

Our Greatest Nurturing Force — The Family Heart
by Neal Shaw Blaisdell

Throughout recorded history man has reached out for the stars, hoping through his acquired knowledge to improve his society and at the same time find personal fulfillment.

This pursuit, the never-ending search for knowledge, has been a joy to all ages of man. It has been the fuel that has fired the human machine and lifted us above the lower orders of life. It has brought us, today, beyond the curtain of darkness, which envelops our small planet Earth.

Yet in this path of awesome discovery, we must pause periodically to re-evaluate our relationship to God and Man. I think we are ready for such a pause. We are rapidly losing sight of the most important earthly element of life itself — the family.

Our schools, parishes, military service, business associates, secret societies and other organizations all compete unknowingly to replace the family unit as the basic social unit. We must reverse this trend and once again strive to renew in our hearts that feeling of sanctity which belongs solely to our families and to our homes.

[Nothing can be compared] to the rewards within the family of seeing children grow tall and strong, wise and honest — for these are the fulfillment of family love and are immensely real. The enduring social unit which has anchored all of history to the good earth is the family.

We need to re-establish the warmth and solace of the home, the true meaning of family life with the daily sharing of joys and triumphs, defeats and sorrows, for it is from this stream of triumphant life that all human accomplishments flow.

For too long our world has marched to the urgent music of materialism. It is time for quiet moments, in a world where noise is mistaken for action. We must re-examine the meaningful things of life to learn, if we can, where our fundamental loyalties lie and what is the fountainhead of a joyful, hopeful and purposeful existence.

I am convinced, in all humility, that life itself, all human accomplishments, must grow from roots established in the greatest nurturing force we have — the family heart.

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Excerpted from a guest editorial he wrote while Mayor of Honolulu, 1955-1969.
Submitted by his nephew, **Richard Kekuni Akana Blaisdell**, Honolulu.