

F 6. WHAT SORT OF WORLD IS THIS ANYHOW?

It often seems to be a world in which all sorts of things go on, many bad or worse. Many bad things happen to good people, and the bad sometimes even gain from it. It is difficult to imagine, though, that suicide bombers think they get credits in heaven for being martyrs by killing others, at least many of whom were innocent victims. All of these things make us quite sad, as indeed they should.

But they should not discourage us completely, because a little thought can let us realize that the full nature of human reality is such as to encourage us all a great deal. Everyone naturally has empathy for suffering of other humans and even suffering of animals, unless they allowed themselves to become so embittered that this natural feeling has been destroyed. And we do know that when human beings cooperate, even economically, they can be better off than if they enter into conflicts of any sort with others. Best of all, human love can enhance life for anyone and everyone---it makes everything about life better, while its opposites enmity & hatred degrade the quality of all human life.

There are always potentially mutually beneficial relations among human beings, cooperative, empathetic, or loving and between any two groups of human beings (even among nations). And the benefits can be shared equitably so as to be fair and mutually desirable.

Just think of how discouraging the world would be if this was not true. But the fact of the matter is that this is true--more love and cooperation and mutuality are always possible and make life better. We all live in the sort of world where that is so. What could be more wonderful than living in that kind of a world! Of course it is unfortunate that we humans don't realize those potentials more often, but improvement is always possible and rewarding in its own way when it takes place. Nothing should make us happier than this knowledge.