

DOSHI BRIDGEBUILDER AWARD 2022

Speech by Navin Doshi

Good evening friends,

Thank you for gracing this event to honor Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, and special thanks to the organizers of this wonderful university; thank you Chris, Robin and all the LMU team members.

A few words about Bridge building: Deep meditation indeed helped Sidhartha to discover the middle path of moderation, balanced blissful mind avoiding the extremes of pain and pleasure. The middle path also helped him discover the conduit to Transcendence, becoming Buddha.

During the first century AD, another Buddhist middle path, Madhyamika, was articulated by the philosopher Nagarjuna. The truth of the middle path was rediscovered centuries later by a Chinese scholar and traveler, Xuanzang, a giant of bridge building. His itinerary included traveling through the grueling terrain of Gansu, steppe upon steppe, enduring the deadly heat of the Gobi desert and the desolate and treacherous ice-peaks of the Pamir Mountains. Xuanzang journeyed enduring long periods of solitude not for any riches; like Siddharta, he sought only the path of Truth.

During a 17 year journey, he traced both the physical and spiritual footsteps of Buddha and Nagarjuna. Walking past the Greco-Indian statues of Gandhara, journeying to the glorious university of Nalanda, he learned about all the Buddhist schools and embraced Yogachara, another middle path founded on both Nagarjuna's and Buddha's middle paths. These were Buddhist metaphysics discovered some 17 centuries before Immanuel Kant's critique of pure reason. Eastern tradition gives more importance to intuition than the intellect constituted of pure reason.

Related to intuitive and intellectual outcomes, a difference had arisen between Tagore and Einstein in matters of objective observation. Tagore intuitively disagreed with Einstein, stating that the participating observer does influence the process of observation resulting into multiple outcomes, in effect supporting Schrodinger's equation of quantum

mechanics and uncertainty of outcome. This is the path of transcendence towards Sunyata, and informs us to stay in the present, the middle of the past and the future, the zeros of Einstein's time and space coordinates, making time and space irrelevant. Only as we plunge into a deep contemplation of this endless profundity, is it possible to discover the purity of absolute vacuity, the effulgent illumination of Nirvana.

The path of moderation was not only espoused by Buddhism, but was taught by a large number of schools in India at that time. It formed the foundation of the teachings of the Katha Upanishad as well as of the Bhagavad Gita, two of Hinduism's principal wisdom texts, perhaps composed shortly after the time of the Buddha. Indian wisdom made its way to the Mediterranean and influenced the thought of Pre-Socratic Greek philosophers.

After Alexander's conquest of Persia in the 4th c. BC, there was even greater exchange of thought and culture between India and Greece. Stoicism founded by Zeno of Citium in Athens, seems to have been one of the schools of Greek philosophical practice influenced by the path of moderation originating in India. Stoicism proclaims that the path of happiness is to remain indifferent and undisturbed by the pleasure and pain which people experience in their lives. By that practice the intellect is unclouded and remains in harmony with the laws of nature.

Today it seems to me that the humanity even at the highest layer of geopolitics is severely polarized. USA and western countries need to be out of the unipolar mind set, and accept the multi-polar world where every country is sovereign. At a professional level, if western countries had let doctors remain autonomous and let them practice their

There are many corollaries to the middle path of moderation. Bridge building and the principle of co-existence are two of them to avoid polarization between a pair of opposites. Please note that Nature's nature is to create pairs of opposites within and without. The dark half of the pair, such as ignorance is also the raw material for the brighter half like wisdom. There is some good in the worst of us and some bad in the best of us. The path for transcendence is to bring balance, harmony, and complementarity between the opposites. Nature is fractal, meaning it is also layered at every level of our existence; specifically the somatic and the psychic layer needs to be autonomous to prolong the life of the order. Though born out of physical energy of the somatic self, the strength of the psychic self is its vision and detachment from worldly matters.

The psychic self of artists and poets is powerless in a material world. It is like an angel flapping its wings, moving against gravity to transcend towards the heavens, with power hungry materialists aiming to shoot it down like a game bird. The western mindset of pure logic needs to be complemented with the traditionally intuitive eastern mindset of compassion and complementarity. Quantum mechanics also supports the primacy of consciousness over the material manifestation. Western belief, "I think therefore I am" needs to be changed to, "I think because I am". Thoughts come and go, and die with the somatic body. But the consciousness or Christhood or the Atman exists for ever.

Today it seems to me that the humanity even at the highest layer of geopolitics is severely polarized. USA and western countries need to be out of the unipolar mind set, and accept the multi-polar world where every country is sovereign. At a professional level, if western countries had let doctors remain autonomous and let them practice their

profession during COVID, tens of thousands of lives would have been saved.

Digital technology is associated with information and culture. But it has been also capitalized and mixed with commodity capital of the somatic self. Power hungry materialists are using and mixing these technologies to take away the freedom of mind and autonomy; they have been proposing implanting microchip in a new born baby; that could result into humanity becoming robotic, receding psychic and philosophic self with the loss of freedom and autonomy.

Macroeconomics of today has been poisoned with public debt of over 140 trillion, with an overhang of \$700 trillion derivative markets. In an environment of shrinking credit and GDP, rising rate of interest and inflation and shrinking productivity, the future is gloomy unless we change the direction towards conforming to the laws of nature.

This year Chris and I agreed to honor Dr. Jay Bhattacharya with the Bridge Builder Award because he is one of the few who showed great boldness with strong sense of responsibility, going against western governments, to manage COVID 19 pandemic. Dr. Bhattacharya along with his two associates penned a document known as The Great Barrington Declaration (GBD) that showed compassion towards the poor, sick and seniors and a path to save lives and money.

Dr. Bhattacharya's concern was the suffering of the old and the poor and the least damage to the fragile economies of developing countries like India. Thousands of workers died in transition due to fatigue and starvation when they were asked to go back to their villages. The release of GBD shattered the notion of consensus favoring the lockdown. Every recommendation of GBD would have helped to manage the pandemic efficiently to the best of my knowledge.

Over 135 thousand individuals and around 10 thousand medical professionals signed approving the resolution during the very first four days. The current count of approval, by my estimation, exceeds a million, probably much more. The GBD was penned by authors based on over hundred years of experience managing pandemics.

Please give a big applause welcoming Dr. Bhattacharya. Thank you

It was an afternoon of enlightenment at Loyola Marymount University during the Doshi Bridgebuilder Award ceremony. Convened in the beautiful modern auditorium of Life Science Building on September 13, 2022, the function started with the poem penned by Mr. Navin Doshi, praising Lord Shiva in his quest to destroy evil and reconstruct good, bringing everyone to truth and beauty: Satyam, Shivam, and Sundaram. This soothing poem-song, delivered extremely well by Vijay Bhatt with perfect pitch and pronunciations of multiple languages, bridged multiple faiths, celebrating humanity in its core. It created an ambiance akin to temple worship, a feast for the heart, mind and ears. Navin Doshi then explained why, through building bridges, we must find again the middle path of the sages and philosophers. Our democratic, pluralistic society calls for a free flow of thoughts, ideas, and dialogues.

The award recipient Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, Professor of Health Policy at Stanford University and research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, provoked the audience with scientific, evidence-based, at times common sense insights that were overlooked by public health authorities throughout the globe during the pandemic. Decisions were made by persons in power that led to the neglect of social, psychological, economic, and educational well-being during Covid-19 pandemic. With his lifelong interest in the plight of vulnerable populations, specifically the elderly, the poor, and children, Dr. Bhattacharya with his two associates penned a document known as the Great Barrington Declaration. The Declaration was signed by over a million professionals and health workers. Lives were saved when suggestions written in the declaration were implemented. I asked him "Are you seeing this in hind sight?" He told me that no, he published an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal early in the pandemic, in October, 2020, that challenged widely-held beliefs and policies. His then-contrary views have now been adopted in many places. In democracies and in open societies, demagoguery be replaced by dialogues and discussions. Bridges must be built for a two way flow of ideas, thoughts, and suggestions.

Dr. Aaron Kheriaty, Chief of Psychiatry and Ethics at DoC Health, provided a commentarial response to the lecture presented by Dr. Bhattacharya. He questioned the constitutionality of lock down policies and expressed concern about the psychological and social impact of decisions made by the authorities during pandemic.

From the opening invocation and the words of Doshi, Bhattacharya, and Kheriaty, we learned an important lesson: open dialogue is essential, and the builders of bridges should be honored.

Dr. Vikram Kamdar

Dr. Bhattacharya's presentation and talk on COVID 19 was very informative and eye opener whereby his research shows that COVID relate lockdowns have done 10 times more harm than good. He stated that lockdown made over 600 million people starve, got into depression and suicide and loss of trillions of dollars of income. World had many viruses over the history of the

world and no one ever did a lockdown in the past, then why for COVID 19? The world should learn a lesson from this and never do lockdowns. Media made it worse by publishing number of affected people, while never talking about millions starving.

Hark Vasa

Invocation written By
DR. NAVIN DOSHI,
Sung by prof. Vijay Bhatt
Satyam Shivam Sundaram

O Supreme cosmos, (hmm...?)
O absolute Brahman (hmmm...?)
O dancing Natarajan,
In symmetry and splendor
O destroyer of the devil
Creating souls with beauty,
Bholenath Ashutosh Shambhu
Vaishnavanam, yatha Shambhu
Showing the path for truth,
In the ocean of love and bliss

Atha atah Brahma Jigyasa
Janma adi yasa yatah
Primeval cause of all causes,
Of creation, sustenance and destruction
Manifested universe for us to play
Hari Om tat-sat, Hari Om tat-sat
Om Namaḥ Shivāya, Om Namaḥ Shivāya

O dancing Natarajan,
In symmetry and splendor
Guiding us to transcend,
From Somatic to psychic,
Towards the spiritual self,

No more anger no more hate,
In ocean of love for truth in bliss
Hold on to that state, never let go,
Hold on, yes hold on, never let go

Effulgent light of infinite photons
Undivided enlightening for truth
In ocean of love for truth in bliss
Mind in state of Sat-Chit-Ananda

O supreme cosmos, O absolute Brahman
O dancing Natarajan, In effulgence and bliss

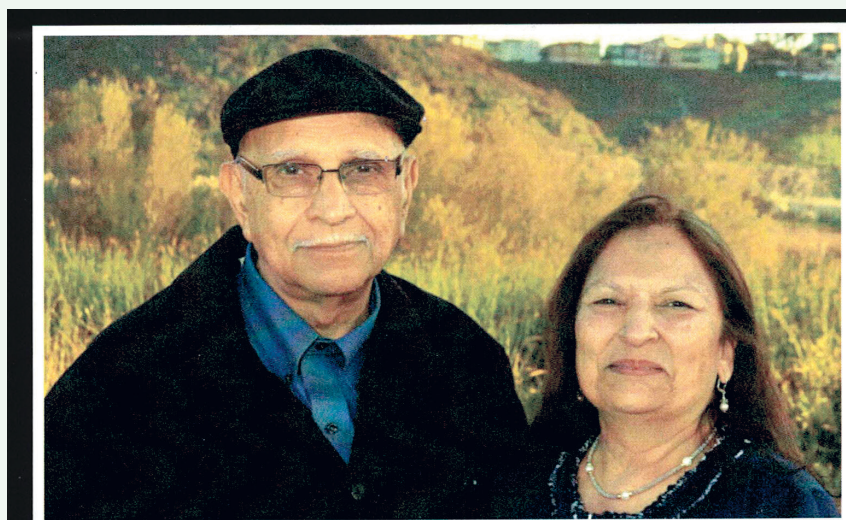
Human mind having no location
Like photons having no position
Searching for absolute truth
Devoid of anger and hate
Devoid of pain and pleasure

Mind full of love and compassion
Now in light of absolute truth
Enter the field of infinite gravity,
Singularity OR a black hole

Beyond Nature's space and time
Out of manifested matters and forms
No more Maya veiling Brahman
Within the Reality of pure being,
The Reality of supreme consciousness

Aham Bija pradaḥ piṭā
Mayam etam taranti te

Pragyānam Brahma;
Tat twam asi
Ayam Ātma Brahma;
Aham Brahmāsmi
Yes, we are all divine.
O supreme Cosmos,
We are all conscious,
We are one Brahman
Self-conscious Brahman
Hari Om tat-sat,
Om Namaḥ Shivāya,
Satyam Shivam Sundaram,
Satyam Shivam Sundaram



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Navin and Pratima Doshi have been active philanthropists, promoting the value of education and world peace. They also support fundraising activities and oversee consultancy for numerous projects relating to Indic traditions, world culture and higher education.

Navin Doshi grew up in Mumbai, India, and came to the United States in 1958 after completing his undergraduate studies at Puna Engineering College and the L.D. Engineering College of Gujarat University where he earned his Bachelor of Engineering degree. He completed a second bachelor's degree and a master's degree in electrical engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. In 1960, he moved to Los Angeles to begin a Ph.D. program in engineering at UCLA.

Navin worked as an aerospace engineer at TRW, now Northrop Grumman, where he was the recipient of NASA awards and U.S. patents. During this time, Navin and his wife, Pratima, started a business importing velvet patchwork bedspreads. He also engaged in residential income properties and financial investment instruments.

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With JB, Harkisan Vasa and Suru Manek



With Pratima, JB, and Chris Chapple.



Dr. Doshi's introduction about Bridge Builder Award and introduction of Dr. Bhattacharya, Prof. Chapple helping him.



Dr. Vandana (daughter) and Bhanu Sardesai.



Dr. Doshi, Dr. Bhattacharya and Dr. Kheriaty (left to right).