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The Beachhead



The reason our society is so dangerous is because of the arrested development of so many individuals alive now. The aggregate mass of human energies has created a world not fit for life. This situation has been developing for centuries, but it's coming to a crisis point in this present age.

For the first time, as far as we know, we have the tools to turn our planet into a moonscape. ... That narrow vision of short term self interest at the expense of everything else now has much more powerful tools than before. It can destroy nature. It can bomb us back to the Stone Age. It can wage incredibly destructive wars for money and power. It's incredible to think that the humans who control government, business and industry would be happy to do that, but that's where we are.

Nobody is coming to save us. It's up to us to save ourselves, one human being at a time. What's required is that brave people, willing to see themselves, to withdraw their projections, to establish a beachhead of clarity in themselves. It's courageous work to do that because we have so little help from our pathologically extroverted culture. It's up to us to change that.

—David Price, From a **Medium** article: "Nowhere to Go," Nov 17, 2021

I receive a feed from the writings and reflections of David Price once a day. I find him profoundly perceptive and that he is a "friend of the Order" whether or not he knows anything about us (He probably has no clue). Nonetheless, he is an example of a wisdom-web of people and thinking that is growing up and spreading across the planet in the face of (and in spite of) almost overwhelming odds and opposition to sapiential pathways. His insights, and those that we have developed as a community, make me solemn and also aware as we pass now into another New Year (2022). So much is at stake and no end is in sight to a pandemic that lingers just outside our doorstep and in a world that teeters as we walk into it.

These prescient statements about our time in history and our modern culture, puts things into clearer perspective for me and perhaps for you as well. We need clarity among all of the obfuscations that are a part of our current culture and society. His is another in the long line of the prophetic voices that are speaking out about the trajectory we are on as a society—hurtling toward some unknown crisis point both in our American political system and in the world's overall response to the pandemic, climate change, and possible ecological collapse. These things are upon us, and quite obviously, using the rules of the road that we have adopted to run modern civilization, we keep reaching for short-term gains over wisdom's long-term perspective that is also present to us, and part of our human heritage.

So, interestingly, as members and friends of a small Order whose lineage is in ancient Oriental Christian Orthodoxy, we find ourselves alive and awake almost like Heinlein's strangers in a strange, strange land that is even growing stranger. It is providential that we are together. It is not for nothing we are here to establish beachheads in the visible world for the Invisible Realities that it so desperately needs. Apparently quantity is not required to do this work. We may be daunted in this world by the sheer force of numbers (being totally outnumbered) that throw their weight against beachheads of wisdom. It does not matter how we feel about this, but only that such sites be opened and anchored in a world growing ever darker. If we will let ourselves be, each of us is an oasis of light, and as an Order we continue in solidarity with (and

in support of) one another to open portals of light wherever and however we can in the darkness.

So what does it look and feel like to be portals to the wisdom Path, supporting another perspective, and assisting others to choose different directions from the road we are on? Obviously, it means continued personal growth and change, most of which you, the dear folk of the Order who are reading this reflection have already been making and are practicing (See for example these principles for personal change drawn from one part of our ancient wisdom heritage: https://youtu.be/cBA_pzWqLF0).

But as Vaclav Havel saw in his struggle with authoritarian domination, creating parallel structures, enclaves, and councils of wisdom was another way to build larger environments in which other points of view could survive and thrive. We have taken on that same task in our day, and we are not the only ones. Others, such as the council of elders being formed now among Native peoples on this continent (<https://youtu.be/02zDY2eVRY4>) are a further example with whom, we share a distinct solidarity (and many others like them across the planet on all the continents and in other sacred traditions).

As we do these things, we must remember that our council is not just among the elders of earth but with the council of heaven itself (*remember the Hymn of the Pearl and how that council affected the Egyptian pilgrim in the moment of deepest darkness*). We are not without resources from elsewhere. These forces work with us to assist, give guidance, and perhaps most of all, to lend us courage as we face what lies ahead. The inner establishment of this conversation between heaven and earth takes place inside us—deep within the human soul, where what is also ancient and eternal comes to us anew. Here is a place to start as seen from an Eastern perspective (<https://link.medium.com/9jcaVaDISlb>). We are not without reserves inwardly as we reach toward Universal Consciousness in this struggle (dare we say, battle?) for the Soul of the World (***Anima Mundi***).

Given David Price's clarity, we need perspective personally and collectively, and place to find purchase (foot and handholds), and solidarity both within ourselves and with one another. The task of the Order is large, huge in fact, and seemingly overwhelming in our responsibility to it. Yet strangely, strangely, our task is also so simple and so small, for the beachhead lies inside each one of us (and in the singular worlds we each inhabit), for eternity laps at the shores of our souls; that is what we are asked to do and to be, simply beachheads, *beachheads for the incoming waves of eternal Light*.

~~~ Abbot Lynn Bauman