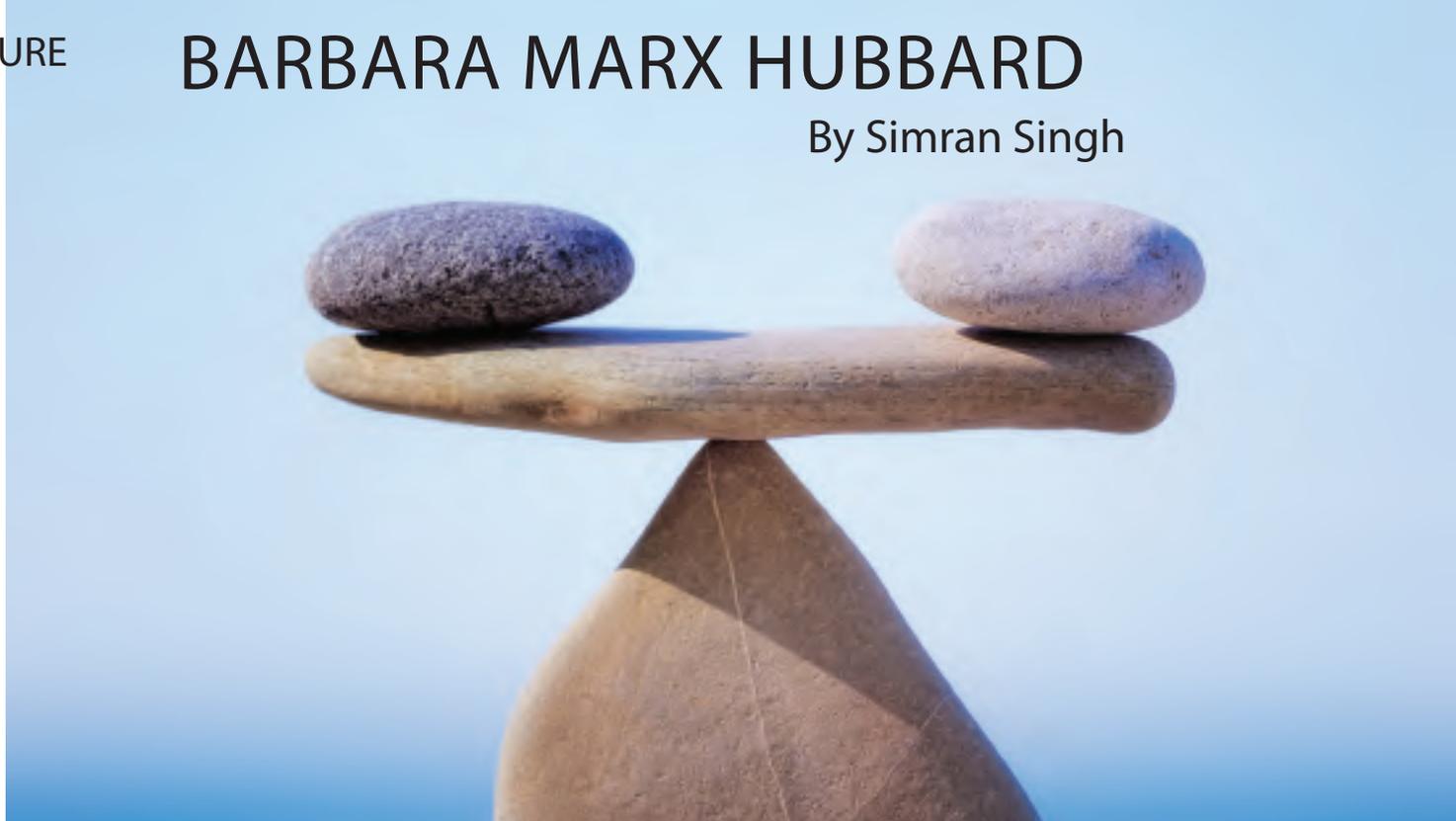


# BARBARA MARX HUBBARD

By Simran Singh



“There’s an inner shift, the shift from ego to essence, and there’s the outer shift, from the top-down dominator structures to the more participatory co-creative, co-evolving structures. Wherever you find new kinds of management like Theory U of Otto Scharmer as an example; like the magnificent work of the Sisters of St. Joseph, where they organized 800 women of 7 different groups together in a shared leadership structure. You see the efforts at all types of organizations attempting to shift from the patriarchal to the co-creative models. Well, will it be fast enough? We don’t know.”

**SIMRAN:** What is today’s reality and possibility?

**BARBARA:** The existing structures, whether the political, corporate, or organized religion, are all top-down dominated structures. None of them are really capable of making a major change. We see that in our own political system where oppositional democracy is so strong that it’s very hard for any positive decision to be made in any direction. And, we certainly are not reducing our military. We have thousands of nuclear bombs pointed at Russia and ourselves with no enemy. We have the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We have very rapid speed of destruction of our life support system, climate change and global warming and so on.

So, on one hand is ‘beating up’, but on the other hand... exists the emergence of innovation, greater spirituality, greater empathy, and greater connectivity. Especially on the internet, where masses of people connect rapidly, we begin to see the rise of an emerging planetary culture. It’s a question of timing.

Can a shift towards a more cooperative, spiritual, empathetic and innovative person - culture – world happen fast enough to avoid

the radical degree of collapse that is foreseen? Nobody on this earth knows exactly how to make this shift because there’s no expert on the other side that says, “This is how you move from a high tech over populating, polluting culture to a sustainable one.”

However, if you look back at the 13.7 billion years of evolutionary transformation, you will notice it goes crisis after crisis after crisis. That crisis leads to innovation and transformation. This is a multi-billion year trend. When you place the human set of crisis in the bigger story of cosmo-genesis, the story of how evolution works, you will find that this crisis is so dangerous that it’s going to force innovation in our economic systems, in our political systems, in our social systems or de-evolution and destruction.

What has to change about how we do it? Maybe the wrong side has been creating the decisions.

It’s not doing it from the top down. It’s doing it from the level of the people, from the level of all these projects, from the level of social networking where Facebook is the third largest nation in the world. I read recently that 4.7 billion people have cell phones. We’ve seen uprising of revolutionaries, evolutionaries in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world working entirely through that communication media.

I think this retooling of our nervous system on the planetary scale, which is called the noos fear, N-O-O-S, mind fear. With the global intelligence, the global empathy encoded in it and the ability of hundreds of millions of people to get the same thought at the same time, without any particularly filter from the news media or the authorities of religion or politics, you see the possibility of a massive change but not from the top down. It’s from the people to the people. It’s about connecting, relationship and social synergy. The vision is that we could make a contribution towards that

collective shift by a massive effort to connect and celebrate what's working to assail an emerging culture of a planetary civilization, of a universal humanity. We can do that. And so we should and nobody knows the outcome for sure.

**SIMRAN:** There are some people that really believe that December 21, 2012 is going to hit and there's going to be a radical change. What are your thoughts?

**BARBARA:** I don't... I think that's not the way any of that is going to happen. And certainly the best mind prophecy do not talk about that. They speak of a phase change. There's no doubt that a phase change is occurring. There's no doubt that something is dying. There's no doubt that our lifestyle is not sustainable. There's no doubt the transformation is occurring.

Birth 2012, at least from my participation in it on December 22nd which is Day 1, a day after December 21st, is a celebration of what is being born that's good, of what is creative, of what is new. And we know that to be true too. But because the media really tends to identify what's breaking down more than what's breaking through, most people do not have a sense of what's emerging. They just don't know.

So once you know what's breaking through inside yourself, which is your own deeper essence, your own true nature, the Buddhist would say, your own spiritual essence and you're cultivating that, and you're beginning to find your deeper life purpose and your vocation, your calling; and you're doing more of what you're called to do - as I'm sure you're doing when you're doing this interview, or I'm doing as an 81 year old elder.

The people I know are called very passionately to give their own gifts, their own unique creativity. There's a rise of what I call the pioneering souls everywhere in every culture. The pioneering souls are people who are attracted to what's emerging, who want to help foster this birthing of a more compassionate, evolvable structure. And it's, in essence, the birth of a baby. The baby is 'outgrowing' the womb. It's going to die if it keeps on growing and will kill itself and its mother. We will become extinct if we keep growing in a self-centered, self-conscious way in a finite planetary system. Now the signal is stopped. 'Don't do that. Don't over populate. Don't pollute. Stop fighting. Start creating. Go for a positive future.'

If you look back at the fact that we got here from nothing at all, that for billions of years, nature optimizes energy into matter, into life, into animals, into humans. Why wouldn't we be optimizing our life pattern into something higher? And I think we are. I think we have been for a couple of thousand years as have the great avatars and mystics and saints of humanity. And now I think it's becoming a new norm.

**SIMRAN:** Are we becoming more conscious agents of our evolution rather than just allowing evolution to naturally occur?

**BARBARA:** That's exactly what I think is happening. It started, for me, with the atomic bomb and the buildup of our power to destroy. So if you have the power to destroy your whole environment, you begin to say 'I'm noticing and affecting my evolution not only by weapons but by how many babies we have, what cars we drive, what food we eat, all of that.'

So what's happening is evolution is becoming more conscious of itself through us. Evolution is shifting from evolution by chance to evolution by choice. It's shifting from unconscious evolution to conscious evolution. And agents of conscious evolution are people who feel within themselves an agency of impulse to be more, to give more, to know more, to express more of their gift.

And I believe that agency is a light force, a great capacity for self-preservation and self-reproduction. This is the force for self-expression, for life purpose, for self-evolution, and for actually the sustaining of life on this planet. Now, that drive is rising. Will it rise fast enough? A lot depends on whether it's communicated as possible. That's why I appreciate the kind of thing you're doing, to making more and more people aware it's possible. That's what I think is needed.

**SIMRAN:** What do you think is the primary block to unlocking our conscious creativity and what's required of us to shift that block on the massive scale?

**BARBARA:** I think the greatest block is not having an understanding of what is possible, not seeing models of how it works, not learning it in our schools, not getting it in our universities, and not getting it in our politics. I think we're blocked by not knowing what the potential is. And, I think there's also a block by the selfish, self-centric nature that has been developed over the last 50,000 years of self-conscious humans.

For 50,000 years we've been developing that self-reflective individuality. And suddenly if we continue to proceed in our individuality, we can destroy our environment and each other. So there's a natural tendency, I believe, from self-reflective consciousness to evolutionary whole system of consciousness where we declare an ethical evolution. We learned the effect of our acts on the whole. We learned that we have that untapped creativity, both personally and socially and as pioneers, as social evolutionaries; we begin to act on it. 'We begin to call for... We begin to communicate about...' it is just like I'm doing.

I have this course, Agents of Conscious Evolution on the Shift Network, and thousands of students around the world are participating in developing their own agency for conscious evolution. And we're all looking to work towards that collective planetary birth experience, a birthday, Birth 2012 on December 22nd, just to celebrate what's already emerging. I believe just like the first earth day, you had to celebrate what we could do for our environment. We need to celebrate what we can do for giving birth to a culture that's sustainable and creative.

**SIMRAN:** And when that happens and that culture arises, do you think that that birthing of enough people is what will cause... a change in the economic systems, societal structures and political systems? If there is equality and an exchange, then is it too altruistic to think that down the road at some point, we don't have to look at things in terms of the money exchange but there would be a different kind of exchange?

**BARBARA:** Yes, I do agree there. I think that it's very possible that we will have emerging systems; for example, the economic system. It's one of the most challenging, not only is it failing on many levels, not only are the wealth of the few increasing and the poverty of the many increasing, but there are all kinds of efforts in conscious business. Even more important, I believe, is the rise of alternative currencies, currencies that can actually support people, matching their own needs with the resources of others, such that you begin to get a new accounting system that your greatest creativity is what somebody else's need is. And I think we will discover with the proper kind of accounting system and alternative currencies, that we can trade gifts and resources and create a synergistic economy. And that the current monetary systems will gradually... will be dis-invented.

**SIMRAN:** And then the same thing would allow the political system to change because it would require people that believe in this new culture, that a memetic code is trying to come into place.

**BARBARA:** Yes. And I call it an evolution of the revolution. We don't have time for a revolution; tear down the existing system to build something new. That's not possible. But I believe we're already evolving in more synergistic culture. This phone call is part of it. This... I'm on phone calls every single day. I am speaking to thousands and thousands of people and so are other pioneering souls all around the world, connected on the internet, connected on the phone, connected on the tele-seminar world, connected on these amazing smart phones. You can download just about everything anywhere on earth. Before the system collapses and we lose the infrastructure communication, it is absolutely necessary that more of us connect. That's why I would be doing everything I can to celebrate a planetary birth experience which should be simply a rapid acceleration of connecting what's creative.

I think the collapse of a current financial system is a very delicate transition. If we have, let's say a depression, think of the number of people out of work right now. 16 million who can't find a job. Okay and they're losing their homes and their children are not being cared for. So there's a lot of personal tragedy in this shift. It's a very complex matter that I don't think anyone fully understands. But it's pretty clear to me that we're not going to get back all the old jobs in a finite planet where the fossil fuel world has reached a peak and where we need alternative energies and there are not quite enough of them.

So I feel that what's going to come out of this current crisis is 'awareness' of the need for community, a re-localization, a responsibility for dealing with food and shelter and water - more clearly ourselves - the connecting up of the mass media, not mass media but the internet people's means of communication, the social media, cell phones, internet, such that we begin to have a communication, community building structure that can help gentle this transition to what could be a magnificent future.

But like a birth itself, it's a very dangerous time when that baby first born. I have five children and I know if the baby doesn't breathe quickly, it dies. If we, humanity, don't coordinate ourselves in a sustainable way quickly enough, many, many people will die. It's very tricky here; very, very tricky. And I don't believe that anyone has the answer.

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To Find out more on the Birth 2012 Events:

<http://shiftnetwork.infusionsoft.com/go/2012c/S11>

