

Which Road Is It?

By Hal Manogue

I had a conversation with a friend this week and he was very concerned with the state of things in America, as well as the world. He correctly identified all the problems that were having an impact on his thoughts. He was upset with the follies of different governments, business, politics, schools and society in general. He was convinced there was no solution to the problems, and we all were facing destruction in some manner, and it seemed that expressing his views to me, relieved his concern, for the moment. He asked me what I thought about all the information he shared with me, and I told him I lived in a different world. That of course did not make much sense to him, he knew all he described to me was very real and I was also part of all the gloom he presented. Was I ignoring reality? Was I ignorant of world events? Or was I just plain stupid?



I told my friend that my thoughts create my world and I saw a different world evolving. Not one of despair and destruction, but one of unity, abundance and peace. I told him it started with me. I would live in a world that, in spite of all the daily contrast, would become a grander version of itself, a place of love, because that is what I believed. It all starts with my thoughts.

I found the words of Confucius this morning, I had written them in one of my books in 2003 and wanted to share his thoughts on this subject. Confucius did not begin a religion, he was known as a moral reformer. He was born in 551 B.C. he died 70 years later in 479 B.C. He believed and learned from his ancients, that the road to change starts with the individual. He explains that in this work written over 2000 years ago.

"The illustrious ancients, when they wished to make clear and to propagate the highest virtues in the world, put their states in proper order. Before putting their states in order, they regulated their families. Before regulating their families they cultivated their own selves, they perfected their souls. Before perfecting their souls they tried to be sincere in their thoughts. Before they tried to be sincere in their thoughts, they extended to the utmost their knowledge. Such investigation of knowledge lay in the investigation of things, and in seeing them as they really were. When things were thus investigated, knowledge becomes complete. When knowledge was complete, their thoughts became sincere. When their thoughts were sincere, their souls became perfect. When their souls were perfect, their own selves became cultivated. When their selves were cultivated, their families became regulated. When their families were

regulated, their states came to be put in proper order. When their states were in proper order, then the whole world became peaceful and happy."

Confucius

Sounds like a new, old way of thinking, or should I say remembering?

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