

### III-7. Actions Have Consequences

A state without the means of some change is without the means of conservation.

- Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

Change is inevitable. Ability to realize potential of a change has enduring value to survive, thrive, and resolve conflicts. It helps make decisions and mid-course corrections, and take responsibility for the outcome, bear consequences. Since actions are consequential human can not be mere actors. Consequences are not mere cause and effect. Outcomes are not always easy to predict. A rational course of action (behavior) increases reliability towards desired outcome. Contradictions and distractions influence the outcome even before one acts.

**What holds back?** Representations provide a framework to search. Suitable criteria are also needed *for views from different windows and doors*. Real-time search is helped along by pruning certain options. Regress can be avoided if each new option is considered. Sometimes it is easier to learn from the experience of others. Disordered states of emptiness and self-doubt build attitudes of will-not, can-not, do-not, and need-not, closed-mind, boxed-in, hostile, disabled, unable, and not-interested.

**Learning to deal with ignorance.** We are prisoners of thoughts and words, and actions are often binding. Their content and meaning are chiseled in our perceptions by nurture and social influences, and possibly nature. No matter where one stands, rationality lies in a desire for qualitative change. It calls for an activist and multi-dimensional approach. Even if the overall task

appears daunting and most goals may never be achieved, outcome and consequences of incremental changes are likely to have greater impact over time. It is only prudent to avoid irreversible consequences. Wish carefully, it might come true.

# Against Gods and Humbug

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