



STAR ALLIANCE™ FOUNDATION FOR ALL™

— Promoting “Quality-of-Life Peace Ethics for All” since 1985 —

A Reflection & Pledge for All People — On the Importance of Good Will —

People Everywhere desire abundant, lasting security, peace, love, joy; a healthy, beautiful environment; and all good things for ourselves and our loved ones, groups we identify with, and all those we cherish! Yet with reflection and experience, we must realize or concede that in order to achieve more perfectly such fine goals, and hope to keep them for long, it is vital to *share good will, skills, strengths, intelligence, and respect* in a mutually supportive, sustainable society! Indeed, in an ideal world, *all* people would harmonize amidst our diversities, and everyone would enjoy great spiritual and practical benefits — lifelong!

Toward such a secure, inclusive, and enriching global peace, let us each¹ become more aware and skillful surrounding one, critical choice required of all of us — day in and day out — as we encounter life’s challenges great and small. This is the courageous, intelligent, but also sometimes gritty choice we must make — even as we cherish a vision of *all* the great, ethical ideals of life and society and try to make our way through the challenges of their application. It is the choice *for good will over ill will*²!

Let us reflect and prepare...for in life's turning pathways, we may often be so challenged! We must deal with the uncertainty of unfolding events and the many difficulties brought about by human error, including our own. Too, there will be those unwilling or unable to try their best to understand, commit to, and balance all the ethical ideals required for peaceful relationships!

When we encounter stress and conflict: rather than "rushing to judgment" (whether consciously or unconsciously) with an instant assumption that "the other" must surely wish us ill; rather than nourishing enmity by harshly or stubbornly preserving such an assumption (though lacking evidence); rather than wasting energy always justifying our attitude and resenting everything that goes wrong from *our* point of view; rather than culturing enemies and alienation from "the other/s" with chronic evasion,³ or purposeful deceit (which can require an uncaring, if sometimes subtle wish for ill); in other words: *rather than hating* — let us instead actively *want, wish, and will* as much as possible *for good outcomes*, even when we don't, or can't, *feel good* for a time.

Let us cherish this positive wish for good outcomes as a “*foundational moral choice*” — even in the face of uncertain or difficult circumstances and feelings! And let us try to make this choice habitual. If we temporarily falter under the stresses of life, let us try to recover this all-important “*willing for good*” — just as strongly and quickly as we can!

¹ Each: as individuals, families, friends, and groups; as people of science and art; as institutions in civic, social, and religious life; in education, business, and representative government.

² where good implies "fitting," "a fitting well," "a coming together, a uniting of diverse elements with benefits for all;" and where ill will is especially a deliberately sustained "desire to harm."

³ *Temporary* avoidance is appropriate for conflict resolution or any important activity, however, when the distorting influences of alcohol & drugs, or even severe stress & fatigue are present! Wait for solid, mutual sobriety & ideally, a refreshed starting point, to engage serious discussions & actions! Statements made by parties known to be "under the influence" may often wisely be discounted!

How challenging this can be — precisely when we are stressed, fatigued, or otherwise out of balance! How hard when we feel doubt about what has happened; disappointment, confusion, suspicion, fear, and upset from real or perceived, current or remembered hardships and abuses; from past conflicts, disrespects, and misunderstandings; from veiled or explicit threats and fears; from evasion and deceit; from other losses, neglect, general frustrations, temptations and errors of our own; and from the damaging branches of all of these! How tough it is when we have been wounded — physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, or financially! And yet how much *more* important (especially when we have little margin of safety or survival) that we choose wisely for the long term! Therefore, let us each do our best to break tragic cycles of mutual alienation, grief, and harm — potential or expressed. This we can accomplish (at least in part) by doing our best at all times to act in accordance with ethical principles — with global society's "*Highest Common Ideals.*" In this way we can assert important, individual contributions to healing, social progress, and a healthier, much happier whole!

As we face the *Challenges of Peace*, let us identify one, essential, *common enemy of all: deliberate, unnecessarily sustained ill will!* Even though we may have been hurt by many others, many times; let us not be blinded to what good, — even splendid potential remains! Let us distinguish between bad actions and the essential being of people; reserving hate for the things that can hurt everyone, everywhere over time: hardened bad intentions, destruction of opportunities to improve, self-perpetuating poverty, violence, injustice, and of course: ill will itself! Indeed, let us not crystallize our judgments forever, for we may only punish ourselves! Except for the little children, is any of us *perfect* and *totally* free of blame?

Rather than nourish ill will, therefore, let us each take responsibility for our own actions and circumstances as much as possible. Let us do *our* best part to create sustainable relationships going forward. In the daily "*Challenges of Peace,*" let us aim at better futures for one and for all! Let us try our best to choose, reaffirm, and defend up-building directions! Let us "*Communicate, Cooperate, and Celebrate*" as openly, honestly, directly, and inclusively as possible! Let us renew good will and hope for ourselves and each other alike in this process! Let us take initiative by extending appropriate forgiveness whenever we can. Let us grow in mutual respect, wisdom, and diplomacy!⁴ Let us strive for justice through accountability to self and others, skillful mutual corrections, and appropriate recompense — whenever, and to the best extent possible! Let us reach for personal and community reconciliation over fruitless (and often reciprocal), mere punishment! And let us welcome objective, fair-minded "outside assistance" in resolving and transforming conflicts safely and efficiently!

Daily, let us overcome psychological and physiological barriers by learning and practicing efficient techniques for deep conscious rest, transcendence, and mental and emotional development!⁵ Let us achieve greater discernment and clearer expressions — not only of grievances, but of *specific needs and creative solutions* to help make things better, with lasting benefits for all!

United first in these positive intents: to transcend our differences, to find areas of mutual respect and commonality, to engage peaceful processes, to avoid unnecessary harm, to heal past injuries, and to build up the common good — let us succeed *together* in resolving and transforming conflicts — inside, outside, and among us! Let us culture in education, mind, heart, and habit all of our clearly declared: "*Global Principles for Ethical, Sustainable, and Joyful Societies!*"⁶ In these ways, and by these means, let us achieve positive goals and better futures for all — *much more efficiently, safely, and pleasantly!*

So wish we each! So wish we "for all!" And so may everyone!

⁴ Humbly, politely, appropriately, and when needed: assertively; remembering and employing too: the power of positive silence.

⁵ For seekers of inner transcendence, the author recommends the Transcendental Meditation™ technique as an "effortless way" to achieve this profound good, without requirement for specific beliefs. A large body of research evidences many benefits of regular "TM."

⁶ Please also see: STAR ALLIANCE™ — FOUNDATION FOR ALL:™ "A People's Civic Declaration for Peace," and the *People's Pledge and Declaration* historical series, 1985—2011. (Peter Bruce DuMont, Integrative Author); 510-540-8887. PeterDuMont@STARALLIANCE.org; www.STARALLIANCE.org. Volunteers and tax-deductible gifts welcome! Few gifts will be more influential over the long term! IRS #: 94-2975770. ©2009-2011 STAR ALLIANCE [2011 March 11th edition]. All may duplicate and share, but not for profit. Please contact us re large projects.