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### One Human Race with a Shared Destiny

This is a narrative that tries to answer five basic questions concerning our existence and future as human beings living on earth, which is our only home. 1. How did we get to be what we are today? 2. How should we understand the concepts of nation and nationality? 3. How should we view the role of religion in our lives? 5. How should we understand the meaning of the word “truth”? 5. And who are our adversaries and how to deal with them? The arguments that follow are partially scientific, partially theological and partially philosophical.

**First;** there are two major theories that try to explain how human beings became to be what they are today: the first is the creation theory, which claims that all humans were created by a mighty, mysterious power called God that no one can see; the other is the evolutionary theory, which claims that all creatures evolved from primitive species over billions of years, starting about 4 billion years ago, and continued to evolve reaching what they are today.

People who believe in creation also believe that all humans are the descendents of one man (Adam) and one woman (Eve). Since we have the same mother and the same father, we must therefore be one people belonging to the same and only race, the human race. People who believe in evolution also believe that we all came from an animal that looks like an ape that appeared first in Africa hundreds of thousands of years ago; and from there people moved in bands to populate our mother earth. As a consequence, both theories say that all of us share a common ancestor and therefore we are one race. In fact, whenever we define ourselves, we tend to unconsciously say the human race, not the human races.

On our way to populate earth, we were exposed to three powerful forces that shaped our life experiences and greatly influenced the way we look, live, think and behave. These forces are: first, natural selection, or the law of the survival of the fittest, which caused some humans and animals and plants to survive and flourish, and many more to vanish. Second; random mutation that gave us the many shades of black and white and yellow, and the diversified features we have today. Third, an unpredictable and often harsh environment that forced us to move from one place to another and adapt to nature's dictates and its changing mood; and that caused us to develop different cultures, many religions, countless languages, and forge unique associations with place, time and each other. Consequently, we gained cultural and religious diversity, but we encountered no other races to acquire racial diversity.

Embracing our cultural and religious diversity enriches our lives, opens our minds, and fills our hearts with joy, love and hope; believing in racial diversity poisons our hearts, closes our minds, and undermines our shared sense of

brotherhood and humanity, which leads us to hate one another and fight with each other.

**Second;** nationality is a shared identity associated with a certain land and state; some nations have more in common than land and state, they have a shared language and culture and/or history. A German, for example, is a person who was most likely born in Germany and identifies with the German land and state; Germans also share a language and a historical experience. An American is a person who lives in the United States of America and is a citizen of the USA; however, Americans have no shared history or culture. Indians, meanwhile, speak tens of languages and have hundreds of religions, yet they are one nation inhabiting the same land and having allegiance to the same state. In fact, if the United States, with its 320 million people coming from every place on earth carrying their particular traditions and religions can be called a nation, then any people sharing a land and belonging to one state must be considered a nation. Thus nationality is identification with a particular land and state only.

**Third;** Religion is an accident of birth; we all know that no one of us had the liberty to choose the religion he was born into. Today, as ever, no one is able to choose his parents or religion, place of birth or time of birth, his name, color or social class at birth. Therefore, no one should be punished or rewarded because of things he inherited at birth: religion, identity, color, name, social class or wealth; everyone should have the right to stay in his inherited religion, change it, or abandon it; and it is the duty of society to respect everyone's religious choice, and the responsibility of the state to protect everyone's religious and nonreligious rights.

People who believe in God also believe that religion and what comes with it at birth is an act of God. Since it is God who chooses for each one of us his parents and religion, the time, place and life conditions at birth, no believer is in a position to reject God's will. Nevertheless, most believers tend to accept God's will when it comes to their inherited religion, and reject God's will when it comes to other people's religions. Since God chooses for each one of us his religion, every religion must be considered legitimate and thus must be respected by every believer; anyone who refuses to accept other peoples' religions is in fact rejecting the will of his own God. No rational believer therefore can accept what God chooses for him and, at the same time, rejects what God chooses for his fellow human beings.

**Fourth;** how should we interpret the word "fact" or "truth"? Both words tend to refer to the same thing, and therefore the truth should be understood as something that at least one person in the world believes to be true; this thing could be an imagined one like the devil, or an incident that happened in the past like miracles, or a claim that embodies eternal information that tell the life story like religion. Nevertheless, every fact or truth of this nature has three characteristics; it is relative; partial and tentative. It is relative because some people believe it to be a fact and others do not; it is partial because everyone looking at it is able to see only one side of it; and it is tentative because science could prove it to be wrong.

For example, belief in miracles is relative because miracles defy our human experience and because only some people believe they happened in the past. A mountain that stands in front of our eyes is a partial fact because no one is able to see it in its entirety at one time. The truth is also tentative because it is subject to change due to many natural and cultural and scientific factors. For example, until

the 17<sup>th</sup> century most people in the world believed that earth was flat and the center of the universe, and that the sun rotates around it. Then science came to prove that earth was oval and not flat, represents a tiny portion of the universe not the center of it; and that it rotates around the sun and not the other way around.

**Fifth;** the most serious challenge that faces humanity today is the widening income and wealth gaps between the rich and poor. Income and wealth reports indicate that the richest 1% of the world's populations owns over 50% of the world's wealth, which means that this 1% owns more than the rest 99% of the world's population. In fact, the richest 42 men in the world own as much wealth as the poorest 50% of the world's population. And due to the tremendous power the rich have, they are able to manipulate every system and situation and take advantage of every opportunity to make more money and accumulate more wealth. In addition, reports indicate that the richest 10% of the world's population own 85% of the world's wealth, leaving 15% for the other 90% of the people. In the meantime, income reports indicate that about 95% of the annual increase in income goes to the richest 10% of the people, leaving 5% for the other 90%. This explains why the middle class is shrinking everywhere and poverty is spreading and becoming structural, causing alienation, radicalism, racism to spread in most parts of the world.

This means that the current global social order is unfair and needs to be changed to protect the rights of the poor and weak. And though unfair orders are unsustainable in the long run, we should not wait for things to happen to us; we must make things happen for us; no social order will change by itself. People who are aware of the need for change should take the initiative, articulate programs for change and create movements capable of effecting the desired change. This also

means that our anger should not be directed at the rich but at the social order and ourselves because we have so far failed to do our job in exposing the excesses of the system and opposing the policies that got us to this point. Since the rich work hard to perpetuate the current social order, we need to work harder to change it and liberate ourselves from the existing socioeconomic and sociopolitical orders that keep many of us weak and poor and undermine the future of future generations.

In addition, economic reports indicate that half of the world's largest 100 economies were corporations at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 2017 corporations represented 69 of the world's largest 100 economies; all such corporations are either owned or controlled by the richest 1% of the world's population. In the meantime, no two rich states or individuals are at war with each other, but many poor ones are fighting each other or waging bloody and destructive civil wars. As we fight each other, we waste a good portion of our precious natural and human resources; meanwhile, money we spend buying weapons goes to enrich the rich, and further impoverish the poor. As a consequence, we remain poor and largely enslaved, killing each other instead of working with one another to liberate ourselves from poverty, need and oppression.

To achieve our goals of reclaiming our rights and a fair share of the world's wealth and income, we must realize that we, the 90% of the world's population, share the same grievances, hopes and destiny. Therefore, anyone of us who stands with a deprived minority somewhere is, unconsciously, standing against another deprived minority elsewhere. As we seek change, we need to further realize that neither the free market system nor the democratic system is able by itself to correct its mistakes and enable us to achieve our objectives; both systems are corrupt and largely dysfunctional. Therefore, we need to create a mass movement covering all

parts of the world and articulate a strategy for change that seeks to transform the existing economic and political systems and replace them by a new global social order that guarantees fairness. Reclaiming our rights can only be achieved by working together in a peaceful manner to deny our adversaries any excuse to label us as radicals trying to destroy this or that culture, and undermine peoples' ways of life in the West or East, North or South.

Being one and the same race, having traveled the same road, driving to reach similar goals should make us, poor and rich, strong and weak, view each other as brothers, sisters, friends, lovers and colleagues; embrace our shared humanity, celebrate our cultural and religious diversity, and learn from each other the art of living together in peace and harmony. Again, embracing our cultural and religious diversity enriches our lives; believing in racial diversity undermines our shared humanity.

*Our motto should be: together, we empower each other, create a global power, and change our world for the better, forever.*

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