



### THE EARTH FLAG

"Earth is the country we are going to be celebrating and the people on it are going to be those we become one with."

-- Joseph Campbell

"All human beings come from a mother's womb. We are all the same part of one human family. We should have a clear realization of the oneness of all humanity."

-- The Dalai Lama

"We are here to unlearn the illusion of our separateness."

-- Thich Nhat Hanh

"If the name of the country has such a nature as to create bonds between those who have a common country, why do not men resolve then that the earth should become the country of all?"

-- Desiderius Erasmus

"Human history can be viewed as a slowly dawning awareness that we are members of a larger group. Initially our loyalties were to ourselves and our immediate family, next, to bands of wandering hunter-gatherers, then to tribes, small settlements, city-states, nations. We have broadened the circle of those we love. -- If we are to survive, our loyalties must be broadened further, to include the whole human community, the entire planet Earth.

-- Carl Sagan

"The first day or so we all pointed to our countries. The third or fourth day we were pointing to our continents. By the fifth day, we were aware of only one Earth."

-- Sultan bin Salman Al-Saud, astronaut

"Can we forge against these enemies (tyranny, poverty, disease and war) a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?"

-- John F. Kennedy

"The large house in which we live demands that we transform this world-wide neighborhood into a world-wide brotherhood, together we must learn to live as brothers or together we will be forced to perish as fools."

-- Martin Luther King Jr.

"I believe in recognizing every human being as a human being - neither white, black, brown, or red; and when you are dealing with humanity as a family there's no question of integration or intermarriage. It's just one human being marrying another human being or one human being living around and with another human being."

-- Malcolm X

"The golden way is to be friends with the world and to regard the whole human family like the members of one family."

-- Mohandas Gandhi

"God grant, that not only the Love of Liberty, but a thorough Knowledge of the Rights of Man, may pervade all the Nations of the Earth, so that a Philosopher may set his foot anywhere on its Surface, and say, "This is my Country.""

-- Benjamin Franklin

"The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border?"

-- Pablo Casals

"We are awaiting the new global founding Fathers and Mothers who will frame an integral system of governance that will call us to our more encompassing future..."

-- Ken Wilber

# EARTHPLEDGE



Earthpledge.net is a site devoted to promoting the advancement of worldcentric consciousness. The mass movement of this global awareness can trace its origin to the earlier photographs taken of our planet. (The one featured on the Earth Flag was taken in 1972) Because of the growing momentum of this coherent and more encompassing perspective, it is absurd to think that within a hundred years or even fifty years from now we will still be living with our current imbalanced world order of ecological crisis and anarchy between nuclear armed nation states. It is more likely we will begin learning to live together as one united people or our species will enter a new dark age to become decimated by world wars and environmental catastrophe. If we want a sustainable and livable future, we must continue working towards a united world for ourselves and the generations that proceed us.

Everyone knows that war and peace are being waged in our world today. Violence and non-violence are two aspects of the same human nature. Knowing when to choose one or the other has always been the dilemma facing us. Most humans want peace but we don't always agree on the means that will get us there.

War and peace may be two sides of the same coin yet not everyone is content with this reality. The United Nations was created by an international coalition who hoped to have an institution in place that could help prevent a third world war through peaceful means. On the other side we have the massive military powers of the world preparing for the next great battle of Earth and resent any effort by those seeking to curtail their autonomous power.

Clearly there are those on both sides who seek to expand their dominion over the other. Peacemakers of the world would love to eradicate all nuclear weapons and speed up the day where humanity is united and an enduring world peace is legislated through a just and wise governing body of the global civilization. There are some militant world leaders who would like nothing else than to expand upon their already bloated powers by militarizing space. This would give them an unlimited capacity to wage war and strike down any opposing nation on the planet within a matter of minutes.

There are instances of the currents of war and peace crossing one another. Some use peace as a means to wage war by holding the status quo or another intolerable situation in stasis long enough until the people erupt with violent rage against themselves or their oppressors. In this case, peace is actually a thin veil disguising

war and war becomes a method of fighting for peace.

Few would doubt that deep down, everyone wants peace. War is after all, an expression of this desire even though it can be twisted and used to serve selfish interests or mistaken ideas of peace. Even during so called, "peace time" the very essence of life will put the living at war with themselves and others. It was the philosopher Plato who wrote, "Only the dead have seen the end of war." The greatest battles are first waged within human minds and hearts before they become actual wars waged in the physical world.

Because war and peace go together, one may seriously wonder if there is any hope for the peace activists position that seeks an end to all wars through means that are preexistent with the ends. This is unrealistic to those who believe in a proper time and place for war and peace.

On the American Dollar Bill we see the polarity of war and peace symbolized on the great seal of the United States. The bald eagle is depicted holding an olive branch in its right talons and arrows in its left. The olive branch is a symbol for peace and diplomacy while the arrows are symbolic for war and self defense. The bald eagle is facing the olive branches representing the ideal of an America committed to peace. But the arrows available in the left talon represent our willingness to defend ourselves

and those we love by forceful means if necessary.



Even if somebody takes a position of absolute pacifism, they will rely on those with a willingness to wage war for their own protection. Martin Luther King Jr. maintained commitment to nonviolence in the Civil Rights Movement even though his survival was protected at times by body guards and the National Guard who were mobilized to back up the cause with the presence of physical force.

On the other side, if someone takes a position of absolute militarism, they will rely on cooler heads to prevail as they did during the Cuban Missile Crisis in order to prevent a preemptive strike on the island Communists that very likely would have triggered a nuclear holocaust. A fine balance is required between the more masculine, aggressive, active power and the more feminine receptive, passive power.

Discovering this balance will put us on the right path to peace and in alignment with our greatest potential. Only then will we move closer to the ever more visible destination of a world at peace and a united humanity where liberty and justice may finally ring true for all.



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