

From our daily vantage point  
Standing inside this forest of troubles  
It's difficult see the hope hanging on the horizon.  
But when we lift ourselves up we can see a less obstructed view  
Of the path that has brought us to this time and place,  
The long view of history reveals a pattern that convinces me  
**We are standing on the edge of Hope.**

History reveals dynamic spiraling pattern of cultural evolution.  
The culture of prehistoric clans evolved into to the flowering of Athens which  
declined into the excesses of Rome and eventually disintegrated into the  
chaos of the Middle Ages which flowered into the European Renaissance  
only to be over-taken by the excesses of Industrialism which declined into the  
wars, revolutions and destruction of the last century.

Rise, Culmination, Decline and Disintegration

The pendulum swings from the rigidly spiritual – think Medieval Europe  
To the rigidly material – think the Industrial Age  
But in between, spirituality marries materialism – giving birth to the Renaissance  
Each era reaches a turning point when the disintegration of the old gives rise to the  
new.

**Yes, we are standing on the edge of Hope.**

The cycles of change  
As we spiral upward  
Resolve themselves ever more quickly  
Ever more profoundly  
As philosophy, cosmology, science and technology  
Reveal the undeniable, organic, interconnection of all matter and energy  
From the tiniest particle inside an atom  
To the constellations of galaxies spiraling through an infinite universe.  
This profound awareness that we are, in fact, not agonizingly separate  
But intimately, intricately, infinitely interconnected connected to the web of life  
Opens our hearts, minds and souls open to the possibility that  
**We are standing on the edge of hope.**

The evidence of our cultural evolution  
Can be found in the growing number of social movements  
Working for positive change in the past 150 years

The Labor movement, The Peace Movement, Civil Rights, Feminism,  
Environmentalism, Social Justice, Global Justice,  
All these movements in their separate efforts have chipped away at the old  
structures of power.

Along the way, the reactionary forces have employed the divide and conquer  
strategy to keep the movements fighting against each other as much as  
working for change.

But change is inevitable and revelation is unstoppable – and the forces of  
conservatism can no longer conceal the fundamental interconnection of all  
these movements towards the organic cultural evolution of our species. As  
we see that the problems are all interconnected- poverty, discrimination,  
excessive consumption, war, climate change, it is apparent that the solutions  
must also be interconnected.

We now see clearly that our survival depends not on the aggressive, territorialism of  
our inner predator, but on the compassionate cooperation that is the height of  
our humanity.

**Together, we are standing on the edge of hope.**

But the forces of the status quo resist us with all their power,  
They try to push us back,  
Away from hope's leading edge.

With a whirlwind of fear, dread and despair about the state of the world:

The rise of fundamentalism at home and abroad,

The rise of global corporatism,

Massive exploitation of global workers

Wars of genocide

Armed conflicts over energy and natural resources

But I say these are just the desperate, death throes of the old system.

And we shall not be moved from the Edge of Hope

Like a tree, standing by the water, we shall not be moved.

Our roots will drink from the river of hope

Our wings will set us free from fear

And our actions will make a difference.

Our actions will make a difference.