

Ascension Notes



Education

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The family unit is the fundamental structure of civilization. Skills, values and social interaction are learned first by experience at home prior to applying them to a larger social context. A solid family experience is so important to civilization that every family should have the right to a non-taxable home site.

An essential element of enlightened civilization is that everyone has the opportunity to initiate the course of action that supports his or her existence. Individual sovereignty implies developing the initiative for choosing our actions as well as taking responsibility for the results of those actions. It doesn't mean we become separated from others but that we integrate our lives and actions with one another consciously and voluntarily. That degree of personal development needs to be the acknowledged basis of the educational system and incorporated into the very fabric of any durable social contract.

Education would be considered a life-long undertaking. Doing real tasks to develop valuable and practical skills is the best approach for personal development, particularly for the young. Intellectual exploration then becomes exciting as the desire to understand is placed in the context of reality. Children of all ages should spend time with one another so the older teach the younger the lessons they have recently mastered. Through teaching, recently acquired skills become augmented by the deeper analysis needed for communication.

Individuals who display unusual talents or aptitudes in specific areas require individual support. Teachers would not be expected to be authorities so much as to be sensitive to the needs of each student. They then would provide connections to special resources such as members of the larger community who possess the expertise and willingness to help nurture unique abilities. Everyone grows from the experience when education is shared among people. An educational system of doing and sharing would instill both the individual strength to create one's own way and include a real appreciation of giving to one another in the experience.