

LETTER TO WORLD CITIZENS

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What do George Bush's threats against Saddam Hussein, Hussein's war against the Kurds, German and French skinheads' aggression against East European refugees, "straights" beating up on gays, or husbands beating up on wives, have in common?

I'm no psychologist, but the similarities are crystal-clear. They are all left brain motivated. They all possess perverted logic, competition-dominated, we-vs-they thinking, untouched by caring. Note, no women are involved. The need to persecute, to dominate, to use violence as a method of obtaining satisfaction is essentially evidence of an unbalanced nature and mind. Underlying this imbalance is frustration, anger, feelings of incompetence and inferiority.

The left brain is the logical, competitive, aggressive, positive side, all "male" attributes. Win, win, win dominates thinking and action whatever the cost. The right brain is the intuitive, the relational, the nurturing, the mystic, all supposedly "female" characteristics. The first in Eastern terms is "yang," positive; the latter, "yin," negative.

Is the "nature" and "mental state" of the nation equally left-brain oriented? It is certainly inured to and receptive of violence to the point of wholesale slaughter of millions. How else can war be an integral part of its politics? The paranoia of a nation, fearful of other nations, and that of the heterosexual, fearful of his own imbalance reflected by the dual nature of the gay, or the wife-beater imposes a violent reaction vis-a-vis the object of its or his supposed inadequacy. For, let us face it, both the nation, the "straight" and the wife-beater feel and are inadequate.

Years ago, under the guidance of a South Indian guru, I was subtly and with much pain at first and eventually, pleasure "introduced" to my right brain, to that part of me which could embrace the "negative" qualities, not objectively but subjectively. I was very "yang," he told me in 1950, masculine, positive, bright, excessively competitive. I needed to be balanced by "yin," the feminine, dark, mystic...and nurturing. Only then would the real human emerge, he claimed. It was at first a frightening challenge. Give up my manhood? Become feminine? Hardly. From his wisdom perspective he clearly recognized the imbalance. But my left-brain logic told me I was 100% OK.

I didn't know how to cry, however.

Neither did I understand women. The guru gently but with quiet authority explained to me that we were all part male, part female, both "yin" and "yang," but that in the Western industrialized world, a chasm has opened to separate subjectively the two parts. Trusting him, I became a living experiment in breaching the gap. He called it "initiation." The release of the long-suppressed "yin" energy in me could indeed have resulted in social violence had I not had the guru's wisdom as a restraining factor. The goal, after all, was to achieve internal balance, not to display outward frustration.

To return to violent male behavior, whether of "straights" toward homosexual, "skinheads" toward refugees, terrorists toward society in general or national soldiers toward their counterparts, I now recognize the underlying similar causes in such conduct.

A true World Citizen is a balanced human. That doesn't imply neutrality, but transcendent of both negative and positive characteristics to "meta" or holistic understanding and action.

Like Mother Earth herself.
