

## **Calling Superman and Yoda:**

### **Why the world must change**

By J.D. Messinger

The Essence of Change, one of my seven Laws of Essence<sup>®</sup>, states that all matter is constantly seeking a higher state of evolution and growth. The problem is that change does not come without tension or friction. This is a natural law of evolution. The problem however, is that the greater the resistance to change the greater the separation between opposing forces and the more painful the process becomes. Resistance is futile and unfortunately we have many great changes taking place in the world and a lot of people are struggling with all their energy to either ignore or resist those changes. These people are living in a world of “Great Misconceptions and Great Illusions”. What are the Great Misconceptions? They include a long list of commonly held beliefs that every great philosopher, scholar, psychotherapist, scientist, honest medical practitioner, or theologian will tell you are simply not true and include items such as:

- Who you are is what you do (your job)
- Money makes you happy
- Life is a destination stop called retirement
- Take a pill and it will solve all your problems
- Energy prices will come down next year
- We can pay off our debt later
- Greed is good
- The recession will be mild
- Housing prices will bottom out in late 2008

These are misconceptions. They are all wrong. Ask those thought leaders about time, matter and death and they will list a series of Great Illusions that include:

- Time is linear
- Matter is solid
- Death is the end

These are just a few of the illusions and there are many more being perpetuated about the global energy situation, our ability to pay off debt, the true nature of the financial crisis, global warming and many more.

Why should anyone care about these Great Misconceptions and Great Illusions, what I call the Misconception and Illusion Gumbo (M&I Gumbo)? Because everyone has been drinking this M&I Gumbo and it no longer applies in a globally connected, integrated and interdependent 21st Century world.

Why do I raise this as a problem? Why must the world change its collective mindset? Because it is precisely this expanding list of M&I Gumbo that is inhibiting change for the better. Too many people are drinking this M&I Gumbo and believing these stories. Yet if you look hard you will find the truth, buried deep in the news stories on Bloomberg, or the Economist, with highly recognized global experts, money investors, and thought leaders, like Dr. Stephen Covey.

Evolution is like tide, it waits for no man, yet a great many institutionalized forces are inhibiting change and it is creating many crises as the separation between the forces grows. We have to start protecting the collective rice bowl and not individual rice bowls or we will all run out of rice.

Consider the American perspective. After 230 years in the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness, we are not doing so well. At a time where we have more wealth and greater technical knowledge than ever before, Americans are more depressed, less happy, more overweight, more fearful and more mistrusting than since the surveys began as early as the Great Depression. We find ourselves simultaneously facing crises in finance, energy, health care, education and a fiscal policy that David Walker, the former head comptroller of the USA, calls a looming catastrophe. Meanwhile as more Americans declare bankruptcy than students who graduate from college each year, we are entering what Alan Greenspan says will be the worst economic crisis in over 50 years or more.

Around the world, it's not much better. As the world population grows from 6 to 8 billion, the demand for water, rice, corn, wheat and energy will increase by 50 percent, and people on every continent are worried about global warming, energy security, water wars, and food supplies. ***America and the world have reached a turning point.***

Is the solution to continue with the status quo? Is it republican versus democrat, east versus west, Christianity versus Islam? Or is it possible, as my radio guest Dr. Stephen R. Covey said, "Every great breakthrough is a breakup. The world is operating on an old outdated industrial revolution map and we need a new one." The solution, according to world renowned experts in leadership, philosophy, physics, theology, genetics, and education or health care is nothing less than the complete restructuring of – how we fuel our cars, power our houses, use our water, heal our sick, educate our young – and most importantly, the values and beliefs that dictate why we do, what we do.

The solution is not about any one individual. It is not about myself, my ego, about making money or new drugs. The solution must be about promoting unity and cooperation, not division and separation. The longer we resist, the more painful and greater the damage will be. *Where is Superman? We need you buddy. If you can find Yoda, bring him too.*