

## Postscript: 'Back to the Future'

*'The solution to the problem of the day is the awakening of the consciousness of humanity to the divinity within.'*<sup>1</sup>

As I applied the insights described in the last chapter of this book I discovered that many other people in the world have been following the same path as I am. Hardly a day passes without my finding the same insights in a book, an article, a television programme or a discussion with other people. I even found a humorous cartoon comic strip where the deceased person was present in spirit at his own funeral. In fact there seems to be a world wide movement in which more and more people are being convinced by experiential knowledge or by gaining some direct knowledge of the other dimension.

I have heard about therapy clinics that are helping clients find a better quality of life by living in the present and people all over the world are becoming more conscious of Divinity within themselves even if they don't think of it by that name. With so many people having near death experiences, it is almost as if society is now more ready than ever to accept that consciousness does continue after death<sup>2</sup> and that we can come to know this in the here and now.

I believe that the spread of these new insights will eventually lead to a greater tolerance among the religions and peace among the nations of the world despite all evidence to the contrary. In this Postscript I have tried to imagine what would happen in the future if this new consciousness were to continue to grow at the present rate and if love and compassion were to be incorporated eventually in the official foreign policy of all governments.

Martin Luther King said 'I have a dream' concerning peace and harmony between black and white people in the United States. Well, I have a dream of my own about future peace and harmony among the religious traditions and among the nations of the world. In my dream the chasm separating organised religion and experiential knowledge gradually closes as the waves of 'new knowledge' break down the walls of prior dogmatic belief, using the metaphor described in the Prologue. Or, to use a different metaphor from author Ken Carey, 'The warm rains of New Thought fall gently on the soil of human consciousness.'

## *A Dream of Peace among the Religions*

A number of the resource people I have used for this book have speculated on the future. For example, referring to spirituality in general, Dr Kenneth Ring, a pioneering researcher into N.D.E. experience writes,

*'In the future, I believe that the implications of NDE research—and the message of hope embedded in the NDE itself—will be widely accepted by our society ..... Not only will people continue to undergo NDEs, but more importantly, more people will be pursuing near-deathlike experiences through meditation and other spiritual practices.'*<sup>4</sup>

I have met many lay members and clergy of all branches of the Christian Church who confess openly today that they have, for many years, believed in life after death for all and universal salvation. In my dream their numbers are swelling as more and more people inside and outside the Church accept that life after death is true and that the immediate Afterlife is merely a positive step along the way to perfection for everyone. They are still looking to their church worship to sustain a personal experience of the Divine love which inspires them to greater love and compassion.

In my imagination, in the decade following 2010, scientific theories backing up the experimental evidence for survival of the personality are gradually starting to overcome the prevailing scepticism and scientific derision. The new ideas about life after death for all and the need for love and compassion in the world are spreading like wildfire. Clergy and lay members are beginning to use experiential knowledge in their counselling of the sick and the dying and those who have developed their mediumship skills are being used by the churches to exercise those gifts in their grief counselling at the appropriate time. The number of ordinary individuals who discover that they can receive communications from the 'other side' without the need for professional mediums, is increasing at an exponential rate with people sharing their own paranormal experiences quite openly at parties and in private homes. The gap separating the living from those in the immediate Afterlife is narrowing.

In the mainline churches scholars are reinterpreting their traditional beliefs in the light of the 'new knowledge' and finding, as I have, that their traditions and Scriptures are more supportive of the 'new knowledge' than they expected. Clergy and lay pastors are preaching more boldly the Universalist view of salvation as well as the continuing benefit of having a

personal experience of the Divine and the necessity of exercising love and compassion. A similar process is happening within other great religious traditions and a revitalised inter-faith dialogue process is facilitating this reformation.

In my dream the religious emphasis in the West is less and less on the historical correctness of traditional ‘stories’ and more on their spiritual meaning. Thanks to more careful listening to one another, the religions are discovering that their experiences of the Divine are very similar even though their interpretations vary widely. As a result religious leaders are concentrating less on correct doctrine and dogma and more on worship and meditation rituals designed to facilitate spiritual experience. This new unity of purpose is leading to more harmony and cooperation across all the religions and a greater peace in many hitherto dysfunctional, multi-cultural communities. Despite the continued existence of some violent, religious extremists there is an increasing harmony among the major religions which is having a beneficial effect on the nations of the world.

*‘Once we want peace more than anything – more than wanting to be right, more than wanting to prove our worth to others, more than wanting to hold on to righteous indignation, more than wanting a cure – the whole universe will conspire to bring it about’.<sup>5</sup>*

Eventually by 2040 according to my dream, the number of followers of experiential knowledge inside the churches and in the community at all levels is reaching what the scientists call ‘critical mass’. They are now in the majority and the world reaches a ‘point of no return’. All religions and nations in the world are uniting in their desire to practise love, compassion and justice to all. One government after another is succumbing to pressure from within and without to draw up a non-aggression pact with its neighbours or follow an earlier Japanese model of adopting a pacifist constitution. The checks and balances are in place and every nation is dependent on every other nation. My dream concludes with a vision of a momentous decision in the United Nations General Assembly: -

**UNITED NATIONS DECLARES WORLD PEACE**  
*Press Release dated 22 September 2050 issued  
by the Secretary-General.*

*Yesterday, on 21<sup>st</sup> September, the International Day of Peace, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution*

***outlawing the use of force by nations to solve international crises.  
World peace has officially been declared.***

If the above dream were to come true in the next 50 years it would fulfil the hopes and dreams not only of Beauty Queen contestants over the years but also billions of other people on the planet. But it might also be a small step along the way to the fulfilment of that great Christian hope - the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth. If it doesn't happen by then well, as the famous Scottish preacher Peter Marshall once said,

***'It is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail'.<sup>6</sup>***

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1. Petrea King, *Your Life Matters, The Power of Living Now*, Random House Australia, Milsons Point, NSW, 2004, 38.
2. Rosen, Elliot May, *Experiencing the Soul: Before Birth, During Life, After Death*, Page xv
3. Robert A Monroe, *Op. Cit.* 267.
4. Rosen, Elliot May, *OP. Cit.* 237.
5. Petrea King, *Op. Cit.*, 37.
6. Marshall, Peter, *Mr Jones, Meet the Master, Sermons and Prayers*, Peter Davies Ltd., London, 1954.