

Preface

Constructing new worlds could be a lot like playing God, mucking around in the mud at the banks of the ocean of creation—but to me its more like the mad scientist concocting a combustible brew that must be handled with care. While all the right ingredients may be at our finger tips, we still need the right proportions of them to have a successful outcome—a recipe. Yes, a recipe for blending the right measure of elements to make the whole thing work or else run the risk of destroying all.

The world we live in is in transition and transforming before our very eyes. Our lives are undulating—crisis and chaos, kind and gentle, short, brutish, and nasty—in an ever rolling torrent of the new and different, the principled and the immoral. No matter how we feel about it or try to run from it, everything is changing. And so we ask:

Why is the world gripped by Terrorism?

Why do we prepare for war and never for peace?

Why do Americans not trust one another?

Why is public discourse crude and ear-splitting?

Why am I afraid and insecure?

I'll Make Me a World

We all want to know how we find peace and security during this volatile epoch.

My world is certainly changed forever since 9/11; possibly the *whole* world is just a little bit less secure, less sure of itself, less at peace. So we know that we have to create a new reality if we are to live above survival level as whole moral individuals.

I believe that I can help myself and others to construct new ways to live in this era. A way to help create the reality that is necessary to support these new facts of life—a new recipe if you will.

One of my favorite organizations, Initiatives of Change, makes the following observations in its July 5-Aug 18, 2002 bulletin, *Globalizing Responsibility for Human Society*:

. . . in this era of globalization, an individual can be a powerful agent for positive change in society

. . . in this age of overabundant information yet appalling human need, listening in silence— for God's leading, to the inner voice, or to conscience— is an essential source of inner freedom, discernment and direction

. . . in this age where pressures on our life and time lead us to live on the surface of our being, changing one's personal and global scale starts with a process of deepening self-knowledge

. . . in this time of communal tensions, all people should be valued equally; every person has a story to tell and a part to play

. . . In this time when cycles of hatred and resentment are perpetuated, acknowledgment of past wrongs, restoration and forgiveness are means by which the human spirit is liberated and the wounds of history are healed

Bobby Austin

. . . in a society that is quick to assign blame, honest conversations and readiness to accept our own responsibility can unite people for action across barriers that have historically divided them

What a powerful set of statements. They certainly lend themselves to the idea of taking that inner journey to find peace deep inside us. That to me IS the only answer for the future.

The new world you and I must define begins now. The new world wants to be born with our help. The deconstruction of the old world and the construction of the new world is going to affect you. Whether you do something to help yourself, or just sit there and let it happen to you, is of course up to you. I urge you to decide to do something for yourself and for a new world. Let's create together!