, the one who has the answers that others don’t have, as if the truth could be owned, and toward a more collegial, participatory model of knowledge acquisition. The rational, masculine, materialistic world we live in places too much value on competition and aggression. Science at its most exalted is a truth-seeking endeavor, which encompasses the values of cooperation and communication, based on trust—trust in ourselves and in one another.<sup>1</sup>

—Candace Pert, *Molecules of Emotion*

It is one of the many ferocious paradoxes of our time that while our worship of technology is threatening to destroy us, science itself is opening an unprecedented door to the possibility of the birth of a new human species.

In *The Quantum Revelation: A Radical Synthesis of Science and Spirituality*, Paul Levy opens a chapter entitled “A Physics of Possibilities,” by stating:

The hallmark of an unobserved quantum entity is to hover in a ghostly ethereal state between the extremes of existence and nonexistence, where it can be said to both exist and not exist at the same time. . . . This is to say it exists in all possible states (each one a parallel world), not fully occupying any possibility until the moment it is observed.

The moment of observation is when [in John Archibald Wheeler’s words], “an elementary quantum event takes place. It is the act of observation that forces nature to “make up its mind” and manifest itself in a specific state that we experience, thus becoming a determinate feature of our world.”<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Candace B. Pert, *Molecules of Emotion: The Science Behind Mind-Body Medicine*, Simon & Schuster, 1997, p. 315.

<sup>2</sup> Paul Levy, *The Quantum Revelation: A Radical Synthesis of Science and Spirituality*, New York, Select Books, 2018, p. 106.

When we consider the extraordinary new possibilities the quantum field opens up to us, the notion of a mutation toward a new species of humanity is no longer merely an outrageous chimera. Since the quantum field is being revealed as one of infinite potential, the new relationship with it that is now possible could engender infinite possibilities for our own evolution—infinite potential limited only by our imagination and attitude.

The great American theoretical physicist John Archibald Wheeler opined that everything, in fact, entire universes emerged out of nothingness. In his journal, he wrote, “You start with nothing to get everything.” That “nothing” from which something arose should not be confused with emptiness or a vacuum. That “nothingness” is filled with enormous energy density and is actually a plenum or an overflowing fullness of pure creativity—effectively disguising itself as a vacuum. In other words, as many spiritual traditions have taught, form is emptiness, and emptiness is form.<sup>3</sup> And just as the nothingness from which everything arises is an overflowing fullness of pure creativity, so the evolutionary possibilities that we could create in harmony with the field, dancing with its infinite potential, could also be endless.

### **Science vs. Spirituality: The False Dichotomy**

Since the Scientific Revolution of the eighteenth century, we have been enculturated in the notion that science and spirituality are polarized opposites. For example, embracing spirituality negates our scientific curiosity, and carefully considering the scientific evidence on any issue automatically negates the mystical or spiritual perspective.

The history of modern science tells another story, however. The scientists who discovered quantum physics such as Erwin Schrödinger, Werner Heisenberg, Niels Bohr, Wolfgang Pauli, and of course, Albert Einstein, were perplexed by the nature of their discoveries. They realized they had stepped out of the reality of the Scientific Revolution and into a world that resembled what shamans and mystics had articulated for centuries. Thus, they read such works as the Kabbalah, Carl Jung’s writings on archetypal psychology, Chinese and Hindu philosophy, and the works of Plato. While they found resonance in many of these works with their quantum discoveries, they were never able to form “a coherent theory of the spiritual implications of quantum physics.”<sup>4</sup>

The birth of a new human species is anything but a pie in the sky, fantastic notion. In the quantum field it is one of infinite possibilities. We invite you, dear reader, to engage with this field as you consider the possibility of the current human species literally mutating into a human species that has never before existed. We encourage you to explore the revelations of quantum physics as well as the revelations of the mystics. As you do so, you may discover, as Werner Heisenberg so incisively wrote:

---

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p.118.

<sup>4</sup> Lynne McTaggart, *The Field: The Quest for the Secret Force of the Universe*, New York, Harper Collins, 2002, pp. xv–xvi.

In the history of science, ever since the famous trial of Galileo, it has repeatedly been claimed that scientific truth cannot be reconciled with the religious interpretation of the world. Although I am now convinced that scientific truth is unassailable in its own field, I have never found it possible to dismiss the content of religious thinking as simply part of an outmoded phase in the consciousness of mankind, a part we shall have to give up from now on. Thus in the course of my life I have repeatedly been compelled to ponder on the relationship of these two regions of thought, for I have never been able to doubt the reality of that to which they point.<sup>5</sup>

As steadfast students of climate science, we celebrate the Scientific Revolution which delivered Western civilization from the ignorance and superstition of the Middle Ages. We are deeply disturbed, yet not surprised, at the denial of climate research in the twenty-first century; we are even more deeply disturbed by the growing absurd dismissal of science and its warnings in the cavalier opening of society in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic with all of its potentially devastating consequences. As we complete this book, we are observing the predictable results of ignoring science in the Coronavirus death toll in the United States. Yet inasmuch as we value scientific investigation, we also recognize that in this culture, science, for many, has become a quasi-religion. Charles Eisenstein addresses this reality head-on:

Science in our culture is more than a system of knowledge production or a method of inquiry. So deeply embedded it is in our understanding of what is real and how the world works, that we might call it the religion of our civilization. It isn't a revolt against truth we are seeing; it is a crisis in our civilization's primary religion.

The reader might protest, "Science is not a religion. It is the opposite of a religion, because it doesn't ask us to take anything on faith. The Scientific Method provides a way to sift fact from falsehood, truth from superstition."

In fact, the Scientific Method, like most religious formulae for the attainment of truth, rests on *a priori* metaphysical assumptions that we must indeed accept on faith. First among them is objectivity, which assumes among other things that the formulation and testing of hypotheses don't alter the reality in which the experiments take place. This is a huge assumption that is by no means accepted as obvious by other systems of thought. Other metaphysical assumptions include:

- Anything real can in principle be measured and quantified.
- Everything that happens does so because it is caused to happen (in the sense of Aristotelian efficient cause).
- The basic building blocks of matter are generic—for instance, that any two electrons are identical.

---

<sup>5</sup> "Scientific and Religious Truth," Werner Heisenberg, *Cross Currents Journal*, Vol. 24, No. 4 (Winter 1975), pp. 463–473.

- Nature can be described by invariant mathematical laws.

Philosophers of science might reasonably dispute some of these precepts, which are crumbling under the onslaught of quantum mechanics and complexity theory, but they still inform the culture and mindset of science.<sup>6</sup>

One of the most puzzling phenomena of our time is the continuing adherence by many scientists and most people who think about science, to a set of assumptions that quantum physics is now detonating with majestic and mischievous aplomb. Paul Levy has noted in his great book, that many quantum physicists themselves are having nervous breakdowns from what they themselves are discovering!

Quantum physics in its revelation of a participatory universe created out of temporary crystalizations of light energy in many paradoxical ways, not only challenges this scientific fundamentalism, but as we have noted, describes in scientific ways the same extraordinary field of infinite possibilities that mystics in all traditions have celebrated and embraced. In essence, mystical traditions affirm that what they call “the divine,” and what physicists call “the field,” have three interlinked characteristics: 1) A mysterious stability. 2) An endless creativity. 3) A boundless capacity for transmutation. In mystical terms, this means that the Divine is simultaneously eternally peaceful, eternally changing, and eternally evolving. And it is this tripartite nature of the Divine field that makes possible what the mystics of the evolutionary process such as Jesus, Kabir, Sri Aurobindo, and others know, as the potential birth of a new species.

As stated above: Evolution proceeds by way of extreme crises that force the birth of a new species. We believe that a literal mutation of the human species will be influenced by three factors: 1) An unimaginably painful initiatory ordeal produced by the collapse of ecosystems and the collapse of industrial civilization itself resulting from pandemics and economic and ecological devastation. 2) An unwavering alignment with the birthing field in which humans really do, in the words of Charles Upton, allow everything to be taken away from them except truth. 3) Radical service to the birth through rigorous spiritual practices and Sacred Activism in the context of nothing less than a planetary hospice situation.

### **Transmutation and Bodily Structures**

Visionary and cofounder of Esalen Institute, Michael Murphy, in *The Future of the Body*, explains the effect that transformative practices, such as hypnosis, biofeedback training, yoga, martial arts, and meditation, have on the body. “Medical science has demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that each of the practices . . . can benefit our physical functioning as well as our mental-emotional life.” Murphy then asks, “Might our bodies accommodate alterations beyond those presently mapped by medical science? Since new abilities among our animal ancestors were in many instances made possible by alterations of their bodies, we can suppose that analogous changes—developed through practice rather than natural selection—might accompany and support a lasting realization of metanormal capacities.”

---

<sup>6</sup> Charles Eisenstein, *Climate: The New Story*, North Atlantic Books, 2019, pp. 246247.

Many spiritual practices such as yoga, meditation, and kundalini, practiced for many years, can result in somatic alterations and breathtaking agility and extraordinary functioning. “Metanormal restructuring of the body,” says Murphy, “might involve atomic or molecular reformations that would eventually change the look, feel, and capacities of tissues and cells.”<sup>7</sup>

Michael Murphy’s spiritual teacher, Sri Aurobindo, taught that, “Matter will have to change. . . . If a total transformation of the being is our aim, a transformation of the body must be an indispensable part of it; without that, no full divine life is possible.”<sup>8</sup> Aurobindo describes what this might look like:

There would have to be a change in the operative process of the material organs themselves, and it may well be, in their very constitution and their importance; they could not be allowed to impose their limitations imperatively on the new physical life. . . . The brain would be a channel of communication of the form of the thoughts and a battery of their insistence on the body and the outside world where they could then become effective directly, communicating themselves without physical means from mind to mind, producing with a similar directness, effects on the thoughts, actions, and lives of others or even upon material things. The heart would equally be a direct communicant and medium of interchange for the feelings and emotions thrown outward upon the world by the forces of the psychic center. Heart would reply directly to heart, the life-force come to help of other lives and answer their call in spite of strangeness and distance. . . . Conceivably, one might rediscover and re-establish at the summit of the evolution of life the phenomenon we see at its base—the power to draw from all around it the means of sustenance and self-renewal.<sup>9</sup>

Aurobindo is obviously speaking from a mystical, metaphysical perspective, but the study of quantum physics resonates with that perspective. One of the strengths of Murphy’s book is that he points to several phenomena that have been observed and verified over centuries in the extremely evolved saints and prophets of each tradition: telepathy, the capacity to be in two places at one time, astounding powers of healing, among others. These, he claims, are so ubiquitous in the traditions that they must now count as scientific evidence of the possibility of mutation.

In writing this book, we have been captivated by the many ways in which science and the sacred mirror and dance with each other. One example is the behavior of subatomic particles.

Danah Zohar, American-British author and speaker on physics, philosophy, complexity and management in her book, *The Quantum Self*, sheds light on the transmutation of the body of which Murphy writes above.

---

<sup>7</sup> Michael Murphy, *The Future of the Body*, Jeremy Tarcher, 1992, pp. 156–157.

<sup>8</sup> Satprem, *The Adventure of Consciousness*, Discovery Publishing, 2015, p. 234.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 235–236.

One of the key postulates emerging from quantum physics and that has been vividly enumerated by Zohar, enabling insights into the understanding of the Self are: Infinite Synchronous Possibilities:

In quantum plane, the subatomic particles seem to be having "consciousness" or "free-will", wherein the paths of subatomic particles (SAPs) are not determined by the application of Newtonian Laws of Motion or Newton's Law of Gravitation. The SAPs seem to display omnipresence and are detected by the nature of the measuring equipment. Seen from a Newtonian paradigm, the infinite synchronous possibilities of SAP seem to be a fiction and a material impossibility. The SAPs have a dual nature (as per the current understanding). Their nature is both that of a particle and of a wave. Interestingly, this dual nature of SAP is not "either-or" but a "both/and", giving rise to the uncertainty principle of Heisenberg wherein the position and momentum of an entity cannot be determined simultaneously. It is always one at the expense of the other, and this indeterminism is not due to want of the inability of physical measuring equipment, but due to the innate predisposition of the SAPs.

In the quantum realm, there seems to be a cosmic dance between the energy and matter, wherein the SAPs get created and annihilated due to equivalence of mass and energy. The precise physics (causality) and teleology of this cosmic dance between energy and matter however remains a mystery. The possible position of a SAP can only be assumed through probabilities being inferred from the most probable disposition of the SAP in relation to its infinite possibilities. The events in the quantum world seem to be interrelated in mysterious ways, defying the separateness of space and time. Events behave as multiple aspects of a larger whole and seeming to derive their definition as well as meaning from that whole. The concept of indeterminate duality related to wave/particle and movements that rests on virtual transitions, presage a revolution on how things relate to each other. The innate and integral relatedness of events makes all things and all moments touch each other at every point (instantaneous nonlocality, first demonstrated by Einstein and quantum entanglement, first noticed as a feature of quantum theory by Erwin Schrödinger) and make the oneness of the system of paramount importance. The SAP are multiple patterns of active relationships, leading double lives simultaneously and all these in systemic response to each other and to the environment.<sup>10</sup>

The parallel between what quantum physics is opening up and what mystics in touch with the sacred and its capacity for infinite expansive creativity have always known is obvious and thrilling. What if we as human beings are both particles and waves in a system in which all the particles are interconnected, and the wave is the evolutionary impulse?

The late Candace Pert, an American neuroscientist and pharmacologist who discovered the opiate receptor, the cellular binding site for endorphins in the brain, states that, "I personally think we're going to have to bring in that extra-energy realm, the realm of spirit and soul that Descartes kicked out of Western scientific thought. Yes, we all have a

---

<sup>10</sup> Researchgate Summary of *Quantum Self*, Danah Zohar, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273755770\\_Quantum\\_Self-By\\_Danah\\_Zohar](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273755770_Quantum_Self-By_Danah_Zohar)

biochemical psychosomatic network run by intelligence, an intelligence that has no bounds and that is not owned by any individual but shared among all of us in a bigger network, the macrocosm to our microcosm, the 'big psychosomatic network in the sky.' And in this greater network of all humanity, all life, we are each of us an individual nodal point, each an access point into a larger intelligence. It is this shared connection that gives us our most profound sense of spirituality, making us feel connected, whole. As above, so below."<sup>11</sup>

Given what Candace Pert is telling us and what science is now revealing, Sri Aurobindo's vision of a new species can no longer be dismissed as mystical fantasy. The new human species, transmuted ultimately beyond the ashes of one or many extinction events, and in revolutionary relationship with the quantum field, would possess not only a highly evolved mind in service of the sacred Self, a heart aligned with the divine heart, and a body transmuted to be the supple, radiant conscious instrument of the Spirit.

### **The Great Secret**

There is a great secret at the heart of all the world's mystical traditions that has been kept hidden by spiritual elites but which now, in our global dark night, evolutionary crisis must be released in its full challenge and splendor. It is what Andrew calls "engoldenment" or "the transfiguration process"—the mysterious and amazing process that transmutes through grace, a human being into a radically embodied, divine human being with extraordinary new powers of creativity, fed from the infinite creativity of the divine Field, in service of sacredly inspired and transformative action in every realm.

It was this great secret that the ancient Vedas called "the infinite treasure hidden in the rock of matter."<sup>12</sup> It was this secret that Shams of Tabriz transmitted to Rumi and that lived in the full-souled, full-bodied ecstasy of their sacred friendship. It was this great secret that the Shaivite mystics of South India knew who worshipped the golden Shiva of Chidambaram as both the Divine and their own potentially "golden" human/Divine Self. It was this "engoldening secret" that the sublime, fierce, and magnificent mystical revolutionary Kabir, lived and proclaimed as the astounding destiny of those who surrendered in heart, mind, soul, and body to the One. It was this secret that the Kabbalists such as Moses de Leon, the probable author of the Zohar, celebrated as rebirth in the evolved adept of the original Adam. It is this secret that the Vajrayana mystics of Tibet pursued in their search to acquire what they called the "rainbow body"—a body capable of dissolving in and out of the field of rainbow light energies from which it is created. It is this secret which Carl Jung celebrates in his masterful, *Mysterium Coniunctionis*, that guided and galvanized the great masters of the Western alchemical tradition, Flamel and Paracelsus, in their pursuit of the Philosopher's Stone.

---

<sup>11</sup> "The Research of Candace Pert,"

<https://www.equilibrium-e3.com/images/PDF/The%20Research%20of%20Candace%20Pert.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Sri Aurobindo, *The Secret of the Veda*, The Complete Works of Aurobindo, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, 1998, p. 9.

It is this great secret too, of the divinization of the human being, that hundreds of thousands of people all over the world are now experiencing, in all its bewildering glory, in the radiant epidemic of Kundalini awakening that is now sweeping the planet. And it is this tremendous, all-transforming secret that has guided and inspired the heroic revolutionary work of all the greatest modern evolutionary mystics such as Teilhard de Chardin, Sri Aurobindo, The Mother, Satprem, and Andrew's soul-father, Bede Griffiths, the most radical Christian mystic of the twentieth century. Father Bede knew and lived the mystery and transmitted it to Andrew, changing Andrew's life and path forever. As Bede wrote in *A New Vision of Reality* out of the calmly burning heart of his own inmost knowledge:

The new consciousness is not a bodiless state: It is the transformation of our present body consciousness, which is limited by time and space, into a state of transformed body consciousness which is that of resurrection. In the resurrection, Jesus passed from our present state of material being and consciousness into the final state when matter itself, and with it, the human body, passes into the state of the divine being and consciousness which is the destiny of all humanity. . . . This is the 'new creation' of which St. Paul speaks and which is revealed more explicitly in the second letter of Peter where it is said, "According to Christ's promise we await a new heaven and Earth in which righteousness dwells. This is the ultimate goal of human history and of the created universe."<sup>13</sup>

Imagine now, for a long golden moment, what a loving, humble, resolute, worldwide army of Sacred Activists, lit up by the splendor of this secret, and prepared through profound inner work, to gamble everything for its dynamic realization, could still, even in these terrible times, achieve. As Sri Aurobindo wrote in his great epic poem of transfigured "Savitri":

The Spirit shall look out through matter's gaze

And matter shall reveal the Spirit's face

Then man and super-man shall be one

And all the Earth become a single life.<sup>14</sup>

### **This Kali Yuga**

Now it is time to take a deep breath and step back and try to see how this great secret can be related intimately to the vast and many-layered crises that are unfolding everywhere. For us, the wisest and most precise guides are the Hindu mystics of Kali who have always known that a great and defining ordeal awaited humanity.

---

<sup>13</sup> Kuruville Pandikattu, *Religious Dialogue as Hermeneutics: Bede Griffith's Advaitic Approach to Religions*, Indian Philosophical Studies, The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, 2001, p. 120.

<sup>14</sup> Bede Griffiths, *A New Vision of Reality: Western Science, Eastern Mysticism and Christian Faith*, Templegate Publishers, 1990, p. 83.

For them Kali Yuga represents the total and intentionally devastating collapse of every kind of inner and outer coherence and personal and institutional forms of compassion, concern, and justice. Everything revered in previous ages and all forms of checks and balances within a culture are systematically and terrifyingly undermined and eventually destroyed, leading to the total annihilation of the culture and, potentially in one of its versions, all of its living beings. In our era the most obvious indicator that Kali is indeed now dancing ruthlessly is the global pandemic, climate catastrophe, and the intensifying collapse of industrial civilization that is now underway, attended by the complete lack of moral responsibility that is nakedly obvious in our leaders and the increasing paralysis of our capacity for justice and compassion.

The Hindu sages identified four stages of Kali's dance: Ominous, dangerous, severe, and lethal. We see the dance of Kali playing out in our time in the following way:

- 1) *The Ominous Stage* of Kali's dance began with the creation of a technological civilization rooted in a denial of the sacred feminine and in the belief that nature existed only to be exploited. The terrible injustices that characterized the early evolution of industrial civilization were exposed and excoriated by the great Romantic poets and the major philosophers of change such as Marx, Rousseau, and Walt Whitman, who saw quite clearly that the obsession with the domination of nature and the worship of profit as the bottom line would lead to a soulless culture, massive and dangerous inequality, and a world of endless war for resources. They were not heeded, and so the next stage unfolded.
- 2) *The Dangerous Stage* then ensued with an orgy of frantic expansion, fueled by a fantasy of endless energy and resources undergirded by the delusion of infinite growth on a finite planet. This was denounced by ecologists and environmentalists and the majority of scientists who were aware of the horrific dangers such an orgy was engendering. However, very little was done to limit the destruction, and the culture in general continued in its addiction and denial, supported by a massive military industrial complex. Wars became exponentially more destructive with the creation of a nuclear bomb, and humanity grew accustomed to a semi-psychotic state of endless consumerism laced with perpetual anxiety. This led inevitably to the frightening stage of the dance in which we find ourselves.
- 3) *The Severe Stage* has now obviously begun to unfold with very little significant environmental mitigation of the damage done to our ecosystems and the omnipotence of the One Percent whose soulless pursuit of power and money at all costs dictates policy on every level. It is now only a matter of decades before the planet may be uninhabitable as a result of this dark marriage of addiction to power and total lack of any concern for compassion or justice or even survival. We must see this for what it is—a psychosis, unhealable by anything but catastrophe, and perhaps not even then, a nihilism that is, yes, demonic and that has rotted the

human passion for transformation. This nihilism also manifests as a massive cultural stupidity, not unlike the stupidity that allowed Hitler's rise to power in the 1930s.

In the words of German Sacred Activist, Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

Upon closer observation, it becomes apparent that every strong upsurge of power in the public sphere, be it of a political or a religious nature, infects a large part of humankind with stupidity. . . . The power of the one needs the stupidity of the other. The process at work here is not that particular human capacities, for instance, the intellect, suddenly atrophy or fail. *Instead, it seems that under the overwhelming impact of rising power, humans are deprived of their inner independence and, more or less consciously, give up establishing an autonomous position toward the emerging circumstances.* The fact that the stupid person is often stubborn must not blind us to the fact that he is not independent. *In conversation with him, one virtually feels that one is dealing not at all with him as a person, but with slogans, catchwords, and the like that have taken possession of him. He is under a spell, blinded, misused, and abused in his very being.* Having thus become a mindless tool, the stupid person will also be capable of any evil and at the same time incapable of seeing that it is evil. This is where the danger of diabolical misuse lurks, for it is this that can once and for all destroy human beings.<sup>15</sup>

If anyone doubts that we are now experiencing a massive orgy of this particularly lethal form of stupidity, born out of wounded and bitter narcissism, we only need to look at the ways in which half the American population has accepted the continual lying and abuse of power of its President, sanctified by an entire evangelical Christian movement that anoints him as the "chosen one of God." Or for example, we only need to observe the protests against stay-at-home orders by governors and eruptions of crazed defiance at being asked to do what are obviously sane and scientifically-based actions of self-protection and the protection of others.

Witness too the proliferation of outrageous conspiracy theories regarding the pandemic and how it might be stopped. From a President who suggests we drink bleach to cure Coronavirus to a medical doctor, a fundamentalist evangelical Christian, who believes that "gynecological problems like cysts and endometriosis are in fact caused by people having sex in their dreams with demons and witches."<sup>16</sup>

Who knows the outcome of this horrifying cultural stupidity? Donald Trump may well be re-elected even amidst a severely worsening pandemic and mass protests which he is capable of using as an excuse to declare martial law and the postponement of democratic elections. What could then be born is a monstrous American fascism, draped in the cross

---

<sup>15</sup> "Bonhoeffer on the Stupidity That Led to Hitler's Rise," Intellectual Takeout, April 2016, <https://www.intellectualtakeout.org/blog/bonhoeffer-stupidity-led-hitlers-rise>

<sup>16</sup> "Trump's New Favorite COVID Doctor Believes in Alien DNA, Demon Sperm, and Hydroxychloroquine," CNN, July 29, 2020, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/stella-immanuel-trumps-new-covid-doctor-believes-in-alien-dna-demon-sperm-and-hydroxychloroquine>

and the American flag, that dwarfs in danger and viciousness the authoritarianism of Hitler, Stalin, and Mao. Nothing less than the triumph of what we have called the Antichrist energies.

- 4) *The Lethal Stage* is the ultimate devastation. A whole bevy of appalling facts makes clear that it could soon be upon us. The lethal stage of Kali's dance will destroy ghastly amounts of human and animal life and a vast portion of the planet. In case this seems exaggerated, let us not forget that such destruction has occurred before with the extinction of the dinosaurs and the devastation of the Great Flood. More and more people are now realizing with the rise to power of Donald Trump and the corruption, ignorance, blindness, and turpitude that attend and support his presidency, that this is not only a possibility, it is a distinct probability.

We have presented one full map of Kali Yuga, in all its horrifying precision because its enactment is now possible. Anyone who does not see this is willfully blinding themselves.

There is, however, within the Kali tradition another and profoundly hopeful vision that we ourselves as advocates of the birth are resolutely aligning with. In this vision annihilation is not total but sufficiently devastating to compel the human race to undergo the rigors and ordeals of an unprecedented birth that begins again the cycle of yugas in what the ancient mystics called the Golden Age. From the perspective of this vision, which we share, the global dark night crisis is not the end of humanity but the birth canal of the new human.

In this second version, everything depends on the intention, practice, and passionate sincerity of those who glimpse this outrageous possibility and gamble their entire lives and resources to embody it. We believe that both versions of this fourth stage are now dancing together as possibilities in the quantum field and that everything depends on what we deeply intend, prepare for, and dare to enact. To claim that anyone knows or could know the outcome is absurd.

As Kali elders ourselves we are now becoming aware that in order to prepare and act, we all, whatever our chronological age, need rapidly to absorb elder wisdom. Only such a rugged and realistic wisdom, matured in suffering and revelation, can help us now. Fortunately, as we look around us we see this elder wisdom appearing in the young. Who could deny that one of the most mature and electric voices of truth on the planet is that of a 17-year-old girl, Greta Thunberg? What awake being could ignore the brilliant, blazing justice demanded by the youth of the Black Lives Matter movement? One of the most hopeful aspects of our ordeal, we believe from our own experience, is that elder wisdom is appearing in countless young people, perhaps as part of and a sign of the birth of the new human. It is as if the divine is preparing the young already for the devastating responsibilities of bringing in a new world out of the ashes of the old.

In his astonishingly radical 2017 book, *A Call for Revolution*, the Dalai Lama celebrates these young elders.

I am appealing to you, having observed you keenly for some time. I have enormous faith in your generation. For several years I have organized meetings with you . . . In the course of multiple exchanges with young people from all over the world, I am increasingly convinced that your generation has the capability to transform the dawning century into an era of peace and dialog. You have the means of reconciling our fractured humanity, both with itself and with the natural world . . . I know that you have the persistence and strength to take on the future and that you will succeed in drawing a line under the world ignorance that you have inherited.<sup>17</sup>

May the faith and wisdom of this great being be realized. Everything we are writing and teaching now in our work is for those young people who are willing to accept the splendor and rigor of the transfiguration process.

### **The Qualities of an Elder**

What is essential, we believe, for the acquisition of elder wisdom is to make as clear as possible the qualities that comprise an authentic elder. One of the many challenging paradoxes of the birth is that it requires all of us to reinvigorate the ancient power of elderhood. It is paradoxically the mature elder in all of us that will enable us to be conduits and midwives of the birth in ourselves and others. These are the qualities of elderhood that we believe are central in the birth:

- 1) **Wisdom:** A quality developed as a result of many rites of passage. The tribal elder is wizened by his or her own initiations. In addition to the one experienced at puberty, he or she consciously passes through many subsequent initiations and understands the necessity of them for his or her own evolution. She or he has also accompanied others in their initiations and has come to understand that we cannot spiritually evolve without them. This wisdom is sober and extremely hard-won or as William Blake said, "Wisdom is sold in the desolate market where none come to buy."

Traditionally, such wisdom has only been available to the old, but one of the amazing truths we are witnessing in the young is that many of them appear already to have reached the fringes of it because of the suffering they have already experienced in a world that they realize, as Greta Thunberg does, is burning literally to death in the fires of greed and ignorance.

For Andrew, this is very personal as he has a goddaughter whom he loves very much who has been through clear-eyed, suicidal depression and is emerging as an astonishingly empowered warrior of justice and compassion.

- 2) **Compassion:** A wise elder is compassionate because life has made them empathetic. They have lived through much suffering and loss and have utilized the

---

<sup>17</sup> His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, *A Call For Revolution*, William Morrow, p. 3.

raw materials of many ordeals to practice treating others with kindness. As the Dali Lama, our supreme elder says, "My religion is kindness."

- 3) **Patience:** The wise elder knows that life is an organic and mysterious process which cannot be controlled by the ego's machinations. The wise elder can wait, knowing that divine timing has its own wisdom. We're seeing clearly in the insanity of opening our society too quickly during the pandemic, what chaos, lacking this patience, can be unleashed.
- 4) **The Ability to Hold Paradox:** The wise elder's intimacy with nature has taught him or her that reality is filled with situations and truths that appear to be in conflict and that an either/or perspective is not useful whereas a both/and perspective more closely resonates with nature's inclusivity and the dance of opposites that create life.
- 5) **Warrior Consciousness:** Wisdom and integrity demand that all men and women embrace warrior consciousness, which is not about making war but about taking a stand for the Earth community and for all those who are not able to defend themselves against harm or injustice. Elders know that justice is the breath of life and that without the vision of justice, the people perish.
- 6) **Midwife Consciousness:** The wise elder of either gender knows that evolution includes both death and birth. They know that when death is imminent, a birth is inherent in the loss. He or she nurtures assiduously what is seeking to be born.
- 7) **Discernment:** Wisdom includes discernment or the ability to make distinctions. It can "read the signs" of the situation and take action or not take action accordingly. Discernment requires quiet listening, a steady moral compass, and trusting one's deep intuition as a guideline as valid as logic and reason.
- 8) **Comfort with Not Knowing:** The wise elder embraces negative capability or the capacity to hold not knowing alongside what one already knows. They know from experience that only a commitment to unknowing can provide the surprising guidance and inspiration that engender new solutions and possibilities. What is unfolding in the pandemic in the rush to open society, against all scientific evidence, is a sign of the tragic immaturity of a culture addicted to cheap and false certainties. While it is true that the human mind naturally wants to make sense of pandemics, climate catastrophe, and social upheaval, it is also true that rejection of science and resorting to conspiracy theories to explain our predicament provides superficial, temporary comfort while avoiding the deeper, convoluted causes that created it. It also creates a type of madness which prevents the application of what sane remedies there are. Consider, for example, the notion that masks actually spread the virus and are being imposed to further a shadowy elite's dream of domination. Or the refusal to even consider accepting a vaccine based on the assumption that it will be used for biological and social control.

- 9) Comfort with Silence: A wise elder does not require constant audio or visual stimulation in order to be content. He or she welcomes silence as well as sound for restoration of the senses and draws on stillness as a gateway to connection with the sacred. The elder knows that silence is the womb of revelation. As Ramana Maharishi said, "Silence is unceasing eloquence. It is the best language."<sup>18</sup> Amid the pandemic crisis, some individuals are re-discovering the power of silence to renew the soul and reveal in them the authentic values of their lives.
- 10) Creating Joy and Beauty: The wise elder celebrates and craves beauty and seeks to highlight and sustain it everywhere. Elders recognize beauty as one of the essential truths and powers of the creation and as the doorway to joy and intimacy. As Plato noted, "Beauty is the splendor of truth." Elders know this viscerally and know the deepest meaning of what Father Zossima says in Dostoyevsky's *Brothers Karamozov*, "The world will be saved by beauty."<sup>19</sup>
- 11) Gratitude: Wisdom cannot exist without gratitude. The wise elder recognizes that every moment and every experience is a gift, even the ones that break our hearts. The elder is grateful for life itself and for every breath which he or she recognizes as direct, divine grace.
- 12) Service: Wisdom and compassion for all life call the elder to serve, to give back, to utilize the gifts she or he has been given and share them selflessly and humbly. We see this radiating to us in the faces and examples of all the first responders in our current pandemic crisis, challenging us all to follow their ordinary/extraordinary example. We also see it in volunteers who provide food and water for peaceful protestors demonstrating for racial justice.

Defining elderhood in its deepest sense, Francis Weller writes:

Elders are a composite of contradictions: fierce and forgiving, joyful and melancholy, intense and spacious, solitary and communal. They have been seasoned by a long fidelity to love and loss. We become elders by accepting life on life's terms, gradually relinquishing the fight to have it fit our expectations. An elder has no quarrel with the ways of the world. Initiated through many years of loss, they have come to know that life is hard, riddled with failures, betrayals, and deaths. They have made peace with the imperfections that are inherent in life. The wounds and losses they encounter, become the material with which to shape a life of meaning, humor, joy, depth, and beauty. They do not push away suffering, nor wish to be exempt from the inevitable losses that come. They know the futility of such a wish. This acceptance, in turn, frees them to radically receive the stunning elegance of the world.

---

<sup>18</sup> "Silence and Solitude In Ramana Maharishi," Hermitary Resources and Reflections, <https://www.hermitary.com/solitude/ramana.html>

<sup>19</sup> Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Idiot*, Bantam, 1983, p. 254.

Ultimately, an elder is a storehouse of living memory, a carrier of wisdom. They are the voice that rises on behalf of the commons, at times fiery, at times beseeching. They live, at once outside culture and are its greatest protectors, becoming wily dispensers of love and blessings. They offer a resounding “yes” to the generations that follow them. That is their legacy and gift.<sup>20</sup>

May we all, whatever our age, become that resounding “yes” and continue to act from its regenerative power.

---

<sup>20</sup> Francis Weller writings, “An Apprenticeship With Sorrow,” <https://www.francisweller.net/writings.html>