



Chapter 6

Understanding the Shift (I): The Game of Duality and the Possible Human

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Preparing Ourselves for the Great Shift

We are only at the beginning of a new way of life. The once sacred ways of nature and the All Mother will merge with science and space and the pebbly rivers of the Milky Way will run with the rivers of ochre and the blood of our ancestors in the sacred Dreamtime. The best is yet to come. Guboo Ted Thomas, elder of the Yuin tribe, Australia (Andrews, 1987:154).

Earth is on the verge of blossoming and opening its flower for the universe to see. Keepers of the Garden (Cannon, 1993:136).

Summary

This Chapter begins by asking: How can the caterpillar know what it is like to be a butterfly? As humans grounded in third dimensional linear time, we face a similar challenge in imagining what a dimensional shift in human consciousness might mean. The first stumbling block is imagining how we can possibly transcend greed, violence, injustice and suffering, and the consequent destruction of life on planet Earth. We are still collectively at the stage where we must face up to the dark side of human existence. There are higher dimensional sources that characterize what is happening on Earth as a battle between the forces of Light and Darkness. I have come to understand experience in third dimensional Earth as a particularly intense form of what I think of as the Game of Duality. This game is being played out by souls on two different spiritual paths: service to others, and service to self through domination of others. This is a game that is played at several dimensional levels, and spatially throughout the Milky Way Galaxy, so I find it necessary to introduce BETOs, NETOs and METOs as players in the current drama on planet Earth (beneficial, neutral, and mischievous extraterrestrial organizations).

I have found two views especially helpful in giving me a broader perspective on the pain and suffering that continues to happen on Earth. Kryon, a higher dimensional Being (HDB) with angelic affinities, tells us that all of us are powerful spiritual Beings pretending to be limited humans. However, we have done such a good job of pretending that we perceive ourselves to be limited humans aspiring to be powerful spiritual Beings. I also find useful the metaphor of Earth experience as a stage drama—the actors play the roles of victim and victimizer with passion and conviction, but the stage personas are not who they really are. After the performance no matter how much emotion, pain and suffering has occurred on stage, the actors get together and have a great time at the cast party. This is the profound meaning of the continuance of consciousness after death of the physical body; beyond our physical experience there is absolute acceptance and

unconditional love.

This chapter concludes by focusing on my own caterpillar-like attempt at imagining what life on planet Earth might be like a hundred years in the future based on my understanding of the human potentials described in Chapter 3. I also invite you, dear reader, to give free reign to your own imagination of what is possible in the future. I conclude by suggesting that we remain open to multiple, positive possibilities for the future by cultivating a sense of anticipation rather than expectation.

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6.1 How Can the Caterpillar Know What It's Like to Be a Butterfly?

Imagine yourself in the body of a Monarch caterpillar, having experienced only what it is like to be a caterpillar, devouring milkweed leaves so that you can grow bigger and fatter for a reason that is not clear to you. Suddenly, you see a magnificent orange and black butterfly land on the flower at the top of the milkweed plant you are eating, and a voice inside tells you: "Someday you will turn into such a butterfly." How can a plump caterpillar with slow-moving stubby legs imagine what it is like to be slender-bodied butterfly that is capable of flying thousands of miles, as Monarch butterflies do, in their seasonal migration from North America to Mexico?

Barbara Hubbard, in her book *Conscious Evolution*, describes the transformation of the caterpillar to butterfly as a metaphor for a possible transformation of human consciousness (Hubbard, 1998). After a caterpillar has spun its chrysalis, imaginal disks embodying the blueprint of the butterfly begin to appear by a mysterious biochemical process. The caterpillar's immune system recognizes the incipient building blocks of the butterfly's body as foreign and tries to destroy them. The imaginal disks form more quickly than the immune response can destroy them, and as the imaginal disks link, the immune system begins to break down, and the caterpillar's body begins to dissolve and reform into a butterfly. The transformation is complete when the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. Hubbard goes on to suggest that these turbulent times, in which creativity vies with death and destruction, burgeoning spirituality butts up against religious fundamentalism, and grass-roots populism challenges multinational elitism, are all signs that we humans are in the midst of a similar transformation. Ultimately, she foresees a sudden shift to a new level of consciousness, a quantum leap, just as electrons jump between orbits without any intermediate step.

The Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, in his book *The Phenomenon of Man* (Teilhard de Chardin, 1955), described an evolving universe where the emergence of human consciousness was a profound development. He described human consciousness as forming a field around the planet that he called the Noosphere. As the number of humans on the planet increased, Teilhard de Chardin envisioned the intensity of this field of human consciousness increasing until it reached a critical point of transcendence that he called the Omega Point. He was not very specific about

what it would mean to be human after the Omega Point is reached except to suggest that we would not have wars or hunger. As he said, “The final convergence will take place *in peace*” (Teilhard de Chardin, 1955:288; emphasis in the original). The Jesuit's ideas strayed too far from Church dogma for the comfort of the superiors in his order and were not published until after his death in 1955.

In Section 2.6.3 I identified a variety of analogues from science — quantum leap, critical mass, cusp catastrophe, and punctuated equilibrium — as possible ways of thinking of a dramatic shift in human consciousness. Perhaps because I am a geologist and used to thinking in terms of long time spans, I am partial to the term “punctuated equilibrium,” which suggests the possibility of a dramatic but not necessarily sudden shift in consciousness. In the case of the caterpillar's change into a butterfly metaphor, the transformation is not a quantum leap, but takes place over a period of months.

Many higher dimensional sources are suggesting that we are approaching the end of a decades-long process of accelerating change in human consciousness, which will become increasingly evident in external events in the next ten years or so. I use the word “end” advisedly, because I do not wish to imply a sudden end to all human pain and suffering. In the next chapter I trace this decades-long process starting with the year 1947 and provide evidence that in the 1980s a profound shift in human consciousness occurred. At that time a shift at a collective, superconscious level changed the probable timeline from one of catastrophic pain and suffering at the close of the last millennium to one in which humanity has the opportunity to accompany Mother Earth in a dimensional shift without a catastrophic dying of humans. The next step of the Great Shift that I anticipate is for the 1987 shift to filter down to the level of conscious awareness and for the majority of humans to consciously commit themselves to ending violence, war and injustice, to living in harmony with all living things, and to healing planet Earth. It may be that we will only recognize when that shift occurred in retrospect. However, I am in my late 50s as I write these words, and I am confident that I will see this shift in my lifetime.

In the first Chapter I described the current state of human affairs on planet Earth as the darkness before the dawn. In this chapter I would like to begin presenting my own framework for understanding the Great Shift by putting it

in the context of what I have come to think of as the Game of Duality. The opposing players in this game are souls who have chosen one of two spiritual paths: service to others and service to self. For at least the last ten thousand years the service-to-self souls have had the upper hand in the Game of Duality as it is being played on third-dimensional Earth. In dimensional terms (which I explain more fully in Section 7.1) the first major dimensional shift will be completed when humanity is fully anchored in the fourth dimensional Earth as inhabitants of a positively-polarized planet where service-to-self souls are no longer allowed to incarnate.

Those of us who have already consciously committed ourselves to a positive future for Earth are already creating that reality. As part of that process, I encourage all who read this to unleash the power of your imagination by envisioning the kind of future you wish to create. In the second half of this chapter I offer my own vision of the kind of future that appeals to me and also give some higher dimensional perspectives of what the future might hold for us.

6.2 The Game of Duality

The stronger the thunder, the more powerful the lightning. All reiterate — the New Age arrives in storm and lightning. For the lightning there are needed positive and negative energies. If Maya does not furnish the negative evidence, how then can flash forth the sword-blade of positive reality? Ascended Master Morya/Helena Roerich (Agni Yogi Society, 1951:236).

In the third *Conversations with God* book, God introduces the concept of the Divine Dichotomy — two contradictory truths that coexist in the same time and place — and gives as an example the statements, “All is love” and “Evil exists” (Walsch, 1998:176). It is easy to view the drama that is being played out in our third dimensional experience as a battle between the forces of good and evil, with evil seeming to have the upper hand at the moment. This is the only place in my writing that you will find the “e” word because it is a third-dimensional concept that, in my opinion, is a hindrance rather than a help in the process of learning how to play and ultimately transcend the Game of Duality. We give power to where we focus our thoughts and the “e” word has gained much power here on planet Earth. I prefer using terms such as light

and dark, positive and negative polarization, or beneficial and mischievous to characterize the contrasting forces of duality. By the same token, using the militaristic term “battle” to characterize the interplay between these forces implies a grim seriousness that I don't feel is merited. On the other hand, the Game of Duality can be played between good friends and enjoyed when it is not taken too seriously.

We are coming to the end of a particularly intense and high-stakes round of the game on Earth at this time. Here I would like to offer some information and perspectives that I hope you may find useful in developing your own understanding of and strategies for playing the game. You won't find this perspective in any mainstream textbook on philosophy or theology. I'll be giving some higher dimensional perspectives on negative polarization as a spiritual path, why the innocent suffer, and the role of extraterrestrials (ETs) in the Game of Duality.

6.2.1 Two Spiritual Paths: Service to Others and Service to Self.

One of the most useful higher dimensional perspectives I have found which helped me come to view what is happening on Earth as a game to be played rather than a grim war to be won comes from Ra, the sixth dimensional collective consciousness channeled through Carla Rueckert that I introduced in Section 4.2.3 (Ra, 1984). Ra affirms the ultimate unity of all things, expressing it as the Law of One. In Section 4.1.1 I noted that creativity in the cosmos arises from the process of individuation of consciousness. Free will is the mechanism that allows independent action of individuated consciousness, even when it recognizes itself and others to be part of the same unitary consciousness (Ra called it the first “distortion” of the Law of One).

Readers, forgive me for this digression, but what I thought was going to be an easy section to write, drawing primarily from the Ra material, turned out to be challenging, as I wrestled with questions that were not asked of Ra. I have used the term “Source of All That Is” to describe the unimaginable unitary consciousness of which we are all a part, but now find it inadequate. This Source Is, but it also Does, so we have a Divine Dichotomy of the highest order with the simultaneous Is-ness and Does-ness of the Source of All That Is/Does (the term I will use from here on out). In human experience this translates into the state of Being and the action of Doing. The transcendent

states of consciousness that can be obtained in meditation or by simply being in nature allow our sense of individual boundaries to dissolve and merge with the Is-ness of the Source. When we set intention and act upon it, we are part of the Does-ness of the Source. Individuated consciousnesses that have chosen an evolutionary path of separation and then movement toward reunification with the Is-ness aspect of the Source are the active agents of change and creation in the cosmos.

Getting back to Ra, from my perspective, the Law of One relates to the Is-ness of the Source, the “distortion” of free will relates to the Does-ness. According to Ra, there are two spiritual paths that an individuated consciousness which has committed itself to an evolutionary path of doing can follow as a way to return to union with the Source of All That Is/Does:

- The spiritual path of *service to others* in the spirit of unconditional love, informed by wisdom, is characterized by Ra as having a positive polarization.
- The spiritual path of *service to self* through power and domination of others is characterized by Ra as having a negative polarization.

It was a real eye-opener for me to think of the self-serving, power-hungry individuals who seem to dominate the media headlines as on a spiritual path. On a mixed planet like Earth (Ra says that there are also many planets that are either entirely positively or entirely negatively polarized), the Game of Duality is played out in a particularly intense way. The service-to-self folks have plenty of innocent service-to-others folks to manipulate, while providing abundant opportunities for the service-to-others folks to learn the lesson of offering unconditional love to very unlovable people.

An interesting and, for me, heartening thing about the service-to-self spiritual path is that it is viable only through the fifth dimension (Ra uses the term density — see Sections 7.1.3 and 7.1.4 for the relationship between density and dimension). In the early sixth-dimensional stage of evolution these souls recognize the necessity for switching to the service-to-others path. In many ways the service-to-self path is a much more difficult spiritual path (see Section C2.1 for more on how difficult it is).

My higher dimensional friend Aaron has encouraged me to point out the limitations of the service-to-others/service-to-self model of spiritual evolution. To place the emphasis on service to others or self reinforces the idea that we are separate from each other, rather than encouraging us to remember that we are all aspects of the same Source of All That Is and Does (personal communication, Aaron through Barbara Brodsky, Ann Arbor, MI, taped conversation September 12, 2005). For those of us who have chosen a positive polarization, it is useful to remind ourselves of this again and again as a way to keep from getting too caught up in the Game of Duality.

Solara offers another perspective on the Game of Duality which also helps us not to fall into an “us” versus “them” mentality. She suggests that we have all freely experienced both negative and positive polarizations:

It is important for us to realize that every one of us has experienced numerous embodiments both on this planet and on larger playing fields, such as the area which I term Intergalactic. All of these incarnations were subject to the fluctuations of duality. Many of them were experienced as parallel realities, which means that while one part of yourself was whizzing around in starships, participating in huge intergalactic wars, another fragment of you was simultaneously having a lifetime on Earth!...

What you can be certain of is that each of us has spent numerous incarnations as Lords of Light and Lords of Dark both here and in the intergalactic realms (Solara, 1992:91).

6.2.2 Shift Happens!

The more extreme the polarization in the Game of Duality, the more profound is the integration that is possible at the end of a round of the game. Planet Earth is coming to the end of a particularly intense 25,000-year round of the game (more is said about the cyclical nature of the game in Section 7.2). A superficial review of the history of the twentieth century, with the human suffering caused by two World Wars and innumerable local and regional wars of liberation and oppression, gives the impression that the dark forces will be chalking up this round as an easy win. In Chapter 1 I present diverse lines of evidence that suggest this is not the case.

Nevertheless, there are also higher dimensional sources that give some weight to the view that Earth is a planet where the forces of darkness are exceptionally strong. From this perspective exceptional courage is needed, or perhaps foolhardiness, for a soul aligned with the forces of light to incarnate. Apparently, the benefit of incarnating on such a dark planet is more rapid spiritual evolution. For example, Sylvia Browne's guide Francine says that one can accomplish in three lives on Earth what might require 120 lives on another planet (Browne, 2000). From Francine's perspective, Earth at this time is the focus of a great battle between the forces of light and darkness.

Now speaking of the white entities, which you are, I've learned that many of you are also warriors; your lights have actually become brighter. There is an amazing, equal, and opposing phenomenon that we have never seen before: The dark has gotten darker. In all the aeons of time that the Akashic Records show us, we can't find any precedent for this [the Akashic records are a sort of cosmic library].

We even went to other planetary systems to see if any planet had ever turned this dark or this light. We're beginning to believe there is more to this than we even know, because we're seeing Nuovaites coming in by droves [I would classify Nuovo as a positively polarized fourth dimensional planet]. They're taking the position of your guides. It's almost like a group of tremendous warriors are coming in.

Based on what we've learned, I believe that this planet has become a pawn in the gigantic scheme of things, far beyond anything that any of us have ever realized. What happens here impacts the whole universe (Browne, 2001:59-60).

Before commenting on Francine's perspective, let me tell you what I've pieced together about how the Game of Duality is played at different dimensional levels.

- In the ***third dimension*** the game is very physical, with an agreed upon reality that follows the rules of physics pretty much as it is understood by mainstream science. As I have already noted, on mixed-polarization

planets, such as Earth, the game is especially intense since service-to-self and service-to-others souls are rubbing shoulders all the time. Because service-to-others souls on mixed planets have agreed to forget that they are individuated aspects of the Source of All That Is and Does, the “e” word has great power because we perceive it as something different from ourselves. Third dimensional all-positive and all-negative planets play the Game of Duality most intensely through interplanetary and interstellar warfare.

- In the *fourth dimension* the game is still what we would perceive as physical, but the collectively agreed-upon reality is more fluid and subject to modification by individual thought and intention. Along with this fluidity comes a greater ease in traveling through both space and time. There are no mixed planets in the fourth dimension because service-to-others souls cannot be manipulated on a mass scale as in the third dimension. Consequently, inhabited planets are either positively or negatively polarized. This is where the Game of Duality is played on a grand scale through time and space. The factor that keeps the game from getting completely out of hand is that when positively and negatively polarized forces confront each other, each experiences a weakening of their respective polarization. Thus, a strategic retreat by both sides is often necessary to allow regrouping and recovery.
- In the *fifth dimension* individuated consciousness is at its most powerful level having complete mastery of material reality, although some collectively agreed-upon reality, which generally corresponds to third and fourth dimensional material reality, exists to serve as a meeting ground with other 5D Beings. This is the level at which the limitations of the service-to-self path really begin to be evident. It is so difficult for a service-to-self soul to achieve this level of mastery that there are very few such souls compared to the number of service-to-others souls at this level. On the other hand, the negatively polarized 5D higher dimensional Beings (HBDs) are extremely powerful and, as masters of manipulation, focus their energy on playing the Game of Duality in lower dimensions, using negatively-polarized 3D and 4D players to do their dirty work and positively-polarized souls on mixed 3D planets as their pawns.

- In the early *sixth dimension*, according to Ra, the negatively polarized soul quickly recognizes that the service-to-self path is a dead end and switches its polarization to service to others. When this happens, very powerful positive energy is released amidst much rejoicing in the cosmos, which is one reason why the service-to-self path is greatly honored as a spiritual path.

The above summary of how the Game of Duality is played at different dimensional levels provides a larger framework for understanding Sylvia Browne's guide Francine's portrayal of Earth as a battleground for the forces of Light and Darkness. This is a typically fourth-dimensional way to characterize the Game of Duality (although I find that fifth dimensional HDBs may also use this terminology). The reason I suspect that Francine is offering a relatively limited 4D perspective is the way she characterizes Earth as a "pawn" in the larger scheme of things. In Chapter 8 (Sections 8.1 and 8.2) I will be offering a variety of higher dimensional perspectives which suggest, to continue with the metaphor of a chess game, that Earth is more like the Queen or King in the game.

The positive aspect of viewing Earth as a battleground between the forces of Light and Darkness is that it encourages us to make a conscious choice as to where our allegiance lies. In this respect, I prefer this view to the nihilism of post-modern philosophy that everything is relative, and by implication, meaningless (I oversimplify and freely admit to a personal dislike of post-modernist deconstructionism). The self-aware, manipulative service-to-self soul takes equal delight in ambivalence and ambiguity, on the one hand, and absolute certainty, on the other. The service-to-others soul on 3D Earth has the tricky task of using discernment to navigate a course between these extremes.

The potential pitfall of the militaristic imagery of Earth as a battleground is that we can give unmerited energy to what Carla Rueckert calls the "Loyal Opposition" (Rueckert, 2001:75) by encouraging a confrontational approach. In Japan a subtler form of the game of chess, called Shogi, is played. Many of the pieces move in a fashion similar to chess, but the big difference is that any piece one has captured can be redeployed as one's own piece. Consequently,

the pieces are not black and white, since any piece (except the king) can be played on either side. I prefer to view the Game of Duality on Earth as I would a game of Shogi, in which opposing pieces are allies to be won over rather than as enemies to be defeated and taken out of the game.

The Game of Duality becomes more nuanced as we move to higher dimensions. A better metaphor might be the Japanese game of Go, a game I can play but to which I can claim no mastery. In contrast to a chessboard, which has 64 squares, Go is played on a grid with 361 intersections. The game is played with circular black and white stones which make a pleasing clink when placed on the board. The basic rules are simple, but masters of the game play with a subtlety that my mind can scarcely comprehend. In chess, the simple objective is to checkmate the opposing king. In Go, the master's objective is to create a board with an aesthetic pattern of black and white in which the victor wins by a margin of one space (i.e., when the last stone is played, the winner controls half the board plus one space). From a third dimensional perspective it is hard to see evidence that the game is being played in this way on Earth, but my sense is that it is.

When I say, Shift Happens, I am acknowledging that life on Earth isn't all sweetness and light. The Game of Duality can get pretty messy, but the messiness is a little easier to deal with if we can recognize it as a game. The game becomes even easier when we realize that we have some choice in how we play it. I would like to conclude this section with yet another higher dimensional perspective which uses the battle metaphor, but frames it in terms of different energies without using the term darkness:

*When we call you “Warriors of the Light,” do you now understand that this connotes a battle of some kind? In this case the battle is between new energy enlightenment and old energy stubbornness. It is the struggle of many old energy individuals to enter the new energy paradigm kicking and screaming with fear. The battle therefore is one of individual self-improvement or individual self-denial (**Kryon III, 1995:43**).*

6.2.3 Why Do the Innocent Suffer?

Dear one, there can be no wrong path and no wrong decisions. All is done in perfection for your soul, and your energy will bring you to have those experiences that will most assist your growth. Your personality may cry out, 'I do not wish to have this experience,' but the soul will inexorably guide it to have the next lesson. If you refuse to learn the lesson, if your personality will not integrate the lesson, then you will be given the same lesson again and again, maybe through many lifetimes until finally you accept it with gratitude and with love. Ortan (de Alberdi, 2000:147-148).

I have become comfortable enough (but never complacent!) with the picture of the larger reality which I have presented in previous chapters that I sometimes get myself into trouble by saying things which make sense in my frame of reference, but not necessarily from a third dimensional human perspective. For example, I had a conversation about the situation in the Middle East with a peace activist friend who has risked his life in Israel working for the Palestinian cause. He is also a very spiritual person, and at a certain point in the conversation I said, "I'm not sure what you think about reincarnation, but I find it helps me keep my emotional equilibrium, despite the terrible things that are happening there, when I consider that those who are in the thick of it chose to be there."

I knew immediately that I had tripped his strangeness circuit breaker when he responded that what I said amounted to sanctioning injustice and provided an excuse for inaction and complacency. His actual response was a little more diplomatic, but I have put it more bluntly because it was not the first time I had received a negative response to what seems to me a logical implication of what I have learned about reincarnation. The idea that anyone would *choose* to be born into poverty, to be a victim of sexual abuse, to be aborted as a fetus is offensive. That which is best in us, that which cares about justice and believes in the value and dignity of every human rejects the idea that when bad things happen to good people it is by choice.

It is not my intention that the perspective I am going to offer now be used as an excuse for complacency or inaction in situations where we have an

opportunity to speak truth to power and act to challenge injustice. At the same time I find the metaphor of duality as a game a helpful way to avoid unproductive anger or guilt about unjust situations in which we have no direct involvement.

The higher dimensional perspective on suffering and injustice that I offer here hinges on several important premises. The first is that our consciousness continues after death of the physical body and that many of us experience multiple physical incarnations on Earth. The human-based evidence for this is covered in some detail in Section 3.3, and this is a point upon which many, many higher dimensional sources agree. The second premise is that experience on third-dimensional Earth is only a small part of who we are as multidimensional beings. As Kryon says:

*You are all high entities walking on this planet, disguised as simple biological beings...and the disguise fools everyone, even you. This is the basis of duality. You are really two people. The 'real you' is the high entity, whose power and knowledge each of you owns, and the 'phantom' is the shell of humanism in lesson. The irony here is that you perceive the phantom as real, and the real you as the phantom (**Kryon II, 1994:20**).*

The idea of Earth as a school is a commonly used metaphor for third-dimensional experience here. Before we incarnate into a physical body we develop a lesson plan (drawing up a contract is another way it is described), and we don't move on to the next grade, or dimension, until we have fulfilled the requirements of the curriculum. The quote that began this section, by an HDB named Ortan, is framed in terms of lessons to be learned. In some ways the school metaphor is misleading because, although there are tests, there is no failure in this school akin to the stigma associated with not passing on to the next grade. There may be surprises, but according to Ra, there are no mistakes (Ra, 1984).

Another way of looking at it is that whatever we do, we learn our lessons, but depending on our choices we may make the learning more or less painful for ourselves and others. Caroline Myss in her book *Sacred Contracts* gives the example of someone deciding to learn how to use a knife. Once incarnated he or she might pick up a knife for the first time by the sharp end and get hurt

and decide that knives are for hurting people, or pick up the knife by the handle and decide it can be used to heal people by becoming a surgeon (Myss, 2003). There is *no negative judgment* made by one's guides during the life review after a life is over for choices that ended up hurting oneself or others because that *does not reflect who we truly are*. The higher dimensional sources in which I have the greatest confidence agree on this.

Other commonly used metaphors describe experience on planet Earth as a game or theatrical production. I have already spoken of the Game of Duality. I also find the analogy to a theatrical production to be especially apt. Every actor has a role to play. No matter how vicious the villain is, when the production is over, everyone in the cast takes off their makeup and puts away their costumes and has a good time at the cast party. A good actor who plays the villain will absolutely convince the audience that he is evil, but he isn't. What's different about the theatrical production on planet Earth is that the larger drama is only roughly mapped out, and each person scripts the outline to their part before entering the drama. However, once we enter it, and in the process forget that we are high entities disguised as biological human beings, free will allows us exceptional possibilities for improvisation.

Kryon has put it another way, calling everyone on earth “angelic scientists”(Kryon VII, 1999:62) involved in a unique intergalactic experiment (see Section 8.2.5):

You are not the experiment. You are not the test. Energy is the test. You are wearing the white coats. You are therefore, the experimenters, facilitating the work of the test (Kryon VII, 1999:151).

Let's take an example of a woman who has been sexually abused as a child. Why would someone chose such an experience? It turns out that such an experience provides opportunities for spiritual growth that a conventional happy-home upbringing does not. A lot more positive energy can be created by healing oneself from such an experience and forgiving the abuser (remember energy is the test, the abused woman is the experimenter). I don't think it is an accident that very few early Lightworkers (to whom this book is dedicated) had happy, well-adjusted childhoods. Jamie Sams, author of *Dancing the Dream* is a good example. As a child she was abused by her

mother, and her spiritual journey involved many challenges. At one point, after she had healed the scars of her abuse, her mother came to her in a dream and said with tears streaming down her face that they had agreed to what happened before Jamie was born and how hard it had been for her to play that role (Sams, 1998).

Now, let's go back to the statement I made to my peace activist friend that started this whole discussion: I find it helps me keep my emotional equilibrium despite the terrible things that are happening in the Middle East and elsewhere when I consider that those who are in the thick of it chose to be there. Can you see the higher dimensional perspective now? Can you admire the high entities who have incarnated as Israeli soldiers and Palestinian guerrillas for their courage and their potential for creating positive energy in such a difficult setting? There is no negative judgment of those who become so caught up in their roles that they continue the pattern of violence. They are setting the stage for an even more powerful release of positive energy when hundreds are joined by thousands and then tens of thousands to break the cycle by responding to hatred and violence with love.

6.2.4 BETOs, METOs and NETOs.

In Section 3.7 I presented the various lines of human-based evidence that led me to accept the existence of extraterrestrials who are playing an active role in the Great Shift. You don't have to delve very far into the UFO and ET literature to realize that the ETs are very much into playing the Game of Duality. I have found it convenient for my own map of the territory to identify broad types of ETs: beneficial, neutral and mischievous. These ETs form various organizations in order to play the Game of Duality. Beneficial extraterrestrial organizations (BETOs), as the name implies, are here to help humanity make the Shift. The mischievous extraterrestrial organizations (METOs) have taken on the role of the bad guys as the game is being played here on Earth. In the grand scheme of things they can be thought of as teachers to us service-to-others souls, but from the perspective of the game as it is played in the trenches it is obvious that they do not consciously have humanity's best interests at heart.

The neutral extraterrestrial organizations (NETOs) have taught me that the Game of Duality isn't always as simple and black and white, but that there are

also shades of gray. Perhaps it isn't an accident that the UFO community uses the name Grays to refer to members of a group that I identify as NETOs. Some NETOs seem to be pursuing their own agenda without the intent to harm humans, but the result is what I call a scary extraterrestrial experience (SETE--see more on this in Section C2.6). Other NETOs seem to function more as truly neutral observers or may play the role of referees to ensure that the BETOs and METOs are abiding by the rules of the game.

The ETs are currently participating in the game on Earth at the third, fourth and fifth dimensional levels. My sense is that most of the activity is taking place in 4D (hence the difficulty in finding unambiguous physical evidence), but there has been enough third dimensional ET activity to keep secret government programs busy. Most of the third dimensional support comes in the form of incarnated Starseed souls, that is, souls whose primary incarnational experience is from higher dimensional planets in other star systems. Humanity and planet Earth are receiving significant fifth dimensional BETO support as well. The very large majority of ETs in the vicinity of Earth and our solar system are associated with BETOs. They come from hundreds, perhaps thousands of star systems and galaxies, although numerically most are associated with the four star systems that have historically had the greatest involvement in the Earth experiment: Arcturus, Orion, the Pleiades, and Sirius.

In my opinion, the amount of attention focused by the UFO community and some parts of the New Age community has given the METOs and the secret shadow government (also referred to as the Illuminati) more energy than they merit. At the same time I honor those who seek to expose the deceit and selfishness that lies behind these secret programs and associations. They have chosen an important role in the game. For the rest of us, however, it is enough to be aware of the Loyal Opposition and how it operates without becoming overly fascinated or obsessed by the details, because by doing so we give it energy that could be used in more positive ways. My own approach to dealing with the Loyal Opposition is to relegate it to an Appendix. In Section C2 I say more about the path of service to self and offer a Cliff Notes-style introduction to the secret shadow government, METOs, SETEs, and religious and UFO cults. From my own experience, I can say that encounters with mischievous entities can be unsettling at best, so I also share some tips and resources for dealing with them should your role in the Game

of Duality require such encounters.

6.2.5 The Spiritual Winter

*Things may seem to get worse before they get better, for that is the “scraping of the foundation” as you rebuild the structure of your civilization. It's not a pleasant experience to have some of these ugly and very old energies brought into focus, is it? Yet that's one of the attributes of turning on the light in a place that has harbored so much ugliness in the darkness. Blessed is the Human Being who looks upon these things and understands the entire scope of what's taking place, yet still has joy. Blessed are the Human Beings who still have the wisdom and the knowing that they were built for peace on Earth, despite all that's taking place around them (Kryon/Lee Carroll, **Sedona Journal of Emergence**, February 2004:22).*

The Christian mystic St John the Divine spoke of the dark night of the soul that comes before the ecstatic feeling of union with the Source of All That Is and Does (he called it God). On the eve of the 2004 U.S. presidential election, Kryon spoke of a “spiritual winter” that is likely to continue for a while longer (Kryon/Lee Carroll, **Sedona Journal of Emergence**, November 2004:20). Each of us has our own timing, and speaking from personal experience, I can say that we don't need to wait until the last sword is beaten into a plowshare to experience the dawn, or the spring thaw. In the Introduction I said that I greet each day with anticipation and hope for the future. I also frequently send prayers to places on the planet where many are still in the grips of the spiritual winter. Each individual awakening, each tentative step we take to reclaim our power as multidimensional Beings weakens winter's grip.

6.2.6 Moving to the Next Round of the Game.

For service-to-others souls the great challenge, when immersed in the Game of Duality, is to let go of feelings of anger or fear that arise when faced with a person or event that we perceive as representing or supporting the darkness. The HDB Emmanuel says it well: “The darkness needs to be seen, not as a threat, but as an opportunity to love” (Emmanuel, 1987:80). I know this is easier said than done. The ascended master Djwhal Khul suggests replacing the image of a conflict between forces of light and darkness with the image of forces of sinking versus the force of rising toward a greater intensity of light (Starre, 2004:63).

The Great Shift is all about moving the Game of Duality to a higher dimensional level. The question of which dimension or dimensions and how the shift is happening on Earth is a complicated one that I will address in the next two chapters. Here I will simply say that no service-to-self souls need apply — they will be given the opportunity to play the game on another planet. For service-to-others souls the minimum passing grade is not all that demanding: a light quotient of at least 51%. That percentage comes from the classic esoteric text *Book of Oasphe* (Newbrough, 1882) and is confirmed by Ra (1984). Apparently there are higher dimensional instruments that measure one's light quotient with a precision of at least one percentage point. Full activation of the heart chakra is another measure of readiness to make the dimensional shift. Jehovah/YHWH (who identifies itself as part of a group of beings from another universe who created and are responsible for maintaining this part of the galaxy), channeled by Arthur Fanning, says it nicely:

*There are 400,000 questions on your quiz before you ascend and the answer is the same for each question: Love (YHWH/Arthur Fanning, *Shining The Light IV*, December 1, 1995:140, www.lighttechnology.com).*

Do you feel victimized? You are a courageous high entity who has chosen a difficult path. When you are able to transcend your victimhood with love and forgiveness there is celebration in the higher realms. If you choose not to, there is no judgment that you have failed. You are the experimenter, not the test. Do you have friends who see themselves as victims of abuse or poverty? Honor the high entities that they are and the courageous path they have

chosen. Offer a helping hand if it seems appropriate, but you are not responsible for the outcome of the experiment that they have set up.

6.2.7 Beyond Duality: Shades of Love.

The physical universe, much like your own planet, must have balance, and this balance is represented in many shades of energy. The shades of energy we speak of are different shades of love — just like on Earth. Some of you will call certain shades negative energy, but it isn't. All balance is simply shades of love (Kryon VII, 1999:150).

I have to admit here that I am hooked on the Game of Duality and have committed myself to playing it through to the highest dimension in which it is played. I am personally more interested in the subtler aspects of the game (the Go version rather than the chess version), but I respect those who choose to play a more confrontational version of the game. There are also less dualistic and no n-dualistic ways of looking at the human experience. The Taoist concept of yin and yang softens the dualistic view by representing each flowing into the other. In the above quote, Kryon transcends duality by offering the concept of different shades of love. I admire individuals who are able to follow a spiritual path of service to others, managing to operate on this kind of understanding as an alternative to participating in the Game of Duality. Some individuals who seem to be able to do this are trance channel Kevin Ryerson (see his take on negative entities and spirit possession in Ryerson and Harolde, 1989:46-49), and Machaelle Small Wright in her work with nature intelligences (see Sections 3.6.3 for more on her work).

The term duality implies two sides, and to call it a game in common experience suggests winners and losers. However, games do not need to have winners and losers. The New Games movement, begun in the early 1970s emphasizes games as a group activity where everyone wins by playing to their own level of ability (New Games Foundation, 1976). Those are the games we will play on the New Earth. In the rest of this chapter we will take a look at how our human potentials may be expressed on a higher dimensional Earth.

6.3 Human Perspectives on the Shift

In the 1950s, when I was a young boy, my mother learned Dutch so she could translate the work of the Dutch sociologist Fred Polak, eventually published in English as *The Image of the Future* (Polak, 1973). Polak's basic thesis was that our human ability to imagine the future shapes the dynamics of the historical process. The rise and fall of civilizations is foreshadowed by the positive or negative images that people hold of what is to come. My mother later put this principle into practice by giving workshops titled “Imaging a World Without Weapons” which she gave all over the world. Over the years thousands of people in these workshops have projected their imaginations thirty years into the future and envisioned a world without weapons and what such a world would look like. After group sharing of images of a peaceful world, participants then worked backwards in their imaginations to identify events and actions that created their imagined world. Finally, they set out concrete, short-term, personal objectives to help create a world where weapons are no longer needed.

Participating in such a workshop, as I did in 1983, was an empowering experience. In my mother's public lectures I also heard her describe her distinctive way of living in the moment. She called it “the two-hundred-year present.” At any given moment we have access to the experiences of people who were born one hundred years before and also have a connection to the future through children who have just been born and will live to be centenarians.

I would like you to join me in developing a human, two-hundred-year present perspective on the Great Shift extending back to the beginning of the twentieth century and forward into the beginning of the twenty-second century. I will be using knowledge that scientists have gained in the last hundred years about exceptional human potentials as a model for what is possible for everyone in the future. I will offer the results of my own vision of what human relationships to one another and to planet Earth might look like a hundred years in the future. Then I will invite you to exercise your own social imagination for the future.

6.3.1 The Possible Future Human.

Michael Murphy, a long time leader of the human potential movement, in his book *The Future of the Body* presents an impressive array of evidence that we humans have inherent capacities for metanormal perception, cognition, movement, vitality and spiritual development (Murphy, 1992). In doing so, Murphy draws from more than 3,000 sources that encompass a survey of ancient and modern records in medical science, sports, anthropology, the arts, paranormal research, comparative religious studies and numerous other disciplines. Jean Houston uses the term “possible human” for these abilities and for many years has taught techniques for enhancing physical, mental and creative abilities (Houston, 1997). I am grateful to both Murphy and Houston for expanding my own understanding of the potentials and possibilities of human experience.

The Great Shift is all about fulfilling our potentials and possibilities as humans. Everyone has their own timing in expressing these potentials. These possibilities are available to us right now, and I have encountered many individuals who manifest some of the traits described below and a few who manifest many of these traits. A hundred years from now I think it is likely that what seem to be exceptional abilities now will be the norm and that we will have to develop a new definition of the possible human. In the following discussion, I have chosen to minimize use of the qualifying language “may,” “could” or “perhaps,” but I want to make it clear that I am talking about possible details of what I see as a probable, positive future in which all of humanity has the opportunity to make the dimensional shift. In Section 7.4 and 7.5 I provide more details about the timeline shift that opened up the possibilities which I describe here.

So, what is possible for individuals in the future? I see us free of fear, anger, and guilt. Imagine no longer fearing death or doubting one’s adequacy. What other negative emotions do you feel or see in others? Shame? Addictive desire? Apathy? Embarrassment? Arrogance? We will be free of those as well.

There will be no place for debilitating, despondent grief, but I think there will be sorrow. The capacity for sorrow provides a necessary counterpoint to joy. Our individual being and our relationships with other humans and our

relationship with the splendor of All That Is and Does will be grounded in love. For those who are so inclined, a positive sense of competition will provide motivation for achievement. We will all take satisfaction in tasks well done individually and cooperatively. I expect that there will still be individuals who are risk-takers and those who are more cautious. Our freedom from fear will allow the courageous to take risks in their creative endeavors. The more cautious, who love the risk-takers, will have the courage to watch without anxiety.

Physically we will be free of congenital deformity and of infectious and other diseases. There will be no single standard for physical beauty. I think it is possible that eventually, within the template of the current human body, we will be able to choose our sex, height, weight, proportions, and skin, hair and eye color. Who knows where we may ultimately choose to take the physical aspect of our species. We will have the choice of conforming to the standards of physical beauty of those around us or create our own standard of beauty. Our flexibility and physical strength will be commensurate with the level of physical activity to which we are attracted.

Those who choose more sedentary lives will not need to worry about becoming flabby, and those who choose to test the limits of human physical achievement and endurance will do awesome things. We will be able to control involuntary physical processes to stay warm in cold weather and cool in hot weather. We will also be able to control our brain waves as needed: alpha and theta for meditation and creative reverie, beta to be alert and active, delta when its time to sleep.

We currently use a small percentage of the capacity of our brains (estimates vary from 5 to 20 percent). In the future we will rapidly learn to use the full capacity of our brains for creative endeavors. My mind boggles when I try to imagine what that might mean for art and science. Our thoughts will be transparent to others (a good incentive to watch our thoughts carefully), so we will have the choice of using words or thoughts for communication. We will be able to move small objects effortlessly by thought alone; those who wish to develop this ability will be able to move heavier objects.

In the future clairvoyant and clairaudient high sense perception will be normal. This will include the ability to perceive and interpret the human

energy field and universal energy field. We will perceive each others' auras and, when appropriate, different levels of a person's energy body. We will be able to perceive and communicate directly with nature elementals (devas and nature spirits). We will also have visual and auditory perception of guides and advisors from higher dimensions. In addition to acute visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory and taste abilities, we will enjoy synesthesia (cross-sensing), being able to hear color and touch the textures of music, smell words, and taste subtle feelings.

6.3.2 Future Interpersonal Relationships.

The fundamental pain of modern human existence is the feeling of being alone. We may experience moments of transcendence where we feel the unity of all creation or the joy of sharing experiences with people we love. In the end, however, we are left with the feeling that we are separate beings. No other person, even those closest to us, can really see things the way we see them, just as we cannot see as they see. Most of us would like to live in a way that causes no harm to others and planet Earth. Yet, so much of the food that we eat and the energy and materials that we use in our daily lives is painfully connected in some way to human injustice and ecological destruction (I recommend Wackernagel and Rees, 1996, to anyone interested in pursuing this). When we reflect on what impact we can have on this injustice and destruction, we are left with a feeling of helplessness. We are so inextricably bound up in the web of interdependence that it seems very difficult to do anything individually to make a significant change for the better.

In the future we will no longer feel alone and separate. Physician and energy healer Richard Moss refers to this as reawakening the “I That Is We” (Moss, 1981: Chapter 13). Our sense of connection to the unity of all creation will be a comforting undercurrent to our individual existence. No one will ever wonder how anyone is feeling or what they are thinking because our thoughts and feelings will be visible to each other's high sense perception. Furthermore, we will have a connection with the collective consciousness of humanity that, when faced with a choice of action, will let us know *without a doubt* which alternative serves the highest good for ourselves, humanity and planet Earth. This last certainty alone is enough for me to want to be part of the Great Shift. Will eating that extra cookie give me more calories than I need to maintain my optimum weight? Yes, but after all we have free will, so

I'll have it anyway knowing that it won't cause me serious harm. We want to have a child. Is now an appropriate time? No. Will we know when the time is right? Yes. All right, we'll wait.

I will admit that the idea of my thoughts and feelings being transparent to others gives me pause. I think it likely that full development of our telepathic abilities is down the road a ways. We will need a transition period where the focus is completing any personal healing that remains to be done and devoting ourselves to healing planet Earth. I would imagine that we would be allowed to shield any negative thoughts or feelings from others until we are completely free of them, at which time there will be no reason for additional shielding. An interesting question is whether modesty will continue after the transformation. I can imagine times when individuals might desire privacy, at which time a shield might be placed around our energy fields that gives a message: do not disturb.

Please notice that nothing I have described suggests a future that requires us to subsume our sense of individual self into a collective mind which dictates who we are and what we can do. This will not be like a bee hive or ant colony where individual roles and behavior are rigidly defined. Free will is fundamental to our existence as conscious, evolutionary, spiritual beings. In the next two chapters we will see that free will and the Game of Duality make Earth an amazing and wonderful place to be at this time.

6.3.3 An Explosion of Human Diversity into 100,000 Societies.

Planet Earth is a special place in the universe both for the incredible diversity of life in its biosphere and for the diversity of human cultures that contribute to what Teilhard de Chardin called the Noosphere. The Shift will come none too soon for Earth's biodiversity — the direct and indirect effects of human activity are causing plant and animal species to go extinct at a rate comparable to the catastrophic extinction at the end of the era of dinosaurs 70 million years ago (Leakey and Lewin, 1995). Languages, a measure of human cultural diversity, are dying out at an equally alarming rate. Of the world's 6,000 languages, half are not being taught to children, and languages are becoming extinct at twice the rate of endangered mammals and four times the rate of endangered birds (Rosemarie Ostler, "Disappearing Languages," *The Futurist*, August-September, 1999).

My mother, Elise Boulding, in her recent book *Cultures of Peace*, offers a vision of a more peaceful future:

A richer and more diversified peace culture than any of us can now easily imagine, an interconnected global peace culture, is there to be built out of the languages and lifeways and knowledge and experiences of the “10,000 societies” now spread across the 185 states of today's world (Boulding, 2000:4-5).

The “10,000 societies” is an approximation of the known cultural diversity that exists among indigenous and other peoples, and the first time I heard this number, it fired my own imagination of what a future might be like in a world that fostered rather than suppressed human expressions of diversity. This idea gained new meaning for me as I encountered descriptions from higher dimensional and human sources of life on other planets. If these descriptions are representative, there is a great diversity of sentient life forms in the cosmos, although any given planet tends to be culturally homogeneous.

From the perspective of the two-hundred year present, the development of our human potentials and our increasing sense of conscious interconnectedness, described in the previous two sections, will allow us in the next hundred years to focus on healing ourselves and the planet at many levels — personally, in family relationships, as communities, and as societies. We will also work collectively to heal the physical wounds we have created on planet Earth and foster a new explosion of speciation to re-inhabit the areas we have desolated. This is the wonderful work that lies ahead of us.

As for ourselves, why restrict ourselves to recovering the 10,000 societies? Let them proliferate to 100,000! This could happen in several ways. There could be a revitalization and proliferation of indigenous cultures, an archaic revival, to use ethnobotanist Terence McKenna's term (McKenna, 1991). The remnants of surviving indigenous peoples could use shamanic methods to access the past and recover languages and traditional knowledge, if they so choose, or to create new ones. Individuals from a nonindigenous cultural background who are attracted to such a way of life (for example members of the Society of Primitive Technology) could create new cultures. The indigenous cultural path would tend to focus geographically on areas that are

not suitable for supporting dense populations (deserts, mountains, tundra and boreal forests) and tropical areas where indigenous cultural diversity is still high (the Amazon, Papua New Guinea, Caledonia, etc.). The indigenous cultural path would tend towards hunting/gathering, nomadic herding and low intensity agriculture.

For those who feel drawn to a more settled relationship with the land, the agricultural path would be available. This would be concentrated in areas of the planet that are suitable for intensive agricultural production, the bread baskets of the American Midwest and Europe, and the historical areas of intensive crop production in Asia. The distinctive regional characteristics of agricultural production in Europe and Asia with historical roots of hundreds to thousands of years would flower again and diversify. Areas of large-scale, intensive, agricultural production in the Americas, Australia, New Zealand and Africa that have lost character, or never had a distinctive regional character, could be divided into areas of family-size holdings along natural geographic boundaries, such as watersheds, as suggested by proponents of the bioregional movement (Sale, 1991). One difference I foresee from the conventional bioregional approach is that ecologically benign, transportation technology will not limit transportation of food to local urban centers.

I can imagine a time when the Napa Valley wine producing region in California will have as distinct a cultural character as the Loire valley in France and Rhine Valley in Germany. Eventually, national, provincial, and state political boundaries will be redrawn to reflect cultural regions. If an existing cultural region succeeds in diversifying further, the boundaries could be redrawn. We will no longer have a political map of the planet, but a cultural map, with the number of cultures delineating a measure of our success in achieving cultural diversity (I'm rooting for 100,000).

In order for six billion plus people to live in harmony on Earth, the majority of us will live in urban areas as is the case today, although it would not surprise me if the population a hundred years from now is substantially less. I'm a country boy myself, so I will leave it to you readers who are city dwellers to imagine what it would be like to live in a city where the positive aspects are enhanced and the negative aspects are eliminated or minimal. For those who value a sense of ethnic identity, there would be ethnic neighborhoods. For those whose prefer cultural diversity, multiculturally-

oriented neighborhoods would exist. Indigenous and agricultural, cultural diversification would take place within relatively large geographic areas. In urban areas, cultural diversification would take place at the neighborhood level.

I envision this planetary cultural diversity as being free of the negative aspects that sometimes accompany tribalism and ethnicity. In the future, suspicion and non-acceptance of those who are not a member of the group will cease, as will oppressive demands for conformity within the group. We will have the freedom to choose our cultural identity, with the advantage of knowing when, where and how we can best accomplish this through our connection to the collective human consciousness that knows what is best for us as individuals and all of humanity. But best of all, we will not have to change our sense of cultural identity to experience other ways of living. The “stranger” will always be welcomed wherever he or she goes. Do you live in the city and feel a yen to experience some country living? You would be welcomed as a helper at planting or harvest time at any number of locations around the planet that supply the food you eat. Are you curious about what it is like to live as a desert nomad? You would be welcomed as an honored guest in exchange for telling stories to the nomad's children about what it is like to live in your cultural tradition.

Part of our task as participants in the Great Shift is learning to make technology serve humanity rather than be its master. There will be no need for fast food restaurants because we will no longer be in a rush. Technology will be used as a means to increase leisure rather than be a tyrant that requires us to accomplish more and more during an eight to ten-hour work day. If we are attracted to computers they will be used as an outlet for creativity rather than a dulling of the senses through keyboarding data that has no meaning to the person entering the data. If we are not attracted to computers we can express our creativity in any number of other ways.

Technology will be benign in its effects on human health and planet Earth as a whole. The ecological problems resulting from the extraction, conversion and use of coal, uranium, oil and gas — scarring of the Earth, water and air pollution — will cease when we start using technology that we already have but aren't using, along with other technologies that mainstream science says is improbable. The production of toxic chemicals will cease as scientists

develop processes that eliminate their need or develop harmless substitutes.

This is already happening, but I foresee that people will, in steadily increasing numbers, be drawn to participate in a grand project of global ecological restoration. The consciousness of Mother Earth and local elemental spirits will guide us in determining the amount and location of land and water to preserve in order to enhance the balance and biodiversity of our planet. When this requires populations of humans to move, we will relocate willingly because we will *know* through our connection to the collective human consciousness that our move will help heal damage done to the planet for which we all hold some responsibility. We will also experience the added anticipation of the creative possibilities opened up for us by moving to a new location. There will be no forced relocations in which we are told to move to a specific place. We will be free to choose among many possibilities.

6.3.4 Imagine Your Own Possibilities.

I have shared my own vision of a possible future where health and wholeness for ourselves, for all of humanity and for the planet are the norm, but it is only one of many possible positive futures. It is entirely possible, perhaps likely, that each of us will experience the Shift in our own way. Imagine life free of fear and limitation, free of physical and emotional problems. Release the fetters that bind your mind into perceiving yourself as having limited physical or mental abilities. Does watching sports give you vicarious pleasure? Have you wondered what it would be like to experience the “zone” described by star athletes when all their senses are heightened and time slows down, allowing the athlete to make a spectacular play. *Anyone* willing to devote the focus for developing the skill could be such an athlete in the future. The only spectators to sports after the transformation will be those whose own passion lies elsewhere, but who find pleasure in seeing others play out *their* passion for physical excellence. Where does your passion lie? Before reading any further I invite you to set this book aside and spend fifteen minutes or more imagining what *you* would like to be different for yourself, those you love, all of humanity, and the rest of life on planet Earth.

Back again? Whatever you imagined is just a starting point for the new

reality we are creating together. The important thing to keep in mind is that we are still caterpillars at this stage. We need to also be open to letting the Great Shift unfold in ways that are beyond our comprehension.

6.4 Higher Dimensional Perspectives on the Great Shift

I would not speak with the confidence I have expressed in this chapter if it were not for the fact that many higher dimensional sources confirm that the Great Shift in human consciousness is well underway. The previous section on human perspectives was actually one of the first things I wrote when I started this project, when my own frame of reference for understanding the larger reality was still in its formative stages. I had originally intended to place it as the second chapter because I was so eager to share my positive view of the future. Early reactions I received made me realize that I was trying to go too far, too fast. It just seemed too pie in the sky and improbable. When I came back to this material after more systematically developing my rational framework for understanding the Great Shift, I realized that my two-hundred-year present envisioning of the future, as wonderful as it felt to me, gives only a partial image of the multidimensional possibilities that lie ahead of us.

In the next two chapters I will continue to develop a multidimensional framework for understanding the Shift in more detail based largely on information from higher dimensional sources. Here I will only note that my description of 100,000 societies is a reasonable envisioning of human experience on a future fourth dimensional Earth. The best information I have at this time is that most of humanity will choose to settle at this dimensional level for a while at least, but that individually we have a much wider range of options. God, speaking through Neal Donald Walsch, gives us an inkling of these possibilities:

There is only one purpose for all of life, and that is for you and all that lives to experience fullest glory.

Everything else you say, think, or do is attendant to that function. There is nothing else for your soul to do, and nothing else your soul wants to do.

The wonder of this purpose is that it is never-ending. An ending is a limitation, and God's purpose is without such a

boundary. Should there come a moment in which you experience yourself in your fullest glory, you will in that instant imagine an ever greater glory to fulfill. The more you are, the more you can become, and the more you can become, the more you can yet be.

The deepest secret is that life is not a process of discovery, but a process of creation.

You are not discovering yourself, but creating yourself anew. Seek, therefore, not to find out Who You Are, seek to determine Who You Want to Be (Walsch, 1995:20).

6.5 A Downside to a Quantum Leap in Consciousness?

The hundredth monkey syndrome popularized by Ken Keyes (1989) has become a commonly cited example of animal behavior illustrating how a quantum leap in consciousness might occur. The idea is drawn loosely from a study of monkeys that inhabited remote islands off the southern tip of Japan in 1952. When introduced to potatoes, a new source of food that had been dumped into the sand, the monkeys were reluctant to eat the food until a mature female learned how to wash the potatoes in a nearby stream. As the popular story goes, other monkeys on the island learned the behavior until the time that about one hundred monkeys adopted the strategy. Then suddenly tens of thousands of monkeys on different islands knew how to wash the potatoes. Skeptics have pointed out that the story summarized above has little relationship to the findings reported in the scientific paper which reported the research (Schick and Vaughn, 1999), but I value the story for its metaphoric appeal even if it isn't strictly grounded in fact.

The value of a quantum leap in consciousness seems implicit in Albert Einstein's statement that you can't solve problems with the way of thinking that created them (I have found many variants of this quote attributed to him). I confess that I accepted the hundredth monkey metaphor as a good one until I was caught up short by the following statement by psychologist Maureen O'Hara:

I most emphatically cannot agree that the "Hundredth Monkey myth empowers." In fact, I believe it to be a betrayal of the whole idea of human empowerment. In this myth the individual as a responsible agent disappears, what empowers is no longer

the moral force of one's beliefs, not their empirical status, rather, it is the number of people who share them. Once the magic number is reached, curiosity, science, art, criticism, doubt and all other such activities subversive to the common consensus become unnecessary or even worse. Individuals no longer have any obligation to develop their own worldview within such a collectiv — it will come to them from those around. Nor are we called to develop our arguments and articulate them for, by magic, those around us will catch them anyway (O'Hara, 1989).

If I understand O'Hara's concerns correctly, she has two distinct but related concerns. The first is the possibility that a collective human consciousness would function tyrannically by imposing its “higher” will on individual consciousness. The second is that being part of such a consciousness would result in the temptation to abdicate one's responsibility for independent thought and action. My earlier description of the possible future human foresees no collective tyranny or abdication of individual responsibility. The concerns that O'Hara raises are very real in third dimensional reality, we need look no further than the groupthink of Nazism and the resulting Holocaust. In my understanding, an increasing sense of human interconnectedness will make tyranny and manipulation of others more and more difficult. Because we have free will, individuals will always have the option of abdicating personal responsibility. I suspect that the temptation to do so is strongest when individuals feel isolated and helpless, and becomes progressively weaker as the connection between individuated consciousness and the Source of All That Is and Does becomes stronger.

6.6 Anticipation, Not Expectation

The tricky thing about using imagination and focused intention to create our future is that we may limit the possibilities if we become too specific. Consequently, while I take pleasure in letting my imagination run free about our possible future, I don't let myself become too attached to any of the specifics. Instead I try to cultivate a sense of anticipation rather than expectation for the future. One thing I do wholeheartedly recommend is setting a loving intention that the future unfold in such a way as to serve the highest good of humanity and planet Earth with a minimum of pain and suffering, and reaffirming that intention every day. We have done a

consummate job of playing the third dimensional pain-and-suffering version of the Game of Duality on planet Earth. Now it is time to bring to fruition the energies created by our play and to move into the possibilities of a multidimensional future filled with joy and creativity.

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