



Sooner or later for some of you, the title, the clothes, the bank account, all the comfort will not be enough. At some point some of you will need to feel that your life has touched and influenced, for the better, a world larger than the one that ends in your backyard.

You will see how peace in this country and world peace are connected, how our personal prosperity and the common good are one. You will see connections between our freedom and our obligations.

I hope some of you will accept the ancient Hebrew instruction, echoed in our age by the great French paleontologist and priest Teilhard de Chardin—*Tikkun Olam*—"Our role is to help heal the universe."

We need you. It is as simple as that. We need you to take what we pass on to you and make something better. That is part of the American dream—that each succeeding generation will be a little smarter, a little stronger, a little surer than the one that preceded it.

I believe Teilhard was right when he wrote: "The day will come when, after harnessing the ether, the winds, the tides, gravitation, we shall harness for God the active energies of love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we will have discovered fire."

You already have the spark in your eye.

Mario Cuomo, Governor of New York

*Excerpted from Commencement Address
May 23, 1994*