Universal Income, Women's Liberation, and Neutopian Thought

By *Doctress Neutopia*

"A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth even glancing at, for it leaves out the one country at which Humanity is always landing. And when Humanity lands there, it looks out, and, seeing a better country, sets sail. Progress is the realisation of Utopias." Oscar Wilde

Glossary--

Arcology: a car-free, integrated urban design that contains a variety of residential, cultural, distribution, and agricultural facilities; it's purpose is to minimize human impact on the environment by cultivating a zero-carbon lifestyle. This fusion of ecological and architecture creates a living system by building what architect, Ken Yeangs calls a green eco-infrastructure, a comprehensive plan that includes four platforms: green infrastructure—nature's utilities and food production; grey infrastructure—cleantech and eco-engineering systems; blue infrastructure—water management; and a red infrastructure—human sustainability with nature.

Biomimicry or biomimetics: the imitation of the physical, structural, and systemic elements of nature for the purpose of solving complex human problems.

Digital Gaia: 21st Century automatic, worldwide infrastructure creating a technological Singularity for humanity (see below) .

Earth Bank: a super-computer accounting system of the world's resources; it is to be connected through sensors to warehouses, distribution centers, transportation lines, and factory floors to monitor the flow of demand and supply.

Ecocity: a retrofitting of 20th Century infrastructure using 21st Century green technologies such as solar collectors, electric cars, roof top gardens, bridges between buildings; it reforms existing cities rather than building evolutionary arcologies from scratch.

Gaia: the automatic and systemic regulation of planetary climate, resulting in the ideal evolution of complex life forms.

Holocracy: a form of romantic power built upon mutual care, admiration, and love; power with the other found through inner resonance rather than imperialistic power over models.

Internet: Ideally, a single world platform of communication, energy and automated logistics and transport services. The ultimate purpose of the Internet is or should be to plan for and build 21st Century arcologies through robotic technologies.

Lovolution: The evolution of revolution; the non-violent social movement for individual freedom and economic global justice; the self-organizing power of love, with a fusion of erotic energies as a foundation for building of a network of arcologies (ecological cities) on Earth and in Outer Space.

Open-Source Governance: Combining free software and open content movements, the aim is to allow all voices to be heard in order to make decisions based on the best solutions available. The goal is to publicly reach a real utopian design, which can then be implemented. The question is, "What design—which science, technologies, and resources--is required in order for us to build a world where six billion of us (and growing) can live at peace within the global ecology? What pattern of development is required?

Technological and Spiritual Singularity: The moment when artificial intelligence has the greater-than-human intelligence needed to administer Digital Gaia. Spiritual

Singularity adopts Isaac Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics in which "A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm" which, of course, puts and end to computerized war. Scientific and spiritual singularity creates a one-world philosophy guided by human wisdom and open-source governance.

Universal Basic Income: A guaranteed income for all people, so that they can stay at home; this allows society the time and space required to reorganize the world's infrastructure and architectural design.

Design/Science Open-Source Revolution

Privileged, educated, professional and skilled American women are free to compete for jobs in the global marketplace alongside of men. However, such women's entry into the world workforce has not led us to a significantly safer, saner world. It hasn't led us to a just society, a good place to raise children, or true women's liberation. And now, as human labor is being replaced by automated industries, these jobs are not likely to come back into a post-work industrial civilization.

At the same time that a robotic labor force is taking over, the U.N. warns of a new carbon dioxide milestone: For the first time in history, the northern hemisphere is experiencing 400 parts per million of levels of CO_2 in the atmosphere. According to World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Michel Jarraud, "Time is running out"; Jarraud has called for urgent action to cut emissions.

We are living at a time when glaciers are melting, the ocean is rising, and extreme climatic events are causing environmental destruction and loss of life. If we continue living in psychological denial of the fact that the fossil fuel age has nearly destroyed our precious atmosphere and biosphere, we may never be able to mobilize the human species in such a way as to save the ecosystems necessary for human life to continue on Planet Earth.

Searching for a plan of global action, I have turned to the wisdom of Buckminster Fuller. In his book *Critical Path*, he outlines a vision of world unity necessary to create what he calls a "design-science revolution." Fuller believes that such a revolution can only come about as the result of ecological collapse or economic bankruptcy.

Thus if we are to save the atmosphere, humanity must break its fossil fuel addiction. To end this toxic dependency, Fuller foresees the urgent need for humanity to switch over to solar power, in its derivative phases: solar, wind, and wave, networked together to form a world energy grid.

In this vision, the world solar energy grid becomes the basis for establishing a world government which can manage a global shift from one system of power to another. Fuller's plan includes an "Earth Bank," an accounting system of the world's natural resources.

Ahead of his time, Fuller stated that his plan for global governance could not function without a "world-integrated computer accounting system." He didn't live to see the formation of the Internet, which is now beginning to work as a global nervous system, a neo-neo cortex--a network that is everywhere and knows all.

Jeremy Rifkin, author of *The Zero Marginal Cost Society: The Internet of Things, the Collaborative Commons, and the Eclipse of Capitalism*, explains the economic revolution that is taking place due to the Internet. The communication Internet is converging with an energy Internet. Also in the mix is the automated logistics and transport Internet combining to form a single platform. Rifkin illustrates this merger as moving from bits to atoms. The Internet changes from being an Internet of communication to an Internet of moving things, with the power to build physical objects. Sensors connecting resource flows can monitor warehouses, distribution centers, smart road systems, and production lines on workerless factory floors.

With the fusion of people and the Internet, "intelligence amplification" is causing exponential growth in awareness, breaking down centuries-old political borders, as well as old barriers to our conceptual framework and traditional ways of relating to the world. With enhanced memory and reflective power, the Internet is enhancing our ability to think clearly, thus giving us with the ability to save ourselves from the looming environmental holocaust.

Managers of the various utopian proposals would be elected through a global electronic democracy, allowing people to vote on what they think is the best "real utopian" plan. Very simply put, "*One world; one person; one vote.*" After decisions are made and put into action, sensors read people's emotional responses, giving feedback to the "Global Management Committee" (Fuller's term). If the data from the sensors shows that the actions of the governance team were unsuccessful in making the global citizenry happy, then the decisions can be changed until people *are* happy.

Digital Gaia

As more and more of our computer networks interface with global infrastructures, a new planetary code, or operating system, is being written. Vernor Vinge writes, "the internet, its computers, its support software, its server farms, and then billions of human beings—those together could come to constitute a superhuman entity that could qualify as giving us a Singularity." This phenomenon of "networked embedded microprocessors" is termed "Digital Gaia," a virtual consciousness of Unity that is in the process of awakening. It is artificial, and so new to the human species that it almost seems like an alien force with some kind of superhuman consciousness. Digital Gaia is quickly evolving the human experiment to its next design of existence.

The Singularity is not simply a new operating system for running under-the-surface or unconscious parts of the global village. It is also, according to authoress and

yogini Anodea Judith, a new organizing principle based on the values of the heart. She lists these values as follows: networks rather than markets; stakeholders rather than stockholders; green rather than greed; and holarchy instead of hierarchy. (I will address the issue of holarchy [which I am spelling holocracy] in a paragraph below.)

Visionary thinkers such as Daniel Pinchbeck have updated Fuller's vision. Pinchbeck doesn't see the need to abolish corporations, as some deep ecologists are calling for, because such a move could, he believes, land humanity back in the Stone Age. Instead he proposes moving forward with the implementation of human rights, the rights of the natural world, and mutual aid to the poverty stricken people of the world. Such coding would in turn transform corporations by utilizing new operating and organizing principles.

Fuller also believes that any operating system needs to biomimic the human operating system of the body. It should run as smoothly as a healthy human body does. Take, for example, the human circulatory system. We don't need to consciously think about the intake of oxygen and the outtake of carbon dioxide; our body takes in and exhales breath unconsciously as a function of sustaining life.

Digital Gaia is evolving so that our infrastructure is seamlessly submerged below our surface awareness. To illustrate this point, let's look at the invention of online banking. For those folks fortunate enough to have a lot of money in the bank, a computer banking account that automatically withdrawals money to pay monthly bills is easily set up. People with financial means never have to worry about paying a bill on time because the computer takes care of it. The rich are able to live off their capital interests and don't have to rely on selling their labor for paychecks. But even the working class can use the computer for direct deposit of paychecks and automatic debiting.

Yesterday, going into my downtown bank, which was empty of consumers at noon, I ask to speak with my favorite teller, whose name I had actually taken the energy to learn. The two tellers present in the bank said that she had been laid off. "Why?" I asked. The workers concluded that people were taking care of more of their banking needs online. With such automation, the demand for human labor is diminishing.

Even with these great strides in electronic banking, the automation of bill paying doesn't work for those without adequate funds in the bank. From my talks with them, paying bills for my poor neighbors is anything but easy. Living in dire poverty, unemployment, revolving in and out of the prison system, renting from a slum landlord, not having access to a personal computer at home, and not making enough money to pay the monthly rent and bills, is a relentless source of stress. Living under continuous economic pressure because of unpredictable and inadequate funds results in the loss of both mental and physical health. Pharmaceutical drug dependency, for many of the poor in America, is a way of self-medicating to relieve the anxiety of what is truly a post-traumatic stress disorder--caused by not having enough money to live.

The capitalistic, bureaucratic, hierarchical system that is currently programming Digital Gaia is cruel and inhumane; it cannot understand the human suffering caused by our current mechanized economy. Displaced workers are treated as if they are disposable objects of trash, and left out in the extreme cold or heat to fend for themselves; social safety nets have begun to seriously erode in the name of austerity and the privatization of State functions. Defenders of capitalism say that with the loss of jobs caused by the efficiency of the computer, the job market will be upgraded, allowing for the creation of better jobs. But the reality is that there is little opportunity or funding for job retraining, especially for older people who have not grown up in the Digital Age.

Humanizing Corporations

Pinchbeck and other visionaries have pointed out that corporations function as the vital organs of Digital Gaia. For example, energy corporations are like the circulatory system, sanitation corporations are like the liver and kidneys, communication corporations are like the sensory modalities, and the Internet works like a (currently very dysfunctional) global nervous system. These organ-like parts are "constructed out of legal code, ideas, brand logos and so on." Presently, the corporate system is run by a hierarchal computer "code" based solely on the profit motive and the Protestant work ethic. It is blind to the need for an integrative process of building "whole systems design," with the purpose of socioeconomic emancipation.

Pinchbeck poses the question, *"How can you do alchemy on the corporations to turn them from poisons into medicines?"* The medicine that he is referring to would turn the corporate structure of industrial civilization away from the hierarchal, capitalistic model of corporate greed, toward a cooperative form of ownership that works through an informed, democratic decision-making process. He calls for a "fundamental restructuring of the financial system to launch a regeneration of the planetary culture." Also necessary, Pinchbeck explains, is the repurposing of US military bases so that they become training and educational centers for a solar-based economy, as well as healing centers for those ex-military who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, with its resulting addictions and anti-social behaviors.

Pinchbeck gives us a picture of Walmart in the Solar Century: cooperatively owned and managed by workers and stakeholders; growing organic food on its rooftops to sell to local customers; developing on-site manufacturing using non-destructive materials (William McDonald's Cradle-to-Cradle non-polluting industries) and energized with renewable power; and offering continuing education and childcare for all of its workers.

So how do we develop the ability to make radical changes in our lifestyles and in the way our corporations function, all in time for us to adapt to global climate change?

Holocracy

Ken Wilber discusses the *holon* in *Sex, Ecology, and Spirituality: the Spirit of Evolution.* This is a term coined by Arthur Koestler to describe how something that is whole in one context is simultaneously a part in another. Reality, then, is not "composed of things or processes, but of holons." An example of a holonistic sequence is: subatomic particles, atoms, molecules, bacteria, nucleated cells, multicellular organisms, human beings, humanity, and today, Digital Gaia.

The human holon is but one field or holon within the Gaian holocracy. Since human beings evolved from underlying holons—the fundamental building blocks of life, upon which humanity is dependent—the humanity holon captures evolutionary energy as part of the larger Gaian holon. Thus, humanity plays a significant role in the advancement of Gaia and it's ability to reproduce itself throughout the Cosmos.

Perhaps a key to understanding a whole systems design is the idea of the "great holacracy of being," analogous to the old belief in a Great Chain of Being. Holocracy is a vision of the way the parts fit together into a coherent whole, a unified field theory. If we allow our imaginations to take a look at Planet Earth from Outer Space, the different ecosystems of the planet make up the totality of the planet's web of life.

According to Dorian Sagan, in his book *Biospheres: Metamorphosis of Planet Earth*, Gaia's goal for humanity is to expand itself throughout the Cosmos. In Gaian theory, such expansion requires the capacity for planetary reproduction, with Gaia reproducing itself through inventing a radically new architectural container for the five biological kingdoms that sustain life to be launched into Outer Space. The Biosphere 2 experiment in Oracle, Arizona is a prototype that uses such life-supporting space technologies. These extraterrestrial baby biospheres—mini-

Earths—would actually be breaking away from the mothership and thereby reproducing themselves.

In order for planetary reproduction to take place successfully, in my theory, a new power dynamic between the sexes must be central to the process. Society's blindness to this most basic inequality of all must be addressed squarely, challenging the superficial ways in which gender inequality is currently being addressed.

Even though Wilber states that the concept of holocracy can be used interchangeably with hierarchy, I agree with David Spangler that there is a difference between the two forms of power. Hierarchy comes from two Greek words, *hieros*, meaning "sacred," and *archein*, meaning rule or order. In the traditional sacred order of history, one's position, rank, relative power, seniority, etc. determined one's social status. The hierarchal order was: God, Man, Woman, Child each on their own level within the hierarchy. In a holocracy, however, "each person's value comes from his or her individuality and uniqueness and from the capacity to engage and interact with others to make the fruits of that uniqueness available." Once the sexes discover a complementary other, in a holocracy, they stand beside each other, face-to-face, sharing equal power and searching for truth via sincere dialogue.

Stated once again, in most of history, we have been witness to hierarchical forms of power, including the domination of one sex (female) by the other (male). Domination hierarchies gave rise to an Empire mentality--a world founded upon inequalities shaped by institutional and cultural classism, racism and sexism. For centuries of patriarchal rule, woman has had little choice about her lot in life.

In the past, sexual inequality made it impossible for women to rise to a level of true, loving alchemical union with men. Instead, hierarchies used "power over" techniques such as self-promotion, rape, murder, coercion, forced compliance,

manipulation, bureaucracy, deceit, social engineering, social conditioning, censorship, and seduction in order to garnish superior material or metaphysical resources. The elevation of self-interest, in the form of the approved accumulation of excessive private wealth, has made life in America a narcissistic competition for more and more corporate profits at the all else. Such a hostile atmosphere, in turn, makes it nearly impossible for love between the sexes to flourish.

The difference between a hierarchical, power over, model to a holocratic "power with" model, is profound. In a holocracy, the individual is finally empowered to seek the internal power of love to discover her or his true gifts, which are in turn necessary for deep collaboration and frank emotional communication. Only then can one become a self-directed and conscious evolutionary change agent. Such inner knowledge guides the individual toward the use of their own "power to" implement change effectively, without its disintegrating into tyranny.

Tapping into these inner resources give us a chance to build a world where everyone has equal access to the world's wealth. In such a whole systems design, systems become self-organizing as people become able to develop free associations, and the non-commoditized relationships crucial for us to build partnerships **and friendships?** of true love. The switch from hierarchy to holocracy might be the key to harnessing the social power needed to usher in the Social Ethic--a new narrative within which to frame economic and political activities to the benefit of all people.

Sociologist Erik Olin Wright shares his insights in *Envisioning Real Utopias*: "Social power is contrasted with *economic power*, based on the ownership and control of economic resources, and *state power*, based on the control of a rule- enforcing capacity over territory. The idea of 'democracy,' in these terms, can be thought of as a specific way of linking social power and state power: in the ideal of democracy, state power is fully subordinate to and accountable to social power. The expression, 'rule by the people' does not really mean, 'rule by the atomized aggregation of the separate individuals of the society taken as isolated persons,' but rather, rule by the

people collectively organized into associations in various ways: parties, communities, unions, etc. Democracy is thus, inherently, a deeply socialist principle. If 'democracy' is the label for the subordination of state power to social power, 'socialism' is the term for the subordination of economic power to social power." (p. 121)

Deep Purpose for the Internet: Build Arcologies Now

The proposal for **a** universal basic income, a scheme to give everyone a basic income necessary to support fundamental human needs, is an excellent starting point to build a new civilization, one that is guided by social power rather than economic power. Not only would basic income eliminate the ancient problems of poverty with its attendant health and longevity risks, it would finally free people to stay out of the capitalistic, fossil-fuel-based work force that has become a planetary disease.

Bucky Fuller explains that many of the jobs currently done by people are not at all beneficial for the future of humanity. The time and energy it takes for people to commute to and from the workplace costs too much in terms of the negative effects of using the last remaining fossil fuels for jobs that, in the long run, don't count. Fuller writes, "We find all the no-life-support,-wealth-producing people going to their 1980s jobs in their cars or buses, spending trillions of dollars worth of petroleum daily to get to their no-wealth-producing jobs. It doesn't take a computer to tell you that it will save both Universe and humanity trillions of dollars a day to pay them handsomely to stay at home." He continues by saying that the computer will show us that at least 70% of jobs in the Western private enterprise countries are non-essential. Examples of these jobs are: "inspectors of inspectors, re-underwriters of insurance reinsurers, obnoxious promoters, spies and counterspies, military personnel, gunmakers, etc."

Paying people to stay and work at home allows us to reorganize society on a new set of social priorities and principles using the Social Ethic as opposed to the Profit

Ethic, as explained in sociologist Jon Huer's book, *The Wages of Sin: America's Dilemma of Profit Against Humanity*. However, simply giving people a universal income by itself is futile. Bringing people out of poverty is good, but not good enough to save our species from global greenhouse gases. The movement for universal basic income *must be coupled* with a real utopian strategy of action.

Once a global regime change is accomplished and Digital Gaia is in power, the administration pays people a basic income to stay at home. Then the task of the Gaia regime is to motivate and mobilize people to connect to the Internet's real utopian platform, as well as to begin building local community. Examples include turning parks into food gardens, providing for child and elderly care, nursing the sick and mentally ill, and making neighborhood assessments of the skills, talents, and gifts of people living in the vicinity. With time liberated to take care of collective humanitarian needs, people will be able to participate inside local democracies by commenting about and debating the blueprints for the new civilization. Most important, it will allow women to have the economic independence to choose an intimate partner based on wisdom and love, rather than choosing a partner based upon economic necessity. Such freedom of choice is the only way that a holocracy can be actualized.

In this vision, the Internet has become part of a global communication, power, and production infrastructure complex. The first task of the Gaian government is to take account of varying natural resources, and to figure out a new integral design that shares the wealth, builds habitats that don't destroy the environment, and retools industries with William McDonough's cradle-to-cradle industrial techniques that don't pollute or allow toxic substances to enter the environment.

To accomplish this conversion, the interface of the Internet's social media needs to operate with a deeper meaning. Not only is the Internet an artificial nervous system—it is also itself evolving into a super-human organism with the capacity for global problem solving. Social media can go way beyond some of today's narcissism

as it takes on the profound purpose of reimagining the world, first by remapping the Earth into its essential bioregions based on its diverse ecosystems, watersheds, and topography. Once these new, natural borders are determined, the role of open-source government is to seek out blueprints of arcologies or arcology-like designs, and then build software that allows citizens input into the plans. Once the blueprints have been completed and agreed on by the democracy, then 3D printing technology can begin producing the architectural-scale prototypes of an arcology.

The moral duty of each individual, in this vision, is to join the effort to save humanity by using her or his free time provided by a universal basic income to discover one's own innate gifts. Educational institutions, emancipated from the Profit Ethic, can endow us with the professional expertise necessary to construct a network of arcologies on Earth and in Outer Space.

The Soul of the Internet becomes clear: It is to birth the Age of Biospheres into the heavens, so that together we can discover and understand the patterns of development needed to save life on Earth. As above, so below: echoes within the fractal world of parts and wholes.

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