Prophets of the 2nd Axial Age and How to Join Them OLLI Course Fall 2017 Melissa J. Mills (melissa.mills@duke.edu)

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Love, Connectivity, and Possibility

• Recap: Why Emotions Matter

Questions for Discussion:

- 1. What do you think of Barbara Fredrickson's statement that humans are made to love?
- 2. "What does love [2.0] have to do with it?"
- 3. Let's talk about visions that invite into the framework of possibility. (The Art of Possibility, p. 169)
 - A vision articulates a possibility
 - A vision fulfills a desire fundamental to humankind, a desire with which *any* human being can resonate. It is an idea to which no one could logically respond, "What about me?"
 - A vision makes no reference to morality or ethics, it is not about a right way of doing things. It cannot imply that anyone is wrong.
 - A vision is stated as a picture for all time, using no numbers, measures, or comparatives. It contains no specifics of time, place, audience, or product

- A vision is free-standing it points neither to rosier future, nor to a past in need of improvement. It gives over its bounty now. If the vision is "peace on earth," peace comes with its utterance. When "the possibility of ideas making a difference" is spoken, at that moment ideas do make a difference.
- A vision is a long line of possibility radiating outward. It invites infinite expression, development, and proliferation within its definitional framework.
- Speaking a vision transforms the speaker. For that moment the "real world" becomes a universe of possibility and the barriers to the realization of the vision disappear.
- From inside the framework of a vision, the goals and objectives spring from an outlook of abundance. The goals are invented as games to play. The challenge is the joy.
- A vision is an invitation to a party with music, laughter, friendship, and satisfying refreshment.