



STAR ALLIANCE™
Good Will Wisdom Values for All™
• Promoting Quality-of-Life Peace Ethics •
• Education & Inspiration for Our *Highest Civic Ideals* •
• Since 1985 •

**A STAR CITIZEN'S
Reflections & Aspirations For
• Good Will Over Ill Will •
Perhaps The Fundamental Moral Choice For
Greater Safety, Peace, Joy & Love In Shared
Commitment to Our Highest Civic Ideals**

*“Good Will Comes Before Peace.
This is the threshold of understanding
across which Humanity must now pass.”*

People everywhere desire lasting security, peace, love, happiness & fulfillment. Our natural desires include a safe, healthy, beautiful daily living environment — and all good things for ourselves, the people we cherish, and different identity groups we belong to, like families, communities, and nations; language, racial and ethnic groups; creeds, and other distinctions we may share with other human beings.

Yet with reflection and experience, we must realize and act accordingly: that to achieve our highest goals — and have them last in a realistic way — in an increasingly diverse and interactive global society — it is vital to share some key “universal values” for good — like good will, honesty, integrity, and respect — with virtually everyone, if it were possible.

Combined with sufficient, patient communication with others, these values will generate deeper mutual understanding. And with this, we can share vital knowledge, skills, resources, and other strengths in a mutually supportive, cooperative way. Indeed, in an ideal civilization, all people would harmonize amidst their great natural diversities, and help sustain positive, productive, happy societies; enjoying excellent social, emotional, and *practical* benefits.

In the direction of such a secure, inclusive, and enriching universal peace — and as a critical pathway to sustainable success in all good undertakings — let us educate and inspire ourselves and others to see that *all* members of society, all *Universal Citizens*, can, in theory, become *Star Citizens*[™]. How? By everyone learning basic ethical principles early in life, and doing their best, with others, to maintain healthy, sustainable relationships at every level throughout their lives.

Vital to this process is everyone becoming more aware and skillful surrounding one, fundamental, critical choice required of each of us¹ — sometimes day in and day out — to optimize our social potentials, as we encounter life's challenges, great and small.

It is a courageous, sometimes difficult choice that each of us must make — a choice for holistic *good will over ill will*, and it is made from deep within our own minds and hearts. We must choose — and often remake a choice for good will — in order to endure and hope to achieve resolution and transformation in the face of conflicts, and stressful or irritating circumstances.

Good will comes before lasting peace. Upon reflection, how could it be otherwise? Who among us is automatically inclined to resolve conflicts peacefully and creatively; or to do anything but vigorously defend ourselves (if we can) — or else run and hide from the more powerful — when we are first threatened or attacked, or even *feel* or suspect that we *are* being so?

¹ As individuals, families, neighbors, & friends; as groups; as institutions in civic, social, & religious life; as people of science, art, business, education, entertainment, craft, industry, & representative government.

In the ongoing *Challenge of Lasting Peace, Love, and Happiness*; let us clearly identify one, essential, *common enemy of all: ill will*. This we can understand most simply as the desire to harm — especially when this intention is deliberately-sustained, even *cherished*, and directed toward one or more of our own species.

How do we conquer such destructive intent? Ultimately by its opposite! *Good Will!* And yet, under stressful conditions, this choice can seem unfair, impractical, or otherwise unattainable.

Ideally, there will be a collective victory, gained by *everyone* doing their best, and repeatedly so: to choose, to want, to wish, to *will* for good and good outcomes for everyon — in preference to wanting, wishing, willing, and working for *harm* — including, in this, *unfair exercise of power and domination over others*.

Supportive to this choice, in any case: We must first become conscious that this wish is, indeed, a deep option of ours, even as individuals, and even under very difficult conditions — and that with practice, it is possible to develop a positive habit of *wanting, wishing, willing, and working for good*².

We must try our best to locate the simple “toggle switch” inside our own minds that goes back and forth, according to our intention, extending to different degrees on either side of a dividing line between: on the one side, wishing good for others; and on the other, wishing (perhaps unconsciously): for harm.

We must try our best to make the initial wishing and willing for good ourselves — and importantly — to learn and courageously follow all the *other* ethical principles and values *surrounding* and *stemming* from good will. These values we can study, identify, and declare as *Our Highest Civic Ideals*.³

² Where good implies “fitting” — and perhaps “fitting well,” a coming together; ideally: a uniting of diverse elements with benefits for all. (See English word derivation for “good.”)

³ Please see www.STARALLIANCE.org.

Commitment to holistic good will — and to all its related principles and values — will allow us to achieve more optimal, healthy, positive, and sustainable relationships, together with other *Star Citizens* so committed and so dedicated, virtually everywhere.

We must patiently work together through the challenges of learning, habituating, and applying all our learned, declared, and committed ethical principles for sustainable peace and love — in best balance and proportion to each unique, practical situation.

Many times we must make these all-important, deep choices while dealing with the uncertainties of unfolding events, unfamiliar and unpredictable actors, and the many difficulties brought about by human error, including our own.

Let us reflect and prepare for this process...for in life's winding, branching pathways, we will often be so challenged. One thing is for certain: We are not alone in the quest.

* * * * *

Now to reflect further:

When we encounter stress and conflict: rather than pre-judging, or now “rushing to judge” “the other” — whether consciously or unconsciously; rather than instantly assuming they must surely be at fault; that surely, in some way, they must wish us harm; rather than nourishing enmity by quickly adopting, and stubbornly preserving: one or more negative assumptions, assigning blame and punishment, even though lacking sure proof; rather than wasting energy endlessly justifying unproven assumptions, resenting everything that has gone wrong from *our* limited point of view; rather than alienating ourselves from “the enemy” with chronic

evasion from direct communications⁴ — and/or, actively employing deceit; rather than immediately expressing intense irritation and starting to entertain or even to *cherish* and *nourish* hate and ill will; let us, instead, actively *choose: wanting, wishing, willing for good outcomes — ideally for all!*

Let us make this important choice even when we do not, can not, and possibly *should not feel* good about the situation, as it stands, or at least seems, right then and there. If we possibly can, let us choose and project holistic good will at least for a time, until we know more.

This is wise *because*: If we actively cherish and project good will for all from our side, just as strongly and consistently as we can despite difficult circumstances and the unknown — we will find that — much more often than not — things will proceed and conclude much better than they will in the presence of unchecked, deliberate or reflexive ill will, coming from either side.

Someone must choose to “will good” first, to begin the healing process. Why not make this choice, pro-actively, ourselves? How much better this than waiting on the other to do so, and risking that they may never do so, while the situation devolves into more misery for both or all sides?

In order: 1) duly to allow for possible innocent intentions from “the other” side; 2) avoid unnecessary, often hurtful drama and escalation of conflicts; 3) preserve and nourish our own emotional, practical, and spiritual state and benefits; and 4) hold and express due sympathy, empathy, compassion, and respect for others: Let us make this one “*Fundamental Moral Choice*:” to will for the best, most “fitting” short and longterm outcomes for ourselves and the essential humanity of all others, just as strongly and consistently as we can.

⁴ *Temporary* evasion from attempted serious conflict resolution or any important activity, however, is highly appropriate whenever the distorting influences of alcohol & drugs, severe stress or fatigue are present. Wait for solid mutual sobriety & a mentally-clear, refreshed starting point to engage discussions, decision-making & actions! Statements made by parties known to be “under the influence” should, in general, be wisely and strongly discounted, rather than taken seriously to heart, at least at the moment! Reviewing them later, however, may be well worthwhile, if not vital to gaining traction and progress in the relationship.

Just as with exercise and training for the body, repeatedly exercising this *Fundamental Moral Choice* for good will, will strengthen our “mental muscles” in that area, and help us succeed in making that *wishing, wanting, and willing* for good process and outcomes *habitual* in matters great and small. This way, our “*power of good*” will become far stronger in the future, even under the stress of demanding interactions, circumstances, and feelings of the moment.

Even if and when we temporarily falter, or even “lose it” for a while under intense overloading demands, let us allow this all-important “*willing for good*” to *recover* in our minds and hearts, just as quickly as it can. Typically, it will recover, if we allow and encourage it! So let us allow and encourage it!

Let us *not* deliberately sustain and nourish ill will for even a moment or degree beyond its natural life and intensity! Just because anger is sometimes spontaneous and justified to maintain one’s dignity and stand up to abuse, we need not stay angry for a moment more than occurs naturally; a moment more than truly useful, or unavoidable.

How challenging this can be — a positive choice and quick recovery to good will — precisely when we are stressed, injured, fatigued, or otherwise out of balance. How hard, when we feel hurt and uncertain about what has happened; when we feel disappointed, depressed, confused, suspicious, afraid, and upset — from real or perceived hardships; from current or remembered abuses; from past or present conflicts, disrespects, misunderstandings, and fears; from explicit or veiled threats; from deceit, evasion, and all their multiple, damaging, and ever-branching influences; from other losses, frustrations, temptations, and neglect! How tough it is when we have been wounded — whether physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, financially — any combination or all of these!

Yet how much *more* important, then, that we choose wisely for the long term — especially when we have little margin of safety, resources, and power.

Let us each do our best, from our side, to prevent or break tragic, continuing cycles of mutual alienation, grief, and harm —

potential or expressed — that can go on and on and on, literally for generations!

Let us each do our best to act in accordance with all *Our Highest Civic Ideals*, and to ensure that all others have equal opportunity to learn and practice, to their best abilities, all these same, vital, declared social values and principles. Let us make best individual and collective contributions to healing injured relationships — our own and others whom we may know and care for — towards healthful social progress and a vibrant, healthy whole.

In the ongoing *Challenge of Lasting Peace and Happiness*, each one of us matters, because we are the ultimate deciders of our own inner lives! We have individual minds, endowed with freedom, in a huge and unfathomable collective consciousness, created by our whole human race and other sentient beings.

The concept of evil is understood, most simply, from its word derivation in English: “exceeding proper limits.”

The very idea of *cherishing ill will*, certainly for its own sake, and among our own species, is obviously evil: *exceeding proper limits*. We should avoid it. We who seek to be good should wish our enemies good in the greater, holistic sense, although they may need to be restrained, better educated to healthy, social sustainability values — *Our Highest Civic Ideals* — and to make amends. Because if they truly do come to know, allow, and support good in themselves and others, it will be better for them, better for STAR CITIZENS⁵ everywhere, and better for the whole of greater society.

Why would one love and cherish the desire to harm others beyond its necessary, natural occurrences for immediate self defense, or the defense of the innocent and vulnerable? Yet this unfortunate, inherently dangerous and damaging excess has historically occurred often, resulting in the planned, organized,

⁵ STAR CITIZENS are they who thoroughly learn all our declared *Highest Civic Ideals* — and then do their sincere best to apply and practice them, in best balance and proportion, to each practical life situation.

sustained, profoundly hurtful, painful, ugly, costly, wasteful, hugely horrific, and deeply tragic violence of wars.

No other species engages in such extreme, excessive, and sustained behavior against its own! The Seville Statement on Violence (1986) has maintained to the effect: “It is scientifically incorrect” to say that violence and war are inherent to biological human nature. The statement concludes:

“Just as 'wars begin in the minds of men', peace also begins in our minds. The same species who invented war is capable of inventing peace. The responsibility lies with each of us.”

Let us distinguish (that is: mentally and intellectually separate) between people’s mistakes — bad speech and bad actions at particular times; and on the other hand: their ongoing essential being, their humanity, and their human rights.

We can never know completely what another human being, born innocent, has lived through.

The writer and poet, *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*, wrote:

“If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each [person’s] life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.”

Of course we must oppose, restrain, and attempt to correct socially harmful attitudes and actions — especially violence in all its forms.

Violence, by definition, violates. And it often damages permanently not only an individual, but a community and the greater whole.

In righteous opposition, we need not, in most cases, seek to destroy, whether partially or completely, others’ potentials for learning, healing their own wounds, and earning a deserved better future by being socially responsible with their freedoms and choices.

When we have been hurt in one way or another by others, possibly many times, still: Let us not be blinded to the good that remains; especially since being blind to the good may well, sooner or later, be returned upon us, and those we love and care for!

Let us reserve hate for the things that hurt everyone over time: the undue hardening of ill intentions and negative circumstances that destroy people's opportunities to improve; true injustice, ignorance, poverty, violence, and sustained ill will itself! Let us not crystallize our judgments forever, for we may only end up punishing ourselves and our communities.

Except for little children, is any of us so perfect as to be free of all defects or blame? No human being can be perfect by all standards.

In preference, therefore, to intentionally nourishing ill will and exacting revenge — that actually damages the whole, including ourselves in some way — let us each take responsibility, to the best of our abilities, for the totality of our speech, actions, and those of our communities.

Let us all perform our best roles to help heal old hurts and create sustainable relationships. In the daily *Challenges of Lasting Peace, Love and Happiness*, let us aim together at better futures for one and all. Let us choose to reaffirm up-building emotions and directions.

Let us “*Communicate, Cooperate, and Celebrate*” continually — as openly, honestly, directly, and inclusively as possible — renewing our own good will and hope, and that of others’, in the process.

Let us undertake positive initiatives whenever we can. Let us culture due humility, extend appropriate forgiveness and due respect, employ kind diplomacy⁶, and exercise wisdom. Let us strive for

⁶ Politely, appropriately, & when needed: assertively; remembering and employing, at intervals, the power of positive silence.

justice through 1) accountability to self and others, 2) skillful mutual corrections; and, to whatever extent proves possible, 3) proper recompense!

Let us welcome objective, fair-minded, “outside,” or “third-party” assistance in resolving and transforming conflicts more safely, efficiently, and effectively.

Let us reach for personal and community reconciliation and productive justice — in preference to fruitless (and often reciprocal in different ways) mere punishment! Let us achieve deeper calm, greater discernment; and clearer expressions: not only of our own grievances, but of *specific needs*. When fulfilled, these amends will actually make things better! Let us strive together to evolve creative solutions with lasting benefits for all!

Importantly, to facilitate all this: Let us transcend our natural differences in degrees of pure consciousness — every day — employing the easiest, most natural and effective technique/s available.⁷

United first in these positive intents: 1) truly to transcend into the freedom of pure consciousness 2) to find areas of mutual respect and commonality, 3) to engage peaceful processes, 4) to avoid unnecessary harms, 5) to heal past injuries, 6) to build up the common good, and 7) to enjoy our overlapping, shared, and interacting futures — let us *succeed together* in resolving and transforming conflicts — inside, outside, and among us!

Let us culture in education, mind, heart, and habit, all our clearly-declared *Highest Civic Ideals*. Following all these principles to our best abilities, and in all these good ways: Let us achieve more positive outcomes for all — and achieve these ends more safely, more efficiently, and much more pleasantly than before!

So wish we each! So wish we for all!

And in thought, word, and deed: So may everyone!

⁷ For seekers of regular transcendence, we recommend the proven Transcendental Meditation™ technique (www.tm.org): an effortless way to help feel one’s best on a daily basis via profound natural relaxation, calm, and energetic refreshment. “T.M.” does not require faith or belief, and impressively, a large body of scientific research validates its many benefits for the individual and society.

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- **By integrative author, Mr. Peter Bruce DuMont • Shared with the Public — to the extent possible for me and our STAR ALLIANCE initiative at this time — in the spirit of sharing my / our journey/s, hoping that it may facilitate and accelerate the journey of many others.**

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- **Few charitable gifts will be more influential over the long term than ones supporting the STAR ALLIANCE nonprofit Civic Peace Values Education initiative, since 1985-8-8!**
- **USA - IRS Educational Public-Benefit Organization 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit #: 94-2975770**

• END NOTES:

STAR ALLIANCE - * STAR CITIZENS™ are they who thoroughly learn all our declared principles or *Highest Civic Ideals* — described in our Declarations, Pledges, & support documents; and then do their sincere best to apply and practice them, at every level of society, in best balance and proportion to each practical life situation.

Also recommended for study are: The UNITED NATIONS *Bill of Human Rights* & related documents.]

Our greatest *Stars* are the timeless, essential principles or “axioms” which, we theorize, constitute the many natural laws & duties of lasting peace & love in healthy, sustainable relationships.

Genuine, sustainable peace & love (that is, not only romance & physicality) are defined by honoring, willing, & working our best together toward applying *all* the declared civic principles & ideals in best balance & proportion to each practical situation.

We feel the same principles apply (or should) to intimates, families, friends, communities, regions, nations, our world, & beyond; in the personal, social, economic, cultural, political, & legal spheres.

• WARNING: Not all people are yet educated nor able to perceive their best interests in making a comprehensive commitment to, and practicing, all the declared principles. Therefore, due caution is advised!