

Voices of Prior Unity

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

Adi Da's recent book *Not-Two Is Peace* is right on the mark. He says, "The real (even genetic) situation of the human species is prior unity. Peace requires that prior unity be the working-presumption of humankind." This simple and powerful principle reflects a consensus truth of global wisdom that there is *That Which is First* — an ultimate, unifying, infinite Force (whether we call it Tao, Aum, Brahman, Yahweh, Allah, Energy, Buddha Nature, Sunyata . . .) that is the ground and source of all life, all existence, all worldviews, religions, cultures, forms of life. This is "Prior Unity," and the collective wisdom of humanity has urged that unless and until humans center our lives in this Unifying Principle and Holistic Unified Field, we are not sustainable and we cannot flourish, individually and collectively. And we will not realize true peace.

—ASHOK GANGADEAN
Professor and Chair of Philosophy, Haverford College
Founder-Director of the Global Dialogue Institute
Co-Convenor of the World Commission on
Global Consciousness and Spirituality

All differences in this world are of degree, and not of kind, because **oneness** is the secret of everything.”

Swami Vivekananda

Only the paradigm of prior unity is right and true—and always fit to work. When the parts presume themselves to be senior to the whole, the inherent unity of all becomes subordinate to every kind of separate and separative inclination—but when the whole is presumed to be senior to the parts, prior unity becomes the understanding of every one and all.

“*Not-Two Is Peace*”, *Adi Da*

We are one, after all, you and I. Together we suffer, together exist, and forever will recreate each other.

Pierre Teilhard De Chardin

Nondualism sings the song of Oneness and emphasizes direct experience rather than mere intellectual understanding. We find these teachings at the root of all the world’s spiritual paths including Gnostic Christianity, East Indian Advaita, Japanese Zen, Chinese Chan, and Tibetan Dzogchen.

The word ‘nondual’ comes from the Sanskrit ‘advaita’, which means ‘not two’, a word that points to the heart-felt realization that everything is, in its essential nature,

One. The role of the body, mind, and senses is to separate this inherent oneness into seemingly separate parts.

In this manner the universe in all its diversity comes into existence. We need separation to function in the world. But nondualism reveals the paradox that even as our mind and senses perceive separation, our heart knows the inherent Oneness of true nature.

Richard Miller, author, founder of the Institute of Timeless Being

Now I am called the shepherd of the desert gazelles,

Now a Christian monk,

Now a Zoroastrian.

The Beloved is Three, yet One :

Just as the three are in reality one.

~Ibn El-Arabi, from 'The Way of the Sufi' Idries Shah

In terms of ephemeral manifestations, even the body passes away, to say nothing of success, fame, wealth, and rank. In terms of reality, all beings are oneself, to say nothing of family members.

-Huanchu Daoren

The insight [expressed in Not-Two Is Peace] is that we are not only threatened; we can also be saved. The threats come from our egoic separateness, and the salvation from the

rediscovery of our unity: the unity that is prior to all other facts and considerations. It is there: it is a fact. Unfortunately for us, it is a nearly forgotten fact. But, fortunately, it is a fact that can be, and is now being, recalled and rediscovered. It is recalled by spiritual masters such as Adi Da, and rediscovered by front-line thinkers and scientists . . .

The transformation of the human species has begun. A new epidemic is spreading among us: more and more people are infected by the recognition of our unity .The fragmentation of human communities, the separation of man and nature, were but an interlude in human history; and that interlude is now coming to a close. We are recovering our unity not by returning to a prior culture and consciousness, but by moving beyond the fragmented, egoic civilization that dominated humankind for the past two centuries--moving toward a cooperative world that could be, and should be, initiated by the worldwide consultation of people representing no interest other than that of the species itself.

Irvin Laszlo, from the Introduction to "Not-Two Is Peace"

Oneness is like the clear blue sky-
everything arises, unfolds, and subsides
within its all-compassionate love.

Oneness is our real Self.

Everything is an aspect of Oneness.

And our quest to know this comes from Oneness.

Abhinavagupta on the teachings of Non-dual Kashmir Shaivism

Being without passion,

behold the source!

Being with passion,

behold the flow!

The two are one -

born of the same root,

differently named when they appear.

Both may be called mystery -

going from mystery to deeper mystery,

enter the secret of Life!

-- *Lao Tzu*

The genetic unity of humankind is inherent. That unity is scientifically known to be so. Yet, the "difference-makers" speak and act as if there were superior humans and inferior humans, superior nationalisms and inferior nationalisms, and so on--as if merely incidental differences were of immense significance. To make much of incidental differences is merely to argue about old stories.

“Not-Two Is Peace” by Adi Da

Our (Costa Rican) strength has rested on the belief that the planet will soon achieve an international order based on belonging to a single entity: the human species.

-Oscar Arias Sanchez, former President of Costa Rico

Self-preservation is only the second law of life. The first law is that you and the other are one.

- Joseph Campbell

The two are the same, but after they are produced, they have different names.

- Lao Tzu

We can now begin to see just how close are the parallels between the light of physics and the light of consciousness. Both are beyond the material world. And both seem to lie beyond space and time. Both seem intrinsically unknowable—at least in the way that everything else is known. And both are absolutes. Every photon of light is an identical quantum of action, and the foundation of every interaction in the universe. The light of consciousness is likewise absolute and invariant. It is the source of every quality that we ever experience. And its essential nature is the same for everyone. Since it is beyond all attributes and identifying characteristics, there is no way to distinguish the light of consciousness in me from the light that shines in you. . .

I am the light. And so are you. And so is every sentient being in the universe.

From [Noetic Sciences Review](#), *Mysterious Light: A Scientist's Odyssey*,
[Peter Russell](#)

Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights

A. Human dignity and the human genome

Article 1

The human genome underlies the fundamental unity of all members of the human family, as well as the recognition of their inherent dignity and diversity. In a symbolic sense, it is the heritage of humanity.

The fact is that unity already exists--we have forgotten it. What is that unity? The right understanding that all men are born in the same way with the same privileges from God and the same construction outside and inside. As man we are all one--no high, no low ... We are one at the level of that conscious entity which is administering this factory of the human body. So we are conscious beings and God is all conscious.

Sant Kirpal Singh

When we reflect upon the Kosmos and within ourselves, we realize the existence of a Cosmic Alignment that unites every being in the universe. We also realize that humanity is indeed "human-unity" and that in our common intention for peace, happiness, and prosperity, we are all already kosmically aligned. If we can awaken to the reality of this Cosmic Alignment, we will then realize that with our current knowledge and collective intelligence, true global peace, happiness, and prosperity are well within our reach.

The power of transformation that we possess is enormous. Instead of fearing uncertainty, we need only to consciously align ourselves with the Cosmic Alignment that eternally exists in the Being of our beings.

© Yasuhiko Genku Kimura, *Kosmic Alignment: A Principle of Global Unity, Kosmos Journal*

Oneness is Compassionate.

Oneness has no judgement.

Oneness sees everything as it is.

Oneness allows everything as it is.

Oneness is all there is.

~Richard Miller

The prior unity that exists at the ultimate depth of existence is reflected in every dimension of the world and of the human being. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, physicists have been demonstrating, in ever more sophisticated ways, that so-called "matter" is a unified continuum of energy, not merely an assembly of separate particles. At the same time, biologists have shown that the genetic structure of the human being is almost exactly identical throughout the entire human species, and that the apparent differences between the world's races are very superficial.

Adi Da is saying that a clear awareness of the truth of prior unity enables intelligent collective action--action that starts with the presumption of prior unity , rather than action that simply "works toward", or struggles to establish, unity. In other words, the "real" or "realistic" politics of our time must come from an understanding of how things really are.

But, as Adi Da points out, there is an immediate obstacle to such intelligent action, and that obstacle is "ego", or "egoity" .What does he mean by this? He means the presumption of separateness, and action based on that presumption. Ego, or the presumption of separateness, makes "twoness"--the sense of "self" versus "other". Adi Da even indicates this presumption of separateness by placing "self" in quotation marks throughout the book. And, as ancient wisdom has stated it, "as soon as there is an other, fear arises". There, in a nutshell, is the root of all conflict. Human society is based on egoity--on the sense of "two", the sense of "self", "other", and all the struggle and competition that stem from that--rather than being based on the intuition of oneness, or prior unity .But, as the title of this book indicates, "Not-Two", or the understanding and transcending of "twoness" , is the only recipe for true peace.

Therefore, the great shift in the consciousness of humankind that must now occur is a waking up to prior unity and the making of a global society governed by that great principle. Until this occurs, human beings, in Adi Da's words, are simply playing out false roles, like "mummers", or actors, in the universal ego-drama, or "mummery" .

In collective terms, the way beyond "mummery" and "ego" is for the world population to act together as "everybody-all-at-once", on behalf of itself and the planet, rather than remaining in its present fragmented state of individuals and groups merely struggling for their own "self"-fulfillment. The appearance of the "egoless everybody" is not a utopian concept of everyone individually becoming "enlightened", but the actualization of a new civilization in which the global view, or the disposition of universality and totality, governs human action. .

Carolyn Lee, from "Characteristics of Meaning and Language in 'Not-Two Is Peace'"

The awareness that we are all human beings together has become lost in war and through politics.

- *Albert Schweitzer*

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

Leo Tolstoy

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

People commonly presume unity to be a positive value. But they are typically thinking of unity as something to be "worked toward". "Working toward" unity is not what I am talking about. I am talking about prior unity. I am talking about people entering into a dialogue that is based on the working-presumption of prior unity, and non-separateness, and zero-confrontation, and global indivisibility, and the absolute Law of unbreakable peace--rather than a status quo based on the ego-based presumption of separateness, and conflict, and competition.

What is senior to competition is prior unity (or inherent indivisibility). As a working-principle applicable to all modes of dialogue and all modes of happening in the world, the working-presumption of prior unity is essential. That is why cooperation and tolerance are not merely "ideals"--which people should "try to make happen". Rather, true cooperation and true tolerance originate from the working-presumption of prior unity. Therefore, it is not that you should seek unity, or seek cooperation, or seek tolerance, or seek peace. Unity, cooperation, tolerance, and peace are the Law and the inevitable demonstration of right life. Unity, cooperation, tolerance, and peace are what always already is. Therefore, unity, cooperation, tolerance, and peace must always be presumed to be the principle that is also presently the case--

and, then, human beings must always function on the basis of that always present - time working-presumption.

“Not-Two Is Peace” by Adi Da

Every human carries about 6 billion base pairs--the chemical rungs of the DNA ladder--in the nuclei of his or her cells. Our personal DNA code differs from that of a random stranger by two rungs for every thousand, or .2 percent of the whole the patterns of variation that appear at the genetic level cut across visible racial divisions. Moving from the physical traits that scientists call phenotype--things like skin color and hair type--to the genetic level is like moving closer and closer to a pointillist painting. Twenty feet from Seurat's La Grande Jatte, for instance, you see Parisians and their dogs, but at two feet the image dissolves into dabs of pigment that might belong to a Parisian, a dog, or a tree. It's the same way with the human phenotype and the human genotype. "The closer in you go from what you see on the surface," notes Diversity Project planner Marc Feldman of Stanford, "the more unity there is."

Mitochondrial Eve is the name given by researchers to the woman who is defined as the [matrilineal most recent common ancestor](#) for all living [humans](#). Passed down from mothers to offspring for over a hundred thousand years, her [mitochondrial DNA](#) is now found in all living humans: every mtDNA in every living person is derived from hers. Mitochondrial Eve is the female counterpart of [Y-chromosomal Adam](#), the [patrilineal](#) most recent common ancestor, although they lived at different times. She is believed to have lived about 140,000 years ago in what is now [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#) or [Tanzania](#). Y-chromosomal Adam probably lived between 60,000 and 90,000 years ago, judging from [molecular clock](#) and [genetic marker](#) studies.

Various entries from Wikipedia

There is nothing, nothing, *nothing* individual about this universe. There is no such thing as the lone individual anywhere.

-Howard Bloom, author, from an Enlightenment magazine interview, The Café at the Beginning of the Universe

What is at the end is the same as whatever is at the beginning. If you begin with separateness, the end is dark. If you begin with prior unity, all that emerges is light.

“Not-Two Is Peace”, Adi Da