

What Legacy Will I Leave?

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I hope to leave the legacy of self-less service, acceptance, and love. As I reflect on the tremendous pains that this world and society are going through, I believe that what we all need now more than ever is understanding and awareness of the experiences and differences of others. Our dialogue with those who we consider 'the other' has broken down tremendously, and I believe that it is as a result of the different ways that society has categorized and divided people through the media, educational opportunities, economy, politics and the like. Stepping outside of our own worlds and visiting the worlds of others through a commitment to service, I believe, will help to bring more mutual appreciation for groups and individuals. It is hard to hate who you know; and I believe that serving and showing lovingkindness to the 'other' will effectively topple the walls of hate, brick by brick that we build between and amongst ourselves as humans. A wise person once said "As I give, I get." This is to say that when we serve and help others, even when we don't feel that we have much to offer, we are getting a chance to impact another person in a positive way, and by that measure, our own self-esteem, and self-regard is elevated as a result. Our purpose, then, is fulfilled, bit by bit. This is not a call to seek personal gain from giving, but instead to be in service to others for its own intrinsic belief that as humans we are called to serve and be stewards of this planet and each other. I want my legacy to reflect that I showed those around me (or not around me) kindness, and goodness, and that I made this world a better place. I want to be considered someone who is a fountain, not a drain. And in that consideration, I do not care for recognition now, or after I am done, but truly I want to get to the next spiritual plane of my existence, and simply hear 'Job well done.'

Regarding acceptance, it seems to me that the biggest fear, injury, and pain that we all undergo is that of rejection. When I think about it, every impassioned argument or conflict, every relationship gone bad, every emotional damage suffered, starts or ends, or is imbibed with the notion that someone involved felt rejected. I believe that acceptance is needed more now than ever in our world, and I pray that I leave the legacy that I accepted others regardless of any of their differences of lifestyle, opinion, or character. It can be a challenge, but I know that it can be done when we recall that some of the most difficult perspectives to understand have their root on how someone may have felt rejected in one way or another, and has simply not resolved that within themselves. It is critical to the healing of this world that we do not further the sense and feeling of rejection that has run rampant in this society. We must accept and celebrate others where we can, and however we can, and make sure that we remind them of the value that they hold in this world.

Finally, love is a legacy that I want to leave. Love is the most enduring and long-lasting legacy there is, stronger than death, time, and hate. I believe that love can be manifested in many forms but that it might be said after I am gone, that I showed self-less love, compassion and care to those around me, as well as generosity, I will leave a legacy that is truly satisfied.

I believe that we all will leave a legacy as we journey through this life and society. So, the desires of my legacy are not exhaustive of the thousands of ways people can impact the world, but I do believe that any personal goals, hopes, dreams and aspirations stem, for me, from the desire to serve, accept, and love. It is a blessing to be able to reflect and remind myself of these goals on a daily and deliberate basis, as it crystallizes a higher purpose and it makes any mundane struggles both seen and unforeseen far more manageable. I hope that we can all take an opportunity to ask ourselves "What Legacy do I want to Leave?" and thereafter take up the charge.