Peak Water and the Great Unraveling

Slide 1 David Korten from his book The Great Turning says:

By what name will future generations know our time? Will they speak in anger and frustration of the time of the Great Unraveling, when profligate consumption exceeded Earth's capacity to sustain and led to an accelerating wave of collapsing environmental systems, violent competition for what remained of the planet's resources, and a dramatic dieback of the human population? Or will they look back in joyful celebration on the time of the Great Turning, when their forebears embraced the higher-order potential of their human nature, turned crisis into opportunity, and learned to live in creative partnership with one another and Earth?

Slide 2 We are living in an age of unprecedented change, with a number of crises converging – climate change, global economic instability, overpopulation, erosion of traditional community values, declining biodiversity, and wars over natural resources. All of these calamities have been exacerbated by the profligate use of cheap, non-renewable fossil fuels. Now global oil, gas and coal production is predicted to irreversibly decline in the next 10 to 20 years, severe climate changes are already taking effect around the world, and the economy is in turmoil. The coming shocks are likely to be catastrophic if we do not prepare

Richard Heinberg in <u>The End Of Growth</u> states: Our central survival task for the decades ahead, as individuals and as a species, must be to make a transition away from the use of fossil fuels and to do this as peacefully, equitably, and intelligently as possible".

The following analysis of the end of the readily available clean fresh water, cheap oil and "growth at any cost" culture, how we can hospice its decline, and midwife its transformation comes from books, and papers I have been reading, lectures I have attended, and Transition¹ and Permaculture² certification workshops in which I have participated.

¹ The Transition Handbook: from oil dependency to local resilience - by <u>Rob Hopkins</u>

Slide 3. Most of the books, films, and experiences that inspired me to compile the following ideas essentially say, "No, seriously folks, we're SCREWED." "Things are bad. I mean bad – REALLY bad. But we are only truly SCREWED if we stick to the old paradigms of economics and the institutions of big finance and the captive corporations that serve them. I don't take issue with the facts or the conclusions of the books and papers however I am suggesting a set of courses of action, ones that could/should flow from those ideas and warnings, and just perhaps, with the involvement of engaged and informed individuals, working in community, we can land a little more softly than the crash for which we are heading.

Clean, readily available, fresh water is a victim of the cult of growth

Slide 4. The housing bubble, the "too big to fail" bank, and Wall Street meltdown made it abundantly clear that money does not equal wealth. In the old economy the giant house of cards was only sustained by the illusion that our economy operates without ecological, financial, or social limits. The artifice that our economy only functions when it is "growing" is exacerbated by the utterances of The President, The Treasury Secretary, and pundits of all stripes that mention growth multiple times during every speech, report, and press conference on the state of the economy.

Slide 5. <u>Peak Everything³</u> is the title of a book by Richard Heinberg, in which he describes how unprecedented population growth, water use, energy consumption; food consumption; an unparalleled shift from a rural to urban population; and the impacts of humans on the environment are the cause of an imminent catastrophe. As others have done he postulates that the 21st Century ushered in an era of population expansion, as well as world-wide declines in a number of crucial areas:

² **Permaculture** is an approach to designing human settlements and agricultural systems that is modeled on the relationships found in nature. It is based on the ecology of how things interrelate rather than on the strictly biological concerns that form the foundation of modern agriculture. Permaculture aims to create stable, productive systems that provide for human needs; it's a system of design where each element supports and feeds other elements, ultimately aiming at systems that are virtually self-sustaining and into which humans fit as an integral part.

³ http://www.newsociety.com/Books/P/Peak-Everything2

- a decline in oil, natural gas, uranium, and coal extraction
- a decline in arable farm land
- a decline in yearly grain harvests
- a decline in climate stability
- a decline in economic growth
- a decline in ocean fish
- a decline in clean fresh water
- a decline in glacial and polar ice
- a decline in the readily available supply of minerals and ores, such as copper and platinum

Resource depletion has been at the center of the downfall of past civilizations. The demise of ancient and recent far flung empires has most often been a result of the overuse of natural resources, of water, forests, and soil. The American "empire" has grown to be the most powerful in history based almost entirely on the profligate use of cheap oil and the social pathologies that have resulted from a growth at all costs economy. The impacts on our economy and culture resulting from declining resources, price increases, and particularly CO2 pollution are irrefutable. Whether or not we can adapt and perhaps even flourish will be the central organizing principle of a successful transition.

Slide 6. Human beings have depended on access to water since the earliest days of civilization, but with 7 billion people on the planet as of October of last year, exponentially expanding urbanization and development are driving demand like never before.

- Water use has been growing at more than twice the rate of population increase in the last century
- Water use is predicted to increase by 50 percent between 2007 and 2025 in developing countries and 18 percent in developed ones, with much of the increased use in the poorest countries with more and more people moving from rural areas to cities.

Factor in the expected impacts of climate change this century — more severe floods, droughts and shifts from past precipitation patterns — that are likely to hit

the poorest people first and worst and we have a significant challenge on our hands.

Will there be enough water for everyone, especially if population continues to rise, as predicted, to 9 billion by mid-century? Right now:

- Over a billion people lack access to clean drinking water, and over 2 billion live without adequate sanitation, leading to the deaths of 5 million people, mostly children, each year from preventable waterborne disease!
- Only 8 percent of the planet's fresh water supply goes to domestic use and about 70 percent is used for irrigation and 22 percent in industry!
- Droughts and insufficient rainfall contribute to what's known as water risk, along with floods and contamination!

Slide 7. Hot spots of water risk, as reported in the World Resources Institute include but are not limited to:

- Australia's Murray-Darling basin;
- the Colorado River basin in the U.S. Southwest;
- the Orange-Senqu basin, covering parts of South Africa, Botswana and Namibia and all of Lesotho;
- and the Yangtze and Yellow river basins in China.

Slide 8. Peak water is a concept similar to peak oil. Just as we have reached the peak of the world's oil supply, and are beginning to run out of oil, the world is also running out of water suitable for human consumption. Already, many of the world's people lack access to safe, clean drinking water. Many more live in regions where water shortages are imminent. In many places, human use of water has passed the point where nature can replenish it adequately.

Unlike oil, water is a renewable resource. The earth has about the same amount of water today as in the age of the dinosaurs. Year after year, worldwide, rivers, lakes and reservoirs are replenished during the stormy seasons. The reason why we risk running out of water is not that water itself is disappearing, but that water fit for human consumption is being used up faster than nature can replenish it. The result is peak water. The long term result is a world water shortage. Over the last two centuries, how the world uses water has significantly changed. It is astounding how much water it takes to make our stuff, and the rise of industrialism has resulted in many of the world's rivers and streams being diverted to feed factories, industrial farms, electric plants and growing cities. Groundwater, a primary source of water for many consumers, has been tapped so extensively that some cities are expected to run out of water within the next two decades. Much of the water that remains is polluted. Even where the global water crisis is less keenly felt, like north America, it is likely that we have reached peak water.

Slide 9. Climate change and human settlement in areas without enough water for the population are among the key reasons for peak water. Australia is a prime example of this: already arid and supporting a sparse human population when Europeans arrived, the continent is becoming even hotter and drier due to climate change and drought.

In facing future scenarios that involve a transforming climate with an increase in possibility of extreme weather and storms; a disrupted economy and threatening collapse; an energy economy based on declining supplies of oil and other non-renewable resources; an observable diminishment of water and food resources; a threat of pandemic disease occurring in an ever destabilizing social environment where the medical emergency establishment is understaffed–undercapitalized, unprepared; and the possibilities of mass migrations in the first world – there are four possible strategies that the United States and other nations might employ to respond to economic challenges associated with "Peak Everything:"

- <u>Last One Standing:</u> Global competition for remaining resources, evidenced by the saber rattling by neo-conservatives for a war in Iran.
- <u>Denial</u>: Waiting, and hoping that some unforeseen element will solve the problem, I call this the alien intervention scenario -- we will invent our way out of the problem.
- <u>Building Lifeboats</u>: Preparing local areas to be sustainable in the event that the global economic project collapses, including re-localization of energy and food.
- <u>and Power-down:</u> Global cooperation in reducing energy usage, conservation, resource management, and reducing population. On this front the future looks very bleak indeed.

The global water crisis is a significant part of the greatest ecological and human threat humanity has ever faced. We are changing our climate with disastrous consequences, we are watching our growth at any cost economies implode, and when we are beginning to see the consequences of our wasteful use of precious and nonrenewable natural resources:

Slide 10.

- We are polluting our lakes, rivers and streams to death
- Every day, 2 million tons of sewage and industrial and agricultural waste are discharged into the world's water.
- The amount of wastewater produced annually is about six times more water than exists in all the rivers of the world.
- A comprehensive new global study recently reported that 80% of the world's rivers are now in peril, affecting 5 billion people on the planet.
- Slide 11. We are also mining our groundwater far faster than nature can replenish it, sucking it up to grow water-guzzling chemical-fed crops in deserts or to water thirsty cities that dump an astounding 200 trillion gallons of land-based water as waste in the oceans every year.
- The global mining industry sucks up another 200 trillion gallons, which it leaves behind as poison.
- Fully one third of global water withdrawals are now used to produce biofuels
- A recent global survey of groundwater found that the rate of depletion more than doubled in the last half century.
- Dirty water is the biggest killer of children. Every day more children die of water borne disease than HIV/AIDS, malaria and war together.
- In the global South, dirty water kills a child every three and a half seconds.
- By 2030, global demand for water will exceed supply by 40%— an astounding figure foretelling of terrible suffering.
- Half the world's tropical and temperate forests are now gone. The rate of deforestation in the tropics continues at about an acre a second, and has been for decades.
- Half the planet's wetlands are gone.

- An estimated ninety percent of the large predator fish are gone, and 75 percent of marine fisheries are now overfished or fished to capacity.
- Almost half of the world's corals are either lost or severely threatened.
- Over half the agricultural land in drier regions suffers from some degree of deterioration and desertification.
- Persistent toxic chemicals can now be found by the dozens in essentially each of us.
- Freshwater withdrawals are now over half of accessible runoff, and soon to be 70 percent.
- Water shortages are increasing in the United States and abroad.
- And more and more corporations are controlling water.

Slide 12. Privatization and pollution go hand in hand, and traditional environmental action is not finding a solution. Corporations are attempting, and in some cases succeeding in turning water into private property, which can then be hoarded, bought and sold on the open market. The latest proposals are for a water pollution market, similar to carbon markets, where companies and countries will buy and sell the right to pollute water.

Maude Barlow, Chair of the Board of Food and Waterwatch, has said, "Commodifying water renders an earth-centered vision for watersheds and Ecosystems unattainable."

The 6th World Water Forum this past month was an opportunity for multinational water corporations to solidify their plans to further privatize nature. At the forum, the Canadian representatives led a successful effort to <u>weaken</u> language in the forum's ministerial document regarding the human right to water, and demonstrated by the banking industry's plans to integrate water trading into futures markets and to create derivative water-based financial instruments, the privatization of water has accelerated dramatically, creating a setback for right to water as resolved by the UN.

We have already seen the 'casino of hunger' created by speculation on commodity crops. The global food crisis that caused millions to starve was caused by a tidal wave of Wall Street speculation. Now the same economic interests are proposing the same type of financial mechanisms to create a speculative market with the potential to create great wealth for the corporations and economic institutions promoting the strategy of the commodification of water.

Slide 13. The objective of the Alternative World Water Forum, held at the same time as the 6th World Water Forum was organized to create an alternative to privatization and commodification.

At the opening plenary at this Alternative Forum, which drew approximately 5,000 attendees, the UN special rapporteur for the right to water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque, said, 'Be vigilant. The Marseille Ministerial Declaration is already being used at the Human Rights Council in Geneva to weaken these rights.'

At Rio+20, where global leaders will meet to make commitments towards carbon reductions 20 years after the UN's first Conference on Sustainable Development, multinational corporations are playing a key role in lobbying for the financialization of nature, complete with futures markets and other derivative based financial instruments to enable water speculation.

<u>We can't survive a mortgage crisis for water</u>. It's not a "green" or sustainable economy that these interests are promoting. It's a greenwashed economy, which will do nothing to help mitigate climate change, water shortages or other pending environmental disasters.

It seems to me one conclusion is inescapable. The world needs a new environmentalism. Today's environmentalism is not succeeding. The US has run a 40-year experiment on whether mainstream environmentalism can succeed, and the results are now in. The full burden of managing accumulating environmental threats is too great.

It almost seems that as traditional environmentalists get stronger so do the forces arrayed against us.

I am not sure I know who said it, but "insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result." Well, I don't believe we are insane. It's time for something different – a new environmentalism.

Slide 14. In the early 1990's a group of five River, Sound and Baykeeper's agreed on a unique strategy. Terry Backer, John Cronin, Joe Payne, Cynthia Poten, Mike Herz, and I talked and wrote, and finally met to hatch the idea that ultimately became the Waterkeeper Alliance. I remember a meeting we had in San Francisco where the "founders" hammered out a vision of a collaborative organization of strongly independent regional groups. It was such an unusual model that we fought like crazy over the details and forged something remarkably unique. It would not be an exaggeration to say that "more Maalox than beer" was consumed at many of these early meetings. Interminable debates over structure, hierarchy, independence, and trademarks seemed to be our over arching concern. Our brother and sisterhood overcame the significant differences and resulted in guiding precepts based on a mysterious mixture of collaboration and self-interest. The ideal of a "Keeper" in a boat "showing how individuals can have a real impact on their communities, especially when they coalesce into clear-thinking independent groups backed by the force of law," became a reality.

We "institutionalized what Bob Boyle called for in his book about the Hudson – a Riverkeeper: "out on the River the length of the year, nailing polluters on the spot ... giving a sense of time, place and purpose to people who live in or visit the valley...with the idiosyncrasies, migrations, and workings of the Hudson engrained in his mind. We need someone like this on the Hudson and on every major river in the country." Remarkably a majority of the Waterkeepers around the world, whether or not they know about the founders, or have read Bob Boyle still have that founding vision as part of their grassroots DNA, with a common purpose and a clear vision.

With the birth of the Waterkeeper movement a new way of looking at our "home waters" was established. A reactive and litigious organization when necessary – and proactive when advantageous, Waterkeepers embody a reverence for the land and water, a belief in social and environmental equity, and a belief in the extraordinary accomplishments of ordinary people working in community.

Waterkeepers adhere to the concept of the public ownership of the Commons and the common law principle of the Public Trust Doctrine. The Public Trust Doctrine, a longstanding legal principle which holds that certain natural resources, particularly air, water and the oceans, are central to our very existence and therefore must be protected for the common good and not allowed to be appropriated for private gain. Under the Public Trust Doctrine, governments exercise their fiduciary responsibilities to sustain these resources for the longterm use and enjoyment of the people.

The Public Trust Doctrine was first codified in 529 A.D. by Emperor Justinius who declared: "By the laws of nature, these things are common to all mankind: the air, running water, the sea and consequently the shores of the sea." U.S. courts have referred to the Public Trust Doctrine as a "high, solemn and perpetual duty" and held that the states hold title to the lands under navigable waters "in trust for the people of the State." Recently, Vermont used the Public Trust Doctrine to protect its groundwater from exploitation, declaring that no one owns this resource but rather, it belongs to the people of Vermont and future generations.

- The Commons is based on the notion that we all have rights to certain common heritages the atmosphere and oceans, and freshwater.
- A central characteristic of the Commons is the need for careful collaborative management of shared resources by those who use them.
- The Commons is not a free-for-all. It must be managed and shared in a way that protects them now and for all time.
- Waterkeeper's core values are about more than clean water and strong communities. Waterkeepers advocate for, and live, lives of service. We are democracy builders as well as water stewards, we believe that potable water and sanitation is a right not a privilege.

During a trip to China on behalf of the Waterkeeper Alliance I noticed two things that were ubiquitous in the garbage piles that seemed to grow every place a road crossed a stream. Those two things were blue plastic bags and empty plastic water bottles. I must admit I did not drink tap water in China because I had the opportunity to see the extent of water pollution in almost every river.

Slide 15. Waterkeepers strongly believe that fighting for equitable water in a world running out means taking better care of the water we have, not just finding supposedly endless new sources.

The Waterkeeper Alliance is becoming more aligned with The climate justice movement, whose motto is Change the System, Not the Climate. This justice

movement is challenging not only the stalemate of the government negotiators at the Copenhagen Climate conference, but the cozy alliances between major Environmental groups, international institutions and big business.

And the world water movement, in its many forms, has given birth to national water rights networks continental networks, and has led to the decline of water privatization in Latin America, Africa, Europe, and notably, even in France, home to the main multinational water companies, has had water came back to public management in Paris.

The water movement has participated in the fight to have the access to water recognized as a fundamental human right by:

- creating and promoting an alternative vision of water management which is based on ecological and democratic values
- continuing research to find solutions to the worldwide water crisis
- making the water movement structure sustainable.

SLIDE 17. Water as a Human Right

The history of making clean water a right started in 1948, with the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were ratified by all the nations of the world. The declaration did not specifically recognize a right to water. But in recent decades, worsening water scarcity and contamination, aggravated by global climate change, made a resolution on water rights more urgent.

In 2002 the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights stated that "the right to water clearly falls within the category of guarantees essential for securing an adequate standard of living, particularly since it is one of the most fundamental conditions for survival."

Last July after over a decade of grassroots organizing and lobbying, the global water justice movement achieved a significant victory when the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to affirm "the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.

President Morales of Bolivia, who brought the climate justice movement together in Cochabamba a few years ago and led the campaign at the UN to promote the Rights of Mother Earth. Bolivia took the whole UN community by surprise when Ambassador, Solon decided that it was time to put an up or down question to every country.

"Do you or do you not support the human right to drinking water and sanitation?"

The resolution—co-sponsored by 35 states—passed overwhelmingly with 122 states voting in favor and 41 abstaining. Embarrassed to go on record against this fundamental right, not one country voted against it. Water was declared a human right by the United Nations on July, 29 2010.

A new document forged in Bolivia put the world on notice that business as usual is not on the climate agenda. The Earth Charter movement provides a powerful base for a revitalization of the ethical and spiritual grounds of the efforts of the Waterkeepers and other climate and water advocates.

The Charter's first paragraph says it all:

"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms, we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Toward this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations."

So this is where Waterkeepers and other grass roots community groups can play a significant role. All of you, the new generation of local leaders can educate, and advocate for access to free, potable drinking water, and for farming methods like Permaculture that use less water, feed more people, and improve rather than impoverish the environment. You and other local community leaders can also make sure that projects like fishing cooperatives, community based fisheries management, and sustainable aquaculture and aquaponics projects dependant on clean water can thrive. Community involvement, and buy in from the leaders are necessary to implement water conservation and water management projects that benefit the people. Grassroots efforts to ensure that communities have the knowledge, money, and legal backing to sustainably manage their water resources will continue their work—but will need more resources.

I would urge you to educate yourself about Peak everything, and a very different future, to adopt a different kind of conservatism that includes: local control, family values (in the positive senses, not the hate community sense), and suspicion of concentrations of power -- to think about how to rein in globalization and its growth beyond any form of democratic control.

We need to highlight the corporate agenda in globalization, and how the WTO, World Bank, and IMF work for the corporate interests. Our eyes have to be opened to how agriculture is exploited by corporations. We need to do our own thinking and not be captured by propaganda.

The more locally we meet our own needs, the healthier our economic system. Remember Adam Smith's tirade in The Wealth of Nations against the corporate control of his day - the crown corporations.

The present configuration of corporate crony capitalism is directed against the market and towards oligarchic control. Adam Smith was outraged against this abomination that is presented to us as a market economy.

Slide 18. Crony capitalism has developed into a threat to democracy by its monopolistic tendencies and anti-market behavior. Wall Street corporations drive to overpower the market and capture regulators and politicians. Politicians are dependent on the biggest corporations for the money necessary to engage in the political process of today.

David Korten, one of the most important authors in this space, discusses the series of Supreme Court decisions that increase the right of corporations over that of individuals. The American founders shaped the constitution to maintain the rights of white male property owners. Justices have almost always come from this segment of the population giving the right of veto power to the ruling elite.

For the most part the Supreme Court has defended the plutocracy. Citizens United that found that "corporations are people," is only the latest example of this tendency. Restructuring the supreme Court must be part of the new agenda.

We have a system run by and for money. It is disturbing to realize how the key players on Wall Street fit the psychological profit of the psychopath. There has

been no apology for the crash, no sense of shame, only bigger bonuses for performing services of no value to the country. The system itself supports this kind of psychopathic, anti-social behavior.

Chris Martenson, in his book <u>The Crash Course said</u>. "As daunting as the challenges and predicaments outlined in this book may seem, the good news is that we already have everything we need to create a better future. All the understanding, resources, technology, ideas, system, institutions, and thinking are already available, invented, or in place, ready to be deployed in service of a better future; we just need to decide to make use of them. By simply reorienting our priorities, we can simultaneously buy ourselves time and assure that we chose prosperity over growth."

Slide 19. If we take Martenson's cautionary but optimistic challenge seriously, it is time to get down to the business of literally and figuratively cultivating the fields of the future. Our arduous task is to support re-localization, redefine the logistics and trajectory of food and water sustainability, promote alternative economic development in a post carbon world.

To adapt to a profoundly different post carbon world, we must begin now to make radical changes to our attitudes, behaviors and expectations. This is a "sisyphean" task, but "(S)still it's useful to contemplate a best-case outcome....The economy of the future will necessarily be steady-state not requiring constant growth. It will be based on the use of renewable resources, including water, harvested at a rate slower than that of natural replenishment; and on the use of non-renewable resources at declining rates, with paper, water, metals and minerals recycled and re-used wherever possible. Human population will have to achieve a level that can be supported by resources used this way, and that level is likely to be significantly lower than the current one."⁴

Slide 20. The capacity to anticipate and choose our future is a defining characteristic of the human species. We must now choose between two contrasting models for organizing human affairs

⁴ The End of Growth, Richard Heinberg, page, 280-281

- Empire which has prevailed for some 5,000 years, organizes by principles of elite domination and competition to appropriate the resources of the society for exclusive benefit of the few.
- Earth Community organizes by principles of partnership and shares resources equitably to grow the generative potential of the whole.

Our common future depends on navigating a Great Turning from the dominator cultures and institutions of Empire to the partnership cultures and institutions of Earth Community.

So as a pragmatist, I need to become in immediately implementable projects and processes with benchmarks and a definable end point. As young people you will be the ones to choose either the Great Unraveling or the Great Turning. So get busy securing our future by:

- 1. Reducing aggregate consumption, which means renouncing economic growth and obsessive over consumption as our defining economic priority in favor of meeting real human needs, including needs for dignity, community and meaningful work.
- 2. Eliminating extremes of inequality, which means renouncing domination as our defining mode of organization in favor of equity and deep democracy.
- 3. Transformg our institutions and cultures to support reduction of consumption, conversion of financial capital into natural, social, and human capital, and expansion of the middle class through redistribution of wealth from rich to poor.

It will require you to become engaged in the culture and institutions of a New Environmentalism and a New Economy that aligns with the principles of Earth Community that mimics the structure and dynamics of the biosphere.

Apologists for the old paradigm maintain that we humans are by nature selfcentered, materialistic, and driven to violent winner-take-all competition. Coercive hierarchy and unrestrained market competition are therefore necessary to maintain social order and channel our energy to productive ends. Their favored institutions, however, create an insidious self-fulfilling prophecy by cultivating and rewarding the sociopathic behaviors that by their reckoning define our human nature. The institutions of Earth Community, by contrast, nurture and celebrate higher order human capacities for love, cooperation, and service to community, which define our true potential.

Slide 21. The sacrifices involved in a choice for Earth Community are marginal relative to the potential gain. Mostly we must give up wasteful or actively destructive forms of consumption to free up resources for uses that actually increase our happiness and well-being. It involves, for example, reallocation from:

- Instruments of war to health care and environmental rejuvenation.
- Automobiles to public transportation.
- Suburban sprawl to compact communities and the reclamation of forest and agricultural land.
- Advertising to education.
- Financial speculation to local entrepreneurship.
- and profligate use of natural resources including water to conservation.

There will be difficult adjustments, but this is not about sacrifice. It is about applying our human intelligence.

I hope you will join those who are taking up the challenge of accelerating the awakening and shaping the flow of transformative life energy. We are privileged to be engaged in the greatest and most creative adventure in all of the human experience. The time is now. We have the power. <u>We are the ones we have been waiting for.</u> Thank you.