

13.0 The TIME FOR TALK IS OVER

A Review

What have we seen so far? Well, for one, we went through the meaning of the world 'Environment' and re-defined it as the Sources of Life on Earth – The Land, Air, and Waters (LAW) of Life. We have also seen how the current thinking of extraction and consumption (ex-con) Economics is leading us to ruin. The climate crisis is the most serious consequence of this mindset of wasteful economics. We have jumped out of the thinking box, turned it upside down, and then tried to shake it. If ex-con economics got us into the problems we are in now, to get out of it, we think the exact opposite – the economics of Conservation, Protection, and Restoration (CPR).

Talk of restoration, we have inflicted so much damage to the Life-sources that simply restoring land, the air, and the waters will be the thrust of the new economy.

We have also distilled a few principles and policies we can start to play with in the art of managing humans.

Where do we begin? We begin by taking the catalytic actions: Road Sharing and Edible Landscaping.

Igniting action

In the study of social change, two things to remember:

1. Actions that trigger other actions.
2. Change fast, and make it last

Catalytic Actions

What is a 'catalyst'? A catalyst is an action that triggers a series of other actions leading to the end-goal of the desired change.

Take this example. Be rude to a stranger, and he will in turn be rude to you, and if you exchange rudeness to each other, you end up in a catfight.

In the level of society, there are two actions that spark a series of actions resulting in massive societal changes: Food and Roads.

Food

'Vision without action is nothing more than a dream.
Action without vision wastes time.
Vision with action, Can and will Change the world.'

Another catalyst is food. We have been too separated from the source of our food, which comes from far, far away, and must earn money simply to eat.

What if our food source were just outside our houses, on the roads and other open spaces. Would edible landscaping be a catalyst to that will spark a series of actions leading to the end-goal of the movement?

Among others, it will:

- a. Quickly restore our connection to the land, the air and the waters. Absent any, our plant will not grow. It will be environmental reality in practice.
- b. We will have abundance of healthy food, readily available without need for money.
- c. Restore our inter-actions with one another, and promote the spirit of sharing. There will surely be an abundance of vegetable produce.
- d. The physical activities attendant to planting and care of plant life promotes an healthy, active, and productive lifestyle.

Roads

A road is an example of a catalyst. If a road is built into an unpopulated area, all of the sudden it is opened to and in time, become full of people. With the easy access from the road, a forest becomes farmland, and a park becomes a parking lot. Almost every square inch of the life-giving soil is paved over with concrete, and then we call it 'development'. The land can no longer sustain plant life and no longer hold water.

In time, the people will experience flooding, scarce and dirty waters, poisoned air, intense human density, then criminality and the breakdown of social order.

Sounds familiar? In one of the over-consuming countries, there have been a series of shootings in schools killing children and innocents? That is the level of social alienation reached by the people when their hearts have been hardened by concrete and separated from Nature and from each other.

Other catalytic actions:

1. Improving of parenting and child-rearing skills. 'The child is the father of the man.' (Alexander Pope ___? Quote source in end notes)
2. Transforming the existing wasteful economy to an 'eco- economy of the future that respects the life-sources of land, air, and waters -- LAW of Life.
3. Enabling the blossoming of the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions of the human being through the creative and artistic creations of man in celebration of Nature.



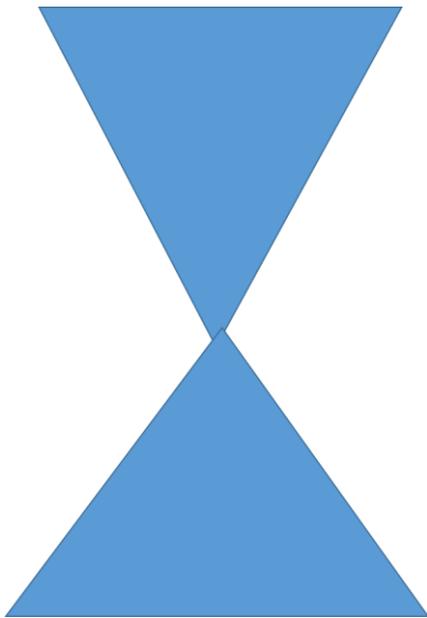
HUMAN CHANGE

Fast and Last

Human change generally happens top-down or bottom-up. Top-down is fast, but it does not last. When the top is changed, almost everything changes, especially when the person in place is of different political orientation.

Bottom-up -- where the initiative comes from the people -- will last, but it is not fast.

The fastest and most lasting social change happens when the top meets the bottom. That is called the 'sandwich theory' of social change. In the language of *Perlas*, this is the *bibingka* – a rice cake cooked with fire at the top and at the bottom.



Picture here of how a *bibingka* looks like and how it is cooked.