Whose millennium is it anyway?

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In January 2001 we are entering a new millennium. The media has been making such a fuss about this so called new beginning. What is about this thing called the millennium that makes it different than any other? Why is it so important? The millennium is not a moment marked out in time by the universe, by the seasons or by the stars. The millennium is an illusion; but it is a useful and powerful illusion through which we become more real. It is our way of saying that our existence is significant. It is a moment we have marked in timelessness. As Woody Allen said, "it is a human moment; it is us making a celebration, a drama, a brick in the wall of eternity, we are marking the infinite". Most of us will want to take the opportunity this moment offers us to reflect on how we have come to this point and where we are going in the future.

The millennium is the time when a large part of humanity ponders over the questions of time, death, new beginnings, regeneration, faith, and the unknown. It is taken by everyone to be the end of something old and the start of something new, a staging post on our common journey. The millennium is a moment when the world comes together and shares its perspective on the past and the future. Although it may be just a number on a calendar, it holds a much deeper significance for us all.

So, whose millennium is it anyway? Is it going to be the millennium of science and high technology only? Science has truly conquered many diseases, broken the genetic code and even placed human beings on the moon. It has truly improved our way of living (for example: Can you imagine life without running water, cars, airplanes or elevators?); it has taught us how to preserve food for a longer period of time, and it has brought the comfort of home appliances. But where is science when one ponders over the eternal riddles? How did the universe originate? Is there any form of life on other planets? Did the matter begin with an explosion or by the holy word of God?

Some argue that the next millennium will be one of faith - a rediscovery of our spiritual values such as love, tolerance, and harmony. The next millennium is not going to be one of religion in its traditional sense. Contemporary man finds himself in the midst of a crisis of faith. Therefore, we will want to assess our lives, our history, our sense of direction, and the challenges ahead, not just as individuals but as communities, as nations, perhaps even as a world. This moment will give us the chance to draw together in ways which otherwise would be impossible. The millennium is a pause for reflection, an attempt to know us better, and an opportunity - even an excuse - to search for meanings in the past as well as in the future.

Whose millennium is it anyway?

The new millennium belongs to you! You will make the decisions. It is your responsibility, your challenge, and your opportunity to make the best of your education here at DBCC. It will not be an easy task, but the rewards are worth your effort.

Take the challenge! Good luck!