Last 8 paragraphs of Introduction to the CPCS Initiative Summary Paper--
"Recalibrating Our Moral Compasses: to resolve unprecedented challenges
and discover our collective spiritual destiny"
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(from pages 7-8)

As a concluding note to this introduction, consider again a theme which was part of the way this introduction began: "we have now arrived at a very auspicious moment in time".

There are many people who have had experiences of reconciliation with people who they once cared about very deeply, but then became separated from by beliefs and livelihoods which seemed too different to ever resolve. Most readers will agree that one of the most profound insights which can come from such reconciliations is that "beneath the multitudes of identities, (and) the differences in culture, language, ritual, and beliefs, we all desire contact that comes in forms of love, community, respect, dignity, recognition, and acknowledgment."[3]

In this time of unprecedented challenges—and especially in the context of collaborative problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before—there are going to be countless opportunities for reconciliation. There are going to be countless opportunities for arriving at a new appreciation of the personal qualities, skills, and beliefs of our neighbors and fellow citizens—personal qualities, skills, and beliefs which we once might have thought were only be directed towards outcomes with serious negative consequences for many people. And there are going to be countless opportunities for all of us—ourselves, our neighbors and our fellow citizens—to become part of a system of mutual support and encouragement in our local communities, as we respond to multiple, unprecedented challenges. Many of us have already seen that these kind of opportunities arise during the cooperative efforts needed to recover from massive natural disasters. And yet… many of us could miss out on this potential for reconciliation if the collaborative problem solving processes we are invited to participate in do not try to foster the profound insight described in the previous paragraph.

Organizers of collaborative problem solving processes who believe that the exponential increase in compassion which needs to happen will happen, and the unprecedented level of problem solving that needs to happen will happen, will be focusing more on building a collaborative problem solving approach which people from every variety of circumstances can trust and believe in… trust and believe will make best use of the knowledge, skills, and resources each one of us has to contribute.

That there has not yet been much attention given to designing collaborative problem solving approaches as comprehensive as the ones described in Section IV (of the Summary Paper) can—most likely—be attributed to the fact that *the need for problem solving on the scale this paper is advocating for is far from being widely recognized.* However, once the need for unprecedented forms of collaborative problem solving and community education become more commonly accepted—and the natural creativity and capacity for innovation which we human beings have shown ourselves capable of becomes more focused on designing collaborative problem solving and community education models— and even more so, once we, collectively, have gone far beyond the kind of collaborative problem solving and community education most of us are familiar with—we may feel that we cannot easily set aside the opportunity to know, one way or the other, whether we can achieve goals which, for the longest time, many of us have dismissed as far beyond our levels of experience, and the leanings of our aspirations… goals like world peace.

This writer offers the following definition of world peace: a universal feeling of sympathetic resonance between the examples of leaders (as seen in the wise and equitable administration of cultural and natural resources); the personal cultivation of virtue throughout society; the ecological stability and sustainability of natural resources; and the current of Divine Grace.

Could it be that in amidst the unprecedented culture change which we must achieve in the next 3-6 decades, advances will be made in collaborative problem solving and community education which will make it possible for a significant majority of us to believe that we can even make efforts to discover our collective spiritual destiny?... and that rather than being some kind of catastrophic disaster, our collective spiritual destiny could be much more like the above definition of world peace?

Can we have unprecedented access to the storehouses of wisdom and compassion which have accumulated over 5,000 years of human experience—and make practical application of such wisdom and compassion to overcome the most unprecedented challenges ever faced by humankind—and then *not* explore what our collective spiritual destiny might look like if such wisdom and compassion was integrated into the everyday circumstances of community life, in communities around the world?