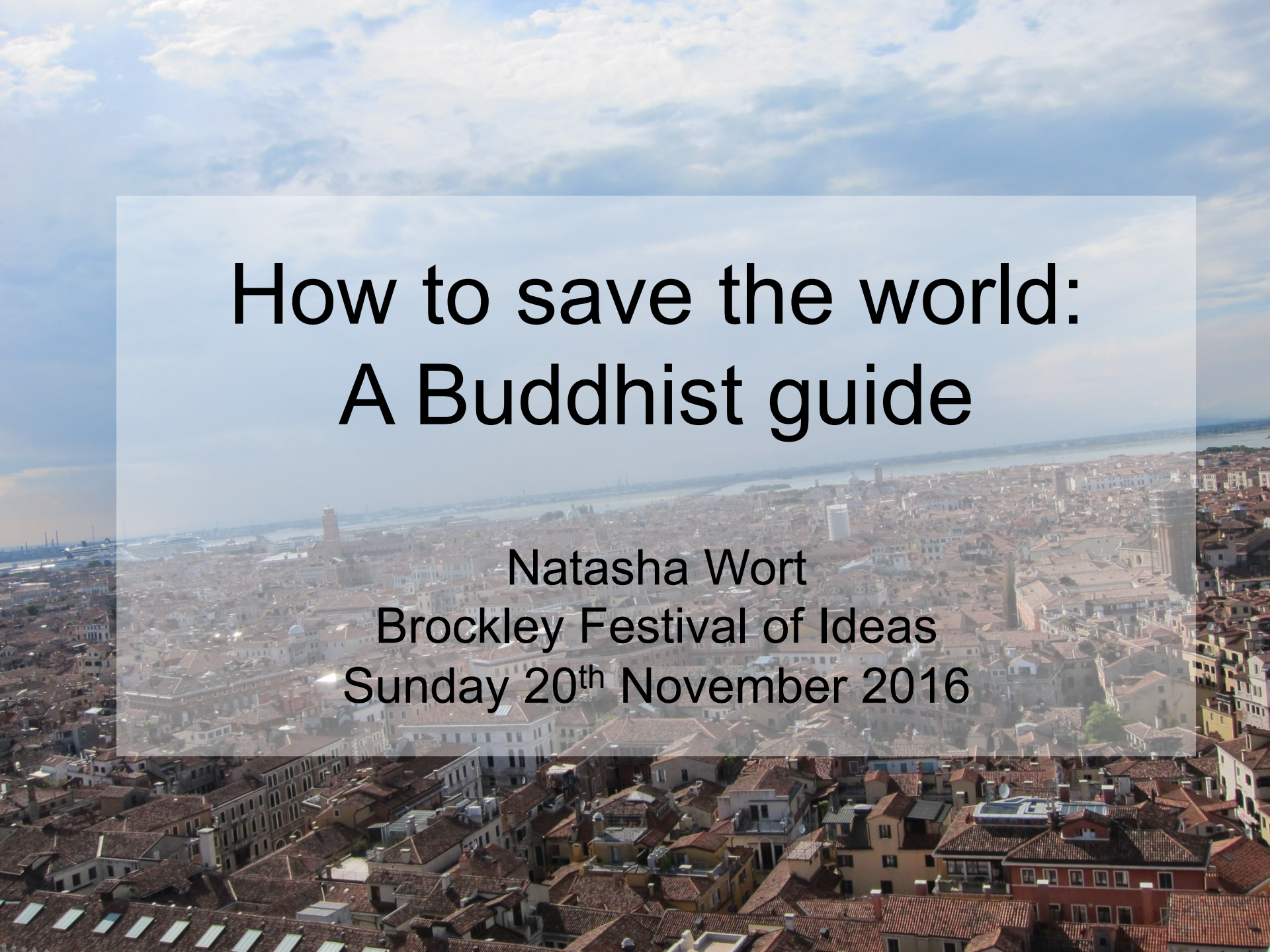


How to save the world: A Buddhist guide

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What is the philosophy of UK culture?

- Freedom of choice?
- Entitlement?
- Consumerism?

Arrogance

Defined in Buddhism as “to think that one is superior to those inferior to oneself and that one is equal to one’s equals”.

Nichiren Buddhism

- Nichiren – 13th Century Buddhist monk who vowed to become the wisest person in Japan to understand why people were suffering. The times were rife with suffering – famine, foreign invasion, natural disasters.

- He believed to transform this, Japan needed to establish the correct philosophy for the peace of the land.

- Persecuted all his life, but a very joyful man. He showed how to be happy no matter what. He established the daily practice of chanting *nam-myoho-renge-kyo* that we use in SGI to reveal our best selves (Buddha nature).

- Dynamic and active in society

Life is the foremost of all treasures. It is expounded that even the treasures of the entire major world system cannot equal the value of one's body and life. Even the treasures that fill the major world system are no substitute for life.

A Gift of Rice, Nichiren



All people are infinitely precious, noble and worthy of respect

Mai ji sa ze nen. I ga ryo shujo. Toku nyu mu-jo do. Soku joju busshin.

War, inequality, abuse, destruction of the environment – will not be solved without addressing the root cause

War begins in the human mind or heart. It stems from a desire to conquer and control, to take back something perceived as lost, to have power, it comes from hatred and antipathy.

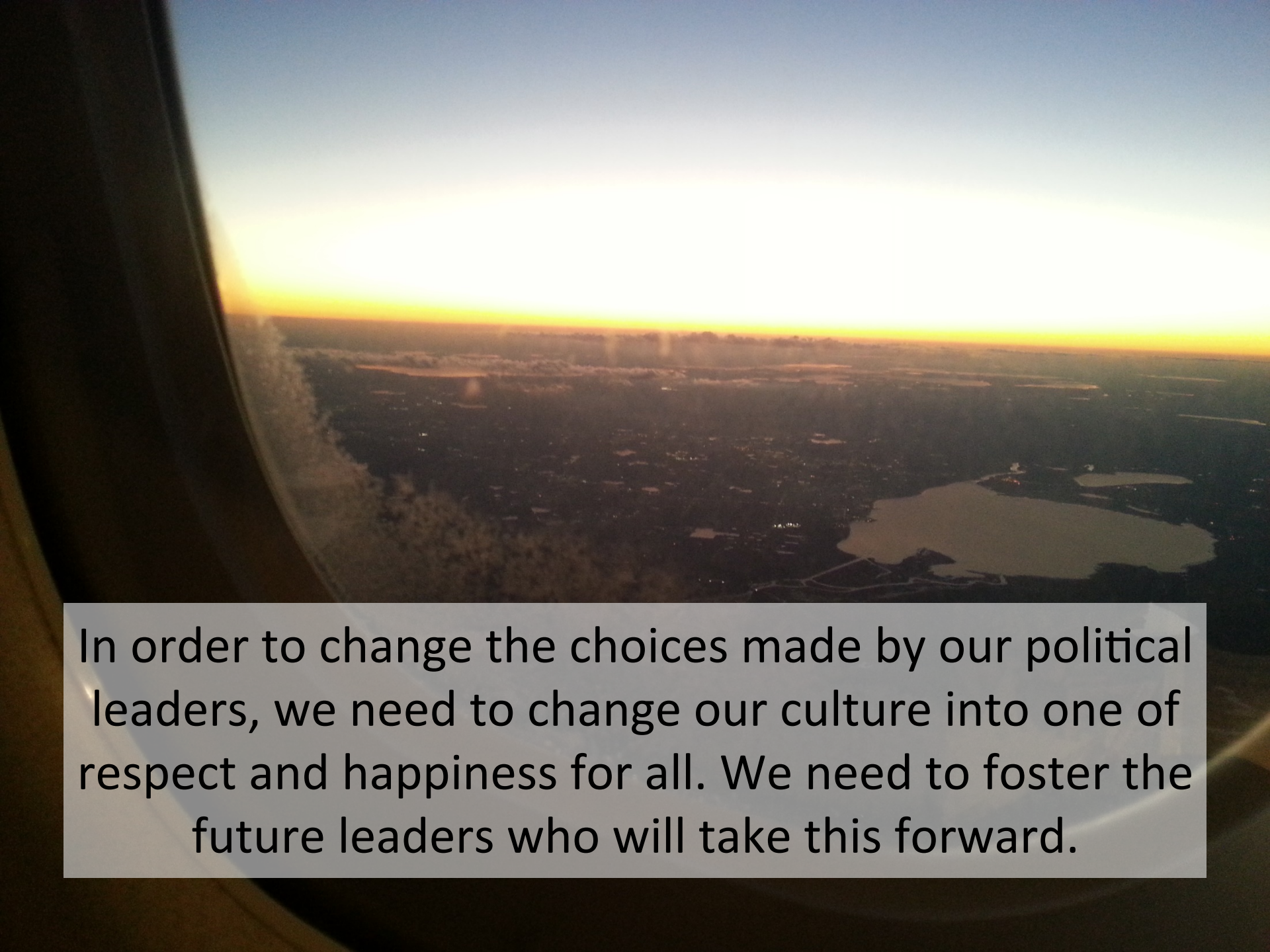
Thus a violent person does not realise the inherent value of their life.

World peace starts with each of us.

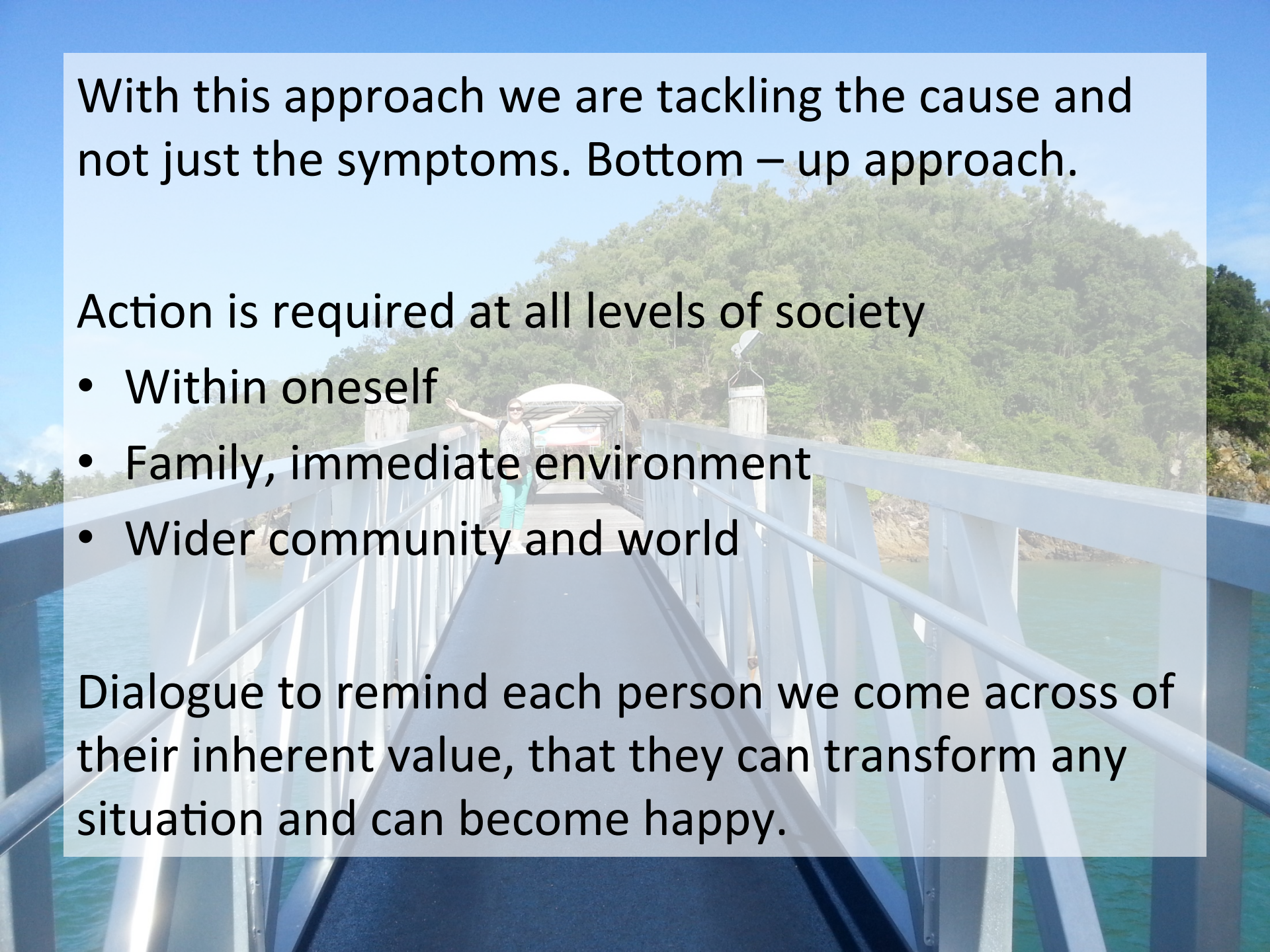
It starts with our own inner transformation, the struggle to truly value and respect our lives and the lives of others.

"If you were to seize Mount Sumeru and fling it far off to the measureless Buddha lands, that…would not be difficult…"

This is why we practice – it's hard to believe!



In order to change the choices made by our political leaders, we need to change our culture into one of respect and happiness for all. We need to foster the future leaders who will take this forward.

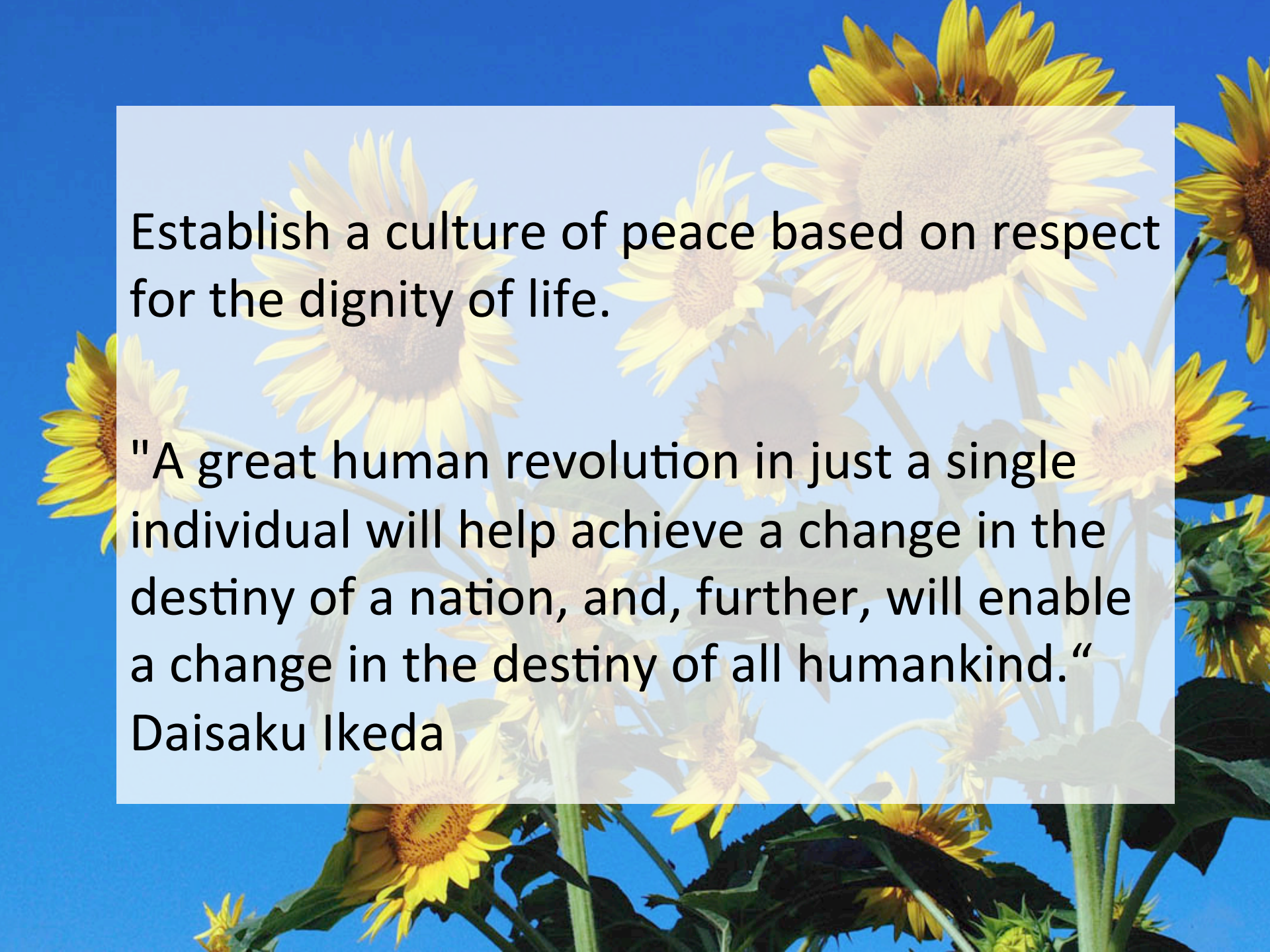


With this approach we are tackling the cause and not just the symptoms. Bottom – up approach.

Action is required at all levels of society

- Within oneself
- Family, immediate environment
- Wider community and world

Dialogue to remind each person we come across of their inherent value, that they can transform any situation and can become happy.


Establish a culture of peace based on respect for the dignity of life.
"A great human revolution in just a single individual will help achieve a change in the destiny of a nation, and, further, will enable a change in the destiny of all humankind.“
Daisaku Ikeda

Nichiren Buddhism – SGI-UK

Soka Gakkai International "Society of Value Creation'

- *Dynamic practice*
- *Humanistic philosophy*
- *Active in society – peace, culture and education*
- *Peace proposal to the UN, dialogues with world leaders*
- *Emphasis on personal responsibility*
- *No hierarchy*
- *Universal respect for all people regardless of appearance, belief, capacity, lifestyle etc.*
- *Based on the Lotus Sutra – heart of the Buddha's lifetimes of teachings: everyone has Buddha nature*

References

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http://www.sgi.org/about-us/president-ikedas-writings/human-revolution.html

The Opening of the Eyes, The Three Kinds of Treasure
& A Gift of Rice, WND http://www.nichirenlibrary.org/en/wnd-1/toc/

http://www.sgi-uk.org/buddhism/introductory-study-material

For more information visit sgi-uk.org



What does Buddhahood actually mean?

Buddhahood, a condition of absolute happiness and freedom from all fear and illusions, is inherent in all life, and is eternal. This means that 'the Buddha' is nothing other than an ordinary person who is aware of this state in his or her life. The Buddha is not a special or divine being. The development of this inner life state can enable all people to overcome their problems and live a fulfilled and active life, engaging fully with others and with society.

