

SATYA - TRUTHFUL IN THOUGHT, SPEECH & ACTION

"Resolving the conflict is only one element of the desired outcome of a conflict. Equally desirable is the impact the conflict has on both sides. A conflict resolved but leaving the parties unchanged is no success."

Johan Galtung

You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.

Michelle Obama

The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



We Are in Extraordinary Time

By: Ruth Ann Angus

In the Catholic religion there are two times of the year where the church functions in what they term, “ordinary time.” These are the times beyond Advent, and the Christmas season, before Lent, and again after Easter season ends. Each year the journey is the same. But “ordinary” is the least word I can use for the times we are living in now.

It is no matter whether you are Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, or any other denomination, or for that matter any denomination at all, we are fortunate to be living in an extra-ordinary time. This is a period offering us the opportunity to alter the route that mankind has taken since descending from the trees and recognizing his soul.

We have before us the prospect of creating a world consisting of harmony, caring, abundance, free of strife, conflict, poverty, and war. It is this extra-ordinary chance that excites those of us dedicated to opening the doors of peace.

Never has such a ripe fruit been dangled before us. The conflicts of this time afford us the possibility to actively pursue a life that dwells in our consciousness but is not yet breaking forth abundantly in our day-to-day quests.

How exciting it is to be challenged by those with views that differ from how we were raised. What an opportunity for dialogue. What an occasion to experience a different road without being absorbed by ideology. This is a time to reach out and seek those with different views.

It has been said you really cannot appreciate another culture unless you travel the world to experience those cultures. The lucky ones who do this enjoy learning about life lived in a vastly dissimilar

manner from ours. However, we have before us now an incredible learning opportunity if we are only brave enough to reach out and invite conversation with those we may view as enemies.

What is an enemy? A nemesis, an adversary, a competitor, an antagonist, a rival, or a foe. Yes, we can continue to live in our "ordinary" time and reject any contact but are we doing this because of fear? When we let go of fear and begin to understand living a life of nonviolence, we come to realize that we must reach out and embrace the conflict. To do less than this leaves us living in the darkness of times when what we so desire is to step out into the light.

We are confronted now with many challenges; our freedom to vote, our right to movement, our right of expression, the right to life and security, to not be treated inhumanely, to be allowed privacy in our homes, to not have our reputations sullied, to not be denied our nationality, to marry whom we please, to be entitled to the protection of our families, to our free choice of work without discrimination, to equity in pay, our right to an adequate standard of living that includes housing, clothing, medical care and social services, our right to a free education, to enjoy the arts, and perhaps most of all our right to freedom of thought, opinion, expression, conscience, and religion. What we must not forget is that everyone is entitled to these things, even those with whom we disagree.

Today we are privileged to be able to reach out to our neighbor who thinks and feels differently than us and invite them into our lives and learn of their journey. Embrace this opportunity. Reject fear. Expand your consciousness. See the possibilities. We are in "Extraordinary Time."



"Culture makes people understand each other better. And if they understand each other better in their soul, it is easier to overcome the economic and political barriers. But first they have to understand that their neighbor is, in the end, just like them, with the same problems, the same questions."

Paulo Coelho