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*All things arise and cease due to  
interdependent causes and conditions*

~Δ~

## **The Lost Teachings of Holy Lands and Holy Wars**

By

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## **The Lost Teachings of Holy Lands and Holy Wars**

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The basic wealth is land. All wealth comes from the land; all wealth returns to the land (including the owner). Our physical existence is sustained by what the land produces; whether on the ground or underground.

In the struggle for survival, humans compete for their piece of land, the larger the better. Alliances are formed from a tribal to a regional scale. In this setting, either peace shall be promoted or war must be waged.

An ideology exploited to justify violence is to declare a piece of land as "holy" while another piece is "unholy" including those who live on it and, therefore, such "unholy people" deserve to be terrorized towards total termination.

We may yet come to realize that for land to be holy it must be whole and, therefore, this means taking the entire earth as one undivided whole which becomes the supreme qualification for true holiness.

Thus, if all the land on our one earth is holy, then all the people on this earth are as holy too. And there's the higher truth about holiness and wholeness. It is now up to each one of us to live up to our original state of holiness in oneness with the whole earth as one indivisible land—the real Holy Land—transcending political boundaries.

Now, therefore, on what surface can any person stand without being on holy ground? Likewise, can any place be any more holy than the people who occupy it? This further means that the quality of our actions, thoughts and feelings either sanctify or desecrate the holiness of the place where we are.

Our bodies are an extended piece of the land on which we live. Without the fruits of the earth our bodies cannot live. In death our bodies return to the bosom of one mother earth—our Holy Mother of all.

Neither can we live without each other. Existence in the universe is interdependent. Consider where any one is right now. What we wear, eat and use has been made by somebody else. We may not even want to continue living completely isolated. We would die of loneliness, if not deprivation. Ask an astronaut what it means to be in outer space cut off from the rest of earth. Separated from gravity, even our bones weaken in supporting the rest of the body.

The question is not whether anyone is for or against us, but whether we are, all taken together, really for or against ourselves. And this does not leave us with any other choice, except for all of us, on planet earth, to realize our oneness with each other.

There may still be special sacred places, but the most sacred of all places is our own spiritual center that is the source of holiness.

As each one of us becomes true to our own holiness (wholeness), our sacred duty to each other is fulfilled. And so does the wholeness of our humanity find its oneness with the rest of world.

The peace we seek within is found in the peace we make without, and *vice versa*. The true preservation of the holy land is in the cultivation of our spiritual nature. When the sacred places we revere are at the same time the same spiritual center in every person we meet, then the freedom that we cherish is in exercising the freedom to live the holiness that is the priceless wealth of our spiritual security.

### **Holy and Unholy Wars**

A Holy War is an obvious oxymoron, a contradiction of terms.

If it is holy, it is not warlike but peaceful, loving and wholesome.

If it is war, it is destructive, violent and unwholesome and, definitely, unholy.

Waging war is, therefore, the violation of wholeness as the real meaning of holiness is in the wholeness.

Thus, holiness is in promoting peace, not war.

For holiness is that wholeness which is a state of peace, friendship and unity.

Any apparent unity in the name of violence or war is a delusion that leads to the destruction of its leaders as well as its followers.

The more tragic destruction is not that which comes from an outside force drawn by provocation as much as that which comes from ignorance, exacerbated by fear and hatred, ending in self-destruction.

We are now more aware of the far-reaching ill-effects of misunderstanding religion from a fundamentalist or extremist condition.

The politics of government and of religion stem from the same misunderstanding of our own humanity and of our relationship with each other anywhere in the world.

The freedom we espouse calls for that higher freedom exemplified by an awakened spirituality, freed from the rabid contentions of the narrow expressions of faith which needs to grow to a universality that includes and unites all faiths, with mutual tolerance and compassion for each other. And this begins with each one of us.

### Wholeness and Holiness

There is a need to restore the lost teachings behind the symbolic metaphors of the Holy Lands and Holy Wars as they appear in religion which has, at the same time, caused untold and extensive suffering to humanity. Mostly due to intolerance as a result of spiritual ignorance.

The human mind resorts to simple symbols to comprehend the mysteries of life. In the course of time, representations of reality are taken literally. The keys to their interpretation get lost along the way.

Land is an uncomplicated metaphor for the higher truth of our sensory, emotional and mental conditions in which we are either fragmented (house divided) or in a state of wholeness (unity).

On land, we explore and cultivate its resources in order to live on it in harmony with nature. The materials of the earth constitute our physical bodies. Above the physical we have other higher bodies as vehicles of subtler states of consciousness.

Here are the lost keys to higher understanding. The *land* of the physical is the the world of sensations. The *land* of the emotions is the world of desire that causes emotions to arise. The *land* of the rational mental is the world of ideas that affect our emotions. The *land* of the altruitional mental is the world of altruistic ideals. The *land* of the spiritual intuition and the Divine Will constitute the *land* of the virtues (ideals put into practice) and true empowerment.

Out of these *lands*, we are constituted with a corresponding body and on which we dwell or in-dwell. Thus, we have our physical, emotional, rational mental, altruitional mental, and spiritual bodies with their corresponding qualities of consciousness.

All these *lands* are in their state of original wholeness or harmony with each other, meaning, a state of holiness—the real Holy Land—the Promised Land. When such *lands* are taken literally or geographically, unholy wars on earth are the result.

In a much higher context, these same *lands* point to the subtler domains of higher states, dimensions, levels, degrees, stages, qualities, hierarchies, worlds of consciousness and empowerment.

In living on these *lands*, we cultivate our sensations into the sensitivities for the suffering of others; desires are cultivated into aspirations for the spiritual ideals by further cultivating ideas guided by the ideals, leading to the awakening of the virtues and the fulfillment of the Divine Will—the wholeness (holiness) of humanity.

Thus the real Holy War is within, between our higher and lower nature, between spirituality and personality, between unselfishness and selfishness, between compassion and cruelty, between unity and divisiveness, between the real and the unreal.

As each one of us comes to this higher realization, so do we collectively contribute to world peace. This is the supreme challenge of our present millennium.