

JUST SUSTAINABILITY
Seattle University

“The Intersection of Spirituality and Sustainability”

Shariff M. Abdullah, JD

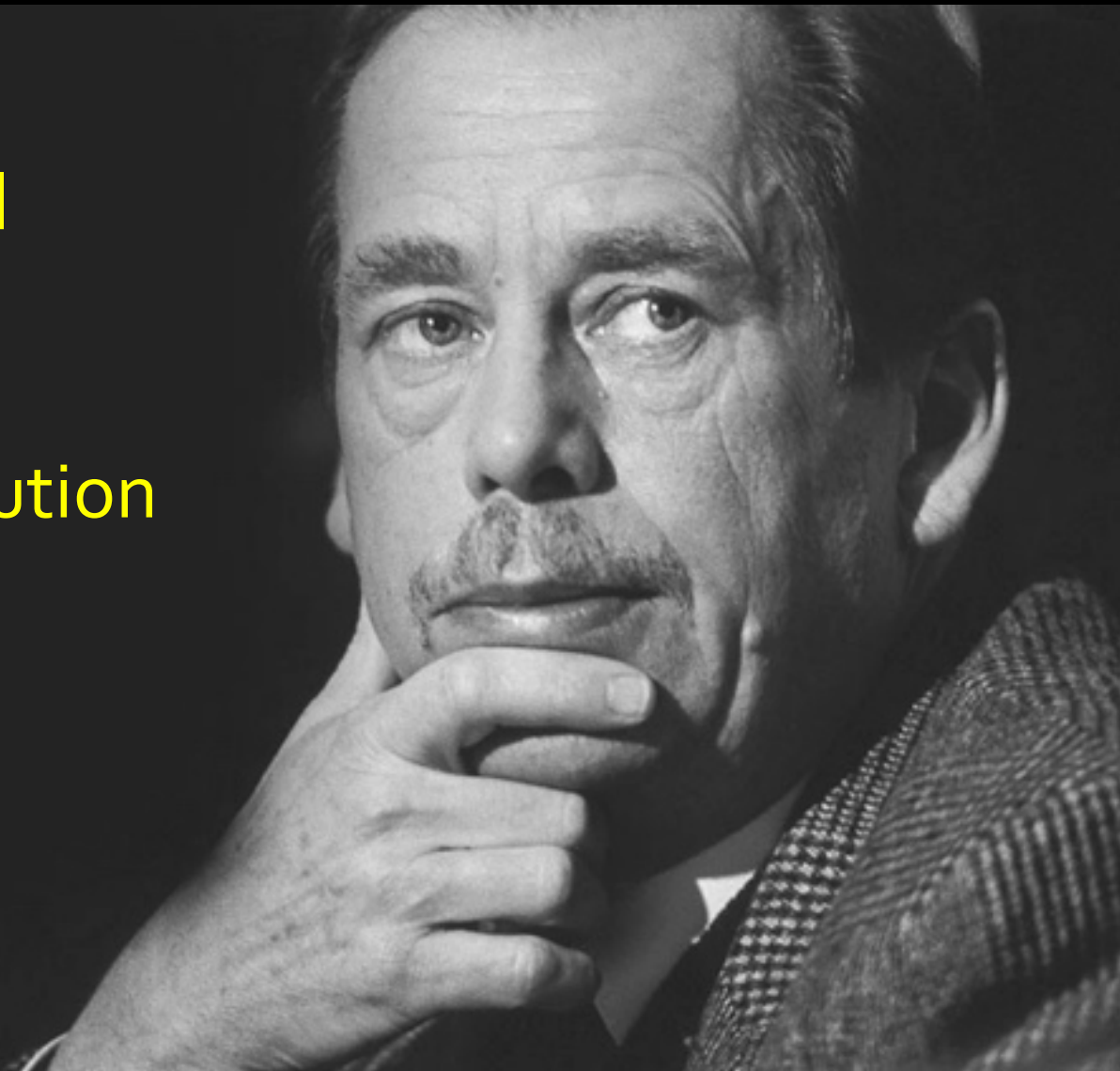
JUSTICE?

SPIRITUALITY?

SUSTAINABILITY?

Vaclav Havel

The Velvet Revolution



What is "Spirituality"?



“Spirituality I take to be concerned with those qualities of the human spirit -- such as love and compassion, patience, tolerance, forgiveness, contentment, a sense of responsibility, a sense of harmony -- which bring happiness to both self and others.



“Thus spiritual practice... involves, on the one hand, acting out of concern for others’ well-being. On the other, it entails transforming ourselves so that we become more readily disposed to do so. To speak of spiritual practice in any terms other than these is meaningless.



“My call for a spiritual revolution is thus not a call for a religious revolution. Nor is it a reference to a way of life that is somehow otherworldly.... Rather, it is a call for a radical reorientation away from our habitual preoccupation with self.”

An Example of Dysfunctional Systems and Structures...

Trees cut
down in
rainforest...



An Example of Dysfunctional Systems and Structures...

Trees cut down in rainforest...



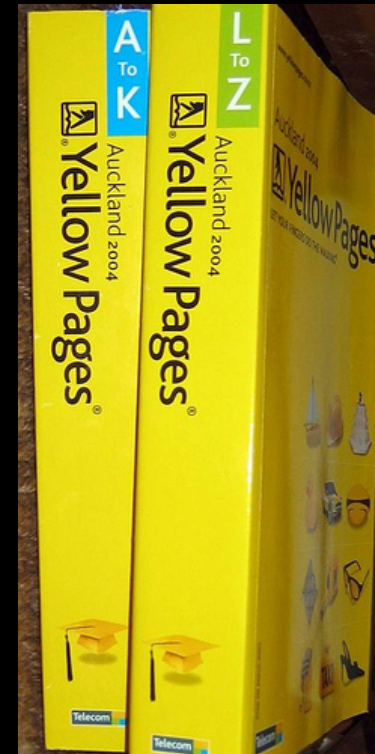
An Example of Dysfunctional Systems and Structures...

Shipped to
a paper
mill...



An Example of Dysfunctional Systems and Structures...

Turned into
Yellow Pages
phone books...



Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/silvery/4461519535/>
Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leelefever/1142561866/in/photostream/>
Source: <http://leftofthehill.blogspot.com/2011/02/san-fransisco-considering-ban-on-yellow.html>

An Example of Dysfunctional Systems and Structures...

Then sent straight to recycling bins... or trash.



Because...

**MOST PEOPLE DON'T
USE PHONE BOOKS
ANYMORE!**



Source: http://jwikert.typepad.com/the_average_joe/2007/07/when-will-the-y.html

Source: <http://greenlimbs.com/turning-the-page-on-the-yellow-pages/>

Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/timhoran/2308095645/>

An Example of Dysfunctional Systems and Structures...



This system
is not just
“wasteful”,
it is



ECOLOGICALLY IMMORAL

What is our highest
VALUE?

VISIONS

AND

META-VISIONS...

Shariff Abdullah:

“We can create a world that works for all beings.”

William McDonough:

“[We can] love all the children, of all species, for all time.”

Mark Anielski:

“We can create an economy of enduring happiness, an economy of love.”

Our current long-range plan...

“Let’s Kill this Planet”

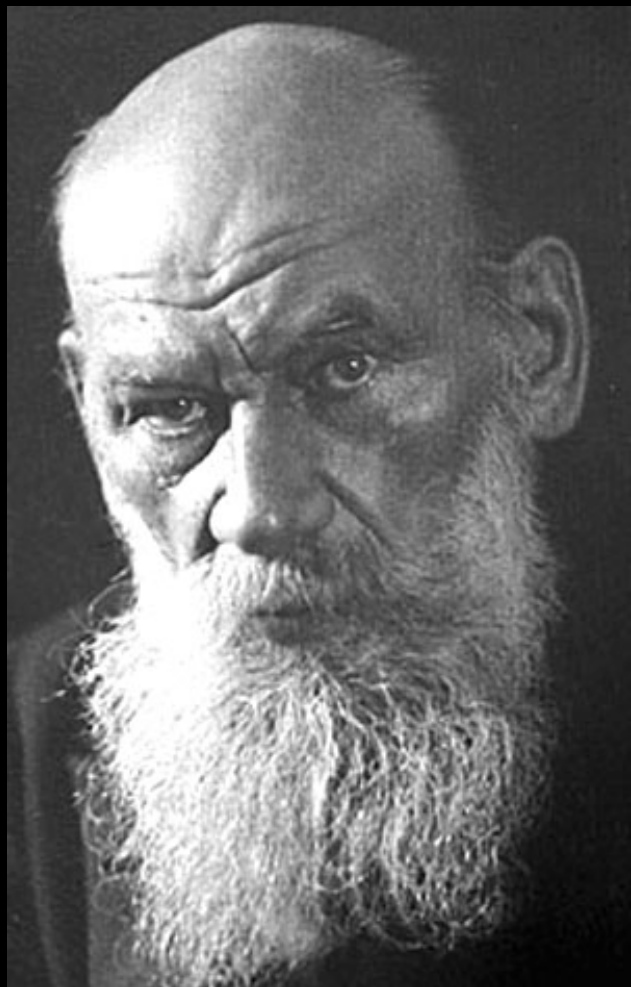
“The purpose of a system is
what it does.”

Stafford Beer

Some of us are engaged in a related plan...

“Let’s Kill this Planet SLOWER”.

- Let’s do all we can to save the Earth – so long as:
 - it doesn’t cost too much
 - we don’t have to change ourselves or our lifestyles too much
 - we don’t have to question our basic attitudes and assumptions about work, money... or anything else.



"I sit on a man's back,
choking him, and making
him carry me...

...and yet assure myself
and others that I am
very sorry for him and
wish to ease his lot by
any means possible...

...except getting off his
back.

Leo Tolstoy

12 GLOBAL
CHALLENGES?





12 CHALLENGES

12 PARADIGM SHIFTS...

Human-scale

Healthful

**Creatively
“inefficient”**

(Efficiency measured by
LIFE, not MONEY)

paradigm

Participatory

regulated

**Abundance
Paradigm**

Craft paradigm

(quality; beauty; function;
durability; pride; soul)

**Natural and
organic**

**LIFE AFFIRMING
AND
SUPPORTING**

mass production, over
production)

Soul-lifting

(supports spiritual healing
and awakening)

**“Time is Time;
Money is
Money”**

Sustainability
(Enoughness Paradigm)

Extravagance

Elegant simplicity
(functionability; “right use”)

**THIS IS NOT
"UTOPIAN"!!!**

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING...
for over 330 years!**

- Human-scale
-
- Craft paradigm
-
- Elegant simplicity
-
- Participatory
-
- Creatively "inefficient"
-
- "Time is Time; Money is Money"
-



“The Chronicles of the Upheavals”

Humanity makes
it... but HOW?

Book One of "The Metamorphosis of Humanity"

The Chronicles **of the** **UPHEAVALS**



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