

Reflections on Hope

Hope is something that most people nourish when they wish for a favorable outcome, but cannot, as yet, see how the outcome would unfold. In effect, Hope implies an individual's call, or an unspoken reliance on an external factor to bring about the hoped for result.

This raises the question of the nature, or source, of the external factor that a Hopeful person is calling upon.

The external factor, for believers, is usually the constituted unseen powers or helpers associated with their belief systems. Nonbelievers ascribe the external factor to Chance, or Lady Luck. But deeper reflection on these other designations can only lead to the conclusion that even the concepts of Chance or Lady Luck represent some type of invisible energy, whose actions, though not evident or clear, must also be sentient. By definition, Sentient means being able to feel, perceive, or experience things through the senses. This implies a type of consciousness and awareness that is not based on reflexes. Thus, even for nonbelievers, their hope is also based on the activity of forces which they feel or sense, even if they do not acknowledge their constituted existence (i.e. to have a form). This fact is confirmed by nonbelieving gamblers who nevertheless appeal to the favors of Lady Luck.

Hopefully, pun not intended, we now have a definition for Hope, and the source upon which the hope lies.

Next let us examine what roles we play in the manifestation of the outcome that we wish.

Needless to say, we have to first call for the help, perhaps through prayer or meditation, or by nursing a deep inner yearning that is not expressed in words.

Next, we have to make it possible for the help or outcome to reach us. For example, you cannot justifiably hope to win the lottery if you do not purchase a lottery ticket. In the same way, you cannot justifiably hope for a good outcome, if you have not taken the first step towards the outcome hoped for. Even miracles, work on the same principle.

Finally, there is the manifestation of the outcome that is desired, or hoped-for.

It is very evident that not all hopes are fulfilled; not even those initiated with the sincerest desire, for which the necessary beginning steps have been taken, and which, to the one wishing as well as onlookers, appear deserving of fulfillment. Many of these unfulfilled hopes usually meet the criteria of sincere/deeply felt or expressed wish, being in a position where the help can reach the hopeful one, and taking the necessary first steps towards the hoped for outcome. For example, a person suffering from an illness, who is doing all the right things that they can do to recover, but do not get the hoped-for relief.

In addition to the disappointment experienced with the nonfulfillment of our hopes, it raises the question of whether this nonfulfillment is perhaps an indication of a missing element that we fail to factor into our expectation.

Also, the fact that a hoped-for outcome is received by one person, and not by another, who may be going through a similar situation suggests that a personal element could be at play. This is even more strongly suggested when one considers that Sages (i.e., Knowing Ones) have always stressed the miraculous power of prayer. And, as we established at the beginning of this write up, Hope is indeed a form of prayer.

Jesus also said in Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it shall be given unto you". Therefore, a personal element must play a key role in the fulfillment of Hope, regardless of its sincerity. Otherwise, the apparent differences in fulfillment could be interpreted as inequity in the dispensation of blessings.

Through the Grail Message, we now know that all activities and fulfillments in creation are governed by inviolable principles (or Laws). These laws are automatically triggered into activity by the Spiritual actions and state of the individual. And what they bring is solely the experiences the person needs for their spiritual development. Thus, fulfilled hopes are those that will benefit the person nourishing the hope. Otherwise, it will not come to them.

But an astute person could justifiably question what spiritual growth could possibly arise for, say, a gambler whose hopes are fulfilled, when it is obvious that the granted Hope will be used to support a vice. Or a person who uses fulfilled-hopes to launch mayhem and terror upon their fellow human beings and the environment. Yet, even in such situations the operation of the Laws is not flawed. How the laws dispense or withhold blessings involves factors that the average person cannot appreciate. Besides, how a person uses the blessings received is ultimately up to their choice, i.e. up to the exercise of their free will.

Thus, it is also possible that a wish is granted as an opportunity to overcome a trait with which one is struggling, but are finding difficult to overcome. In the case of a gambler, for example, the granting of the wish may be an opportunity to overcome the urge to re-indulge, and thereby gradually develop the resolve to overcome the negative trait.

The Spiritual history of mankind, available in the Akashic records¹, also shows that some who have succumbed to the abuse of power in a previous life, and who in the after life have come to recognize the consequences, through their own bitter experiences, may be given another opportunity, in another incarnation on earth, to occupy a position of authority again. Their rise to power is also usually driven by an inner, if inexplicable, urge/wish. Should the hope of such a

¹ The Akashic Records are considered a comprehensive, non-physical, energetic "library" or database containing every thought, word, emotion, and event from the past, present, and future of all entities. They are used by those who have access for spiritual insight, and to understand life patterns, past lives, and personal purpose.

person be granted, they become doubly guilty, and incur a heavier karma, if they choose again to abuse the new blessing/opportunity.

Therefore, based on this knowledge, it behooves the objective person to only Hope for that which can help them gain the experiences that they need for spiritual development. And to use every opportunity, regardless of whether it is deemed earned or a blessing. to cultivate nobility of character, promote peace and overall good will for all of one's fellow human beings and the Earth. When this becomes the driver for our Hopes, we actually unconsciously prepare ourselves to decipher or sense the spiritual lessons that may be hidden in the joyful as well as unpleasant experiences in our life, as well as in any earnings or windfalls that come our way.

When seen from this perspective, we should come to realize and appreciate that even where two people, (or nations) are granted wishes that appear to contradict each other, or that could lead to conflict, an opportunity is being given, through this granting of their respective Hopes, to learn to overcome their spirit of *self-ish* non-cooperation or aggressiveness. Because ultimately, a greater and enhanced benefit accrues to everyone through peaceful co-existence.

Incidentally, this idea is not just a "*feel-good religious expression*"; and therefore, foreign to the modern pragmatic thinker.

This universal Spiritual principle is already captured in the Gaming theory of economics ², called the **Nash Equilibrium**. Although not yet universally acknowledged and applied, this theory defines a state *where maximum societal benefit is attained when everyone is choosing their best possible option by also considering the actions of others*. This approach is different from the exploitative and domineering approach of Classical Economic Theory.

From this, the objective observer should be able to see how attempts are being made to draw man's attention to the upbuilding Spiritual Laws that can beneficially guide human activities. Unfortunately, the challenge remains our readiness to overthrow attitudes and behaviors driven by our *self-ish* choices when exercising our free will. And these, we can clearly see, are at the root of much of our crises, and are the obstacles to make further progress towards our spiritual development.

² Game theory in economics is a mathematical framework used to analyze strategic interactions between rational decision-makers (players) who realize their outcomes depend on the actions of others. It is known as the "science of strategy" helping to model scenarios like oligopoly pricing, negotiations, and auctions, where participants seek to maximize their own rewards.