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TITLE: THE ROLE OF GOODWILL IN ADDRESSING HUMANITY'S SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY, RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS AND DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

PREAMBLE

The creator of our universe made all things bright and beautiful, great and small and the occupants of the universe are expected to live in harmony with one another. The occupants of the universe are in four kingdoms: human, animal, plants and minerals. The fifth kingdom is at subjective level and this paper is not concerned with it. Humans are endowed with higher mind of intelligence for the purpose of continuing the creation of the harmony and beauty vision by God for the race. Humanity is therefore expected to be co-creators with the Creator. The dictionary meaning of humanity is that "It is the human race which includes everyone on earth." It is also a word for qualities that makes us human, such as the ability to love and have compassion, and be creative.

There is no doubt that the human family has totally deviated from the original mandate which is to be co-creators of a beautiful and harmonious planet earth. Today humanity faces serious problems of economics inequality, religious divisions and damage to the environment. This paper therefore discusses the role of Goodwill in addressing these serious problems of humanity.

PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

One of the greatest problems facing humanity is economic inequality. The big question to be answered by the human family is "How can the economic situation of the world be stabilized and the world is brought to a condition where there is sufficiency for all?" The answer to this big question is to look at the causes of the economic inequality in every country. Economy is the life stream for the survival of the human race on our planet.

Economy is concerned with harnessing the natural resources of the planet by humans for the good of all. Our creator God provided humanity with all the resources it needs for its survival on earth. Nature is sacrificing to keep life alive in the universe. Hence it puts in place the law of interdependence and sufficiency for all. However with its discoveries in science and technology humanity has harnessed nature for selfish material purposes. Money was created and the desires for extreme pleasures and possession of material wealth to the detriment of others become the ruling forces. Empires rose with selfish leaders. Civilization evolved societies; hence communities and nations came into being with different groups fighting to be in control of leadership. For this reason the wealth of each nation fell into the wrong hands. Class distinction between the have and have not or the rich and the poor were created. Rich nations colonized the poor nations. The wealth of the world then tilted towards selfish materialism, greed and crime. The world is now in turmoil as every country struggles to meet the needs of the citizens. There is economic recession in all hands. For instance Federal Government of Nigeria raised alarm that financial crisis is imminent (Daily Sun Tuesday 20, August, 2019 page 2-6.) Trump the president of the United States, calls for big rate cut and economic stimulant, UK economy shrinks for the first time since 2012. German economy slips back into negative growth. (See dodgy date and the health etc. of China's economy online Goggle.) Because of greed humanity has created a world where corruption, grafting, money laundering, illicit business crime, insecurity and many other hazards have emerged.

There is no doubt that every country in the world is experiencing economic downturn. There is crisis of poverty amongst the mass of men. These crises are leading to mass protest and riots because of the uneven distribution of the national wealth. Those in political leadership position take possession of the nation's wealth for their selfish purposes, while leaving the masses to starved to death. Increase in population growth has also contributed to unpleasant situation which humanity found itself. The current

world population as at August, 2019 is 7.8billion, according to the most recent United Nations' estimate, and more than half of the world population lives in seven countries. These countries are the most populous nations in the world according to United Nations' estimate:

- China
- India
- USA
- Indonesia
- Brazil
- Pakistan
- Nigeria

With increase in world population, the United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG) to end poverty by 2030 may not be met. The report of the world poverty clock listed the following nations with people leaving in extreme poverty as shown below:

▪ Nigeria	-	86.9 million people
▪ India	-	71.5 million people
▪ Democratic Republic of Congo	-	60.9 million people
▪ Ethiopia	-	23.0 million people
▪ Mozambique	-	17.8 million people
▪ Bangladesh	-	17 million people
▪ Kenya	-	14.7 million people
▪ Indonesia	-	14.2 million people
▪ Uganda	-	14.2 million people

(See: ALAS: Data. World poverty clock)

In Africa, the top ten (10) countries with people with extreme poverty as at June 2018 are as follows:

▪ Nigeria	-	86.9 million people
▪ Democratic Republic of Congo	-	60.9 million people
▪ Ethiopia	-	23.0 million people
▪ Tanzania	-	19.9 million people
▪ Mozambique	-	17.8 million people
▪ Kenya	-	14.7 million people
▪ Uganda	-	14.2 million people
▪ South Africa	-	13.8 million people
▪ South Sudan	-	11.4 million people
▪ Zambia	-	9.5 million people

(See: ALAS: Data. World poverty clock)

The causes of poverty in these countries are traceable to the mismanagement of the different nation's resources, corruption and greed. The mother earth can sustain the needs of every being on our planet but cannot sustain the greed of men within the body of humanity.

The way out, according to Alice A. Bailey is "The general public must be educated in the principle of right living, goodwill and harmony (...) steadily, regularly and systematically, they must be taught the principles of brotherhood, of an internationalism which is based on goodwill and love of all men, of religious unity and co-operative interdependence. The individual in every nation and group must be taught to play his important part with goodwill and understanding," The group must shoulder its responsibility to other groups, and the responsibility on nation to nation and of all nations to the world of nations must be explained and emphasized.

RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS

Religion, according to the teachings of the Ageless wisdom, is human approach to God, the Creator of all things in the universe. Religious practices came into existence through the Divine teachers who came on earth to teach infant humanity way back to God or Creator. The goal of the Divine teachers were to make humanity realize its divine inheritance as divine beings through awakening of their souls within, thereby creating right human relationship and restoring peace on earth.

Religious Crises

Humanity has failed to realize that there is only one God or the Creator and that this God expresses himself in various forms of manifestation, hence we have God transcendent and God immanent. God in His creation and God outside His creation, that the expression of the qualities of God depend on the level of consciousness of the form manifesting that qualities.

However, people have created for themselves many Gods. Quoting a little child statement "Men have many Gods but only one Satan" whereas the reverse is the case. This has brought about the emergence of religious divisions in the world. Religion has been taken over by selfish materialism. Some religious groups do not like other religious groups because of the wrong idea that theirs are superior to the others and that theirs are the only way to God. Some religious groups kill the priest, burn down centers of worship because they see their religion as superior and feel no other religion should exist. For instance, Gunmen ambushed and killed a Catholic Rev. Fr. at Taraba State Nigeria on Wednesday 28th August, 2019. (See: Daily Sun Friday, August, 30 page 4.) The ignorance of man about the nature of God, which is love, unity, and forgiveness, has brought about the dichotomy in religious affairs of humanity.

Today we have many religions in the world such as Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Taoism Hinduism etc.

Religious divisions have brought wars and untold hardship on mankind. The major cause of Religion divisions can be highlight as follows:

CAUSES OF RELIGIOUS CONFLICT

- Interpretations based on the redefinition or reaffirmation of the authority of their religious traditions. The assumption is that their Religion is fundamentally the only right and true religion. This way of thinking leads to fanaticism, terrorism, radicalism, and competition.
- Sense of superiority while others are inferior. Some religious group assumes that their religion is superior to others, so sense of pride crepts into the minds of members of the religious group.
- Religious conflict is also motivated by the thought of some people that they are fighting for justice in the name of God. Hence they interpret the killing of the other groups as victory over the devil. The other group is regarded as evil.

Humanity will resolve religious divisions and conflict through the individual realizing that we are one with all beings and that having unity of purpose irrespective of one's religion. Understanding and tolerance will build right human relationship between all beings in the world.

DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

As the saying goes: No man is an island unto himself. Every man depends on other sources of lives in the planet to be able to exist. The planet earth is the only home for us all. Why damage it? The environment of our planet earth is made up of living organism such as water, climate, soil, air, heat and light. The interactions of these organisms make

up the ecosystem. The care or damage to the ecosystem brings about the significant changes in the environment. The way of life of human beings affect greatly the lives of other living beings in the ecosystem of the planet.

According to research findings, damage to the environment or environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environments through depletion of resources such as air, water, soil, deforestation etc.

Environmental specialists have listed five major threats to our environment and these are:

1. **Pollution:** There are seven types of pollution: we have air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, radioactive pollution and light pollution.
2. **Deforestation:** Deforestation is a major threat to our planet because we need plants and trees to survive. Plants and trees provide oxygen through air. They also provide food and medicine for everyone, and provide food and home to wildlife etc.
3. **Climate change:** Through our industrialization we release biogas into the air and this causes global warming which brings about climate change. Every day we are warned that climate change will cause heavy rain, which will cause flooding that is capable of causing damage to our lives and properties because of depletion of the ozone layers. For instance, President Trump of USA has warned citizens that Florida will face monster hurricane so they are prepared for it. (See: TVC news Friday 30 August, 2019.)
4. **Oil spillage:** Oil spillage is major threat to aquatic lives. Oil spillage pollute the rivers and sea, hence aquatic lives are killed. Example is the Ogoni land in Niger Delta Nigeria.

5. Wrong Disposal of Toxic chemical waste, plastics and other wastes into the sea, river, and drainage thereby causing damages to the environment.

THE ROLE OF GOODWILL IN ADDRESSING THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED ABOVE.

“Goodwill is the simplest expression of true love and the one most easily understood”
“hence Goodwill is love in action”

According to Alice A. Bailey in her book entitled *Problems of Humanity* states that the use of goodwill in connection with the problems with which humanity is faced, releases the intelligence along constructive lines; where goodwill is present, the walls of separation and of misunderstanding falls.(118). Love and understanding will eventually follow upon a practical expression of goodwill as a factor in every type of human relation, and as a mode of contact between groups, between nations and their minorities, between nations and nations and also in the field of international politics and religions. The expression of true love as a factor in the life of our planet may lie very far ahead, but goodwill is a present possibility and the organisation of goodwill an outstanding necessity.

The potency of the energy of Goodwill has played out in influencing the minds of men and women in Government agencies and non-governmental groups to address the problems of humanity as follows:

THE PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

Addressing the problem of economic inequality the idea of “teach a man to fish” instead of giving him fish” means empowerment of young men and women through employment. Many governmental and none governmental agencies are responding to the Goodwill energy by establishing foundations that empower people through acquisition of skills. Banks are giving loans to small and medium scale businesses.

Entrepreneurial skill centers are being organized. On the side of Government, the government has introduced into the school curriculum entrepreneurship as a course in our Universities. This is to enable our young graduates to acquire skills that will enable them to be self-employed.

The United Nations as a world body has also set up Millennium Development Goals for 2030 which member nations have agreed to strive to attain. United Nations Agencies set to address the economic inequality through eradication of poverty, illiteracy; health challenges have the following agencies in place.

- Food and Agriculture Organization
- United Nation Education Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- World Health Organization
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- World Bank
- United Nations Development Programmes

The activities of these agencies are the outcome of the influence of the energy of Goodwill that is expression of love in action for humanity.

Divisions in Religious Beliefs: The energy of Goodwill is key in solving the problem of divisions in religious beliefs. The divisions in religious beliefs are coloured by Maya, Glamour and Illusion. In the minds of men and women Mayas (Materialism) Glamour (Emotional reaction) Illusion (Mental pride) are subtle forces which need to be dispelled by energy of goodwill which translates to love in action. These are the governing factors that stimulate the cause of divisions in religious beliefs. As more people respond to the energy of Goodwill, humanity will be brought to a new world religious beliefs that will emphasis the oneness of God and the recognition of unity in diversity. Goodwill will blossom in the hearts of human beings to bring about religious tolerance, inclusiveness,

unity and brotherhood irrespective of one's religious affiliation. The consciousness of one God and one world will flower forth in the minds of the human family.

ROLE OF GOODWILL IN ADDRESSING DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

As earlier said, Goodwill is love in action. Humanity has to take on the responsibility to take action in addressing the problems of damage to the environment individually and collectively.

Goodwill actions that need to be taken are:

- **Sense of responsibility:** Every citizen of the planet earth should have the sense of responsibility to care for the environment by doing the following: Prevent deforestation by planting trees to replace falling logs harvested from the forest.
- Avoid disposal of chemical wastes, plastics and other toxic waste into the seas and rivers.
- Reduce the eating of red meat so that our animals can be safe.
- Avoid killing of animals for games.
- **Education:** Educate the mass of men to cultivate the culture of environment protection.
- Government/private agencies involved in exploration of oil should avoid oil spillage in their processes.
- **Climate Change:** citizens should avoid flaring of gas, cars emitting damage engine oil and should avoid heating up the environment through wild fire and through burning the forest and bushes.

Conclusion: The challenges of economic inequality, divisions in religious belief and damage to the environment will be solved if humanity responds to the energy of

Goodwill which is lying deep in their hearts. If the majority of humans in the world are occupied with serving others and not their own selfish goals, when our thoughts are focused on the good of the whole, we will bring to birth a new world and a new type of humanity which will manifest in the Aquarian age, the new age of life more abundance. Humanity can achieve this goal through expression of Goodwill in every relationship with all being in the world.

Goodwill is love in Action.

Thank you for your attention.

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