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SYNERGISTIC EMERGENCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

PNE Inspirations

November/December 2005

Great and Noble Tasks

"Great newsletter! PNE is so involved and vibrant; I'm sure you're making a difference in the hearts of people around you! I particularly liked the concept of living in the future and viewing "now" as a point in one's past - very interesting. In a way, it reminded me of what my old mentor said about running a company... I really like the "being in the future and looking back to NOW" because in this paradigm I can imagine the many futures (family future, lifestyle future, etc.), and view now as merely a stitch in the pattern I am trying to complete. So although there's no grand pattern burning yet in my mind, I feel I'm a few steps closer to being at a point of starting to design one." Michael Levy, Boulder, CO

"Audrey, I just read your newsletter and loved it. If you remember I told you about our local fight for clean air in Midlothian, TX. Just wanted to let you know that we petitioned a federal agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and our petition was accepted! They will be doing an extensive study here starting this fall. Thanks for the encouraging words at Bootcamp and sharing your wisdom and insight with everyone through your newsletter; you are truly appreciated." Stacy Dockins, Midlothian, TX

"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble."

-Helen Keller

Our spotlight this issue shines on accomplishing small tasks in a great and noble way, otherwise known as making a difference where you are and with what you have; for example in our Conversations with the Field – Report from Afghanistan (see Global Conversations), we hear about Hunter Lovins' determination to get warm running water for 700 orphans, operating with no possibility except her resolve. Also, we have Soraya Hakim who runs that orphanage as well as 27 others on a salary of \$36 a month. Then there's Stacy Dockins from Midlothian, TX, who was concerned about the quality of air for the school her children attend and took determined action to discover the truth and get it cleaned up.

True greatness and nobility are not a reflection of the task itself; instead they reflect the heart, resolve, and commitment of the person who is in earnest about producing it. It really comes down to what a person brings to a project no matter how big or small, that yields the title of being **great and noble**.

There's one last component involved. There's also greatness and nobility when a person sees some injustice or need or opportunity to help that's right in front of them. Instead of closing their eyes or looking the other way or stepping over it, they take the task on as their own. The need might be something as straightforward as aiding hurricane victims. It might be as simple as helping out at the local humane society. Or it even could be forgiving a friend or relative from a long-standing grudge. Believe it or not, there's greatness and nobility in these acts.

In the end there's a sweet byproduct. When a person engages in small tasks in great and noble ways they are left with a sense of themselves that sparkles, shines and uplifts everyone around them.

My kids call performing these great and noble tasks actions that feed the soul. I call it "soul food."