

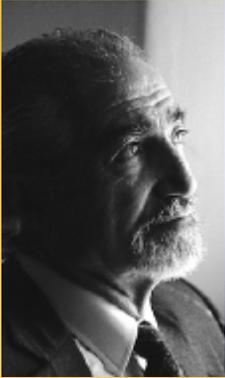


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OUTREACH

PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR ETHICAL LIVING

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Torkom Saraydarian
1917-1997

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“May I have the envelope please?” ...the Oscars and honoring real life-time achievement awards

On Sunday, March 7, approximately 40 million Americans and more than twice that number worldwide are expected to watch the 82nd annual Academy Awards presentation from the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles. It is the most prominent awards ceremony in the world. In January, almost 17 million Americans watched the Golden Globes Awards telecast live from Los Angeles.

As a culture, we enthusiastically bestow honors and awards for every kind of endeavor, not just those in our cult-of-celebrity world. Kids get trophies just for playing soccer; parents proudly display bumper stickers announcing their children are honor students; in business, there are honors programs for customer service, frequent flyer/traveler awards (i.e. see this year’s box office hit, *Up In The Air*), employee recognition awards; there are honors degrees; military honors, and many, many others.

With all these honors handed out so liberally, it begs the question: what about the culture of honoring the value of the soul and personal transformation? What about the culture which awakens our highest potentials and puts them into action? For example:

- Is the ‘*Best Performance By An Actor*’ really George Clooney or Jeff Bridges? What about Uttam Sanjel? When Uttam Sanjel returned to his homeland of Nepal and saw the dismal condition of poor children in the streets, he created a new answer to the problem of child destitution: quick and efficient construction of schools using bamboo. Bamboo is inexpensive (its use lowers the construction budget by 60%), is strong, earthquake-proof, and easy to find. Uttam asked each neighboring family to donate one piece of bamboo to build a school. 15,000 children now attend these new schools!

- Is the ‘*Best Performance By An Actress*’ Sandra Bullock or Meryl Streep – or could it be Emily Schaeffer? Emily is a young Israeli lawyer who defends Palestinians against the Israeli construction of concrete walls along a Palestinian village which

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Gita Saraydarian

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has deprived many Palestinians of their livelihoods. She has explained to Jimmy Carter and Desmond Tutu that her privileged position as an Israeli citizen brings with it a responsibility to act on behalf of those who, for no reason other than being of a different race, do not receive the benefit of the same rights and freedoms.

- Is the ‘*Best Ensemble Performance*’ really from *The Office* or *Glee*... or is it by “The Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers”, a group of grannies with a mission who hail from America, Africa, the Arctic Circle and Asia? These grandmothers are respected medicine women taking on some ambitious long-term tasks, like *Death to Meth*, a drug-abuse prevention program for Lakota youth in South Dakota and a center for healing with traditional plants in the Brazilian Rainforest. Oh, and by the way, they have also received a \$250,000 grant to donate to their causes, and a new documentary film chronicling their work by Emmy Award-winning producer and director Carole Hart is being released.

As we conscientiously strive toward self-improvement (harmlessness, joy, and a refinement of our physical, emotional, and mental natures), we are setting the stage for a ‘lifetime achievement award’. That award takes the form of:

- Clarity of thought
- Steadfastness in living in light
- Freedom from illusion and limitation
- Experiencing the power of love
- Being undeterred by hindrances and karmic obstacles

Okay, so maybe you won’t be invited to the entertainment capital of the world to pick up a statue for this achievement. But you will be invited to an inner planes capital: classes in the Higher Worlds to aid you in ultimately expanding your work with Great Ones in the noble cause of liberating humanity from our pain and suffering. And unlike the Academy Awards, not only



- Clarity of thought
- Steadfastness in living in light
- Freedom from illusion and limitation
- Experiencing the power of love
- Being undeterred by hindrances and karmic obstacles

So while we honor performances of the Arts representing past achievements, let’s turn our attention and honor future achievements. ‘That makes no sense’, you say. But it does when we consider that standards of ‘higher achievements’ are related to the future. Actually, the words ‘perfection’ and ‘improvement’ are related to the future. The future, in this context, is our Core – the highest potentials within us. Conscious striving toward this Core enhances our capacity to achieve health, happiness, and success in life. “The future is an invisible magnet which evokes striving in each living form to actualize its inner glory.”*

*(Torkom Saraydarian, *Education As Transformation*, Vol. 1, p. 121.)

are there multiple winners in each category... the goal is to have as many award winners as humanly possible!!

“And the winner for *Striving Toward Perfection* is...

.....YOU!”

P.S. In this *Outreach* issue you will thoroughly enjoy reading about Torkom’s insights on culture, the future and looking ahead to a life-time of achievement, as well as Gita’s article on “Soul Transformation Awards”.

— Lou Schwartz



Torkom... on Culture

Culture is the translation and interpretation of beauty. It is the objectification and condensation of subjective beauty. The labor to share beauty is culture. When you have culture you have a bridge extending from the Source of beauty to you. It is this that will transform your life as you strive, labor, and eventually penetrate into the mysteries of beauty.

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Culture is expressed on four main levels:

1. Personality culture
2. Transpersonal or Soul culture
3. Living or spiritual culture — the culture of the future
4. Culture of the Central Electrical Fire within man and the universe.

The first level of culture is related to the assistance or glorification of the personality — i.e., the physical, emotional, and mental nature of a person. This is expressed in paintings, in sculptures, in poems, in dances and music, and in many kinds of advertisements.

The second level comes into being when the transpersonal Self in man makes its appearance. You can see such appearance in gigantic cathedrals, the writings of Tolstoy, Tagore, Dante and Emerson, the paintings of Michelangelo, the music of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky and other great composers.

The third level of culture is the expression of the Spiritual or rather Divine Fire. Only rare people manifest this beauty. You can see the expression of this culture in the paintings of Nicholas Roerich. This is not personality or soul culture it is a culture which when contacted immediately release in some degree the Hidden Divinity within one. A very highly charged energy center is contacted and this energy immediately starts to transform one's nature. This is the fiery culture, the culture of the New Age.

The final culture is the Central Fire in man and in the universe. This culture manifests Itself through

the Divine embodiments called Avatars who condense, focus, and radiate the Supreme Transcendental Beauty. An Avatar is a Being who is bringing into birth the Solar Self, and His Culture is a torch on the path of humanity inspiring and directing us toward future evolutions. Such an Avatar is Christ, is Buddha, is Hermes, and other Great Ones.

(Excerpted from *The Flame of Beauty, Culture. Love, Joy*, pp. 60-61 by Torkom Saraydarian.)

Eventually we will learn that the best healing agent is culture — in all departments of human life. In the future, beauty in any form will be so categorized that physicians will prescribe specific beauties to heal many disturbances in the human nature. For example, they will prescribe to listen to a certain symphony, to study a certain painting, to enjoy a certain dance, or to read a certain book of poetry in order to cure a certain sickness.

(Torkom Saraydarian, *Education As Transformation*, Vol 2, p. 79.)

Torkom... on Our Future

By the word “future” we usually understand three things:

The first definition is related to the time element. For example, if I build a house in ten years time, ten years is the future. The coming years are the future. I say, “In the future we will meet again.” Who knows when we will meet? Maybe in five years or fifty years. This refers to the future.

The second definition is related to a condition in which you will live. For example, “to build your future” means to have a prosperous, happy life, to have a position which will meet your dreams.



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The third definition is related to our beingness, to our essence, and to our actualization. The core within us is the future. The future is hidden within us, as an acorn is hidden in the soil. This acorn must turn into an oak tree. It must actualize itself. It must become itself. It must turn into its future. The core-seed has all possibilities of unfolding and becoming like the vision put within it.

The human Spark is the seed-future, but It must actualize Itself and be conscious of what It is. Once a soul becomes the future, the other definitions of the future no longer hold his interest because they do not exist in the domain of Infinity. The only future which will always actualize toward higher and higher perfection is the core of man, which is beyond all fluctuations, attachments, cravings, and limitations of the three worlds.

(Torkom Saraydarian, *Education As Transformation*, Vol. 2, pp. 111 - 112.)

Torkom... on Looking Ahead and A Lifetime of Achievement

It is more important to see what possibilities can exist in the future than to concentrate our minds on eliminating our limitations. As we look ahead to the future we will realize that most of our limitations are imaginary, and we will develop daring and courage to overcome those limitations that we really have. Once the image of success inspires us, we will run toward it with increasing speed.

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In looking ahead, people will create a better image of identity about themselves. Life progresses only in creating a better image of yourself. This is a secret law, and it stops being a secret when you understand it.

Project yourself into the future. Build a better identity of yourself in the future. Visualize how beautiful you can be in the future, physically, emotionally, and mentally, and how successful you can be in the future. See that people are respecting you more and more because of your wisdom, beauty, and goodness.

Look ahead for other people, too. Do not see them as they are; make them feel that you have great expectations of them, that you think great things about them. This is such a beautiful attitude, which increases your health and magnetism. People respect you more and more, and they feel that they can be better people because of your presence.



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If you look ahead and try to calculate the future outcome of your present thoughts, actions, and words, you may introduce a few changes or fundamental changes in your thoughts, words, and actions. Such changes help you to build a better identity in yourself.

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In looking ahead, people build pathways toward the future and create dynamic causes which change their lives. It is generally assumed that causes that produce changes in our lives exist in the past and that our past thoughts, words, and actions produce all that happens to us now and in the future. There is a philosophical misunderstanding in these thoughts.

The most powerful causes are created by those who can look ahead and think and visualize a future which is not the outcome of past causes but the registration of an image projected by their spirit or by Higher Worlds to them. When such an image or vision is recorded by a person, it turns into a powerful cause which introduces changes in the thoughts, words, feelings, actions, and life of that person. Such a cause is not from the past but from the future.

(Torkom Saraydarian, *Challenge For Discipleship*, pp. 473 - 475.)



Soul Transformation Awards

By Gita Saraydarian

Actors make movies to entertain us. Some are uplifting and some are trashy. Some do lots of good and inspire us for greater heights of understanding, while others degrade us and humiliate us. Some are used for tools of good, some as tools of darkness. In movies, sports, songs, dances, art shows, and in many forms of creative arts, we see a tremendous impulse to heal, to do good, and bring a higher consciousness to others. Some actors go beyond making movies and use their money and influence to do good for others.

We too are actors on the large stage of life. We make choices every day about the culture in which we live. Every choice we make changes the culture of life and either affirms the trash or affirms the ingenuity and beauty of the human creativity. Every time we adapt ourselves to low level values, we affirm them. Every time we adapt ourselves to higher values, we enhance the higher culture. People express in their own levels of expression and it is up to us to honor and reward that which uplifts the human spirit.

Culture is the expression of the inner fire. It is a powerful tool of healing and balancing. When we experience something of beauty, we are uplifted and healed physically, emotionally, mentally, as well as psychically. The level of healing and harmonizing depends on the level of the cultural expression.

Our creative expressions can be an expression of that inner fire, the spark of God in us. Every time we uphold and give value to higher principles it is God speaking through us. God speaks through us in many ways. Sometimes God speaks through a very visible and popular actor to bring attention to a human need.

Sometimes, those who serve humanity are all but invisible to our popular media and we never hear about them. There are people right now building schools in remote parts of the world. There are people who are taking children off the streets and offering hope to them. God is speaking through people all the time, even you. You may be given an award for your life expression, or you may never be recognized by anyone. The outer rewards are sometimes a dim reflection of the real rewards that we receive on the inner planes of life.

We are always on the crossroads of life. Every day and in every way we make choices. We reward someone by buying their products. We reward someone by going to their movies. Daily we are constructing a cultural tradition; it is a living and breathing part of life. If we keep in mind that we also are able to reward the expressions of the soul and the process of self transformation, we can acknowledge all those men and women who exemplify this in our life. In all the choices that we make we can have God speak through us. In the choices we make daily, we affirm or we deny the eternal values of God. He speaks through us or we reject Him every time we make a choice.

Today, you can silently reward yourself for the transformative power of your soul. And, silently give rewards and honors for all the unsung heroes of life, who have given everything to uplift us. In our daily choices, we can give awards for soul transformation.

With love and gratitude,



Gita

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