

THE DESCENT OF PEACE

The intention of this article on peace is to establish its relationship with enlightenment. It will establish that peace, like enlightenment, is a gradual development and proceeds through conflict, identification, and resolution or in sequential initiations.

One definition of peace is that it is the cessation of conflict. Although this definition implies that the cessation of conflict is permanent, usually it is seen as a temporary cessation followed by conflict and then, again, peace. To some extent, this definition of peace is based upon the assumption that peace is imposed. An individual or group wins the conflict and imposes conditions of power dominance that guarantees an overt conflict.

A second definition of peace is that it occurs when those who are in conflict have a shift in awareness. In this definition, peace is the state of awareness the combatants reach when they see that there is a larger whole that they can operate within. In that larger whole they are co-operating components who are both winning. Their peace is not permanent, but it is a peace which will prevent the same conflict from occurring again.

A third definition of peace is that it is what occurs when those who are in conflict see that there is only One. In this definition, all further conflict is eliminated because there is no sense of separation carried by those involved in change.

Those who are living in the first definition of peace know that war is inevitable. They see themselves as either helpless or wishing for peace. Or they see themselves as powerful and able to impose a temporary peace. For them, peace has very little meaning aside from being an interval in which there is less pain than in the period on conflict.

Most of Humanity is living in this first definition of peace. But, increasingly the second definition is becoming known. The appearance of the United Nations in the 20th Century is an expression of this awareness: we can act in unison to improve the conditions of Humanity and the planet so that conflict is unnecessary. There are many examples of individuals, groups and nations who have an awareness that peace can be achieved through universal education and programs and systems that guarantee all global citizens access to food, clothing, shelter and health care.

At the moment, Humanity is far from understanding or living the third definition of peace. We are, in moments, aware of it in the teachings and examples of our greatest leaders. For example, the Dalai Lama presents us with the third definition.

In order to establish a formula for peace, it is necessary to understand its relationship to consciousness and initiation. And, there are three stages in the development of awareness just as there are three definitions of peace.

The first stage of human awareness is the stage of the development of personality individuality. This is the stage in which the person or group pulls free of the tribal consciousness and competes to be recognized as powerful and creative. They are colourful, dramatic and separative. The wars which are created on physical, emotional and mental levels are driven by these little egos striving for dominance. Peace is pleasurable and fleeting.

The second stage of human development is often referred to as the Lighted Way. Over many lives, the individual's soul gradually gains control of the personality. First, the soul succeeds in creating peace within the physical awareness. It does this by pouring love and light into the life of physical desires and, thereby, healing the warring appetites. A lasting peace occurs at the time of what is called the

first initiation. The individual knows that its needs will be met and seeks to aid others in recognizing and meeting their needs.

Next, the soul, pouring forth of light and love, begins to heal the emotional life of the individual. The developing compassionate understanding of the need for love heals the addictive lower emotional appetites. Love becomes the dominant emotion.

The lasting peace at this time is called the second initiation.

The final healing of the personality occurs as the light, love and power poured forth by the soul is registered by the mental nature of the individual. As he/she increasingly registers and identifies with the spiritual Plan for the planet, there is a healing of the mind. The individual ceases having obsessive and dogmatic thoughts and develops a simple wisdom. The lasting peace of the mental nature is called the third initiation.

At this point, the individual gains entry to the Planetary Heart: the Spiritual Hierarchy. He participates in group projects to implement peace on Earth. In whatever field of service he works, he works to free people from materialism and the fears that support it. He demonstrates a working vision of all true needs being met and all conflict being resolved by seeing and working for the whole.

And, the individual began to embark upon the third stage of development. He steadily develops an awareness of his spirit self. This Self is the One Self. As the development progresses peace becomes a steady state rather than an alternating one. Eventually, having lost all sense of separation, he enters the Place of Perfect Peace: Shamballa. One exemplar of this state of awareness is the Buddha.

Now, having established the relationship between states of peace and states of consciousness, it is important to establish the method for attaining lasting peace. This process is the practice of the same methods that produce increase states of consciousness or awareness.

The most important methods are provided currently provided by the teachers of the world religions and philosophies. These are the techniques of meditation, prayer, contemplation and study. Each techniques when practiced with patience and discipline puts one enrapport with the soul.

Forgiveness is an important practice in the promotion of a lasting peace because it releases one from the past conflict. The practice of forgiveness opens the door for the soul, the messenger of peace, to enter the daily life.

And, seeing the other with the eyes of love creates a bridge to peace. This is the same as seeing the Christ in each other. Or seeing only the good in another. All of these ways of seeing are seeing with the heart which is the organ of peace.

As with initiation, others can help and guide the progress, but each of us is responsible for creating the conditions for initiation or the conditions for peace. Our leaders can help or hinder us, but only we can create the tiny points of light that will form a lasting peace.