

WAR AND PEACE

By Bjørn Pettersen

Creation and destruction happen continuously on all levels in nature, and they are as obvious contradictions as for instance night and day or man and woman. Nature maintains a relative balance between the creative and the destructive forces, and is thus always in harmony with herself. Behind all manifested life there lies a wish to live and to enjoy fully and completely. But "the price of life is death", which means that on the physical level all forms of life will only be manifested within a certain cycle of time, and that in the end all physical forms are destroyed and transformed. The source of life is eternal and everlasting but the physical universe where life is played out is relative and transitory.

All manifested forms of life live by other manifested forms of life – "life batters on life" and "the death of one becomes the bread of another", and so forth. As such all animals are "carnivores", all plants are "predators", yes, all forms of life are "life of prey". In nature we see the tendency of the various forms of life always to try to dominate and to conquer each other. That is what is called "the struggle for survival". And this is also the case with humans. In the history of humankind we have yet to find a *civilisation* in the true sense of the word – all we have seen is the rise and fall of countless dynasties and superpowers which have flourished by suppressing others and the exploitation of nature. As such, our present day society in the western world is no exception. We follow our instincts by trying to "secure a place in the sun" for ourselves.

On all levels we are trying to conquer each other, but we don't know *how* we really can conquer. We have to conquer each other by *humanity, love* and *wisdom*. In fact, all actual development, real progress and true civilisation happen in this way. It is the cultivation and the social transmission of motherly love, and the need to be loved, which is given expression and which is immanent in all life. Only a world which can foster basic philanthropic values in its various societies and systems of government, can hope for peace and stability, and will cause a quantum leap in the evolution of humankind towards a nobler nature.