

Renewing our hope and closing the “tragic gap”

Alex Shevrin Venet

The tragic gap

“Of all the tensions we must hold in personal and political life, perhaps the most fundamental and most challenging is standing and acting with hope in the ‘tragic gap.’

On one side of that gap, we see the hard realities of the world, realities that can crush our spirits and defeat our hopes. **On the other side of that gap**, we see real-world possibilities, **life as we know it could be because we have seen it that way.**

We see a world at war, but we have known moments of peace. We see racial and religious enmity, but we have known moments of unity. We see suffering caused by unjust scarcities, but we have known moments of material and spiritual sharing in which abundance was generated.

Possibilities of this sort are not wishful dreams or fantasies, **they are alternative realities that we have witnessed in our own lives.”**

Parker J. Palmer, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*

**“I see...but I have
known moments
of...”**

Share your view as you look across
the tragic gap.

both

and

“In every generation, we must try again to close the gap between our reality and our aspirations. That gap will always be open, and the hearts of those who try to close it will always be broken.”

Parker J. Palmer, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*

**The process is the
point.**

**Dreaming is
necessary**

“The painful path *is* the hopeful path.”

Jeffrey Duncan-Andrade

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**What would it look
like for us to move
from the
broken-heartedness?**

We can't do it all, *and* we can each find a place to begin.

Let's begin.