

Ravindra in *Global Chorus*

Ravi Ravindra was invited to contribute to the *Global Chorus: 365 Voices on the Future of the Planet*; ed. Todd E. MacLean; Rocky Mountain Books, 2014. As one would expect, the contributors include luminaries like the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela among others, and some quite ordinary folks. There is a one page response from each of the contributors, one for each day of the year.

The invitation was to respond to the following question from the editor of the volume: "In your honest opinion, do you think that humanity can find a way past the current global environmental and social crisis? Will we be able to create the conditions necessary for our own survival, as well as that of other species on the planet? What would these conditions look like? In summary, then, and in the plainest of terms, do we have hope, and can we do it?"

Ravi's response is on the page for June 11 (don't know why that date):

"We may not be able to find a way past the current global crises, but a way may be found through us if we are willing and able to be instruments of subtler levels of energy which permeate the entire universe.

If we contemplate the universe and the extremely intricate laws which govern the appearance and disappearance of galaxies as well as the emergence of the butterfly from a cocoon, it is difficult to persuade oneself that human beings are in control and are at the top of the spectrum of consciousness or intelligence. How can we not feel the sentiment expressed by Albert Einstein when he speaks of his "rapturous amazement at the harmony of natural law, which reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection"?

It is the unanimous testimony of all the sages in the history of humanity that the entire universe is pervaded by subtle and conscious energies — variously labeled as the 'Holy Spirit', or the 'Buddha Mind', or 'Allah' or the 'Tao'. All spiritual traditions say that without the subtle and conscious energies of Brahman (or God or the Eternal) nothing can be done, but without human beings nothing will be done. We need to do our part as instruments of the all-pervasive Intelligence. In our individual or collective hubris we forget the obvious--that we do not know all there is to know, and that neither the physical nor the spiritual universe is centered on any individual or on humanity or on the Earth.

We need to search for our contribution to the continuing unfolding of the Mystery, not so much from ignorance but from innocence, open to unexpected voices and solutions.

Ahimsa – usually understood as non-violence or physical non-harming – is, in fact, closer to non-violation, non-imposition or non-manipulation. Ahimsa is the essential principle of all true ecology. Finding our place and playing our part, making room for and caring for other human beings, for all creatures and for the planet naturally follows from this.”

This response was sent two years ago, in November 2011. The editor of *Global Chorus*, Todd MacLean wrote the following e-mail when he received my response:

Ravi,

I need to say a massive thank you to you for three main things:

1. For writing this absolutely beautiful, perfectly-worded, inspiring and thought-provoking piece for Global Chorus;
2. For this remarkably fast turnover time;

and

3. For bringing your perspective as far back from our usual worldview picture as possible: Savoring this work with a very slow intake upon first read, it was a tremendous experience – to be able to be whisked backward to a very widely encompassing view of our Earthly human predicament. When seen through this lens, one can realize 1) Humility; 2) Awe; 3) Reverence – in being part of a universal network so vast and magnificent; 4) The truth: That even though this world is but an atom in the body of the universe, it is our home – and taking care of this home within and through the precious connection that exists between us all is all that we must do to find the harmony that we all innately seek.

What a necessary melody this piece brings to this overall Chorus, Ravi. And I cannot thank you enough for it. So beautiful.

We will be in touch again, leading up to the publishing of Global Chorus; most particularly because we will be mailing copies to each of our contributors, as this is the very least that we can do as a gesture of gratitude for your time and wonderful creative energy enthused into this

anthology.

Wishing you all the very best, Ravi. And again, a multitude of thanks.

In peace, hope and gratitude,

Todd