

NOW

Why do we imagine “progress” can go on forever? Change is the nature of reality, and change goes every which way. How can we think there can be always more? Nothing is forever on this planet. Our home, Earth, is constantly changing. Life, growing (more), needs death as predators need prey and prey need predators. A minute’s real thinking must make clear that we cannot go on adding more, bigger, faster, newer, cars, houses, weight forever. What goes up must come down. Old shrinks, weakens, dies. Sprouts and new ideas need space to come up. Machines break down. Systems (organic and mechanic) don’t work any more when parts fail, are patched, the whole gets too complex and unequal. The world we made is dying; another world will be tomorrow. It is to be expected tomorrow’s world will be worse in some ways and better in others, but it will be new, young, fresh, and different.

Sometimes I think of the blindfolded lady holding the scales as a symbol for ecology: the necessary balance of a million evolving species in a changing environment. “The 99%” is a good way to express the excesses of today’s manmade world: totally out of balance. One of the scales has it all, the other scale way up, almost empty. Neither an economy nor an ecology can survive when as extremely unbalanced as ours are. With unbalanced scales the lady of Justice falls down. The blindfold needs to be removed! (What a delightful mix of metaphors).

Why do we “hope” that tomorrow be better than today? If we rely on others, or things outside us, to make things better tomorrow, we fool ourselves. I’ve learned the only way to live is accepting that things are as they are. The best I can do is live in the now. Now is however sunny or stormy today happens to be. What counts is what I make of it. One day is painful the next joyful. Even in war every waking day is new, albeit not necessarily better or worse.

An important aspect of this way of being is knowing, clearly, that I am only a tiny fraction of a whole. The all of us is what is important. My ego is not. On days when I am disabled ten, a hundred others are at the top of their talents. What is important is the whole. Swollen egos are our undoing.

Certainly there are bad days, bad thoughts, bad feelings. Bad days can be lived through. Bad thoughts and bad feelings I can do something about. Don’t hate, don’t be suspicious, don’t fear.

Today’s badly out of balance society yells at us to hate, be suspicious, and fear. Very unhealthy, it erases good days, good thinking and good feeling. But good cannot be suppressed, it pops up everywhere. Look around.

Robert A. Heinlein, in his book *Time Enough for Love*, © 1873, writes “...a pessimist is correct more often than an optimist, but an optimist

has more fun — and neither can halt the march of events.”

I'm neither an optimist nor a pessimist. I'm a realist. It works for me.
If you want justice, be just. Justice is not laws, but how we use laws.
Human rights cannot be enforced, they depend on how human we are.
Education is not about teaching, but about learning.
If you want to be happy, don't wait for, or expect, others to make you
happy. Only you can make yourself happy.
If you want to be romantic, be romantic.
If you want to mope, mope.
And if you want love, give it: it will come back to you; guaranteed.

Now is all there is and **All there is is all there is.**

robert wolff , 17 december 2011