

New Thinking for the New Age

By

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(First Edition April 2011)

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Introduction

We are on the precipice of a New Age. Soon the United States and the rest of the world will begin to change dramatically. Within a decade, society will have changed so radically that we will not recognize it. The reason for this transformation is that our current belief systems are obsolete, most of them being based on fallacies.

As a society, we are going to change our most fundamental credos. We will do so in order to create a more humane civilization. Soon these new foundations will begin to take hold and reshape society. I have written *New Thinking for the New Age* in two volumes. Volume 1 explores how we will shift spiritually and describes the new credences that will replace our current convictions. Volume 2 includes material from other authors and further expounds on the new beliefs that are about to unfold (tentative publishing date 2012).

The metamorphosis that will occur over the next twenty years are of a magnitude difficult to imagine. Civilization will literally transform. And this will not be a subtle shift, but rather a dramatic and chaotic experience for which most people are unprepared.

Everything from our economic system to our political system will be completely transformed. When this reformation complete, a new civilization will arise, one very different from today's. You may already be aware of the forces reshaping society, perhaps even anticipating a global upheaval. This book provides insight into the coming changes and will help you understand what lies ahead.

When I wrote the first draft of this book in 1994, few people were aware of the

dramatic alterations now upon us. Now, in the new millennium, many people see society as unstable and in dire need of a reformulation. This book and others like it will be the basis for the new model. As incredible as it sounds, we are the generation that will determine the foundation for the next civilization.

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I use the terms *New Age*, *New Ager*, *Lightworker*, and *New Age Movement* in my writing. These terms have been given various definitions and used in different contexts. I use them for one purpose: to point out that there is a group of people who believe that we are on the verge of a spiritual transformation. This group—for the most part—holds the following beliefs:

- We are God, and so is everyone and everything else.
- Everyone's life is perfect and was planned in advance.
- Everyone creates his or her own reality by his or her beliefs.
- There are no accidents and no victims.
- Life on this planet is an illusion, and only the soul is real.
- Reincarnation is a reality, and this is no one's first lifetime.
- Spirituality is a personal matter and a long journey.

Whereas, this group opposes being labeled as *New Agers* and argues that a New Age movement does not even exist, their affinity with this list of core beliefs does place them in a unique position. This is the group of people who are ushering in this New Age. Their beliefs and intent, along with their actions and behaviors, are the reason for this transformation. Without them it would not be happening.

Last, I do not have all the answers. One book of spiritual material is just that:

one book. There is not one book or one path that leads to enlightenment. We each have a different journey to take, and on that journey we will each use different beliefs. My point is that the ideas expounded in this book are not the *definitive* truth. I may make claims of truth, but that just means it is *my* truth.

This is the deepest spiritual philosophy I have written. Many of the ideas in the book will be new to you, or at the very least contrary to what you currently believe. For this reason, I recommend that you first read my previous books. That way it will be more enjoyable to read.

Don Durrett

January 14, 2011

Chapter One

Who Are We? Why Are We Here?

Who are we? We are God. I know that may sound overwhelming, but it is true. There is absolutely no separation between us and God. Our consciousness is a part of God's consciousness. This fact makes us eternal, perfect, and divine.

The meaning of life is to expand our consciousness, which we do through experience. In other words, the reason we are here is to *experience*.

As our consciousness expands, we become aware of God. Slowly, through many incarnations, we become enlightened—consciously aware that we are God.

God is All That Is. Nothing that exists is separate from God. Everything is connected through an interrelated web of consciousness. God is not a being, but is consciousness itself, an integrated consciousness. This is possible because everything that exists was created by God *from* God. In other words, God can create only from itself. We are a piece of God that was spawned from the essence of God—as were all things. When an essence is spawned, it remains part of the whole, part of God's consciousness. This is where our consciousness comes from, which can also be described as the source of life. And because we are connected to the source, we have an instinctive desire for spirituality and to remember our heritage. In fact, it is inevitable that we find our way back home—although not in one lifetime. This is why enlightenment is a long journey.

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Life on the physical plane—on a planet such as Earth—allows God to experience the infinite. God is interested in *all* experiences. One experience may be negative, another positive, but both are of God. Thus, all experiences are valid. There is no right or wrong, no good or bad. God does not judge or place value judgments on experience. Judgment is not possible because God is All That Is ... and God does not judge itself.

Experiences can have a *positive* or *negative* outcome. This is where free will comes in. We get to choose our experiences. We can choose to learn using positive *or* negative. Thus, the consequences of our choices are quite real. The consequences, or effects, are called *karma*, which is an imbalance of energy that must be re-balanced. Most of us add karma with our negative actions, then redress the imbalance with positive actions. Some souls become so out of balance that they regress spiritually, although this is rare.

There is not a saint among us. We all choose to have negative experiences with our free will. This is how we learn. Maybe we have been mostly good in this life, but not in every life. We all have dirty laundry. Someone who appears to be a saint in this lifetime was a scoundrel in another lifetime.

We are in school. In fact, on the higher planes of existence, Earth is called a school. Moreover, Earth is considered a very challenging school, one of the most challenging in the universe. Souls who incarnate on Earth are highly respected in heaven—the spiritual plane.

The reason it is so challenging on Earth is because we experience limitation in an environment of negativity. Our awareness of God—who we are—is severely limited. This provides an ideal environment in which to learn. If it were not for the limitations, we would not be able to entertain such a wide array of experiences. The duality of good and bad—positive and negative—could not exist without this limitation.

There is a saying that the greatest trick Satan plays is to convince us that he does

not exist. Well, God has played a larger trick. God gave us amnesia so that we would not remember we are *one*. This is how God created duality, because once we realize who we are, the illusion is shattered and duality loses its hold.

Where we come from is not the physical universe, or what can be called the *physical plane*. The physical plane is an illusion—it is not real. It is a place, as previously mentioned, that was created by God (with our help) to experience the infinite and for the expansion of our consciousness. When we incarnate, we leave *Home*—the spiritual plane—and venture on a journey into the physical plane. We do this with one goal in mind: to expand our consciousness. As we become more aware of our oneness with God, our God-like creative abilities increase. We literally become God-like.

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We are not physical. We are spirit. Our physical body is used to house our soul during this journey. The body is temporary, whereas the soul is immortal and indestructible. In fact, the soul is what can be called pure energy—it is literally the essence of God. On the other hand, our body is nothing more than a costume. From the soul's perspective, the body is analogous to a piece of clothing, something to wear for a short period of time.

Our true self—our soul—is much more than is generally perceived. It is this lack of awareness that creates our experiences. Thus, the more limited our awareness, the more likely we are to have negative experiences. Conversely, as humanity becomes more spiritually aware, negativity will begin to diminish.

Life is about becoming more spiritually aware, or in other words, it is about remembering who we are. Thus, in many respects, our journey is a series of aha! moments of remembering. For this reason, there is nothing to achieve, only to become more conscious. Moreover, as Buddha came to realize, there is nothing to *do*. We are here to *experience* and that is all. Through experience, we naturally expand our

consciousness. An effort to become more spiritually aware is not even required. It is a natural process. Yes, we can speed up the process with effort, but just living is enough to grow spiritually. We are all growing, except the rare soul who takes the road of negativity to the extreme, lifetime after lifetime.

Am I saying life is meaningless? Quite the contrary. I am saying meaning is the byproduct of experience. Thus, any experience—positive or negative—ignites spiritual growth and expansion of consciousness. Life itself is the meaning. It does not matter what experiences we have, we still grow. This is why this lifetime is so precious and such a gift.

Today, Western civilization focuses on achievement. Moreover, we view non-technological cultures, such as the Native Americans or Aborigines, as primitive. Is, however, one culture better than another? Is one life lived in one culture more conducive to enlightenment than another? No. *Every* experience leads to expansion of consciousness.

Each culture provides an array of experiences. Souls who are looking for particular experiences incarnate into those cultures. One culture is not better than another. Each provides unique situations that match what a soul needs.

We are God, and we are on Earth to experience a life that fits with what our soul needs. From this experience, our consciousness expands. For most of us, the expansion is very slight, or what I like to call a *blip of growth*. However, it is one more step toward our enlightenment. A few souls will have an epiphany and make great strides toward enlightenment. That could be you.

I do know this: the experiences we choose in this lifetime carry over to the spiritual plane and into our future lives. Thus, our experiences have ramifications. We do not get to clear the slate once we arrive in heaven. This life counts more than we know. All of the karma that we accumulate must be accounted for. As the saying goes, we can do this the easy way, or the hard way. Either way, the outcome is the same: enlightenment.

Chapter Two

Beliefs

Beliefs are the most important facet of our lives, because they literally create our experiences. Life does not happen to us. We *create* it. Not one thing happens in life that is not the result of our beliefs. Everything—from an accident, to the people we attract into our lives—occurs from our thoughts. Given this importance, you would think we would be concerned about what we believe. On the contrary, most people take their beliefs for granted and rarely analyze them.

How significant are beliefs? Well, if we each create our lives through our beliefs, then what could be more significant? *Everything* that happens in our lives is from the manifestation of a belief.

Let me try to explain how life really works. Each of us is vibrating at a certain rate. This vibration—faster is better—reflects our level of spiritual awareness, our current beliefs, and our past lives. From this combination, our life unfolds. Our horoscope, family, and culture also play important roles, but it is our beliefs that put everything into motion.

Our beliefs determine the extent to which we feel emotions such as fear, anxiety, and love. Thus, we *create* these emotions. Everyone is a creator, creating his or her own life through his or her beliefs. Conversely, if we change our beliefs, we change our lives.

Most people do not realize that their convictions are creating their reality. Conversely, they do not believe they can alter their lives or that they are in charge. Even as you are reading this, you probably do not believe me. You probably believe that life

is happening *to* you. However, if you transform that belief, you can remodel your life.

Many people presume that everything is happening by chance, but that is the furthest thing from the truth. Our beliefs create a vibration, and this vibration attracts accordingly. One of the laws of the universe is that *like attracts like*. We cannot have any experience that does not match our vibration. It is impossible.

For instance, if you walk into a room of one hundred people, and there is someone in the room with a similar vibration as yours, you will probably notice that person. You might not talk with him or her, but you easily could if the opportunity presented itself. Life, in many respects, is like that room of people. We attract and are attracted. We are like magnets inviting events into our lives. And it is our beliefs, horoscope, and level of spiritual awareness that affect the magnet.

The ideas presented in this book are generally understood only by old souls. However, this knowledge is becoming more widespread. In the 1980s, if you told people their beliefs created every event in their lives, they questioned your sanity. Now, in the new millennium, many people accept this concept and incorporate it into their lives.

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Beliefs are limited, whereas life is unlimited. Thus, beliefs divide people. This is why there is so much antagonism and conflict in the world. This is why America has a split into a series of interest groups. Beliefs literally create conflict. This is why all religions are in their final days. Group-based spirituality—religion—will soon be replaced with individual-based spirituality.

Beliefs must be *personal*. The reason for this is that no two people have the same understanding of God, nor do any two people have the same beliefs. Everyone has his or her own, unique beliefs. For this reason, beliefs have no place in the organization of society. We must base society on what we *know*, not on what we believe.

The positive traits of humanity—peace, love, freedom, equality, caring, compassion, friendship, family—are not beliefs, but can easily be the basis for the organization of society. We can create a secular society where spirituality is individual-based and without religion. Spirituality can be a personal matter, with spiritual beliefs having nothing to do with the organization of society. We can create a society based on what we *know*.

I expect to witness the birth of this new society, and I believe this will occur as we come to recognize the fallacy of our current beliefs, such as the following: we are separate from God and from each other; this is our first lifetime; capitalism in its current form is good; the environment is not being destroyed; equality and fairness exist. Once enough people realize that many of our beliefs are a fallacy, society will change. This critical mass point is not that far away.

Besides the fact that group beliefs create conflict, there is an even better reason to drop our group beliefs: they clog the mind and prevent us from knowing the *truth*. Truth is found in the present moment, with an uncluttered mind. We cannot find the truth from the past, only *now*. Focusing on religious dogma as a group will not help us find the truth.

All the great spiritual teachers have told us to know ourselves. Dropping our group beliefs is the beginning of knowing the truth. Once we focus on humanity's needs from a clear vantage point—instead of being hindered by group beliefs based on the past—we can create a better world.

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Beliefs prevent freedom. Freedom can be found only in the present moment. Freedom is not something given to us. It is an *awareness* that we are free. Freedom is an idea. It is not something that is created through laws. For instance, following a system,

such as the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, will never provide true freedom. Believing that a system can provide freedom only creates a barrier to freedom. True freedom is the freedom to discover each moment anew—without rules hindering that discovery.

Beliefs have so many negative effects, yet we are tethered to them. Beliefs isolate us from each other; they create conditions for war; they hide us from the truth; they prevent us from knowing ourselves; and they hold us back from being truly free.

You may be wondering, how can we drop our group beliefs? How can we drop our dependence on religion and interpreting God's will of what is right and wrong?

First, we have to change ourselves before we can change society. We have to change our personal beliefs. This change is already occurring as more and more people expose themselves to metaphysics. It is inevitable that millions of people will change their spiritual beliefs and expand their definitions of God and what it means to be human. That change is occurring today and is quickly reaching critical mass, where the impact will transform society. In many respects, humanity is on a spiritual quest to find the truth, one person at a time.

Chapter Three

Christianity is Based on Fallacy

One time a Christian asked me who I thought God was. I replied, “Me and you.” You should have seen his eyes. He thought he was talking to Satan. All he could say was, “The occult is very dangerous. You should be careful with what you read.”

In 1989, I read a book that changed my life. In that book, Nostradamus stated that Christianity would not last much longer, that Christianity was in its “sunset.”¹ He further stated that the New Age movement would be the basis for what would replace Christianity. At that time, I was a Christian who believed that the Bible was essentially correct. Today, I identify with the New Age movement and believe the Bible is essentially false—not the story of Jesus, but the beliefs it espouses.

Christianity is based on three major beliefs. The first is the duality of right and wrong—good and evil. The second is the belief that God is separate from us. The third is that Jesus is the son of God. I do not deny this last belief, but *we* too are also sons and daughters of God. The first two beliefs will be revealed to be false and will be replaced by beliefs held by the New Age movement.²

The beliefs in right and wrong as well as the belief in separation will be replaced by the concept of *oneness*. People will recognize that we are all interconnected and, in essence, *one*. I do not deny that good and evil both exist. I do deny that one is right and

¹ *Conversations With Nostradamus Volume One*, Dolores Cannon, Ozark Mountain Publishers, 1989.

² The interconnectedness of all consciousness will be proven by scientists.

the other is wrong, or that one is God and the other is Satan, or that someone can always identify evil. From a metaphysical standpoint, there is no such thing as right and wrong, because God is *all*. In other words, God is Satan and God is us. God was Hitler as well as Mother Teresa.

Christianity took the belief in the duality of good and evil and concluded that good is right and evil is wrong. The outcome was our Western civilization, which is collapsing because of this fallacy. Many want to blame the degradation on Satan, but it is our beliefs.

Look at the result of the belief in duality. Today everyone lives under a microscope, constantly being judged by other people. We cannot so much as live our lives without other people questioning our choices. Everyone is expected to conform and do the right thing. Those who conform and do the right thing are the good guys. Those who do not are the bad guys. We are all given labels to determine where we reside along the continuum of good versus evil.

In essence, the belief in duality has created a judgmental civilization. No one is allowed to do what they want unless it is sanctioned by society. Thus, everything is conditional on what is accepted as proper (i.e., good). There is so much judgment going on that our souls are blocked from finding the truth.

Not only is society judgmental, it is not free. The ultimate freedom is to be able to do what we want without judgment. Moreover, freedom and unconditional love go hand in hand. Now you know why unconditional love is so rare today. If we truly love someone unconditionally, we allow them their freedom to live as they want. Remember Sting's song, "If you love somebody, set them free...."?

Today, love is conditional because of our judgmental civilization. People are loved according to their ability to adhere to what is accepted. Those who fit in are loved. Those who go against the grain are deprived of love. The concept of equality has no meaning. We love our heroes and denigrate our criminals. We do not treat each other

equally, not even close.

For the most part, we judge people because we believe God judges people. Christianity took the belief of duality and created a civilization that perceives that God loves by degree. The result has been a perception that those who are good deserve to be loved more than those who are bad. According to this belief, God is good and God punishes those who are bad.

The second belief, that God is separate from us, is related to the belief in good and bad. If God is good and humankind is bad, then we must be separate from God. However, is this belief correct? No, it is not.

People today are prevented from loving strangers because the belief in separation is so strong. Children are taught not to talk to strangers. We are conditioned as kids that everyone is different and that strangers are not to be trusted. Our parents tell us to stay away from bad people. We are conditioned to think in terms of good and bad. For instance, drugs are bad, not doing homework is bad, getting in trouble is bad, not eating dinner is bad. The list is endless. Children are rewarded with love only for being good, such as getting good grades, or making the all-star team.

The movie *Dead Poets Society* exploited how we condition our children. In this story about an elite prep school for high school boys, one student kills himself because his father will not allow him to make his own decisions. How many children have had to endure the tyranny of their parents and society?

The conditioning continues after high school. We are expected to get a job and are pressured into being productive members of society. Those who are productive are rewarded and respected and those who are not are ridiculed.

Why is there so much pressure to be productive and achievement oriented? Because of the belief in separation. We perceive ourselves to be individuals, instead of interrelated. What else is there to do but differentiate ourselves through achievement? In addition to our belief in separation, there are Biblical references to prospering. The

Christian value “God wants us to prosper” is a strong determinant in Western culture.

The belief in separation is the reason we reward productive people and judge the nonproductive. This is also the reason the homeless problem has been largely ignored. People do not feel an affinity with the homeless because they are not productive and thereby deserve the judgment of God.

Most people believe they are separate from God. From this perception came the belief that people are also separate from one another. The ramifications of this belief led to a civilization based on judgment.

Most people also believe that evil is separate from God. Thus, evil is perceived as separate from us as well. We have isolated evil and we contend it has nothing to do with us or God, that it is a force to be secluded. Moreover, most of us believe that God will accept only people who reject evil. On one hand, we have good (God). On the other we have evil (Satan). This is the basis for the current duality of right and wrong. I contend that this duality is a fallacy.

Politicians spend an inordinate amount of time making laws to fight evil. Many believe that God needs our help to fight evil and that it is our duty. President Ronald Reagan called Russia the Evil Empire. President George W. Bush has called Iraq, Iran, and North Korea the Axis of Evil. Christians are the biggest supporters of the fight against evil. The Christian God is usually mentioned when the word *evil* is used in a speech by politicians. The main objective for involvement in politics by Christians is to fight evil. The morality of abortion has inflamed many Christians to wage a political struggle against the current legalization. *Today*, as I write this, a fundamentalist Christian killed two receptionists at abortion clinics in Massachusetts.

Did not Jesus say to love our enemies? How can we love our enemies if we fight them? I submit that Christianity in its present form is nothing more than a political institution. Christians are waging a political fight against people whose beliefs are different from theirs.

Politics in America has turned into a religious battle. Christians are lined up against so-called evil. Abortion, homosexuals, single parents, drug users, criminals, illegal aliens, and welfare recipients are considered evil elements in society.

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Most people in the New Age movement are aware that duality is an illusion, that duality cannot exist because everything is *one*. Thus, evil is part of us all and a reflection of us all. Evil is a reflection of the state of consciousness of the planet—all of humanity. If someone decides to be evil, there must be a reason for it to manifest. Moreover, society must have created that reason. Thus, if we want to reduce evil in society, we must change ourselves first and not blame the so-called evil people.

Christians have a strong belief that God will judge everyone's behavior in terms of morality. Many Christians believe that if we live by the wrong values, we will be condemned to hell. This has led to a pervasive fear, which has created a subtle undertone for the entire Christian faith. In essence, Christians are afraid of God. They are afraid God will not judge them as worthy. Again, another fallacy. We are God. Thus, they are afraid of themselves.

As far as spirituality goes, Christianity is lacking. Currently Christians do not recognize their divinity. Instead, they perceive themselves to be creations of a fickle God, one who has the power to grant either eternal life in heaven or to forsake them to hell. This has led to a religion based on fear as well as a religion based on judgment and a preoccupation with morality, especially the morality of others.

Today, Christians are experts at discerning (judging) evil. Thus, instead of loving everyone, they point at everyone who is not living up to Christian ideals. This will be the reason for the demise of Christianity in its current form. Even Jesus gave them a proper warning: "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone...." The lesson is

clear, tread lightly when you judge another.

Christians have been conditioned to believe that God does not like evil. The concept that God is evil is anathema to Christians. If you confront Christians with this idea, they become defensive and angry. Where does this anger come from? Fear. Christians are afraid of God. This might not be apparent on the surface, but Christian beliefs do instill a sense of fear. They are conditioned—by accepting church dogma—to believe that God is separate from us and that *He* is a fickle, judgmental God.

Many Christians believe that God loves them, but even they are compelled by fear ... if not for themselves, then for their loved ones, families, and friends. Christians are anxious that God might not love their loved ones as much as them. Thus, a pervasive anxiety envelops Christians.

The foundation of Christianity was based on the belief that God is separate from us. This is where the concept of judgment came from, as well as the belief that God is going to judge us. It is quite common to hear Christians proudly state that they have a healthy fear of God.

The foundation for the next global civilization will be based on the concept of oneness. This will result in societies based on love. Doesn't that sound better? It will be easy for people to accept a new spirituality based on love. People will begin to realize that the Bible has led them astray and away from God. Not only has the Bible led people astray, but society as well.

As stated, Western civilization is based on Christian values. Look at our current civilization. How does society currently perceive crime? Christians believe that crime is caused by evil people who have forsaken God and should be punished harshly. There is little compassion for criminals.

To New Agers, people who commit crimes are not perceived as evil but as reflections of society, as people who are catalysts for change. For instance, if someone is a thief, it is a reflection that he or she is not being provided for by society.

Granted, this is a hard concept to grasp. It is difficult to believe that criminals are equal to other members of society. We are so conditioned to believe in right and wrong that any concept alien to this is quickly rejected by the mainstream. The only recourse is for these ideas to be relegated to the fringe of society.

In the New Age, a criminal will be perceived as someone who needs help, not someone who needs punishment. People will understand that we all have to live together. If one person needs help, that person will have help. What is a criminal other than someone who needs help, and has rejected his community?

As stated earlier, Christians judge criminals harshly because of the belief in separation. Political leaders in the West who make the laws that decide the fate of criminals are a reflection of a Christian-dominated society. Society currently does not believe in rehabilitation. Thus, rehabilitation does not exist.

I do not believe in political answers to our current problems. It is pointless to join political institutions and attempt change. Until society has transformed spiritually, our institutions and culture will not improve. They will, in fact, decay. I believe our institutions will continue to decay until they implode. I recommend that we all refuse to be involved in politics of any kind, that we sit back and watch society collapse. Then we can start over.

Most people do not like to think too deeply about the foundations of society. For instance, the relationship between schools and Christian values is largely ignored. When I bring this up, people do not want to talk about it. "What's your point?" they ask. My point is that society is based on fallacies, and schools are the starting point for the continuation of these fallacies. What children are taught, and how they are conditioned, determines how a society will evolve.

School boards are locally elected and put in charge of educating our children. From my perspective, their role is to maintain and preserve the current system. The school boards are mainly made up of Christians, which is inevitable because America is

at least 65 percent Christian. Christian values are the main criteria for the curriculum of our nation's schools, again reflecting pervasive societal values.

Look at the school system. When children first arrive in school at the tender age of five, they are conditioned to achieve and conform. There are no alternatives, except home schooling. Children must go to school and compete to make society and God proud of them.

If they do not want to learn what is being taught, they are in for a rough time. From this early age, they are taught that if they conform and achieve, they will be happy. Conversely, if they rebel against the expectations, happiness will be withheld. They are taught to achieve or else be ostracized. They are not given a choice. They are taught that only their achievements matter. If they do not accept this rule, they will be kicked out or disciplined. One reward for achieving is the honor roll, another is the ubiquitous "Student of the Month" bumper sticker that proclaims the accomplishments of students.

Another enticement to achievement is the opportunity to become involved in a school activity, such as a dramatic play or a sports team. Teachers make sure these "special" students feel happy about their achievements. It is not long before the students who are achievers begin to assert peer pressure on the non-achievers.

The rules are put into place at the school board level and are ironclad. Children who achieve and conform are rewarded with good grades and the possibility of college. Those who refuse to achieve and conform are shuffled along, then pushed out into society ill prepared.

When I say *pushed out*, I am talking about those who either drop out or graduate with a poor education. Hundreds of children and young adults drop out of school every day. Current graduation rates are less than 70 percent in the most prosperous country in the world. What is the response of the school boards? They claim it is not their responsibility and that all students are given an opportunity to graduate.

We treat the homeless and high school dropouts the same. We take away their

dignity and place the blame on them. We often do the same thing to six-year-old children with their first report card. “Achieve or else,” seems to be the motto of our society.

Do Christian values have anything to do with it? I think so. I think Christian values and Western civilization go hand in hand. Thus, when one falls, the other shall fall.

The school boards create this system of achievement based on current Western values. Is there really much difference between Christian values and Western values? I think there are very few differences between them. Some of my cousins went to a parochial school, and I went to a public school. Did we really have a different education? I do not think so.

Look deeper. The school system is very important to our society. Because of this importance, people with power have made sure that the school system meets society's needs. Thus, the school boards—and political institutions—are accountable to the power brokers. The elite make sure the school system is run a certain way. Political power is exerted to maintain the school system. School systems across the nation are pretty much the same because the same Western values dominate. You can ask people who have attended schools across the country what their schools were like and find little difference.

It is interesting that schools are run at the local level, yet are nearly uniform across the nation. What causes this uniformity? The answer, in my opinion, is Christian values.

We live in an achievement culture, and this culture is reinforced at an early age. The conditioning begins as early as a child's third year of age. Then grading in elementary school reinforces the conditioning of achievement. Is grading really necessary? Why cannot kids just go to school and enjoy life? I find it amazing that the practice of grading is used so extensively, especially for young children. Does anyone

realize the message being sent? Children who receive poor grades are denigrated. The message is that they are inferior.

Why talk about education? To make the point that Christian values are lacking. More than that, that Christianity is the major reason why most of our institutions are failing.

Our current civilization must fall before the new civilization can take its place. If that is the case, we should try to understand why it is going to fail. This understanding will help us make the transition more smoothly. If you see something coming, it is easier to prepare.

I feel kind of guilty writing so negatively about Christianity. Jesus was probably the greatest spiritual teacher ever on Earth, and he is closely identified with Christianity. His message, however, was not what Christianity devolved into. His message was love and simple ascetic living, not judgment and an opulent lifestyle. Moreover, Jesus was a Gnostic—he had a personal relationship with a higher power. I consider all New Agers to be Gnostics in the same sense as Jesus.

The foundation of Christianity is based on a false premise: separation. This false premise actually caused the darkness and evil that is now upon the planet. How did this happen? Judgment leads to resentment, and resentment leads to hatred. We are locked into a vicious cycle of negativity. To break the cycle, we have to stop judging and begin allowing. Allowing leads to love, and love leads to harmony.

In the near future, people will begin to recognize the fallacy of separation. Soon our institutions will begin to break down. The first to go will be the economic system. Next, the political system. Finally, the social system. Once this occurs, we will reflect on our beliefs and begin to make changes.

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Our Western civilization and Christian values appear to be leading us toward a more complex society where technology continues to advance and everyone competes against each other. However, that is not our future. Instead, society is headed toward simpler times.

After a long period of decline, technology will continue to advance, but people will no longer feel compelled to focus on economic and material growth. Instead, the quest for economic advancement will slow, and a focus on creating a more humane society will unfold. People will become more concerned with their spirituality than their achievements. Our achievement obsession will decline as spirituality and humanity ascend in importance.