

New Western Cuisine



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The Haves & The Have Nots

It Doesn't Have To Be This Way

By Fred Tibbitts, Jr.

Like it or not, all of us who live a comfortable existence the world over do so on the backs and at the expense of millions of those less fortunate, who in one way or another serve us as at slave wages, under slave working conditions and dwell as slaves under the worst of living conditions.

Most of us who enjoy "the good life" never give any of this a second thought; and if so, only when we are confronted with one or more of the deplorable conditions that dominate their daily struggle. We constantly and without thought cleanse such uncomfortable memories from our consciousness, rationalizing it is not our responsibility to worry about the world's poor unfortunates. And to insure that we never have to face any of them, we are careful to distance ourselves as best we can, whenever we anticipate we may encounter them, lest we be tempted by the emotion of the moment to reevaluate our total indifference and be moved to help them on the spot or even on an ongoing basis. Heaven forbid. But those of us with resources the world over, be they humble or unlimited, must now change our ways if humanity and civilization as we know it is to continue into the next century on planet earth.

There is hope. News reports increasingly include stories from every corner of the world of individuals rich and poor who have now dedicated their lives to serving those less fortunate, such as Bill and Melinda Gates, President Bill Clinton, the 2005 United Nations Millennium Project to cut extreme poverty (Defined as having to exist on USD\$1.00 or less per day) in half by 2015 and altogether within the coming years; and just average people who have walked away from executive positions with all the perks; not to mention the legions of blue collar workers who have turned their nights into heroic examples of public service, such as feeding the homeless and caring for their infirmities.

But despite all of these dramatic examples of selfless fortunates serving the less fortunate, we are but scratching the surface of a geometrically-escalating, global crisis that will either prompt our

civilization to reverse 10,000 years of selfish warring over power and money, often in the name of religion and "one's righteous cause" or continue as is on our current path, leading to the certain extinction of civilization as we know it. The haves must face the music and there is no time to waste. Every day that unfortunates starve, while so many fortunates cannot possibly finish all the food on their plates; that thousands waste unto dust from AIDS and other diseases that can either be prevented or arrested with proper medication; and that children are deprived of the opportunity of an education, and instead, forced to do the labor of young adults, often abused by uncaring, demon souls, is a day that the world moves closer to doomsday.

Let us pray that those of us with resources to spare begin sharing them without delay with those less fortunate and that we do so until all of humanity is equally fed, clothed, housed, educated and loved. Some would call this new world "Heaven"; some "Nirvana" and yet others "The Promised Land" or even "Enlightenment": But let it be "Heaven on Earth" and let each of us, one and all alike, forever more be known simply as "the meek" or "the tamed ones", having developed the inner fortitude to let go of all excess, that all others the world over might know the joys of an equally good life.

As for those who continue to seek rebirth for the benefit of All Sentient Beings and until everyone has reached his or her Enlightenment, can there be any better way for each of us to prepare for the next life than by sharing with those less fortunate until there are no less fortunate? We must create a world devoid of the less fortunate, inhabited only by those fortunate, connected with open hearts, having become One. The answer is written in the stars, for clearly we are not alone. Truly everything and everyone who has preceded us and everything and everyone who will follow is looking down from above that one day mankind will be as one, having achieved Perfect Peace on earth.

