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CHANGE YOURSELF TO CHANGE THE WORLD

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PREFACE

Change is as American as apple pie. Our country was founded because some people had the courage to strike out for a new land that offered them the opportunity to change their material lives as well as their internal, spiritual selves. No matter how oppressive or dehumanizing their condition was in Europe, it was a known condition. But this "security" did not stop them from forging ahead to make the change they believed was necessary to make real the visions they had of a better life for themselves and their families.

In the early history of this country change was the foundation of human interaction and projection. People believed that if they were dissatisfied with what was, it was their responsibility to change it. This belief was illustrated in various ways that were primarily individualistic and materialistic, but nevertheless demonstrated the readiness of Americans to venture into the unknown with the purpose of establishing or creating something better. So, starting with the original settlers and moving on to the first American revolutionists; on to the hundreds of thousands who took up the cry of "Go West, young man"; to the millions who internalized the doctrine of "Manifest Destiny" and later carried it out through Teddy Roosevelt's politics of "the big stick", Americans, regardless of class, race, sex or national origin, have not only accepted but welcomed both the danger and the opportunity that change offered to them and to our country.

