

# Challenge of Opposites

[with Commentary]

ME  
Perspective

WE  
Perspective

## Stage One

Strangers  
Tolerate  
Compete

Acquaintances  
Connect  
Accept

## Stage Two

Opponents  
Confront  
Resist

Companions  
Cooperate  
Encourage

## Stage Three

Rivals  
Dislike  
Fight

Colleagues  
Admire  
Help

## Stage Four

Adversaries  
Reject  
Battle

Friends  
Embrace  
Welcome

## Stage Five

Enemies  
Hate  
Warfare

Adored Ones  
Love  
Peace

How Do We Get  
Only  
Some of ME  
But  
All of WE?

UNIVERSAL  
ETHICS

## Further Comment

How are humans to resolve the fundamental tension between the ME and WE perspective extremes? Ideally we might want the We Perspective to provide the answer with its exclusive focus on cooperation, assistance, and compromise. But realistically, we can not avoid the fact that – as predators of a wide range of both plant and animal species, humans are inherently competitive. So, a viable solution must accommodate both orientations, but not necessarily equally, especially in the modern context. The key ingredients: 1) Unprovoked aggression at any level of interaction among humans from school yards to nations must be banished, 2) When conflicts arise, they must be resolved fairly in discussions based, not on power and intimidation, but on open communication, cooperation and compromise, and 3) An empowered global government must be designed and implemented that is able to assure that these requirements are obeyed by all. Modern humanity may be able to commit to #1 and #2, but it cannot get to the ultimate goal without #3. Importantly, it is the competitive self-interests of different countries [the ME perspective at work at the national level] that are blocking the commitment to achieving #3.

We know in the broad sense what we need to do to reach the appropriate accommodation between the Me Perspective and the We Perspective at all social scales. Failing to commit to this overall solution is what continues to make aggression among different groups and nations as well as World Wars possible. In the immediate context, Putin's totally unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine is a stunning example. And China, which is partially supporting Putin, has long aspired to accomplish the same goal in a take over of Taiwan. Both Russia and China are mega nuclear weapons powers. With a truly empowered global government, Putin could never have contemplated a take over of Ukraine, China would have never vacillated over its position in such a conflict, and the world would not have become seriously split and at risk of warfare far beyond the borders of Ukraine.

Humanity's modern complex societies are continuing to play "Russian" roulette with their future by failing to implement an empowered global government. Such a government would definitely support UNIVERSAL ETHICS to promote the kind of resolution of the conflict between the ME Perspective and the WE Perspective suggested in the opening poem.

Thomas A. Burns  
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