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by Neale Donald Walsch

NEALE DONALD WALSCH is the author of the hugely popular *Conversations with God* series. To learn more about The Conversations Movement and how to participate in it, both online and on-the-ground in your home community, go to [www.TheGlobalConversation.com](http://www.TheGlobalConversation.com)

Here is something to notice, something to ponder: There is a question that no one in a position of power is asking. No one at the head of a government. No one at the head of a political party. No one at the head of a global corporation. No one at the head of a religion. No one is asking this.

Not publicly, anyway. Perhaps privately. Perhaps in the deepest reaches of their heart. But not publicly. And they are not asking it of each other.

Were they to ask it of each other, and do so *publicly*, the dialogue that ensued could change our world.

It is amazing to me that with all the problems facing our species today—with all the economic, political, environmental and social problems—that the world's leaders have not created a Planetary Council for the Civilization...where those leaders (not their minions, not their representatives, but the leaders themselves...the highest religious authorities, the world's kings and queens, the presidents, the prime ministers, the chairmen of the boards, the most respected global scientists) would sit down twice a year and talk. Just *talk*.

And then listen. Just *listen*.

And then act. Just *act*.

Take actions that would benefit all of the billions who look to them, who count on them, to do what is right and good and honestly best for the highest number.

But they don't. They won't. They can't. Something built into the very system of our civilization apparently makes it impossible for the Pope, the Queen, the President, the Prime Minister, the Chairman of the Board, and those others to simply sit down together, look each other in the eye, drop their portfolios, and just talk, heart-to-heart.

They cannot find a way to gather together and ask life's most persistent question—the one that no one will ask in public:

**How is it possible for 6.9 billion people to all want the same thing—easy daily**

**survival, peace, safety, security, opportunity, prosperity, happiness, and love—yet be singularly unable to produce it for all but the smallest number?**

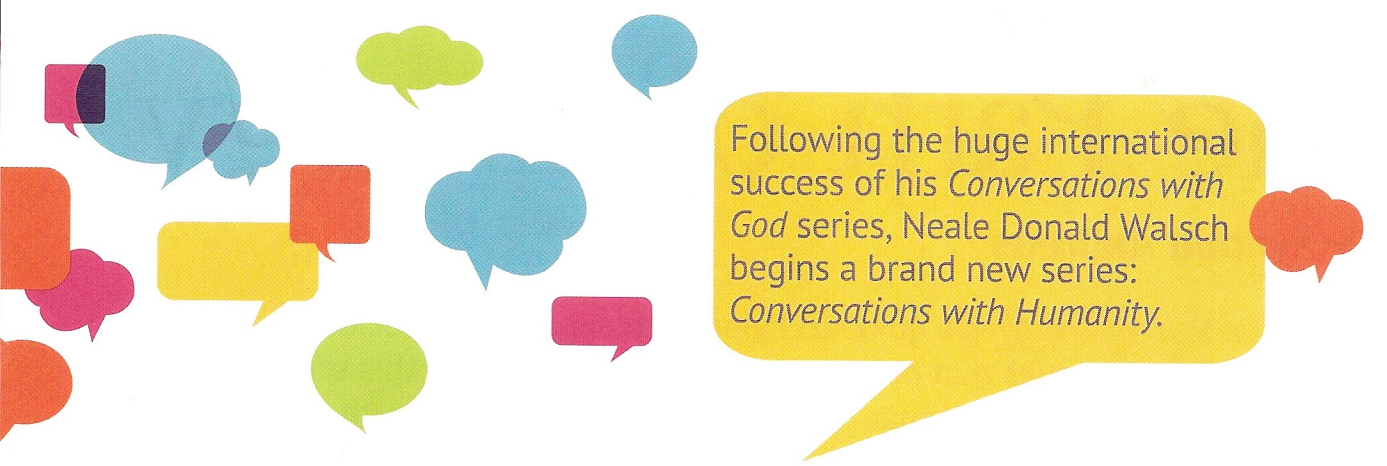
Since those to whom we look for leadership won't *just ask the question*, we must. Because someone must make the poignant, pressing, public inquiry: *How have we come to this?* Is it possible, just *possible*, that there is something we do not fully understand about God and about Life, *the understanding of which would change everything?*

If regular, ordinary people would now dare to ask questions such as these, they could set the agenda for a truly meaningful exploration worldwide leading to truly significant long-term change on our planet. Yet if humanity continues to avoid these questions even as its leaders have done, those leaders will just keep putting band-aids on everything, leaving our highest hope to be simply getting through another day.

"Here's a band-aid for our banking system. Here's a band-aid for our political system. Here's a band-aid for our economic system. Here's a band-aid for our education, our social, our spiritual systems..."

All of us can see that what we need is not a band-aid, but a cure. All of us can feel that what our world is begging for is not more that may be "helping," but, finally, something that will be *healing*. And most of us are now beginning to understand that long-lasting healing will not come through a change in our behaviors, but only through a change in the *beliefs* that *create* our behaviors.

We need to start talking about all of this. Like, *right now*. And our conversations—especially if some of them are public—may create a storm of protest from those who do not wish to see their power in any way reduced, or the last bastions of disproportionate wealth and privilege threatened. Yet this will be but the storm before the calm, and will serve as a sure and certain sign that



Following the huge international success of his *Conversations with God* series, Neale Donald Walsch begins a brand new series: *Conversations with Humanity*.

humanity is at last talking about the only thing that matters.

The Conversations Movement is a just-emerging worldwide undertaking intended to help us begin such discussions by providing us with a powerful platform. Its intention is to ignite, at every level of society, ongoing and meaningful conversations about humanity's old beliefs and what they are doing to us—and what new beliefs we might collectively adopt that could change things.

Can this be enough? This sounds so simple! Can *talking about it* really be enough?

Margaret Wheatley, author of *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*, is sure of it. Says she: "There is no more powerful way to initiate significant social change than to start a conversation."

In a 2002 article in *Utne Reader* Ms. Wheatley observed that "...true conversation is...a timeless and reliable way for humans to think together. Before there were classrooms, meetings or group facilitators, there were people sitting around talking."

So yes, it is people "sitting around talking" that first instigates and then empowers cultural shift and social transformation.

"Change doesn't happen from someone announcing the plan," this global expert on human behavior noted. "Change begins from deep inside a system, when a few people notice something they will no longer tolerate, or when they respond to someone's dream of what's possible."

It is just such a dream that The Conversations Movement articulates, for this outreach is not just about starting discussions, it is also about sharing *within* them (this is where you come in) a set of ideas that emerge from the worldwide best-selling *Conversations with God* series of books—ideas that have placed before humanity a grander vision, inspiring millions to ask: Might there be a new way to be human, a

new way to create life together on the earth, a new purpose for the whole experience, which produces, at last, that for which we have all so deeply yearned: an end to the suffering and struggle of billions?

The answer will not emerge through the ignoring of the questions, but only through the courageous asking of them. So now, let the conversations begin.

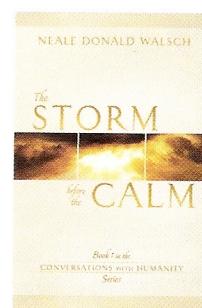
On the streets of the United Kingdom and on street corners around the world, *let the conversations begin*. In the boardrooms of corporations and the meeting rooms on Wall Street, *let the conversations begin*. In the halls of Parliament, and the assemblies of legislative bodies across the globe, *let the conversations begin*. From the lecterns at our political conventions and the pulpits in our houses of worship, *let the conversations begin*. And in the living rooms of people in every nation, *let the conversations begin*.

And let them begin with that one persistent question which sets the stage for all the others, and that creates the possibility for truly meaningful introspection. To repeat: How is it possible for 6.9 billion people to all want the same thing, yet be singularly unable to produce it?

Albert Einstein once said: "If I had an hour to solve a problem and my life depended on the solution, I would spend the first 55 minutes determining the proper question to ask, for once I know the proper question, I would solve the problem in less than five minutes."

Humanity now knows the proper question. The next step is ours. Will we have the courage to ask this question of everyone we know, everywhere we go? In church? At the office? Online? In our own home, with our family and friends? In a discussion group that we create? And will we have the courage to offer an answer?

Our individual decision about this could...no, actually *will*...make all the difference in the world. ©



THE STORM BEFORE THE CALM (Book 1 in the brand new series Conversations with Humanity) by Neale Donald Walsch, published by Hay House, paperback (288 pages).