

## “Quaker Queries Conscientious Buying Triggering Positive”

(6 tweet thread at <https://twitter.com/StefanPasti/status/1725076545885094200> )

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(6 pages; November 14, 2023)

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“Quaker's often use what they call #queries

as a focus for individual and collective meditation, consideration and prayer, guiding #Quaker seekers in their search for greater love, truth, and insight into how to serve humanity, live lives consistent with their core values.”

### **Quaker Queries** (‘The object is to stir the conscience...’)

1) “Queries can be self-created, group-created, or drawn up by higher Quaker authorities as official mandates for exploration. They are intended as questions to live with and into.” 2) “At a personal level, queries can be used to probe-in-depth into some issue or concern, seeking the truth of one's deepest responses to it. One writer suggests: ‘The object is to stir the conscience in a gentle but firm way, and, through self-examination, to bring about a change or reaffirmation of attitude or behavior.’ Others describe a query as a way of opening themselves to divine guidance and transformation which, as in other forms of earnest prayer, can happen instantly. 3) “In some Quaker traditions, the queries are used collectively to derive a ‘sense of the meeting’, an explicit, shared awareness of where they are at as a spiritual community of seekers, how they are doing, where they have fallen short, or where they want to go. Sometimes Quaker meetings (which are organizationally analogous to churches or temples) will share with each other their communal responses to the same queries, seeking support from each other in living more Quakerly lives. 4) “Queries, suggests Quaker lecturer Martin Grundy, can provide an occasion ‘to take a piece of the spiritual life of the meeting and examine--wrestle with--our understanding of how we are called to live as Friends,.... an opportunity for a corporate discipline of paying attention to what God might have to teach us.... Careful and prayerful consideration of the queries can be the outward structure that melds the individuals and the faith community together....”

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13 examples of "Queries"-below

11. "When a members conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?"

13. "Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions?"

"While My Guitar Gently Weeps" Beatles

<https://bit.ly/3F5MT8I>

#Cop28UAE

**Here are 13 specific examples of "Queries"** 1) "Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship, and for a life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?" 2) "Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs, and in service to society?" 3) "Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peace-keeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence?" 4) "Are you concerned for responsible use of natural resources and their nurture for future generations?" 5) "Do you try to avoid wasteful consumption and pollution?" 6) "Are you working towards the removal of social injustices? Have you attempted to examine their causes objectively, and are you ready to abandon old prejudices and think again?" 7) "Do any of your interests, important though they may appear to you, unduly absorb your time and energy to the hindrance of your growth in grace and of your service to God?" 8) "Are you loyal to the truth?" 9) "When pressure is brought to bear upon you to lower your standards, are you prepared to resist it?" 10) "Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends?" 11) "When a members conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?" 12) "Are you sufficiently conversant with our Christian Discipline to be able, when difficult questions arise, to consider them with an informed mind as well as a loving and tender spirit?" 13) "Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions?" [from "[The IPCR Newsletter/Journal Spring 2005](#)" issue (14p; 2005) (<https://www.cpsi.org/about-earlier-ipcr-initiative> )

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We need to ask ourselves many questions  
before believing  
military force leads to #peace

Ex from Conscientious Objector form

“Describe actions and behavior in your life which most conspicuously demonstrate the consistency, depth of your religious convictions”

more exs below

Re Conscientious Objector Status (World War II; United States)

“During World War II, all registrants were sent a questionnaire covering basic facts about their identification, physical condition, history, and also provided a checkoff to indicate opposition to military service because of religious training or belief. Men marking the latter option received a DSS 47 form with ten questions:

- 1) Describe the nature of your belief which is the basis of your claim.
- 2) Explain how, when, and from whom or from what source you received the training and acquired the belief which is the basis of your claim.
- 3) Give the name and present address of the individual upon whom you rely most for religious guidance.
- 4) Under what circumstances, if any, do you believe in the use of force?
- 5) Describe the actions and behavior in your life which in your opinion most conspicuously demonstrate the consistency and depth of your religious convictions.
- 6) Have you ever given public expression, written or oral, to the views herein expressed as the basis for your claim made above? If so, specify when and where.
- 7) Have you ever been a member of any military organization or establishment? If so, state the name and address of same and give reasons why you became a member.
- 8) Are you a member of a religious sect or organization?
- 9) Describe carefully the creed or official statements of said religious sect or organization as it relates to participation in war.
- 10) Describe your relationships with and activities in all organizations with which you are or have been affiliated other than religious or military.”

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“If indeed peacebuilding is about addressing, transforming root causes of conflicts, there is great deal of peacebuilding work to be done in those societies benefiting from the global system at the expense of generating injustice, crises in other societies.” (Hizkias Assefa)

A. “Duties of consumer—when buying an article of everyday use, one has to take into account the full repercussions of one’s transaction 1) one should know where the article comes from 2) who makes the article 3) from what material 4) under what conditions do the workers live and work 5) what proportion of the final price do they get as wages 6) how is the rest of the money distributed 7) how is the article produced 8) how does the industry fit into the national economy” (p. 58-59)

B. “Village Industries--a) those that manufacture indispensable articles needed in villages and for villagers b) using processes within the easy reach of villagers c) with the help of tools and implements falling within the financial capacity of the villagers carrying on the industry d) utilizing local raw materials e) with the aid of human or animal power f) meeting the demand of local or nearby markets g) not causing displacement of labor or unemployment among wage earners (from J.C. Kumarappa, but cannot find source)

C. “If we feel it is beyond us to guarantee the concomitant results of all our transactions, it necessarily follows that we must limit our transactions to a circle well within our control. This is the bed rock of swadeshi... The smaller the circumference, the more accurately can we gauge the results of our actions, and (the) more conscientiously shall we be able to fulfill our obligations as trustees.” (p.60)

[From “Why the Village Movement?” by J.C. Kumarappa The All India Village Industries Wardha, C.P, 1946 (at <https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.118819>) (using page numbers in the book)]

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“It should be possible to design land use systems which approach solar energy harvesting capacities of natural systems while providing humanity w/ its needs =original premise of #permaculture concept”  
in “Energy and Permaculture” David Holmgren <https://bit.ly/3m1uP7t>  
+below

**Reduce energy demand much further,  
in #PermacultureResilient communities**

- 1) Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (in that order).
- 2) Grow a garden and eat what it produces.
- 3) Avoid imported resources where possible.
- 4) Use labor and skill in preference to materials and technology.
- 5) Design, build, and purchase for durability and repairability.
- 6) Use resources for their greatest potential use (e.g. electricity for tools and lighting, food scraps for animal feed).
- 7) Use renewable resources wherever possible even if local environmental costs appear higher (e.g. wood rather than electricity for fuel and timber rather than steel for construction).
- 8) Use non-renewable and embodied energies primarily to establish sustainable systems (e.g. passive solar housing, food gardens, water storage, forests).
- 9) When using high technology (e.g. computers) avoid using state of the art equipment.
- 10) Avoid debt and long-distance commuting.
- 11) Reduce taxation by earning less.
- 12) Develop a home-based lifestyle, be domestically responsible.

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Communities #everywhere

#CommunityVisioning

+Neighborhood LearningCenters

+selective buying

+#emergencyaid

can

=#NetZero #Permaculture habitats

=more opportunities for #rightlivelihood

"Growing Wisdom, #Compassion

in Small Communities (13 Steps)"

<https://bit.ly/3rxOTCu>

From "Triggering Positive Social, Environmental, Economic, and Cultural Tipping Points" (p. 17-18)

(link in profile)

1. "Thousands of local Community Visioning Initiatives, in communities around the world, can activate the most possible human participation (by way of 6-12 months of workshops, meetings, brainstorming, and prioritizing challenges and solutions) (with the process repeated periodically in the future), and help build a high level of consensus for specific action plans in the shortest amount of time, with support from-- universities, colleges, and thousands of positive tipping point related organizations and institutions creating related curriculum--and offering resources, classes, workshops, and teacher training to maximize the identification of challenges and solutions during the Community Visioning process."

2. "Through workshops and other informal education (and associated local learning networks), citizens can gain greater awareness of how all the "little events" in everyday community life have a positive and cumulative effect on the challenges-solutions-investment-training-employment sequence... and thus how all the investments of time, energy, and money (the "votes") each of us make in our everyday circumstances become the larger economy. People from every variety of circumstances can learn how to wisely cast such "votes". Wisely directed, such "votes" can result in countless ways of earning a living which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to drastically reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and minimize other related challenges. As the ancient Chinese proverb says: "Many hands make much work light."