

We are losing the struggle against terror.

We lose the struggle a little bit each time someone kills someone, each time someone kidnaps someone, each time someone closes a border or builds a wall not to shelter but to divide, each time someone vows revenge, each time someone expresses hatred, each time someone seeks to make others fearful, each time someone lays blame at the feet of another, each time someone tries to fight terror as if it were a "war".

The struggle is not interpersonal, it is not between one group of persons and another; rather, it is intrapersonal, requiring an internal struggle on the part of each of us.

We will never win the struggle against terror by committing acts of terror, just as we cannot put out a fire by dowsing it with fuel. People living in Northern Ireland know this. People living in the Middle East know this. The Hatfields and the McCoys know this. Revenge leads only to further revenge; violence to further violence.

We will never unite humanity by being divisive, and we cannot win against terror without the cooperation of everyone. This is not a struggle which can be won by one party, by one faction, by one nation or group of nations, by one race, by one gender, by one religion, by one ethnicity, by one language group, by one hair color, by one blood type, because it is not a struggle between groups of people, but a struggle each person must conduct internally.

We must treat every person as a valued member of our community, a member of the crew of the spaceship Earth.

We must stop killing people; we must stop kidnapping people; we must stop operating extralegal prisons, where justice is denied and only kidnapping is served; we must stop lying (plausibly or not); we must stop being hypocrites.

We will never win as long as some people acting on our behalf act in secret.

If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?

During the life of any heart this line keeps changing place; sometimes it is squeezed one way by exuberant evil and sometimes it shifts to allow enough space for good to flourish. One and the same human being is, at various ages, under various circumstances, a totally different human being. At times he is close to being a devil, at times to sainthood. But his name doesn't change, and to that name we ascribe the whole lot, good and evil.

Socrates taught us: *Know thyself!*

--Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, translated by Thomas P. Whitney

Our Declaration of Independence proclaims that each of us is entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We will not be at peace with the world until we acknowledge that others deserve these same rights, and act accordingly.

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