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How the New Scientific Reality Can Change Us and Our World

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1-Introduction

“Once we believed the Earth was flat. Now we know its round. Today we believe in death and that life is finite, but we will find that it's eternal and infinite ...” Van Gogh

We live in a rapidly changing world in all aspects of life, where many facts and legends, were believed to be true and unquestionable at their time, they are now false and deceptive. The vast technological leap of the last few decades had made us rethink our way of life and reorganize our relationship in old beliefs, Nature and the universe.

What is happening today in our world under the name of international development, from wrong procedures of industrial and agricultural processes causing thermal retention and the consequent rise in the temperature of the Earth and the melting of snow in the poles and the resulting rise in the level of oceans, as well as excessive consumption of natural resources of water, wood, metals, oil and natural gas, leading to climate changes at a global level.

Poverty , social and economic injustice in the third world countries are also driving to religious and political extremism, social violence, moral degeneration, the spread of crime and epidemics, and the reduction of opportunities for individuals and community growth.

The military race between the major powers and their allies from poor countries has contributed to the spread of extremism and to the reduction of development opportunities at the global level and on the sustainability of human civilization on this planet.

Of many philosophers, scientists, social and economic reformers, who have published many books and articles regarding the rapid recession of our civilization as humankind, Ervin

Laszlo, was a pioneer in expressing the predicament of our humankind in his book “Quantum Shift in Global Brain”

Ervin Laszlo described the universe as a living body, which has a brain, a global brain, which is like a form of quasi- energy and information induced from the six and half billion people on the planet Earth.(Lorimer, 2009)

Laszlo described the sudden fundamental transformation of the relations between the inhabitants of the planet Earth and Nature as “Quantum Shift” and he described the sudden and fundamental transformation of our perception to the nature of reality as “Macroshift”. The two shifts together make the paradigm shift in science, which is “reality revolution” in society and science. Laszlo described the chaos situation of the universe, which is at a bifurcation point, either to a break down or a break through. It is the choice point for our future as Humankind.

There are changes in every sector of our life, in science, in society, in climate, economic, politics and cultural areas. (Laszlo, 2008)

Petcher (2009), described Laszlo’s book as an interesting book to read because it was a strange juxtaposition of trends of society and world.

Martin (2008), says that Laszlo’s book presents a reality map, which guides us through this world of problems, opportunities and challenges. Knowledge of interconnectedness between the changing world and changing map of the world, we can proceed wisely, intelligently and confidently.

The book “Quantum Shift in Global Brain” came in three parts:

Part I which is about the Macroshift in society and revolution in reality, it describes the shift in our world. Part II about the paradigm shift in science describes the shifts in science which an effect on our scientific thinking. Part III with the title Global Shift in Action, explains the activities and actions of the Club of Budapest which was established by Ervin Laszlo, it also focuses on the project of the club intended to face the global change. It also addresses the change of consciousness in those who have experienced near- death events, they have gained a new form of energy that gave them inner peace, empathy with others and respect to life and Nature.

This work will review the ideas mentioned in Laszlo's book and focus on his ideas and prospects for the future and his practical orientation towards humanity and the factors of degradation and factors that will save mankind from destruction and loss. The effect of Laszlo's ideas on international development will be the core of this work.

2- About the Author

Ervin Laszlo (EL), a Hungarian philosopher of science, was born in 1932 to a simple family. EL started his career as a pianist, then became a visiting faculty member at the Graduate Institute Bethany. During his rich life, he published about 75 books and over 400 papers, and became an editor of *World Futures: The Journal of General Evolution*. EL was a co-founder of the Budapest Club in 1993 as a consequence of Rome Club, he described the Budapest Club as a “center attention on the evolution of human values and consciousness as the crucial factors in changing course — from a race towards degradation, polarization and disaster to a rethinking of values and priorities so as to navigate today's transformation in the direction of humanism, ethics and global sustainability”(Laszlo, 2004).

In 2010, he was elected an external member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In Hungary, the minister of environment appointed Laszlo as one of the leaders of the ministry's campaign concerning global warming. Ervin Laszlo was awarded Honorary Ph.D. from many countries like USA, Canada Hungary, and Finland and was awarded the Goi Award from the Japan Peace Prize in 2001; he was also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 and 2005. And awarded the Assisi Mander of Peace Prize in 2006.

3-Challenges Facing our World

"To be or not to be, will we be able to adapt changes and evolution or we become extinct species like dinosaurs" (Laszlo, 2008)

In his book, Ervin Laszlo lists a number of social, political, moral and economic problems and obstacles that make the individual feel frustrated and unjust, and they contribute to the destruction of the human race and the demise of humanity. These problems, as Laszlo mentioned, put man at a bifurcation point, "evolution or extinction."

These are some problems as listed in Laszlo's book

- The unstable security, wars, terrorism and violence all over the world.
- Religious fundamentalists, new Nazi Islamic fundamentalism,
- Governments seek to seize violence by wars, weapon race and military actions.
- High percentage of people still live in unsuitable housing.
- High rates of unemployment among women still exists although education rate in women sector is high.
- Injustice of wealth sharing still high and causes frustration among poor sectors.

- Climate change causes reduction of areas for food production and for good living.
- Availability of potable water is decreasing, the access for fresh water is shrinking and the water borne diseases are increasing. (Laszlo, 2008)

Laszlo was right to regard these problems as an obstacle against international development, but he had to mention the greed of the superpowers to have control over natural resources, which forms the bases for the growth and spread of extremists all over the world. All religions call for peace, equality and prosperity for all, respect for all and coherence of societies; only in some poor and frustrated communities, where religious extremists and terrorists from all races and cultures emerge, they are the outcome of planet problems.

4- A New Vision to a New World

The planet problems are so many, which indicate that we are moving in the wrong direction. We are going towards extinction, unless we accept that we are changing and work together in a coherence way to solve our problems which we have created. A new revolution or a shift in beliefs and ethics in the world must be done. This revolution must be accompanied with a real and serious transformation in human mind set, and not only theoretical hypothesis and deceiving international development blown away by a mad military politician. We need a revolution that initiates to love each other, to accept each other, to live and let others live. We can work together to elect political leader who are able to establish international acceptance, and in place of weapon race, all nations and business leaders can work together to spend money on education, health improvement for all, employment opportunities for everyone, proper housing for all, free access to natural resources for all, war against poverty and epidemics. We have to face problems with social, economic and understanding to each

other. We should not burry our head in soil like an Ostrich, or like what Laszlo describe the situation “Business as Usual”. (Laszlo, 2008).

Jiddu Krishnamurti (Adi Da) (an Indian philosopher 1986), calls from Fiji, for new methods to solve our moral problems, he calls for radical transformation in mind as a revolution step to get rid of our problems. (Laszlo, 2008)

The historical look at classical physics of Newton had been changed by Einstein theory of relativity, The Darwinian theory of the “Natural Selection” and his hypothesis “Survival for the fittest” has changed. The new vision indicates that universe is dynamic and beats with life, the life itself, matter and brain are consistent elements in a comprehensive process which is coherent and harmonious.

The mechanistic believes that what is done is done and we are heading to death only, has changed for the new discoveries in science. It is our beliefs in ourselves and our responsibility to the world we live in. (Laszlo, 2008)

5- Towards a New Culture: The Holos

Lazlo indicates that moving towards a new culture is not an option but a survival imperative for humankind (Laszlo, 2008). Laszlo introduces what he calls a maximum code for sustained persistence of the biosphere and a minimum code of living so that others can live. This is the importance of the new culture, which Laszlo called it as culture of Holos; it was Smuts' opinion that holism is a concept that represents the wholes, and these wholes are the real factors in the universe. Holism is a new look towards the ideas of the system, physical, chemical, biological, economic and materialistic. (Smuts. 1927). In some societies a new

shift towards a new style of life depend on simplicity in the use of resources, a change in consumption behavior and their production allies with environment to maintain its sustainability and preservation, the seek moral aspects in harmony with Nature.(Laszlo, 2008)

The California Institute of Noetic found a shift in some parts of the American civilization towards a new subculture concept, the shift actions as they appear in Laszlo's book are:

- The shift from competition to reconciliation and partnership
- The shift from greed and scarcity to sufficiency and caring
- The shift from outer to inner authority.
- The shift from mechanistic to living systems.
- The shift from separation to wholeness, a fresh recognition of the wholeness and interconnectedness of all aspects of life and reality. (Laszlo, 2008)

These shifts are limited in sectors of the society and they lack organization and cooperation with other people of the same society. (Laszlo, 2008)

The logos culture, which reveals its teachings and myths and ethics from religion, does not mean it is obsolete and not working. For long centuries we were adapted to morals derived from old religious teaching, which calls for simplicity, equality, peace, love, acceptance and sharing others and man was in harmony with Nature. Although deviation came from individuals themselves and was encouraged by political levels and the use of religious believes to impose power, or for short sight interests; the recession of civilization came with foreign occupation by super powers on poor countries, and until now the seek for resources and the massive use of power to export ethics under the call for democracy and human rights.

The new culture calls for almost the same moral issues under the new name, Holism. The

shifts we see in some groups is due to the rapid shift in science. The rapid growth in communications and wide range of technology in almost all aspects of life, made us forget who we are. The calls for a new culture is actually a call to go back to our past away from complex issues of the new civilization.

6- The Dangerous Myths and the Outdated Beliefs.

In the following paragraphs, Laszlo, as a science philosopher, presents a diagnosis of social diseases that resulted from erroneous beliefs and obsolete concepts aimed at establishing ignorance and extending the control of some powerful sectors of society for narrow personal interests. The scientific theories that were applied to nature and its components, such as Darwin's theory of "survival of the fittest" and natural selection theory, were exploited by some colonial states to justify their domination of weak states and societies and to establish ethnicity in some societies.

After this diagnosis, Laszlo proposes practical solutions to guide individuals and communities towards solving social and environmental problems through tolerance and non-violence, in order to save humanity from self-destruction and to maintain the sustainable development.

1- The Nature is inexhaustible.

The current problems in nature, such as desertification, the encroachment of cities on agricultural areas that provide food for human beings, the depletion of the ozone layer that protects the planet from ultraviolet radiation, global greenhouse gas emissions, rapid population growth in developing countries and mass migration caused by wars and

starvation, to developed countries, has multiplied hundreds of times the demand for natural resources and thus exhausted the land and its ability to produce the needs of people. What will we do when oil and gas comes to an end, is there a solution? We should start to look for new energy sources for our cars and kitchens.

2- Nature is like a giant mechanism.

If we believe that we can engineer the environment as a big machine results in fast depletion of resources and degradation of Earth resources from water, soil, air and changes in the ecosystem. People went far away from old fashion practices in industry, agriculture which was friendly with Nature.

3- Life is a struggle where only the fittest survive. This myth, based on Darwinism, “The fittest survives’, was exploited by super power, to legislate their greed and occupation towards the weakest nations for the control of natural resources and colonization. Until now we hear voices calling for racism in many sectors of modern societies. Religions call for equality and justice and they admit the presence of social levels, which is health for the development of humankind.

4- The market distributes benefits.

This myth means that all people are equitably benefit from the market distribution of wealth, as you benefit yourself you benefit as the society and the community but, in reality this is untrue, as the rich always have the lion’s share, the global wealth is not distributed as it will be, this myth applies only when perfect competition exists, and all have the same opportunity. In the real world there is no equality and the players in the market have no equal share, statistics show that forty percent of the world’s population have only three percent of the

global wealth, and a few hundred billionaires have the total annual income of three billion poor people of the world.

5- The more you consume the better you are.

The myth of consumption works as the motivator for economic growth and it is fueled by business leader, the more consumption the more business grows. Since 1950, the world has consumed more than the previous generations put together. More consumption drives the world forward, for example the giant leap in communication tools had created millions of jobs and the economic growth from this part only is vast. We should note that the more consumption means more production and in many cases less quality is achieved. We are used to buy instruments, toys, household tools that inherited from generation to generation, but now it wouldn't survive for one year.

7- Economic ends justify military means.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Great Britain moved its forces to occupy India, the main reason for that occupation was to secure trade pathways to keep the flow of spices to Europe; in the current century US marines moved to Iraq to secure the flow of Oil to the United States, Under the name of spreading democracy and maintain supremacy, forces are moved everywhere in the world, while the hidden agenda is to gain economic and political objectives.

This myth gives the right for the powerful nations to disturb global peace. It is a dangerous myth against world sustainability and international development.

The outdated beliefs.

1-That we are unique and separate. He means that people are separate, and they are either friends or enemies, each one does what he likes without harmony with each other and with nature, Laszlo here arises the need of oneness with each other and with nature for the goal of sustainability and away from unequal competition. It is good to say that there many religious and social organizations support unity in the society for the befit of individuals and the whole.

2- Everything is reversible.

Some people think that if we leave problems alone without interference, they can be solved by time without interference, some people think that problems are the salt of life. Sometimes things are irreversible and problems are irreversible too, especially when the outcome of the problems leads to worldwide problems such as terrorism and mass destruction. We should learn from our mistakes in order to go forward, the belief is that problems can't be changed is untrue.

3-Hierarchy principle in rules.

Laszlo thinks that order in society can be achieved only by rules which are legislated and employed by a group of people, especially males, and everyone has to obey and take his place in society according to these rules.

Hierarchal system is not always good for the progress of business, team work is more efficient and the work of governments is cumbersome and inefficient because they depend on hierarchy system.

Most of nation are ruled by democratic system in which people can vote for what is related to their life, it is not necessary to wait for slow actions of the government against wrong practices. Any group in the society and even individuals can make a change through social media against those who are not with the law.

4-Efficiency is the key. Laszlo says that improvement of efficiency as a wrong belief, leads to unemployment and the rich only will have more benefit.

Any company wants to have more sales through more efficiency of machines and labor and then lower prices are achieved, then more people in society sectors can reach the product and not only rich people can have the benefit, so improvement of efficiency is not a wrong belief.

5-Technology is the answer

It is good to make use of modern technology, we must not be slaved to instruments and be aware of the side effects of new technology which sometime its byproducts are lethal to life and molar structure of the society and humankind.(Laszlo, 2008).

In some cases, technology appears to making us slaves and entrapped into its channel; we may think of the side effects caused by genetic food, and nuclear plants and the massive power of new weapons against human life and Nature, but the bright side of modern technology has solved may problems such as water borne disease in some developing countries, and the industrial agriculture which saved many lives all over the world. The new age of communications which was limited in small sectors in the world, is now a very useful to save time and to solve many social, economic and health problems.

6- New is always better.

This is a wrong belief; Laszlo says that new things can be complex and less manageable, and their effect on environment is damaging. (Laszlo, 2008); this is true in some cases, but new things are not offered by producers unless they are tested properly for regulatory reasons or they will be difficult to sell.

7-The more money I have the happier I am.

Although this belief sounds to be true for many people, Laszlo gives data from USA that money can't bring happiness. (Laszlo, 2008). No one can deny the importance of having money for living with dignity, but when earning money to fulfill greed may bring more social and environmental problems.

8- My country right or wrong.

The chauvinistic expression is completely wrong, loyalty to the country does not mean you have to destroy others to get to your goals. It ignores the social ties between people. People may have one culture in different societies. A very good example is the social composition of USA; this country collects people from every part in the Planet, each has his own culture and his own interests, we can't deny their social ties with their nationality, and they live in harmony with each other under the American flag.

9- The future is none of my business.

A phrase says "They planted what we eat, and we plant what they will eat"; in my village, I eat from old olive trees, which my father planted years ago, and I plant new olive trees for my children and grandchildren. My research is not for me, it is for the coming generations,

if our ancestors did not think of the future, we wouldn't have reached what are in now from the technology and science and our life would have different shape. There is a quote says that "He who does not have a past will not have a future". The firm planning of nations is not for the present, but for the future and for sustainable civilization.

Although some societies are concerned with the above beliefs and some of them are not necessarily wrong, we should not go far on depending on them in our planning and in solving our problems.

7- The Ten Commandments towards the New Global Vision

Ervin Laszlo, and from a practical point of view, prescribes ten commandments, as he thinks they will be a light in the dark road of Humanity, although the context of these commandments is not new and most of them is the core of religious teaching in all religions. I would like to list these commandments because I feel they are good to learn at this time of war against religion ethics and teachings, as long as these commandments might be of good help for the new vision of our world.

Live in ways that enable others to live, and meet your needs without minimizing the chances of others to satisfy them. Prophet Mohammad, Peace Be upon Him (PBCH) says:

"None of you has faith until he loves for his brother or his neighbor what he loves for himself."(Elias, 2013)

2. To live in ways that respect the right to life and the economic and cultural development of all people, wherever they may be and whatever their ethnic origin, sex, citizenship and station in life and their belief system.

3. Living in ways that guarantee the inherent right to life and in an environment supportive of the life of all things that live and grow on earth. As long as there are those who only look for their own interests and for the lion's share from everything, this commandment can't be applied.

4. The pursuit of happiness, freedom and self-realization in harmony with the integrity of nature and taking into account the efforts of others similar.

5. To request your Government to communicate with other States and peoples peacefully and in a spirit of cooperation, while recognizing the legitimate aspirations for a better life and a healthy environment for all members of the human family. In many developed countries, governments are seeking to enforce strict laws and enact legislation that will protect the environment. In Third World countries and developed countries, governments are preoccupied with political volatility and economic instability. Change can happen only through NGO's and social movements to put pressure on governments.

6. Demanding companies responsible for all stakeholders as well as the environment, and demanding that they produce goods and provide services that meet legitimate demand without compromising access to smaller concessionaires. Compete in the market.

Only by boycott of products and public protest against those companies to stop their malpractice, government regulations can help also to stop these companies.

7. Claim public media to provide a constant stream of reliable information about critical trends and vital processes to enable you to reach informed decisions on issues that affect your life and well-being. The world now is like a small village, there is no need for public media, whom they have their own calculations and their rules, social media can help individuals and

social organization in the distribution of information regarding any process working against rules and regulations.

8. Make room in your life to help those less fortunate to live a decent life free of conflict and insults of extreme poverty. In every society there are many individuals and social organizations, who help those less fortunate in many fields.

9. Encourage youth and people of all ages to develop a spirit that enables them to make their own ethical decisions on the issues that determine their future and the future of their children.

The technological leap in all aspects of life and the great gap between youngsters and the olds who have built their lives on spiritual beliefs, makes it difficult to convince youngsters to believe in spirituals and religious teachings. It is good to motivate them by other means through social actions and social organizations.

10. Work with people of similar mindset to maintain or restore the basic balance of the environment, with proper attention to your neighbor, your country, your region, and the entire biosphere.

The world is becoming a small village, the social media makes it very easy to communicate and work with others on solving many problems and having public awareness in many environmental issues.

8-The Macroshift in Society

Humankind current situation is shifting towards extinction, as Laszlo foresee, through his look into the political, moral, economic problems in the society. These big problems of the world need a big solution among the whole world and the solutions should come from the evolution of the world itself. Since we have reached a bifurcation point at which the elements of breakdown are potentially transforming into breakthrough elements. The phases of Macroshift change in the world, which Laszlo describes as phases of trigger, transformation, chaos, breakdown and breakthrough. All signs point out to a big change is going on or what he calls as Macroshift. Laszlo says that the whole world is experiencing crisis and moving towards collapse in the political and economic system, there are signs of military fallout unless change happens. According to Laszlo, there is a big hope and a serious opportunity for the humankind to overcome the economic and political collapse through a positive change and through creating an environment of the positive change which will evolve a new civilization. The new reality road map suggested by Laszlo will help the world as individuals or as a whole at this time of shift and transformation. (Laszlo, 2008)

9-The Cosmic Plenum and the Akashic Field

The universe is not a vacuum or empty space, it is an energy and information filled which means cosmic plenum (Laszlo, 2008).

The universe was thought to be filled with particulate matter called quanta that swim in an ether, and governed by the Newtonian classical laws of mechanics, but this belief has been

adapted to the belief that the universe is a vacuum where the quanta are moving and interconnected; Laszlo called this vacuum quanta as Cosmic Plenum.

As proved by the Iranian-American scientist, Afshar Shahriar (Chown, 2004), that quanta has a wave form energy and are organically interconnected, Laszlo says that the amalgam of the components of the universes from atoms, quanta, galaxies living beings and the information in space and time form what he called Akashic field (A-Field), the name was derived from Sanskrit and Indian culture, This A-field, holds records for everything happened and will happen in the universe. It as the memory of all life. There are many scientists like Nicola Tesla, David Bohm Harold Puthoff and others believed in the existence of the A-field to enclose the coherence of the universe (Laszlo, 2008); this assumption of the Akashic field is not new, since the heavenly religions states that the works of every living body and his actions are recorded on him, and it will be presented on the Day of Resurrection.

In our life, we experience cases that proofs the existence of Laszlo's ideas, for example the experiments explored by Flanagan (2002) on Minnesota twins, in which similarities were observed between identical twins although they were raised apart for forty years. (Flanagan, 2002). In the future, we may experience the effect of the Akashic field containing the previous information about all humanity and maybe will be retrieved as holographic image of our past and our ancestors.

10- The Budapest Club

In part of Laszlo's book "Quantum Shift in Global Brain", Laszlo moved to the practical part of his book. In this part he presents solutions to world problem through the idea of Budapest Club and other committees branched from it. The Budapest Club, founded in

1993 by Ervin Laszlo and a well-known scientists and philosophers, after the success of Rome Club, in which Laszlo was a co-founder, is an informal international association in which it aims at developing the thinking and creating new ethics on resolving world's social, economic and political problems which challenge the Humankind existence. The club initiates dialogue between all beliefs and worldviews to create and develop strategies for sustainable actions on the global scale. The club builds bridges between science and art, ethics and economy, old and young and between different cultures all over the world. (Laszlo, 2008)

In 1996, Laszlo with the collaboration of Dalai Lama, drafted the "Manifesto on Planetary Consciousness" and was adopted by the Budapest Club. The manifesto was signed by many scientists, philosophers and well known reformers. The manifesto calls for new thoughts and actions to guide humanity into the new evolution. It also calls for diversity, creativity, responsibility and a call for planetary consciousness.

One of the outcomes of the Budapest Club is the World Wisdom Council, its objectives are:

- 1- To be committed to the reversal of current trends towards chaos and destruction.
- 2- To be admonished by the wise people of all traditions to see humanity as one family, to honor the sanctity of life and creation. To nurture love and compassion and to apply the golden rule of treating others as we want to be treated ourselves. (Laszlo, 2008)

11- Conclusion

The book of Ervin Laszlo” Quantum Shift in Global Brain” is an excellent book to read, it contains a very detailed information and description to the problems of our current civilization, in which poverty, climate change, economic and political problems have control on our behavior towards each other and towards Nature. The core of the problem is the Humankind and his behavior towards himself, and towards other living beings.

The book gives light in the dark way of our life. It gives us a clue to accept each other, to respect the time of life we are in, to live in harmony with each other and with Nature, to see and accept the Macroshifts in society and science. It is our mission and goal to change the world, through changing our mind set and our consciousness and understanding the new revolution. It is our choice at this point of bifurcation to put humanity on the direction of sustainability and evolution, to live not to die.

This book gave me motive to good living with others, to understand more and to respect them more.

Some ideas from Laszlo book, were narrated from ancient traditions of India and heavenly religious beliefs and teachings, I still believe that through religion effect on the behavior and ethics of people to change and to accept change and to improve consciousness towards the best of the whole; radical thinking and narrow vision will solve nothing, but brings more problems and more radicals. Many governments through legislations, social associations and NGO’s and even some individuals try their best to overcome and give solutions for the global problems.

At last, one hand can't clap, together we can make difference, and we have just to try to make a change.

Since we are from the same mother and father and we have the same God Cod, as Gregg Braden said in his book "The God Cod".(Braden, 2009), we can overcome racism in color, nationality, wealth, education, socialism and unite together and save our civilization.

After good work towards the future, we have to ask God for His Mercy, help and guidance

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