

The New Human Consciousness

by
Fred Rohé, based on the book

Not-Two Is Peace

by
The World-Friend, Adi Da

It is quite common in these times to hear the call to a new human consciousness, an evolution or transformation of consciousness, an elevation to a new, higher level of consciousness. In some cases it is said that the new consciousness has already manifested—here are the signs. In other cases it is said to be imminent—you can feel it coming.

No matter which perspective is being advanced, the new consciousness has certain characteristics. Much can be said about those characteristics, but at the core are the unconditional love of others and the responsible stewardship of our planet. And one result from these dominant aspects of the new consciousness is peace for all of us—global peace.

Clearly, *Not-Two Is Peace* points the way to global peace and it associates that peace with the new consciousness. But this book goes further than any other approach you may have heard or read. It actually describes what the new consciousness is, why it is absolutely necessary as the foundation for global peace, and, practically, how we can use the new consciousness to realize that peace.

The New Consciousness Defined:

A new kind of human consciousness is required—based on the working-presumption of prior unity, and on an understanding of the indivisibly single world in which everyone is living. This involves not only the notion that there is such a single world, but it requires grasping the necessity for cooperation, and the necessity to function on the basis of an understanding that the Earth is a single system, and humankind (likewise) is a single whole. (Not-Two Is Peace)

What defines the new consciousness in the above quote is the phrase “*based on the working presumption of prior unity*”. Let’s break that down into its two parts, *prior unity* and *working presumption*.

One way to grasp the prior nature of our unity is via Adi Da’s phrase “inherent indivisibility” Our oneness is not a state we need to achieve, it simply needs to be realized as the truth it is. It’s not just that we don’t have to bargain for it or work towards it—rather, it’s a human birthright, it can’t be taken away from us. *The genetic unity of humankind is inherent. That unity is scientifically known to be so.* (Not-Two Is Peace) Prior unity is the oneness of humankind that precedes any form of separation.

The new consciousness of prior unity is the “working presumption” in human relationships because it is just plain factual. And as you would expect from the new consciousness, it changes everything. Reflect upon it for a moment. The old consciousness--the one that still prevails--puts two representative of two nations in the same room with their working presumption of separation and, as the ancient adage observes, “As soon as there is another, fear arises.” The fear in the room based on the working presumption of separation means that they will focus on their differences and worry about who will come out on top.

Now put two new consciousness representatives in the same room with their working presumption of prior unity. They know they have differences, they are not fools. But the differences are not their focus. Instead, their focus is their shared humanity, not just individually, but in terms of all the people of both their nations, and, further, all people everywhere. Neither of them is trying to come out on top, they are both making a heart-felt effort to discover the greatest good for everyone involved.

The Formula for World Peace

The new consciousness is not some form of magic or airy-fairy idealism. It is a change of mind or attitude or perspective, followed by changed action. We have seen how completely the old consciousness has failed, and is continuing to fail, to bring us peace. The new consciousness is the opposite of the old, and peace can be built upon it.

If there is the working presumption of prior unity, then ego-surrendering cooperation and tolerance make perpetual human peace . . .” (Not-Two Is Peace)

The quote above paraphrases Adi Da’s “formula” for global peace, the equation

$$C + T = P$$

(Cooperation + Tolerance = Peace)

The old consciousness is fundamentally uncooperative and intolerant, incapable of actualizing the peace formula. As another old adage advises, we can’t keep repeating the same actions while expecting to get new results.

Recorded history is a record of the old consciousness, a majority of its notable figures were men of war—Alexander the Great, Julius Ceasar, Richard the Lionhearted, Napoleon, Robert E. Lee, Geronimo—their importance measured by how they excelled at “us versus them”, how effectively they killed other human beings.

The old consciousness gave us a history of tribalism—nations and sub-groups within nations either ambitiously attacking or fearfully defending. The telling of American history is usually outlined by its wars—Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, First World War, Second World War, Korean War, Vietnam War, and lately Iraq and Afghanistan.

Human beings are causing negative events in both the natural world and the political world—because human beings are still mentally indulging in “tribalism”, while (in actuality) they are globally face-to-face and in “one boat”. The ancient “tribal” mode of human culture—in which human beings live in units that are, effectively, collective forms of egoity, living in conflict with one another—is what must stop.

Becoming the Tide

Does this mean that Adi Da’s argument is that global peace will never come about unless we humans are transformed by the new consciousness based on our prior unity? Yes, definitely.

Think about it: has the old consciousness based on separation brought us any closer to peace? Is there anything encouraging in the facts that 265 million people died in 20th century wars, and now in this moment of the 21st century there are about forty current wars, with more of them being threatened almost daily?

The peace movement of this and the last century utilized good intentions, feel-good demonstrations, and calls to virtue voiced in noble terminology. It didn’t work. It cannot work. It’s like trying to stop the tide; instead, we have to become the tide. Or, as A. J. Muste, author of *The Pacifist Way of Life* said, “There is no ‘way’ to peace. Peace itself is the way.”

The new consciousness does not depend on a difficult search followed by a great outcome. It’s not as if you have to fight your way up a huge mountain, then struggle your way down in order to discover who you are. The new consciousness is not an achievement; it’s a realization. You don’t have to do anything to get down, you’re already there—that’s the truth. The new consciousness is the truth of how things really are. Humankind has been living the lie of separation for eons and it has led us to “The 11th Hour”, as the DiCaprio film depicts.

Not by Physical Means

Do you wonder how the new consciousness, practically speaking, will somehow replace the old? If the new, not-two consciousness depended on physical means for it to spread, we would be justified in feeling pessimistic. But the world is much more than its mere appearance. As a fairly ordinary example, there’s the story of the one hundred monkeys. Here’s the version of the story I heard:

There is a species of monkey on the mainland somewhere, and many miles away, over the horizon, on an island, some of the same species of monkeys are also living. One day on the island, one of the monkeys for the first time picked up a stone and cracked open a nut. Pleased with the result, she repeated the operation. After a time,

another monkey, impressed by this innovation, copied her. Soon, another monkey copied the first two, and then another, and another . . . until there were one hundred monkeys cracking nuts open with stones. At that point, suddenly the monkeys on the mainland also began to crack open nuts with stones.

And so, this example of subliminal communication has come to be known as “the hundred monkey phenomenon”, sometimes recounted to scientific materialists as evidence that consciousness is operative in invisible realms. In fact, as Adi Da teaches in other writings, all realms, visible and invisible, arise in consciousness. Consciousness is the context of everything that exists. Like the monkeys, we don’t have to do anything to be transformed by not-two consciousness—it’s the receiving that transforms what we do.

It might be argued that the “new” not-two consciousness is not new and, in a certain sense, that’s true—it’s perennial, having been voiced over eons:

He who experiences the unity of life sees his own Self in all beings, and all beings in his own Self, and looks on everything with an impartial eye.

-Buddha

I know that my unity with all people cannot be destroyed by national boundaries and government orders.

-Leo Tolstoy

But people like Buddha and Tolstoy were voices in the wilderness--relatively speaking, nobody heard them. Finally, however, in the 21st century, billions will hear them and that is new.

The Unstoppable Point

The utility of not-two consciousness is that it can be expressed in the form of an idea—prior unity—that represents the actual, factual truth of our situation. And that makes it possible to talk realistically in terms of billions of people—everybody, or, as Adi Da conceives it, “everybody-all-at-once”: *It s the “everybody-all-at-once” voice that must now speak and act. This understanding of what must occur is very*

different from all other efforts that are currently being pursued for the sake of establishing peace in the world.

If human beings collectively (as everybody-all-at-once) realize that they are (always already) in a condition of prior unity—and, therefore, of necessary co-existence and mutuality—with one another, and if, on that basis, they stand firm together, then they will be in a position to directly righten the world-situation. Six billion people can—and, indeed, must—refuse to go on with the current chaos.

*Not-Two Is Peace is voiced in the imperative. We are at the brink. Not-two consciousness must prevail. That being so, you might wonder if the tide is coming in yet. Maybe so. When five percent of a population adopts a new idea, it's embedded. When twenty percent adopts it, it's unstoppable. (Everet Rogers, author of *Diffusion of Innovation*)*

It's anybody's guess as to how close not-two consciousness is to being at the unstoppable point. But keep in mind that it does not depend on having heard the term "prior unity". The term helps we who read the English language to easily grasp the essence of it. But the new consciousness is not merely intellectual. It's a tacit understanding of reality that enjoys the feeling of oneness, fosters cooperation, tolerance, peace. It is signaled by what people do. And what people are doing might indicate that we are getting close to the unstoppable point. Paul Hawken writes about what people are doing in his book about the massive, nameless movement towards rightening life on Earth, *Blessed Unrest*:

What has changed recently, and has offered evidence that hope may be a rational act, despite the onslaught of countervailing data, is the use of connectivity. Individuals are associating, hooking up, and identifying with one another. From that meeting and experience they are forming units, inventing again and again pieces of a larger organism, enjoining associations and volunteers and committees and groups, and assembling these into a mosaic of activity as if they were solving a jigsaw puzzle without ever having seen the picture on its box.

You might wonder if the connectivity Hawken writes about is the product of not-two consciousness. Is this connectivity being made on the presumption that people have to work towards establishing unity, or is

that connectivity being made based on the knowledge that unity is simply so? Only those involved are in a position to know. Certainly, old consciousness connectivity is far better than insisting on separation, focusing on differences and self interests. But not-two consciousness connectivity replaces “us versus them” with “us and them”--*the working presumption of prior unity*. Not-two consciousness enters a room, finds not-two consciousness already established there, and relationship proceeds directly to address the common good.

Getting There from Here

Based on the not-two consciousness, *Not-Two Is Peace* proposes unique means for realizing global peace—and all the other problems we have in common. One proposal is the Global Cooperative Order, which includes everybody, all six billion of us, nobody excluded because everybody is inherently included. *There is no difference between people. Human beings are a single species—and, fundamentally, they are all the same.* We’ve all observed the different races, languages, and cultures that have developed over time. *Nevertheless, the changes that occurred and the differences that developed are sheerly incidental and minor. . . Every human being is, as such, always already coincident with (and fundamentally identical to) every other—and, therefore, could also be combined, in a very productive and positive sense, with the total world of all of humankind.* (*Not-Two Is Peace*)

That combining would be the Global Cooperative Order. The Global Cooperative Order would establish peace as its first order of business—there is no power on Earth that could withstand the force of the collective voice of humankind. With humankind’s birthright of global peace as the necessary foundation, The Global Cooperative Order would then confront the long list of wrongs that, since we perpetrated them in the first place, can be made right by us over time.

Since six and a half billion people could not effectively manage anything, the proposal that follows upon the Order is The Global Cooperative Forum. To envision the Global Cooperative Forum, think of the United Nations, either transformed or made obsolete by not-two consciousness.

The Global Cooperative Forum is different from any international institution that has existed up to now. No one would “sit at” the Global Cooperative Forum. In the Global Cooperative Forum, people would not have placards in front of them, announcing their national identity as the basis for discourse. The fundamental “label” each one would have is “human being”—and nothing else.

The Global Cooperative Forum is about humankind as a whole exercising its collective voice unequivocally, and standing firm, and being unwilling to cooperate with what is not (and must not be) acceptable. The Global Cooperative Forum is the means by which the collective “force of everybody-all-at-once” can become effective in the world. (Not-Two Is Peace)

Of course, the mandate of the Global Cooperative Forum can only be fulfilled by individuals who represent us from the heart and mind of the not-two consciousness. Who, you might ask, would such an individual be? Adi Da calls for Global Cooperative Forum representatives who would be “morally enlightened persons of true integrity”. He or she would not be interested in personal power. Perhaps he or she would have previously been in some elevated position, but experience would have made him or her disillusioned with ego-based power positions of any kind. Instead, such a person would be committed to serving all in an ego-transcending manner, dedicated to the interests of our species and our planet as his or her first priority.

We live in what Adi Da calls a “dark epoch”. Bad news constantly confronts us. But it wasn’t long ago that a skinny little man with big ears and spectacles non-violently led India to independence. And even more recently, the countries of eastern Europe transformed themselves from Soviet pawns into self-determining democracies. Really big changes can and do occur. Now it’s time for the biggest change yet. It may be daunting to feel that only not-two consciousness can change our fate, but take heart: *If anything is, as a matter of necessity, required by the reality scale of human existence, it is a certainty that it can (and must) be done. (Not-Two Is Peace)*

*In this world of Suchness
there is neither self nor other than self.*

***To come directly into harmony with this reality
just simply say when doubt arises,
"Not-two".***

***In this "Not-two" nothing is separate,
nothing is excluded.
No matter when or where,
enlightenment means entering this truth.
And this truth is beyond extension or
diminution in time and space;
in it a single thought is ten thousand years.***

Sengstan
Third Zen Patriarch