

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC: STEPPING-STONE OR STUMBLING-BLOCK?

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“Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in, and center your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements”

— Baha'u'llah

OPPORTUNITY TO ADJUST OUR COLLECTIVE MINDSET AND WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT

Hmmmm... Is the SOIL fit to grow anything that
will serve us?



HOW OUR MINDSET RELATES TO THE PANDEMIC

- It creates not only physical and material pain but also “severe mental tests” and mental anguish
- It creates unnecessary confusion
- Ultimately it determines our ability to see full range of choices and take constructive action or be paralyzed

OUR MENTAL SUFFERING AND THE REALITY WE CREATE ARE BOTH CAUSED BY:

1. The way we choose to interpret our reality.
2. The way we choose to react



SO WHAT IS OUR CURRENT TYPICAL MINDSET?

1. We are AT THE MERCY OF of uncontrollable events and circumstances.
2. We are ANGRY about the state in which we find ourselves and quick to assign BLAME and engage in CONFLICT.

THE PROBLEM WITH OUR CURRENT MINDSET = A STUMBLING-BLOCK

Helplessness, fear, anxiety, and depression

Lead to apathy and lethargy

Lead to inaction, or half-baked action

- IN SUM: PARALYSIS OF WILL = OUR BIGGEST DANGER. It is self-defeating and self-destructive!

WE CAN CHOOSE A MORE EMPOWERING MINDSET/LENS = STEPPING-STONE

The Baha'i Faith offers humanity with the gift of amazing
new lenses through which we can

PERCEIVE,

INTERPRET

and

UNDERSTAND

our current social reality!



LENS 1: WE ARE GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF COLLECTIVE TESTING

While difficult, it is

RIPE WITH OPPORTUNITY

BRINGS WITH IT GIFTS

SERVES SEVERAL PURPOSES

LENS 2: WE ARE BIRTHING A NEW GLOBAL ORDER — It's Going to Be Messy!

Contractions are increasing in
kind,
frequency, and
intensity

LENS 3: SIMULTANEOUS PROCESSES OF INTEGRATION
AND DISINTEGRATION ARE AT WORK

RESULTING IN A COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR
GLOBAL SOCIETY

LEADING ULTIMATELY TO the UNITY of the human race and
the PEACE of all mankind

FIRMLY GROUNDED IN A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF OUR
ONENESS

Akin to the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly



LENS 4: THE FIRES OF OUR ORDEALS WILL
SERVE TO

WELD our
COMPONENT PARTS into
a SINGLE,
ORGANIC,
INDIVISIBLE,
WORLD-EMBRACING
COMMUNITY



LENS 5: HUMANITY IS BEING PURGED AND PREPARED FOR ITS FUTURE MISSION

We can neither shirk the responsibilities of the
PAST ...

Nor avoid those of the FUTURE

LENS 6: These Tribulations Will Purge Us of Some Destructive Habits

INCLUDING:

ingrained racial prejudice,
rampant materialism,
widespread ungodliness and
moral laxity

LENS 7: THIS IS NOT THE END OF CIVILIZATION!



LENS 8: RATHER, THESE CONVULSIVE
CHANGES WILL RELEASE THE
POTENTIALITIES LATENT WITHIN US



LENS 9: ADVERSITY WILL BRING ABOUT A RADICAL CHANGE IN OUR VERY CONCEPTION OF SOCIETY

The process:

1. will be be prolonged and worldwide; and
2. will be accompanied with chaos and universal destruction

It's effect will be to:

3. Stir the conscience of the world
4. Disillusion the masses

Ultimately it will:

5. Precipitate a radical change in the very conception of society
6. Coalesce the bleeding limbs of mankind into a single, organically united and indivisible body.

LENS 10: THE ORDEALS WILL INSTILL A NECESSARY
SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN OUR LEADERS

LENS 11: SUFFERING WILL INSTILL IN US THE
NECESSARY NECESSARY

CAPACITY, VIRTUES, POWERS, MORAL
STANDARDS AND TOOLS

TO TAKE US TO THE NEXT STAGE IN OUR
COLLECTIVE DEVELOPMENT

LENS 12: TRAVAIL AND SORROW HELP TO CREATE SPIRITUAL AWARENESS WITHIN US

THEY INVITE US TO GO DEEPER AND EXAMINE WHO WE
REALLY ARE:

1. Fundamentally spiritual beings having a physical experience
2. Essentially interconnectedness and ONE:

WE ARE MORE THAN THE TIPS OF THE
ICEBERGS WE SEE



THE RESULTING MINDSET IS A STEPPING-STONE TOWARD THE WORLD WE WANT AND THE FUTURE WE DESERVE

It eliminates CONFUSION — a feature of MENTAL SUFFERING
infuses us with HOPE, COURAGE, and CONFIDENCE
fills us with POSITIVE ENERGY
helps us see that we have CHOICES
spurs our CREATIVITY
and motivate us to ACT with
TIRELESS and CEASELESS ENDEAVOR

TO BUILD a PEACEFUL AND SECURE WORLD IN WHICH WE CAN
ACTUALIZE OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE POTENTIAL!

JOIN ME FOR THE NEXT TWO SESSIONS:

A Principled Approach to Solving Global Challenges:

DATE: April 14, 2020

TIME: 8:30 pm EST

Collective Threats Require a New System of Global Governance

DATE: April 21, 2020

TIME: 8:30 pm EST