

IMAGINE

AN ESSAY ON WORLD PEACE

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10.11.97

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12620 FM 1960, Suite A4-507

Houston, TX 77065

www.sbpra.com

ISBN: 978-1-61897-581-2

Dedicated to the spirit of John Lennon
&
The Christ who continues to do God's work

Acknowledgement

As with all lifetimes there is no end to the number of people, both living and passed, who have assisted in the growth which has led me to this point in my life. I am forever grateful to all of you. I am pleased to formally acknowledge those who participated in providing feedback for this particular project. Katrina Marie Osborne, Dr. Paul Daniele, Bonni Yerex, Rose Wolfenbarger, and Karmene Lysis, your interest in, and sensitivity to my efforts here are greatly appreciated.

Preface

I never knew John Lennon, didn't follow his life, and wasn't particularly moved by his assassination. Nor was I a big fan of the Beatles in general. Even in my first meeting with John, his presence was just an oddity that caught my attention but only then as a secondary impression.

I was thought traveling in a mediumship class taught by Medium Dr. Jane Vincent at the College of Metaphysical Studies in Clearwater Florida when John's image appeared. The thing is – it wasn't John. Those of you, who meditate, thought travel, “out of body” travel, or otherwise pay attention to your metaphysical existence understand that there is a very distinct “Knowing” when you meet someone of spiritual importance during your experience. The personality who actually presented himself in John's body that evening was the “Christ”. During our class discussion after our return to body I remember reporting that I had visited with Christ except that he was wearing Lennon's glasses and looked very much like John Lennon. He was sitting at a

desk and looked up from his work, pen in hand over a blank piece of paper, and looked right into my eyes.

The communication/impression/message I received was, (1) I was in the presence of “The Christ” and (2) There was much work to be done. I remember being in awe, that this man, after having given so much, was still deeply immersed in the salvation of mankind and reported as much to the class. The sight of Him working there and pausing to acknowledge me over those glasses, from within the body of John Lennon has never left me. (See sketch) At that time however, I did not “feel” any inspiration to do anything about it.

A couple of years later I was driving down the street, lost in thought about the text of a book on “Contemporary Ethics” that I felt compelled to write, when a “voice” within my head said loud and clear, “You have heard all of this before”. Immediately then, John Lennon’s “Imagine” came on the radio. I listened to the words then, probably for the first time and they did indeed sum up the context of what I was thinking.

Since then I have often wondered how a song

that is so contrary to the positions of both Church and State continues to be so popular in a world which behaves as if the positions of Church and State are correct. Finally, some nights after listening to the united voices of the 2006 winter Olympians singing those inspirational lyrics, I awoke to the knowledge that I would write this Essay, words to invite you to imagine with me, a world of peace and harmony for all mankind.

In the words of John Lennon,

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today...

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can

No need for greed or hunger
In a brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine

An Essay on World Peace

Ever wonder what it would be like if the world really were a peaceful place to live, where all people actually were born as equals and had the same chance at a wholesome, healthy, happy life? Can you imagine what it would be like?

Imagine with me for a while that there are no obstacles and no limits to our ability to create a world without ignorance, hunger or greed. I invite you to join with me in the investigation of how such a world could happen, and how it might operate successfully. Let's pretend that we have all the power and resources necessary to correct all wrongs, right every ship, and heal every injury.

Imagine that our thoughts are the most powerful force in the universe. Imagine that we can initiate any idea, and the populations have agreed to cooperate with any change that will result in peace on earth, goodwill toward all mankind. It is what all of us claim that we

want, but is it possible? Can it still happen on this earth? Can we solve the problems of poverty, ignorance and greed? The following is a plan to do all of this as it was presented to me. Imagine with me as we implement it.

The first thing our collective consciousness recognizes is that inequity in personal resources is a major cause of difficulty in the world. In our omnipotent wisdom we decide that a minimum standard of living is determined by the quantity of dollars (hereinafter called credits to represent all types of currency in existence) it takes to feed, shelter, educate, and provide health care to any individual regardless of circumstance or consequence. We imagine and initiate a system where every person is credited an amount equal to the minimum standard of living (MSoL) in the area of the world in which they reside. Just like that we have all but eliminated poverty and ignorance. Every person now has the ability to choose food, shelter, education and health care. Can you imagine?

People without employment, including homemakers, poets and artists, people out of work or between jobs, and yes, even those who just choose not to work, and those who

live on the inheritance of someone else's work all are credited every month with the MSoL for their area. Credited for just showing the courage to wake up and draw another breath. Let's put our doubts aside for now and let our imagination skip through the benefits of what we have just done. "There'll be time enough for counting, when the dealings done" is how I believe the song goes. For now, just imagine!

Imagine lifting the economic burden from the parents of the developmentally challenged; the seniors who were not able to save for their so called golden years; the orphaned, and the medically disabled. Imagine walking down the street in any city or village in the world without anyone begging for money. Imagine no soup kitchens or people sleeping on the street. Imagine no donations needed anywhere for anyone, and every community generating enough consumer demand to create local opportunity everywhere. Medical events no longer wipe out dad's retirement. Layoffs no longer threaten the kid's college fund. All those gaunt little faces disappear from TV and corporations cease to be able to make a living off the misery of others. Lending predators have pretty much

disappeared along with slumlords, credit card lenders, rent to own businesses and the others that feed on the poor and the ignorant. Also disappearing are all those agencies and bureaucracies set up to manage the affairs of the underprivileged.

I know, I know. Where is all this money coming from? Be patient. For now we are holding their feet to the fire. All those people who claim to want peace. All those who talk equal opportunity, and all those who dearly want the killing, the crime, and the corruption to stop. In other words, those people like us. Can't you see all those things fading from the world as we are imagining it? See how hard it will be for a tyrant to raise an army in our world? See the economic and emotional blackmail tactics of religions and governments lose their grip when everyone knows that each person truly has the ability to choose their own circumstance. We are really making a difference in our imagined world and we've just gotten started.

Assuring that everyone has a right to a minimum standard of living has gone a long way toward easing poverty and ignorance. Now let's address the next largest contributor

to injustice among peoples, Greed!

You talk about ruining a good thing; the capitalists of the world have really run amuck. The idea of a person deserving to keep whatever they are able to earn in a free market was a good one. A lot of countries have become economically strong based on those ideals. However we are not fooling anyone anymore. We have allowed a set of ethics to infiltrate the world of business that until now, we would never have allowed in our homes. Where we once carried our home ethics into the workplace and were proud of it, we now are allowing a business ethic to creep back into our homes that we should be ashamed of.

I call it Contemporary Ethics. My definition is “Doing what you know is wrong to avoid the consequences of doing what you know is right.” It happens everywhere: Sacrificing individuals, not to protect, but just to squeak out a little more for the bottom line; companies encouraging employees to cut corners, alter records, overlook product problems etc., then firing them and pleading ignorance at the top when the truth comes out. At one time, if we bumped into another car in

a parking lot we would automatically leave a note with our telephone number. Today, with insurance companies seeking every opportunity to raise rates, and being too afraid of the other person's reaction, we feel it's foolish to report it. So we drive off. I see it all the time and I'm sure you do too.

And greed, athletes purchase jewelry that cost more than entire neighborhoods earn in a year. CEO's pocket more cash a week than the average Joe makes in a lifetime. Success is measured by the bottom line because we no longer know how else to measure it. We have lost track of the value of integrity. People who serve others have become just tools for those who serve nobody but the bottom line. "Show me the money" is the motto of today's world. We demand salaries based upon what others are making regardless of whether we need it or have any use for it.

We believe money is power and that money gives us respect. Cheating is only cheating if it is against the law. Lying is only lying if it breeches a contract. Lawful and unlawful have replaced right and wrong and the justice system has become one of guilt by economics. When we can read on one page of a

newspaper about parents desperately looking for funds to replace a child's organ, and on the next of a wedding costing millions of dollars, we know that our society is moving from unhealthy behavior to the obscene. Religions, Governments, and Heads of State are all for sale and people think it is ok for it to be that way. It is not, and it ends here.

We have established a minimum standard of living (MSoL) in every part of the known world. Reestablishing values is where the real dividends of that effort pay off. It is true that you can't legislate morality but we have certainly been legislating enough immorality. That too, ends here.

Passing laws to give me, my business, my product, my industry, my political party, my country or my anything, an unfair advantage is NOT the purpose of legislators.

We, the people of the world, want and expect honest legislators with integrity and good judgment to enact such laws as necessary to establish peace and tranquility in the world. Representatives of the people do NOT have ANY other job!

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