

The Balance Point

A Universal Manifesto

by R. Leland Lehrman

The Balance Point is the point; the point of Creation. It is the desire of the heart, which is itself the balance between the head and the tail, the spirit and the will, vision and desire, the God and the Goddess. As such it can be an idea or take any form. It is the essence of evolution, as well as its goal; its means and end.

The Balance Point is loving. It is also conscious and sensitive, and finally, active. It is a place and the essence of that place, a time and the essence of that time.

Together with my wife, Vera Hanakova, I discovered The Balance Point in the course of the initiatory trials of life. Among a great many other honors, Vera deserves the credit for asking the question that gave it birth.

"But what is the point of it all?" she asked me that day, with that especially intense frustration I had heard so many times before. She, after all, has to *feel* so acutely all the many inadequacies in me, our life, and the world.

To which I answered rather glibly and ritualistically, not feeling any better at the time:

"The point is the balance;" I started, pulling up midsentence, dismayed at the lifeless quality of my words. I quickly checked internally to see if there wasn't something more relevant to say under the circumstances.

Vera did know what I mean. She had heard it often enough before. The balance between the God and Goddess plays the lead role in the evolution of Creation within the cosmology we both study. However we were both used to this answer feeling dogmatic and sterile, especially in the experience of adversity.

But on that sunny day, in the heat of months-long passionate arguments over our relationship and life direction, some angel's wing beat life into my words.

In that forlorn, paradoxical state of hopeful resignation I sometimes find myself in, I suddenly had a flash of insight.

Feeling amazed, I heard the next words bubbling up within me. Taking risk and courage, I started to open my mouth while listening to a suddenly active inner voice. After speaking the above sentence, "The point is the balance;" I then rephrased it according to the joking enthusiasm of this childlike angel who was demanding expression. With a smile of mischievous, fun-loving creativity, I dropped it on Vera.

"The Balance Point," I finished, hoping the value of the idea wasn't lost in the pun. Vera wasn't fully satisfied, but gave it room to grow.

I didn't hesitate and wasted no time. For I was now *seeing* The Balance Point, architecture, landscape and all. Vera began to join in conversation. As it tumbled out of our mouths, we worked together on the vision, stitching it together from remnants of hopes and dreams that stretch into forever.

This conversation with Vera was a rambling one, spoken during a car-ride to Ithaca, New York in the summer of 2016 or so. The bulk of the revelation emerged during a hundred mile wrong turn into the Adirondacks. It was as though the visions I had been nursing of a future civilization began falling onto my parched soul like raindrops. At the time, my principal focus had been on the aggregation of spiritual communities, ecovillages, indigenous societies and fellow travelers into a kind of underground railroad type of new cosmic nation. Decentralized, sovereign, and desiring to provide refuge, healing and vision for the future, The Balance Point sees that people are again moving to unite under banners different from and outside the dominant ideologies and jurisdictions. Scientific modernism, nationalism, and internationalism are dead or dying.

I had a marriage of indigenous and modern in mind, where technological convenience was tempered by love for the Earth and a sensitive appreciation for the benefits of living not only in community but in an ecological communion with Earth and Cosmos. This concept was well-expressed in the Old Religion of Europe and other indigenous cultures who regard the fertility of the Earth as corresponding to the extent to which human beings live in balance with the God and Goddess. It is also well-expressed in Ursula Leguin's famous novel, Always Coming Home and other philosophies like Christopher Alexander's A Pattern Language and Ernest Callenbach's Ecotopia.

The essential psychological and social soul of the vision was also born of this marriage. The developments of modern psychology and spiritual science come back into an appreciative embrace of the ancient indigenous wisdom of the human family. In particular, the emphasis on the healing of trauma is paramount. The focus of this healing is on self-actualization in life and relationship, with particular attention paid to romance and sexuality. Here lie the deepest wounds in Creation, in desperate need of the healing attention so necessary to the development of peaceful, happy people, communities, nations and worlds.

My wife and I are, and had been at the time, especially active in the healing work of Stanislaw Grof, inheritor of one branch of the Jungian traditions as elaborated by Abraham Maslow. Maslow is famous for many things, but in particular as the creator of his "hierarchy of needs," and as a scientific advocate of the "self-actualization" principle so long extolled by the Eastern cultures under the words "self-realization." In Maslow's hands, however, self-actualization did not entail renunciation, but rather an embrace of the full wisdom of the inner desire of human beings to fully express themselves romantically, spiritually, culturally, politically and economically.

In this context, the early visions of The Balance Point included retreat centers like those where the holotropic breathwork of Stan Grof is practiced, as well as ecotourism and spa destinations worldwide that are or could be linked to these purposes and communities.

The fundamental advance made in The Balance Point as a worldview and blueprint for civilization is the integration of the awareness of Right Use of Will. These are a series of eight books and a sequel, Feelings Matter written by or under the stewardship of Ceanne de Rohan. The message of these books fundamentally alters the priority of the present. It articulates an incontestable insistence that the healing of the Feminine Principle, the Mother of Everything, is the indispensable key to the health of the future and to the manifestation of a true balance point. Not surprisingly, it also provides

the most intricate detail and instruction regarding how to accomplish this. I have tested its principles in my life and found them to work with far deeper consequence than anything else.

I have been preoccupied for some time by the problem of the developing global government. So the idea that a decentralized network of organically self-healing communities could ultimately form the mother seed of an alternative to global totalitarianism is exciting to me. I saw in *The Balance Point* an action plan that may satisfy the well-known criteria of Buckminster Fuller that it not oppose the status quo, but rather make it obsolete – irrelevant and uncool in contemporary language. Maybe too it could satisfy Victor Hugo's argument that nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come.

So I began to imagine the issuance of a passport to this new nation, with rights and responsibilities, a constitution and a currency. Everything will be based on a loving relationship with Earth and Community. The new health-care system will use the holistic biophysics and functional systems medicine principles developed by Wayne Miller and others. In parallel collaboration with Travis Henry and Jordan Walker, I made a concerted effort to integrate the Threefold Commonwealth social ideas of Rudolf Steiner, whose Waldorf Schools and Camphill Communities form part of the core of *The Balance Point's* plausible international constituency.

I was triggered by the remarkable human potential movement described by the Superlearning book series. Gopi Krishna's critique of the philosophy of technology also moved me deeply, so I began focusing on the difference between technologically and philosophically mediated human potential. *The Balance Point* argues that the current technological development model is empowering those who would lead us to enslavement in a soulless and Earth-devouring dystopia. Technology requires complete revision and overhaul along lines proposed by Paul Emberson and the Anthro-Tech Institute. There can be awareness of unintended consequences, and these can be considered in the process of technological development, rather than afterwards while cleaning up the mess and healing the broken lives. Better still, in *The Balance Point*, the focus of culture rests once again on the organic, magical, and spiritual human being, with healing and potential expression as its goal.

Before I go on, let me be clear that some of these ideas, while not my own in the technical sense that ideas are not property, are still only that: ideas. I have no formal relationships with any of the above named people or organizations dedicated to the development of this vision in practice. But the development and communication of the initial vision has led to interest from colleagues in diverse contexts. They feel it has some applicability to their own vision and work. This enthusiastic reception makes me hopeful that there is a timely place for *The Balance Point* in the soul of the world today.

There are two specific new applications of *The Balance Point* idea that bring me great hope and challenge. One is its application to a large community of workforce housing developments in the south-central United States. The other is a crypto-currency. If *The Balance Point* is in fact a fertile, powerful and timely philosophy, it should be able to enlighten the endeavors of today *and* tomorrow. For now, I will be sharing ideas related to its application in these two specific cases with the leaders of the two initiatives. Later, should their permission be forthcoming, I will share our experience and lessons learned as amendments to this manifesto.

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