

1. A FUTURE TO BELIEVE IN

“We are star stuff which has taken its destiny into its own hands.”

~ Carl Sagan

*L*ife as we know it appears to be an isolated phenomenon confined to the surface of Earth, where we thrive within only a tiny bandwidth of refracted light. Alpha Centauri — the next nearest source of luminosity to our sun — is a star system twenty-five trillion miles away. This is but one of the four-hundred billion stars in our Milky Way Galaxy. And this is but one of the millions of billions of other galaxies in just our region of the cosmos, each containing countless stars. Reason dictates that the conditions for life exist elsewhere, but contacting that life, if it does exist, seems to be outside our current sphere of possibility. For all practical purposes we are an isolated colony spinning through eternity at six-thousand miles per hour.

“We don’t want to know what the word *life* means to us,” states Carol Cleland, philosopher in residence with NASA’s National Astrobiology Institute. “We want to know what life *is*.”

Max Planck, Nobel Prize-winning father of Quantum Theory, states: “All matter exists only by virtue of a force. We must assume behind this force the existence of a conscious and intelligent Mind... [And this] mind is the matrix of all matter.”

Life is a precious opportunity.

But it is not enough to stand in awe of totality.

We must participate in the evolution of the intelligence in which we are embedded. The time for hope is over. We are in an era of actualization creating a future to believe in. There is knowledge and there is application of that knowledge. We all have a good sense of what we must do.

“The future of mankind lies waiting for those who will come to understand their lives and take up their responsibility to all living things.”

~ Vine Deloria Jr., American Indian author and activist.

The point now is to embody this realization and act on behalf of the greater good — the interrelated whole, everybody, ourselves, one and the same.

Buckminster Fuller, the legendary architect, philosopher, and visionary, once said: “People say to me, I wonder what it would be like to be on a spaceship. And I [always respond in the same way]: you don’t really realize what you are asking, because everybody is an Astronaut. We all live aboard a beautiful little spaceship called Earth. And if the success or failure of this planet and of human beings depended on how I am and what I do:

How would I be? What would I do?”

“I always tell people to have the highest aspirations.”

~ Aung San Suu Kyi

Okay.

How would I be?

What will I do?