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Peace Leaflets A Starting point for Dialogue

E V O L U T I O N

"Eat and be eaten" is the law in the animal kingdom.
"Live and let live" ought to be the law of humankind.

Konrad Lenz once said "The long sought link between beast and the truly humane man is us." We can draw some hope for the future from his conclusion. But some may raise objections to this particular vision. Common wisdom holds that evolutionary processes require time. How then, could we possibly hope for change right now, at the eleventh hour? But evolution can also occur in the space of one lifetime.

To be loved requires the capability to love, understanding is a prerequisite for being understood. Self-confidence can do without presumption and dogmatism, it must instead allow for humility, an ability to smile at one's own follies and mistakes. Mutual respect, esteem and tolerance are what we need, and they can only grow when cultivated.

Exercising personal freedom, which is guaranteed by free societies, not only secures a dignified human existence, but also encourages engagement in small and large communities. Contact and communication with people of different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds will lead us away from narrow, nationalist thinking, and bring us to to a sense of global co-responsibility.

The great poet Friedrich Schiller said it best:

"Such is the curse of evil deed, that it has to bring forth more evil deeds!"

Why cannot the opposite then, be true? Let us say:

"This is the blessing of a good deed, that it has to bring forth more good deeds!"

I cannot believe that demons are born, but that man's character is shaped by life's gravitational pull. Remember, evolution also occurs within a life time. Not all hope is lost, if we succeed in turning the concerned ones into educators for peace!