

## **Our Only Choice – Transforming Universal Values**

By Venerable Master Haiyun Jimeng

**Ever since the rise of the European civilization, people have continuously struggled between theocracy and human rights, and warred between the science and spirituality, and it seems human rights and science are in the upper hand, but people have also neglected human nature and its value, and hence created the deviant accomplice structure of modern civilization.**

Global issues and disasters are severe and comprehensive in nature! Such phenomena arise from man's wrong thinking patterns into social deviants and cannot irresponsibly be brushed aside as humanity's common karma. No individual or organization is willing to undertake responsibility for the serious results of such universal value deviation. Furthermore, we cannot use unitary theories or patterns to define such issues as environmental protection issues, economic issues, social issues, political issues, etc. **Any unitary theory or professional field will only restrict its research on a technical plane, if the fundamental issue of direction remains unsolved, humanity and the Earth will tend to destroy the fruit of the great civilization of our time!** We hope that in our civilization, the intelligentsia and protectors of the value and meaning of world existence can joint efforts to identify the crux of the issues and resolve crises!

### **The harmonious society – Building a liveable world**

In this article, we state that the wrong universal values that arise from the accomplice structure create crazy plundering in the world, which leads to uneven resource distribution and destruction of global stability and peace. All of these have resulted from a plundering philosophy of believers misinterpreting monotheism. Therefore, following the teachings of the Buddha, we propose the basic structure to build a perfect world, which are the humanism values of the lotus repository world's<sup>1</sup> three realms.<sup>2</sup> We have no intention to argue about human rights or

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<sup>1</sup> Flower bank world, is an abbreviation for the world born of the lotus flower, or refers to the boundless and beneficent, vast and adorned array of worlds hidden in the lotus repository. This is the pure and adorned world that Sakya Tathagata's dharmakāya Vairocana Buddha realized by vowing in the past to practise Bodhisattva good conducts. According to Buddhist scriptures, above the wheel of wind there is the sea of perfume, in which there is a big lotus flower, which contains as many worlds as atoms in a world, and hence known as the lotus bank world. The present lotus bank world is the generic term for the reward land of all Buddhas, meaning a pure, serene, adorned Buddha land.

<sup>2</sup> The three realms: 1. the vessel realm, i.e. the realm of territory, the domain that Sakya Tathagata transformed; 2. the dependant realm, also called the realm of all living beings, which are the living beings whom Sakya Tathagata enlightens; 3. the realm of wisdom true enlightenment, is the one who is awakened to all worldly and out-of-this-worldly dharmas; it is also the jñānakāya or wisdom body with which Sakya Tathagata enlightens various different living beings. - From *Grand Explanations of Huayen Footnotes 3*.

theocracy, no intention to oppose science, democracy, profit, or faith. We are conscientious as humanity is conscientious in maintaining a healthy development of the three realms in the world, i.e. to seek to realize harmonious existence between humanity and nature, and the path of calm, self-autonomous, and serene individual existence, as we draw up this new age life prospect based on economy of spirituality.

We propose economy of spirituality not only to let humanity live a happy life ever without fear; we will have to leave our future generations on Earth living space and also set a good example for them! **We must seek a platform in today's world to formulate timeless normal values for promoting human happiness, calm and steady lives.** As far as today's world platforms are concerns, we must show loving care for each corner of the Earth; we all must look after each ethnic group; we need to give proper guidance to everyone inner feelings of tranquility and serenity, which are his God given rights! However, from a timeline standpoint, we must maintain the Earth's secured existence while simultaneously maintain humanity's rights of continued survival and development.

Humanity was meant to have an original multicultural system in which all ethnic group lived in harmony and were interdependent, each with its natural ethnic differences, but which also mutually constituted a harmonious unified whole that allowed mutual communication but preserved the special characteristics of its constituents, unlike in today's world in which humanity is torn to pieces and mutually intimidating! Therefore we appeal that we eliminate artificial barriers, open up free-living space for all man, and restore the health of humanity and his descendants, and their rights of continued survival and development! Today, our world mainstream cultural values are moving on the road to destruction. When the world is generally exposed to ecology unbalance, internal and external ethnic group conflicts, and when everyone is feeling frustrated, helpless and persecuted, this then is the precise timing of human awakening to the need of seeking urgent solutions!

The reason why we propose an economy of spirituality is that we wish to awaken humanity's confused consciousness to a path that will benefit all people, such as plans for large-scale, fully-equipped spiritual schools, which will not only substitute for the large-scale factories. What's more, we wish to point out that **there are proper economic activities and incomes in economy of spirituality; it is not like humanity has to return to the primitive days when everything was deficient.** But if humanity was not turned back and continued to let the world move towards destruction, then in the near future, coastal civilization would vanish and man would have to return to the plateaux to lead primitive life!

It is by no means an easy task to change the world's mainstream universal values. To be able to see the core of the issues of such universal has not been easy, but it is even harder to propose an alternative! Challenging the vested interests is no different from fighting a hopeless battle; much less as an outsider, it is totally impossible! But from the standpoint of the intelligentsia protecting the values and meaning of world existence, one must do one's duty despite knowing perfectly well it is difficultly, and despite knowing perfectly well it is impossible! However we must point out clearly that eradicating the accomplice structure and

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rectifying the wrong universal values will neither deny humanity of the fruits of his present civilization, nor deny the common folks' rights of survival. We propose economy of spirituality in order to reformulate the rights interests and dignity of human life, and redefine its values and meaning, so that humanity will not continue to suffer from material-orientation, rule of law, and the power of the language.

Moving from the existing operation patterns to the new direction of economy of spirituality will no doubt bring pain; but this is the option that can preserve the fruits of existing human civilization and not rock humanity too much, and that can also help mature human nature and spirituality, bring interpersonal and ethnic group relationships closer, and ensure the continued survival of life and natural resources on Earth! **We don't have much of a choice; only through this option can we reverse deviant philosophies and behavioural patterns in all directions and respects, and return to the path of light!**

**This huge project urgently requires all expert assistance! We believe that humanity has enough wisdom and conscience to improve the poor surroundings today and turn this crisis in a great age.** Only in this way will we not destroy the Earth and humanity but instead we save them and create a bright and brilliant new age. Not only do we anticipate its advent, we also forge forward furiously in this direction, and a radiant future is just around the corner! All of you people with high aspirations who truly care about human happiness, care about our living conditions and who want to enhance the quality of life and enrich bodily, mental, and spiritual health, let us all protect the values and meaning of existence of this world and our civilization!

~“Our Only Choice” A new vision for the long-term survival of humanity and the Earth, Chapter Four  
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