

## **Destiny Control**

Transcript of a Commentary by Ambrose I. Lane Sr.  
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Destiny Control. Throughout history the ability of humans to exercise control over their destiny has always been limited. Important and critical limitations included the relative harshness of man's physical environment, the relative availability of food and shelter, the availability and spread of knowledge and tools, and the relative ease of effective communications. As man's knowledge base expanded and his tools increased in sophistication and effectiveness so did his adaptability and his ability to more effectively conquer those limitations and ease their impact on their daily lives. Tragically just as humans have used their knowledge and tools to conquer these old limitations some have used their coercive superiority over other humans to impose or re-impose those limitations on others to satiate their greed or thirst for more or greater coercive power.

Thus as we approve the new century, much of the human world remains subject to man's oldest limitations; exposure to harsh, physical living environments, inadequate access to food resulting in malnutrition and starvation, denial of access to education and knowledge resulting in abysmal ignorance in a world whose daily knowledge base expands geometrically, selective availability of tools, and teaching of hate and group divisiveness for the purpose of destroying effective communications in a world wherein the capability of effective communications between individuals, groups, and nations has never been easier.

Those humans who have been overwhelmed by the coercive superiority of other humans have suffered doubly in their attempts to exercise some semblance of Destiny Control in their individual and group lives. First, their freedom to act in their own best interest is constrained by law, by superiority-inferiority customs and morays constituting the belief systems of their temporary conquerors and rulers, by the police and military power controlled by their temporary rulers and conquerors, and by their limited access to opportunities within their control.

Second, their subject status over a period of time produces in many subject people and their leaders a mindset of complicity in support of the system that imposes their inferiority status on them. This double burden has exercised a debilitating influence on the leadership of subject peoples, as well as on the masses themselves during the first decades of independence and relative freedom. Too often the newly freed subject leader's mind looks for success models among the choices made by their former rulers. Invariably they have been the wrong choice models and have led to varying degrees of disaster for themselves and the people they lead.

Just as often they fail to recognize or admit they have made the wrong choice, fail to change course, and turn on their own people blaming the ignorant masses for the failure of choices the masses never made. This double burden also thwarts effective movement toward Destiny Control by limiting the leader's vision of possibilities for themselves and the people they lead as well as the leader's continuing accurate perception and assessment of the animus of their former rulers.

The leadership of the former subject people must be committed to living and promoting the living of audacious lives dedicated to the well-being of the entire population. Such leadership must also create counter structures and counter propaganda to destroy the superiority-inferiority structures of laws, customs, and morays built over decades, sometimes centuries, by those former rulers. Failure to do so effectively leaves the superiority-inferiority structure in place and most critically in the mindset and belief systems of the people.

Through out African and the Diaspora a war is being waged daily. I refer not to the horrendous physical wars that senselessly destroyed so many millions of lives since independence for those wars are symptoms of the greater war. That greater war is for the belief systems and mindsets of the tens of millions of those in Africans and the Diaspora and we are all involved and engaged whether actively or passively, overtly or covertly, vocally or silently.

In his last book before his death Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. cited a quote from the late Richard Wright who in the 1940's wrote these words;

“White American has reduced Negro life in our great cities to a level of experience of so crude and brutal a quality that one could say of it, in the words of Vachel Lindsey's the **Leaden-Eyed**

Not that they starve, but starve so dreamlessly,  
Not that they sow, but that they seldom reap,  
Not that they serve, but have no gods to serve,  
Not that they die, but that they die like sheep.”

Wright wrote those words almost 50 years ago yet they still apply to many of us today throughout the African Diaspora and many of us are complicitous in their hopeless desperation, in their excruciatingly painful but accurate assessment of their miniscule opportunities to exert any semblance of control over their destinies. While millions dreamlessly starve, seldom reap what they sow, and die like sheep we engage in mindless, sophisticated drivel about the relative merits of the gods of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. And some of us kill, maim, and dismember others of us in the name of our more meritorious god. Others of us enslave and sell others also in the name of some god or just for profit.

The worldwide savagery in the name of religion has been so gruesome that one is often tempted to conclude as did Ayi Kwei Armah in his book **Two Thousand Seasons** when he wrote:

We are not Christians that we should invent fables a child would laugh at and harden our eyes to teach them daylight and deep night as truth. We are not so warped in soul. We are not Arabs, we are not Muslims to fabricate a desert god chanting madness in the wilderness and call our creature creator. That is not our way. Our way is reciprocity. The Way is

wholeness. Our way knows no oppression. The way destroys oppression. Our way is hospitable to guests. The way repels destroyers. Our way produces before it consumes. The way produces far more than it consumes. Our way creates. The way destroys only destruction. (Ayi Kwei Armah - Two Thousand Seasons)

For those insane ones among us who have chose the path of death it is clear that they have learned well in choosing to make the same choices made by their former enslavers and rulers and have become as evil as they. Just as we spoke truth about the evil perpetrated by their former rulers we must speak the truth about the evil of their imitators among us; for evil is evil no matter by whom it is practiced. We must also speak truth about those who are complicitous with such evil for that complicity helps to destroy the possibilities and probabilities of destiny control for our present and future generations. Creating those positive possibilities and probabilities for our children and thier children through at least seven generations is our solemn obligation, individually and collectively.

In the years before his assassination, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. often spoke of what he called a Counter Revolution being waged by the forces aligned the forces of good in this society. He identified the counter revolutionaries as those operating the institutional machinery of the racist ruling class in American and through out the world; responsible for the worldwide phenomenon of racism, of sexism, and militarism. He knew with visionary clarity that those forces had been caught off guard by the unbreakable unity of the Montgomery, Alabama Bus Boycott; the lifting of what Oswald Spangler once referred to in another context as the “aureole of white invincibility and the outpouring of oppressed humanity against their oppressors.”

Dr. King accurately identified the limited achievements of America’s anti-apartheid movement, dubbed the Civil Rights movement by the establishment press, as reforms only. In the fateful last year of his life, he repeatedly issued a call for revolution, for massive civil disobedience. He knew that the forces supportive of the worldwide racist, sexist, and militaristic institutional and financial structures were gathering to try to turn back the forces devoted to the well-being of humankind. Well it was they that assassinated him before he could bring tens of thousands of the nations poor to the financial and political capital of the world to demand a redress of grievances. It was to be a beginning of his answer to what he saw as the beginning counter revolution of the worldwide forces of evil, and death, and war, and poverty, and ignorance. It was to begin here in the nation’s capital, this engagement in the war for the mindset and belief systems of oppressed peoples throughout the world.

Those same forces have been creative in covering their conspiratorial tracks. Those who dare suggest a conspiracy was involved in the assassination of Dr. King have been trashed as conspiracy theorists. Yet group oppression always involves a conspiracy. Even Abraham Lincoln could clearly see a conspiracy in the worsening conditions of African Americans in the 1850’s and spoke out about it after the Supreme Court’s decision in the Dred Scott case. And this is what he said;

All the powers of earth seem rapidly combining against him. Mammon is after him; ambition follows ... and the Theology of the day is fast joining the cry. They have him in his prison house; they have searched his person, and left no prying instrument with him. One after another they have closed the heavy iron doors upon him, and now they have him, as it were, bolted in with a lock of a hundred keys, which can never be unlocked without the concurrent of every key; the keys in the hands of a hundred different men, and they scattered to a hundred different and distant places; and they stand musing as to what invention, in all the dominions of mind and matter, can be produced to make the impossibility of his escape more complete than it is. – (Abraham Lincoln - June 26, 1857)

Destiny Control: How do we capture the imagination of young people, to get them to believe they will have a hand in shaping their own future, that all is not hopelessness and drugs and prison? The answer is quite simple yet complex. We, this generation must act. We must act and they must see us act audaciously, repeatedly in a planned, focused manner providing a financial start in life for them at 18 to 20 years of age coupled with support and encouragement from birth. We must act and they must see us act to challenge every thrust by the racist institutional system against their well-being, protecting them and explaining to them why this system is attacking them and us.

We must act and they must see and hear us act to throttle ostentatious cripples and parasitic elders among us who not are willing to convert our churches and temples into learning centers that will teach our special history. It is insane complicity in our own oppression to continue to teach our children in our churches and temples, institutions we own and control, more about Arab, the Quran, and Israeli – the bible history – than about the history of our own people. They must be learning centers, not just a place for emotional catharsis once a week. And we do not need to continue to waste precious money in lavish buildings that enrich others. We need functional buildings dedicated to training the intellect and psyche, promoting confidence and unchallenged self-worth, and an unalterable belief that the engagement of one's intellect combined with planned effort can produce positive results in one's life.

How do you begin to plan to provide for a financial start in life for our children? Let's look at one answer. An interest bearing trust account should be set up for every child, untouchable by anyone but that child until and only until he or she reaches the age chosen, either 18 or 20 years, to be used only for educational or start-up business purposes. Every church and temple should setup a \$1,000 account at birth for every child in the congregation to be supplemented at the completion of each year with another \$250-\$500 by the church and temple.

Parents should also contribute a matching amount to the trust, depending on their financial circumstances. Annual special ceremonies should be held to explain to the children what their church and temple community is doing in their behalf and why the community is taking responsibility to enable them to have a better chance to exercise some control over their destiny. And each child who works should be engaged to

contribute to his or her trust account. Community fund-raisers should be held and equal amounts contributed to each account from the fund-raising events.

The details of such a plan, the amounts placed in trust at each stage of a child's development, the degree of family contribution, as well as the content of special ceremonies for example, must be worked out by each community in accordance with its capabilities. What best works in Atlanta may not work as well in Nairobi, or Ankara, Lagos and Freeport.

What is important is a community wide effort to surround our children with adult determination to concretely provide them with focused teaching of our history, intellectual and spiritual support, and a disciplined financial start in life. This effort should be coupled with international political pressure by all members of the African Diaspora on all slave trading nations to provide reparations to Diaspora states and individuals.

It is a concept who's time as come.

Development requires at least three things; land or property, human resources and talent, and access to capital. The first two are in plentiful supply through out the Diaspora. What is needed is the third; access to significant capital which is in the vaults of those nations that stole the wealth and lives and unpaid toll of the ancestors of those of us in the Diaspora. That debt must be paid if we are to fully get control of our destiny.

Finally, providing a financial start in life for succeeding generations can not free those generations from today's global "kill-and-destroy" insanity unless we also nurture their spiritual immune systems. And my use of the term "spiritual" does refer to their and our religious formulations; for that path has helped lead us to the current insanity.

Armah formulations, although reflecting a non-existing past reality, point to a spiritual path on which an enlightened humanity should travel. On that path future generations could strengthen their spiritual immune systems with the values of reciprocity and wholeness, of being hospital to all other humans, of first producing and producing a surplus before consuming, and of being creators. Equally important, they would learn and inculcate a passion to destroy that is render harmless, only oppression and destruction. It is a path of spiritual honor and human concern for the well-being of humanity.

Destiny control must be our battleground for this and the next century.

This has been Ambrose I. Lane, Sr. Destiny Control.