

## Regeneration is a Virtue

Dear Editor,

Mr. Sterling Robbins begins his comments about our article in February 1-15 *HII* ("Regeneration is a Virtue." pp. 7) "What Happened to Sustainability?" by saying that he is puzzled – we'd like to take this opportunity to thoughtfully unpuzzle him. We stand firmly by our statement "Sustainability does not reflect the natural state of a healthy world. A healthy world does not just sustain existing resources but actively creates new resources, new species and new culture."

As a goal "sustainability" falls far short of our true potential. As a word it does little to inspire, it denotes surviving and maintaining. Even the official definition of sustainability leaves us flat - "Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." - Brundtland Commission, 1987.

What real virtue is there in **not compromising** future generations so they may meet their needs? We can find a much better motivator than "thou shall not kill" future generations. How about lets support regenerative processes that create wealth and wellness here and now so that future generations may also thrive!

Mr. Robbins, is definitely missing our understanding of the term "enlightened self-interest" when he asserts that, "We need to convert Wal-Mart owners and employees to (pursue) their own enlightened self-interest....How can this be realized when the owners' interest is to make as much profit as possible and therefore pay workers as little as possible?"

That is part of our point; the owners of Wal-Mart maintain a fundamentally parasitic relationship with their employees and with the larger planet. These relationships are created and spread through the typical corporate-consumer model.

If the owners of Wal-Mart engaged in the regenerative process, by encouraging employees to pursue their enlightened self-interests, the owners would quickly realize that the very foundation of their current model was at fault and would proceed to recreate themselves from the ground up. All that energy previously wasted on the parasitic Wal-mart model would go towards evolving and supporting a more symbiotic Open-market, village-like model. Where individuals are supported in developing their own creative gifts and their own physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

With this new healthier model each individual truly flourishes, as they are empowered by a series of symbiotic relationships or what some have called "right relationships." Collectively these relationships would produce far more value and financial success than the Wal-mart model could ever imagine.

Now is a time for courage, fortitude and virtue – for us to go beyond the status quo and the survival-based modalities that continue to undermine us. Forget about sustainability, lets go regenerative and start truly living now.

– *Anthony Colombo, Hawi*

– *Aaron Anderson, Puna Palisades*