

TECHNOLOGY, HUMANITY, CONSCIENCE

Preface

When we don't take conscience into account, knowledge becomes the barrier that blocks us from realizing the ultimate truth. For this reason, we treat materialism and spirituality, technology and humanity as separate things. The separation of their relationships has brought us inevitable pains and troubles. Our need to live in happiness, bliss and satisfaction then becomes unreachable. When our material life no longer relate with the conscience, our spiritual life deteriorates. Without conscience, the fruit of humanity is worse than technology because it misguides mankind with negative influence.

Old moral standards have been forgotten or discarded, yet new moral standards have not been established, humankind is facing spiritual crisis, which will in fact affect survival. When material living and misguided technological advancements flood the world, we then raise our attention to the importance of spiritual living. When technology engulfs the world, occupying every minute detail of our lives, even seeping into our daily conversations, actions, thoughts, and works, we have then become captivated by technology. Only then do people discover that a righteous humanity or spiritual living is a necessity for living. In our current society, the elite lifestyle can no longer be a parade of wealth, status, and power; it must steep into a higher quality of humanity.

We must acknowledge the fact that: the pursuit of material life and spiritual life, the advancement in technology or the consideration for humanity, are not the final goals of life, but only the processes of reaching a happy, blissful, and satisfactory life. Regardless of how rich our material life is, or how satisfactory our spiritual life may be, or how advanced the technology becomes, or how multifarious the humanity flourishes, if they can not bring peace to the world, stability to a nation, prosperity and harmony to a society, happiness to a family, conscience awakening to an individual, then they are meaningless!

Since the dawn of time, other than Buddhas and Saints, how many people have really understood the dignity of life, the true meaning of survival, and the connotation and essence of living? How many can turn their back from the social trends and avoid becoming the slaves of living? How many can refuse to be blinders of survival? And how many can refuse to be trespassers on life?

The objective of the Maitreya Great Tao is to help everyone come to realize the dignity of life, the true meaning of survival, and the connotation and essence of living. We cordially invite all people to assist and support Maitreya in establishing the Kingdom of Great Harmony, bringing the Pureland on Earth, and actualizing the Century of Bright Conscience.

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Understanding the Dignity and Sanctity of Our Life

Neither materialism nor religion can build upon or strengthen the ultimate dignity and sanctity of our lives.

Among the many billions of people and the numerous life forms on earth, their dignity and sanctity are absolutely equal. Regardless of nationality, religion, wealth, power, intelligence, age, male or female, including the birds, fish, and animals, which of their lives is not worthy of respect? All life deserves equal respect. Since the dignity of all life is to be respected, what entitles humans to kill or slaughter other living beings?

The Bible says that humankind was created in the image of God. What does this mean? God created the human soul to reflect a small fraction of the ultimate divinity. Virtues such as respect, nobility, greatness, holiness, truthfulness, goodness, and joyfulness are the true essence of our life, which is the true and richest heritage of the conscience. These are the essences of God's ultimate virtues. And every being possesses this conscience heritage. Hence, every life is to be respected.

Gautama Buddha (Buddha Sakyamuni) said, "Upon Heaven and Earth, I am the Supreme One." The "I" does not mean the "I" of the flesh. It refers to everyone's "The True Self, The Sacred Conscience, or The Divine I." It is the "Buddha Nature" within oneself. There are over six billion people in the world, and everyone possesses this divine self. In this, all is worthy of respect.

In the Golden Mean, Confucian said, "Our Inner Spirit is endowed by God; following this Inner Spirit is the Tao." God gives each of us an Inner Spirit, the Emanated Spirit of God, or the Sacred Conscience. This should form the basis of all our actions. When we see, listen, speak

or act in accordance with the Sacred Conscience, our state of being is in harmony with the Tao. Therefore, the terms God, Tao, Conscience, and "I" should be in harmony with each other. When we let the Emanated Spirit of God be the master of the body, the body becomes a temple. Such harmonious coordination of body and spirit or Tao is considered the Supreme One. This realization will eventually be the ultimate goal in everyone's life, because this is the true dignity and sanctity of life.

Materialism, religion, technology, or humanity cannot build upon or strengthen the ultimate dignity or sanctity of our lives. Moreover, wealth, status, power, knowledge, literacy, ability, intelligence or talent does not increase the innate respectability of our lives. This innate respectability has an independent intrinsic value.

The Significance of Life

The significance of life is to bring about the Maitreya Pureland so that all sentient beings can share the survival, glory, abundance, joy, serenity, enlightenment, possession, gain, prosperity, and achievement together.

The dignity and sanctity of life is equal among all humans. The life of the president and the lives of the citizens are of equal value and respectability. So is the worthiness of the lives of the rich and the poor. Therefore we cannot care only about our own survival; we must not neglect others' lives. The stronger and more powerful should not defeat the weaker thus taking away their space or rights to survive. Neither should the stronger build their survival upon others' pain and struggles. God granted every being the right to survive. Therefore it is not the will of our conscience to deprive others of their lives.

The sanctity of everyone's life should be honored. The same respect must also be applied to all animals. No one has the right to control or manipulate another's chance of survival. Humans, animals, the animated or the unanimated should co-exist together with harmony and prosperity. The arrival of the Pureland, a Heaven on Earth, The Kingdom of Maitreya will bring mutual survival, honor, glory, peace, realization, prosperity, and achievement for all of us. This is the significance of life on Earth.

Mutual survival—Every being has equal opportunity to survive

What is the meaning of life if one is the sole survivor in this world? Caring only about one's own life while taking away the lives of others is neither meaningful nor respectful. In the Kingdom of Maitreya, every being lives in the paradise of peace, harmony, wealth, happiness, and purity.

Mutual glory—Sharing prosperity and progress

In the Kingdom of Maitreya we will outwardly enjoy progress, harmony, and happiness together. Inwardly, we will enjoy the honor and glory resulting from the fact that all our actions are in accordance with our Sacred Conscience.

Mutual abundance—A world of abundance in material and spiritual aspirations

To live a rich and plentiful life alone is not enough. To be able to help others to live a life that is rich and to share life together is much better. Maitreya wants to establish a Kingdom that is free of poverty, famine, and shortage. Everyone will have adequate material wealth. In the Kingdom of Maitreya, universal love, righteousness, wisdom, and trustworthiness prevails.

Mutual joy—Everyone is joyful. Everyone experiences ultimate joy from his or her inner conscience. This joy is expressed throughout their six senses.

The true essence of happiness is sharing happiness with the world. This means that we have a happy and joyful life together. In Maitreya Kingdom, besides having a pure and dignified joy in senses, everyone experiences the ultimate joy from their inner conscience.

Mutual serenity—Everyone helping each other achieve a peaceful and harmony life.

The true benevolent one is the one who is able to extend purity, tranquility, peace, and harmony to others. In the Kingdom of Maitreya, everyone enjoys freedom and ease. There are no greediness, hatred, ignorance, mistakes, or attachments.

Mutual enlightenment—Everyone's conscience is bright

To be self-realized and self-enlightened is not the ultimate goal. The true enlightened one is one whose conscience is elevated and who can be the master of all his conduct. Moreover, he is able to awake others' conscience and help them to achieve true realization and true enlightenment. In the Kingdom of Maitreya, everyone's conscience is brightened and there is love and joy in every face. Their hearts are filled with benevolence and their benevolent actions are carried out everywhere. Everyone is enlightened.

Mutual possession—We are one big family

There are over six billion people and many creatures living on the Earth. Mutually, they enjoy the same Sun and Moon and breathe the same air. Individual possessions are less meaningful and are temporary. How long can our bodies stay alive? How long can wealth, poverty, or power? In the great realm of time, these situations only last a split of a second. In the Kingdom of Maitreya everyone clearly understands that each of us comes from an undivided entity. We possess the same Emanated Spirit of God and the same Sacred Conscience. We grow together to overcome our shortcomings and to return to our origin to reunite with the eternal Laomu.

Mutual gain—The Holy Initiation is eternal, infinity, and forever.

Humankind and the sentient beings of all three realms have a great opportunity to receive the Light of Maitreya, to become members of Maitreya family, and to enter the Kingdom of Maitreya. This Holy Initiation from the "Decreed Master" enables us to realize and recognize that our Inner True Self is "True Void," that is, absolutely pure and bright, containing no attachments or defilement. The true meaning of eternal gain is not only of gains in this life but also in our future incarnations. Only when we revive the divinity of our conscience, can we

mutually gain eternal conscience enlightenment.

Mutual prosperity—Everyone shares the bliss of Heaven.

The Kingdom of Maitreya is where all humankind and all sentient beings enjoy mutual prosperity. We will mutually enjoy ultimate happiness, wealth, longevity, joy, and divinity by carrying out benevolent actions from our conscience. We should assist Buddha Maitreya in transforming this chaotic and sinful world into a peaceful and harmonious world.

Mutual achievement —Regaining sanctity eternally

To assist others to be delivered from reincarnation or to help them achieve the enlightenment of Buddha hood or Sainthood is the ultimate perfection. Helping this world to become the Pureland is the way, which Maitreya will use to deliver sentient beings from suffering. This will help them achieve the enlightenment of Buddha hood, and to enjoy eternal life and infinite happiness.

Life is so short. It seemingly passes in the blink of an eye. How can we transform this term of life into eternity?

When we put materials, religion, technology, humanity, and all our resources to good use we can create a Pureland and enjoy mutual prosperity and survive on earth. When our acts are in accordance with our conscience we will not harm but benefit all people and things. We will help our community, society and the world. We then are achieving the true meaning of life: to enjoy mutual survival, glory, joy, and prosperity with others. At that instant we reach eternity.

The True Essence of Living

When we let the conscience be the master, we will enjoy the abundance of both material and spiritual life.

Besides helping ourselves to live a happy, blissful, and satisfied life, we must also help others to lead the same kind of life. In doing this we do not need to separate material wealth from spiritual wealth.

The nature of material wealth is neither good nor bad. Its goodness or badness is determined by human factors, which closely related to the expression of our conscience.

Wealth, status, power and abilities can help others; do good for society, our country, and even the world when one uses them with his conscience. On the contrary if the conscience is not the base of these factors, with corrupted intentions, they can bring harm, damage, and bring disasters to others and to the world. Money itself cannot do good or evil. We make the decision of how they should work. When one allows the conscience to work his wealth, status, power, and the abilities, he will experience the joyful ecstasies of his conscience, and he will experience the true meaning of wealth, status, power, and abilities.

One might be under the misconception that worldly things are bad and should be totally abandoned to satisfy his spiritual life. But we need to realize that the essence of a truly

satisfying spiritual life is not just to bring joy and peace to oneself, but also to others. When one has worldly conditions such as wealth and fame, he should not abandon them to achieve a true spiritual life. Worldly wealth and the likes are not vicious or poisonous. It is the mind. One should not limit one's spiritual life to only achieving sanctity, peace, and advancement to oneself alone. With what he has, he can make good use of them to help others reach a joyful spiritual living. He can use his power, wealth, and fame to help others see the light of conscience living. By this means, he shares not only his worldly conditions; he also shares his spiritual life with the world.

A true and healthy spiritual living does not depend of what one has or has not. Some live a spiritual life that is based on supernatural power. When spiritual life depends of supernatural living, this is not the proper way. Spiritual living means conscience living. If supernatural power is not directed with morals, virtue, and the conscience, then indeed, such power will be led astray. The matter of the fact is, supernatural power cannot elevate one's conscience living, because the conscience is above all. The conscience is all divine and powerful. So we need to be careful of not becoming astray because of the misconception that a spiritual life needs to indulge in an unnatural way of living, a supernatural way of living. A truly healthy spiritual life cannot be attained from any exterior factors. If we try to practice or search externally, it is like building a house on quick sand. How can it last for long?

A truly healthy spiritual life comes from within. This is the innate conscience heritage that is naturally within all of us. When this is manifested in our daily life, and helps others to manifest their conscience in their life, this is truly the highest and most healthy spiritual life.

Once we let our conscience become our Master, all things become natural. We will not be attached to fame, wealth, power, or status and we will not be arrogant about our knowledge and intelligence. We will put all of these into good use to help achieve universal peace, universal prosperity, universal harmony, and universal happiness. Therefore, with the conscience being the master, material wealth and spiritual richness will help bring joy, bliss, and satisfaction to our lives.

The True Meaning of Living

Technology and humanity is to enhance our life with happiness, bliss and satisfaction.

When we let the sacred conscience be our master, then both material life and spiritual life will be one in the same. When we separate ourselves from the conscience, then all worldly things becomes the source that enhances wrong doings. Neglecting spiritual life brings ignorance and distance ourselves from our conscience. This will bring great disaster on oneself and onto others.

Life today is based on technological achievements and the expressions of humanity. Humans are the masters of technology and humanity. They are only a process of life. But if we treat technology and humanity as the goals, our lives will be helplessly dominated by these two factors.

Our goal is to live a life of happiness, bliss and satisfaction. To obtain this goal, we need to put technology and humanity into good use. In the past, technology and humanity were not as advanced, yet farmers were happy, blissful, and satisfied. Because of the tremendous breakthroughs in technology, lifestyles of superb comfort and material wealth have reached epic levels, yet humans are not happier, more blissful, or more satisfied.

In modern society, technology becomes the top priority. Why then, under the influence of such a technological civilization, do youths still commit so many crimes? Violence, confusion, and chaos are increasing in society. Many people are corrupted in mind and heart. What are the factors that cause these?

The Five Desires of Humans

The collapse of moral values in society begins with the five desires.

The basic desires of humans are: food, sex, sleep, fame and profit. Gao-Tze said, "Desires for food and sex is a part of our nature." The desires for food, sex, and sleep are humankind's three basic physiological desires. When we are well fed and rested, we then think of warmth and sex. Mencius asked, "How much difference is there between humans and animals?" If we answer this on the basis of natural desires, there is not much difference. But when we touch upon the nature of how a true man should be, one with divine conscience awareness, one who is holy and righteous, then if man exists without any sense of conscience is a beast cloaked behind human form. Then he can bring terrifying mindsets and behaviors to the world. If man base happiness, bliss, and satisfaction only on these five desires then our society will be thrown into chaos and we will be doomed.

When the desire for material wealth becomes so rampant, we then turns to religion and takes it as a type of medication. But we must keep in mind that no matter how effective this medication is, it can only treat the symptoms temporarily. If religious practices cannot guide one to overcome the five desires, religion itself can also become a dangerous thing. As long as our conscience is not our master, religion and material pursuits become another type of trap.

Technology: Fortune or Misfortune

If our conscience is not our master while we pursue technology, then technology will become a beast that devours humankind.

Pursuing technology is the route of no return. When we are on this track, we try to discover, make changes, and achieve superiority. But at the end, it is a self-defeating game. Technology is a world where the strong dominates the weaker. Businesses can only expand when they get ahead of others. Technological competition is an endless, and a rather heartless elimination game. Where is technology going to lead human beings? Regardless of how splendid or how abundant technological accomplishments become, they will still be dominated by human desires.

Therefore, if our conscience is not our master while we pursue technology, then technology eventually will devour humankind.

We need to see clearly that no matter how great our technological advancement is, or how much abundance we have achieved, in the history of our material life, it has not brought true happiness, bliss, or satisfaction to humankind.

As mentioned before, technology is neither good nor evil. Technology is like water in that it can either make a boat float or sink. Whether it floats or sinks, it depends on who we treat them. If we don't allow our conscience be the master, then technology brings tremendous negative influence upon us. For example, humans can indulge in the extreme wealth, fame, comforts, and environmental conveniences brought about by the development of technology. As a result, criminals, terrorists, and ambitious people use this technology to commit crimes, harming society, disrupting the nation's peace, and bringing fear into people's lives. It is the human mind that directs the positives or the negatives of technology and humanity. Therefore, we need to have a correct mindset in order to share the goods and the achievements of life.

Listen to the Voice of the Conscience

Controlling the five desires does not mean we are to suppress, avoid, or be disgusted with them, but rather to turn these five desires into the five benevolences.

If we try to solve problems by the use of humanity, then our problems will still exist. Disorder is everywhere because many people do not see the aims of life and are filled with fear. These signs have reaffirmed the importance of living with our sacred conscience. Making proper adjustments and learning how to make good use of human desires is fundamental in solving our problems.

Mastering the five desires does not mean we are to suppress, avoid, or be disgusted with them, but rather to turn these five desires into benevolences. When these five desires are not directed by the conscience, then they only satisfy the ego of greed and selfishness.

On the other hand, when we let our conscience merge with our life, benevolence comes through. With this, the dignity of life will not be disgraced, nor will the essence of life be distorted. The light of conscience is benevolence. And benevolences bring us hope and light, faith and happiness. If our conscience is in charge, material wealth can enhance spirituality, and technology can become humane. Under the guidance of conscience, technology can become great and bring inexhaustible blessings to humankind.

Conscience Guiding the Way

When humanity are guided by the conscience, the meaning and the respectability of life glorifies.

All aspects of humanity can dignify the existence of mankind. When these fields of knowledge parallels with the conscience, their various accomplishments uncovers the beauty and

the glories of mankind. This is how humanity should work for the human civilization.

When humanity is used for a good cause, all people and things will exist with harmony. People, all things, and the environment can mutually share the joys of any accomplishment and advancement. The fields of humanity are so vast, of which includes, religion, art, philosophy, music, drama, dance, calligraphy, literature, medicine, environmental protection, architect, fashion, charity, public welfare, and the likes. All these can enrich the existence of all things. But they can also bring a negative effect on the whole human civilization and experience when they are led astray. Its impacts can leave a deep and haunting impression in the soul of every man.

Many people have done many criminals and evil acts in the name of humanity. And many have manipulated knowledge and power for selfish causes. Stray ideas and thoughts have been imposed onto innocent minds, distorting perceptions and breeding inhuman behaviors. When these tyrants misplace their knowledge and abuse their power, this is the lacking of morals and ethics, and this poisons the mind and harbors violent acts on a massive scale. Disharmony in our world came about in this manner.

On the contrary, when humanity is led by the conscience, it gives a rich and profound effect that can elevate and glorify the whole human civilization. When all fields of knowledge parallels with the conscience, what it reveals is love, the objective is beneficial to the world, its concern is to bring universal harmony, then the various accomplishments uncovers the dignity, the beauty, and the glories of mankind.

The many facets of humanity should bring enlightenment and a blossoming growth to the human experience. When they are used positively, all beings can mutually exist with joy. This is the true advancement and the true achievements of mankind.

Therefore, when conscience, morals, and virtue are the forces behind technology, science, and humanity, our existence merges with every thing around us, becoming one harmonious entity. This is indeed the true achievement. When technology and humanity are correctly guided and used, prosperity prevails. A dignified civilization is thus developed. Society will then be peaceful, stable, and harmonious, and every family will enjoy the bliss of love and happiness.

When all walks of life come together for this, we aim for the realization of the ultimate search of all mankind, True Joy. When all people work together to benefit the world, we are united by the spirit of universal love. Humanity flourishes.

Maitreya's Noble Vow

Maitreya, the fully enlightened one vowed to bring the Pureland to the world so that all beings can live in universal harmony.

Maitreya is the great enlightened one. Maitreya's enlightenment is the eternal realization and awakening of the conscience and the perfect practice of universal love. Maitreya is the embodiment of universal love. By this, Maitreya fully reveals universal respect, universal dignity

and unveils every aspect of the true essence of life.

Maitreya equally respects the existence of all beings, whether they are of the divine, astray, or from the abyss. In Maitreya's heart, all life, animals, birds, and fish are equally important and their life is as dignified as any human life. Maitreya's indiscriminate love for all beings is the key to lead and bring universal harmony to our world.

Maitreya knows that on the surface, all beings are different in form, awareness, and intelligence. But these are superficial and are not the true state of things. They are not the true body of being ness.

Whether they are divine beings from a higher realm of realization, a physical being of our world, the animal life form, or the souls from the dark abyss, at the very surface, sentient beings seem drastically different, but in truth we all the same, because our true spiritual body comes from the Divine Creator, Laomu. We appear different in form, but our true Self comes from the same original source of divinity. For this reason, we are equally the same. Our conscience, spirit, or soul came from the great Creator, Laomu.

Maitreya knows this and loves not only the form in which we exist in, He accepts and embraces us beyond form. He sees our nature, our origin, because He sees the divine conscience within all of us. He sees that we are truly brothers and sisters in the spiritual line of conscience. Maitreya loves and respects all things despite how we humans value them. Maitreya loves and respects you and me.

Maitreya's great love is fully revealed in His Noble Vow, a vow that came to the climax of full enlightenment. Let us now have a better understanding of Maitreya's Noble Vow.

Maitreya vowed to bring universal happiness to all beings in all realms of existence. This may sound a bit simple and plan to be graded as The Noble Vow, but it is by no means simple. Maitreya means it.

It is in Maitreya will and soul to bring every being the happiness they seek. He wants to fulfill all being's deepest yearnings and cries for joy and peace. He wants to help us solve all the problems, which we have not been able to solve, the crime, violence, hate, and fear. He wants to bring the Heavenly Kingdom, the Pureland here on earth so all beings can enjoy the fertility of abundance and eternal joy. This is the great vow of Maitreya. And He will make the Heavenly Kingdom a living reality in our world. Only Maitreya, the Perfectly Enlightened One, vowed to such a glorious statement and this unravels with His coming.

To witness and to live the coming of such a wonderful era, Maitreya tells us to receive it with His teachings on universal love. In Maitreya's great teaching of universal love, Maitreya sets Himself as an example of how we can reach such a promise land. "No blame for blame, and no abuse for abuse", He says. "Reveal universal love through your smile, give love with your heart, and give love in your acts."

These are the keys to respecting and dignifying life. When we don't practice this, we are not respecting the dignity of life, nor are we honoring the Divine Creator-Laomu, the spiritual line of our origin. If we cannot respect the dignity of all life, how will we have the heart to receive the coming of the Pureland, how can we live in peace and harmony with other beings? How can we make the Heavenly Kingdom a reality on earth, if we cannot respect the dignity of other's

existence? How can we enjoy true joy if we have hate and discrimination?

Only through the teachings of Maitreya, which is the practicing of universal love, the Pureland comes. And Maitreya will come to guide us, teach us, and show us how we can achieve this state of peace and harmony.

Maitreya's coming brings universal harmony to all beings. This is Maitreya's Noble Vow. It will put an end to our long age of ignorance. His teaching will revolutionize humanity and technology as He will guide these with morals and conscience.

When we have such mindset, this century will shift from the dark ages of violence and crime, a period of ill morals and ill conscience into the Golden Age of enlightenment. This will be a century of perfect conscience. Maitreya will guide us through and to unearth the true glories of humanity. Through all the achievements of technology, science, and all the different fields of humanity, the dignity of mankind can exist upright and holy. Maitreya brings the sanctity of the Pureland to our world. We need to open our hearts to receive its coming. And we need to sanctify ourselves so that we can come to unison with the coming of the Pureland.

No matter how advanced technology may be, no matter how magnificent humanity becomes, if they don't bring the peace and harmony to the world, if they don't bring awakening to the conscience, then technology and humanity are meaningless.

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