

A GOLDEN CIVILIZATION AND THE MAP OF MINDFULNESS

*If you want a Golden Civilization, you must start with
what is golden inside of you.*

*If you want a civilization that will thrive for a thousand years,
you must start with what is timeless inside of you.*

*If you want a civilization that is universal, reaching into all realms,
you must start with profound respect for all sentient being.*

Introduction
to
A Golden Civilization

When I imagine a Golden Civilization, I imagine a world of harmony, learning, creativity, and endeavor, where daily the old and young, rich and poor, and all the cultures of humanity and all its creatures intermingle, thrive, engage with, and learn from one another, fulfilling their own potential as we fulfill humanity's potential. People are kind to one another. There is no war, no hunger. Decisions are made democratically. There is poverty only where chosen as a life of simplicity.

If we are to create a Golden Civilization, we must envision it clearly and then we must choose to enact it. If we wish to send a satellite to Saturn's rings, our aim must be impeccable. If we miss by even a few inches for every mile we travel, we will never arrive. How much clearer we must be in our vision of that foundation on which a Golden Civilization will be built, the root structures from which it will grow. How deeply and with what wisdom must we understand the very best of our nature, for what other foundation can there be? And we must have courage and constancy, for if we shy away from the ideals that would deliver us into a Golden Civilization, the complexity of our modern machinery will carry us irretrievably far away from

where we wish to go. As impossible as it might seem, it is time for us to craft the vision and go for it. Our alternative is untenable.

As William Blake once said,

*If the Sun & Moon should doubt
They'd immediately Go out.*

The Challenge of Human Virtue: We Must Learn to Be Wise

For generations, great thinkers have pondered the brilliance of the human species, how great its accomplishments, reaching in knowledge to the farthest expanse of the universe and beyond, deep into the subtlest of subatomic particles and to dimensions we can hardly imagine. How rapid has been our progress: in science, in commerce, in culture—in fact, in all things except the human spirit, except basic human kindness, except virtue and wisdom. In all things we have progressed dramatically, except in these.

With the pace of human history quickening, with humanity in the thrall of our many advances, both for good and for ill, and with the ill threatening now not only our immediate neighbors, but the whole planet, it is time for us to take on the challenge of actualizing human virtue, kindness, and wisdom and to seek to advance as rapidly on those fronts as we are on all others. It is time for us to understand how to embed wisdom inside each of us, and to place kindness and virtue into the structures and systems of civilization for generations to come.

If we want our children to live in a Golden Civilization, the first step is for each of us to imagine it.

It is time for us to look out a thousand generations and to imagine ourselves in a Golden Civilization. From that vantage we can look back to here and now and ask ourselves, what are the changes we need to make to get there, the course corrections that will guarantee that this Golden Civilization comes into being and resiliently self-generates, starting even now with our generation and our children's, and moving forward for a thousand generations to come?