

Keys to a Brighter Future



Robert Canright

Author of

Achieve Lasting Happiness



Four Keys to a Brighter Future

- Education
- Self-cultivation
- Communities
- Universal ethics



What is Education?

- Education is more than facts.
- Education is more than college degrees.
- Education is a preparation for life.
- The best preparation is to prepare you.



How do you prepare yourself?

- You prepare yourself for life by preparing your character. Some examples:
 - Resilience
 - Positive Attitude
 - Compassion
 - Honesty



How do you prepare yourself?

- You prepare yourself for life by preparing your values. Examples:
 - Truth
 - Beauty
 - Humanity



The Process of Education

- In youth, parents and teachers prepare you for life.
- In maturity, you prepare yourself to succeed in life.
- Actively preparing yourself is self-improvement or self-cultivation.



Self-Cultivation

- Life is growth
- Self-improvement is cultivating what is best in our humanity.
- Self-cultivation is more than physical or mental skills.
- Self-cultivation is becoming a better person
 - It is improving your character.
 - It is improving your spirit or heart.



Self-Cultivation

- Learning requires testing.
- Interacting with people tests your character.
- Self-cultivation is not a solitary pursuit.



No Man is an Island

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." — John Donne



Communities

- People form communities.
- Communities are part of our humanity.
- “If you want to advance, help others to advance.” — Confucius
- For a community to advance, its individual members must advance.



Communities

- Self-cultivation demands community-cultivation.
- Community-cultivation requires:
 - Shared Goals
 - Shared Values



Universal Ethics

What causes fights?

- Theft?
- Theft is conflicting goals of ownership.
- Insults?
- Insults are conflicting values of respect.



Universal Ethics

- No amount of laws will force people to be honest.
- Societies depend on personal ethics to function smoothly.
- World peace depends on communities interacting smoothly.



Universal Ethics

- World peace depends on
 - Universal values
 - Universal goals
- There is no universal religion.
- Universal ethics are:
 - Compatible with religion
 - Not a religion



Conclusion

- Education prepares for a life of self-cultivation.
- Self-cultivation leads to community cultivation.
- Harmonious communities depend on shared values (universal ethics).
- World peace depends on harmony between communities.