

INTERNAL SELF-TRANSFORMATION AND EXTERNAL FORMS OF WORLD VIEW DIALOGUE

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When we think of the world we live in and the dangers that planet is facing, we may think of recycling. This is a word that is becoming more and more popular today. What is the importance of recycling? Today we are becoming a culture of waste. We hear that if the entire world lived as they do in the United States, we would need 4 planets to supply the needs of the inhabitants of Earth. Everything is disposable. But there is a price for that and we call it waste.

We waste water, the natural resources are becoming more and more polluted, we need filters to clean the contaminated water.

We can sort out our rubbish in order to recycle plastic that can be converted into new plastic; glass can be reutilized or also become new glass; paper can be converted into recycled paper and what is organic becomes fertilizer to improve the soil for new crops, saving up raw material to produce new products.

We can also think that "bad people should be transformed into good people". A simple way of looking at this problem may lead us to think that if the world was composed of good people that recycled their rubbish and respected nature – not destroying forests, not polluting rivers – also respected other human beings and animals – then all the problems would be solved.

I do think these external attitudes as recycling rubbish, respecting nature (including its inhabitants – minerals, plants, animals and human beings), is essential, but I believe the root of this problem is deeper, it is not enough that the person becomes ecologically correct in order to solve all the problems of the planet.

We may ask ourselves: if it is so obvious that people should be ecologically correct, why some are not?

We can simplify the answer with two personal pronouns, the "I" and the "we".

When we think about the people that are not ecologically correct we may conclude that they are on the "I" ("me"), attitude, trying to hold and take advantage for themselves, not caring about the future of the planet, not even the future generations, what matters is the satisfaction of the "I".

But when we assume the pronoun "we", it is completely different. Is it worthwhile to take an immediate advantage of any situation if this action will be the cause of future problems for others and also for oneself?

We may ask why some people (few) assume the pronoun "we" and the great majority assume the "I"? Is it an educational problem? Or it is an existential condition?

There is a book written by HPB, which I like very much, called "The Voice of the Silence". There, in aphorism 107, we find the following statement: "Alas, alas, that all men should possess Alaya, be one with the great Soul, and that possessing it, Alaya should so little avail them! "

What is the meaning of the word Alaya? Alaya means universal soul, cosmic mind, the substrate, the essence where we have our origin, God, the Unity of Life.

Does that mean that there is a universal soul and we all belong to it? But it is also true that generally speaking it "so little avails us". The great majority of people, although having Alaya as his or her essence, do not profit from the gift.

In other words, can we say that there is a mistaken condition where we somehow lose the awareness of our original nature and think that we are separated from the others?

Let's take an example from the Hindu tradition. There was a man who wanted to become free. So he did his practice of meditation every day for a long time. But he had a problem: he had a cat and the cat used to come near him exactly when he was meditating, disturbing his concentration. Then he had an idea: he decided to buy a rope and used it to tie the cat during his practice to the chair leg. He kept on his practice of meditation for a long time, got illuminated, arrived to the state of Nirvana. Soon people started to realize his achievement. He created an ashram, had disciples and the first thing his disciples did – they bought ropes and cats in order to tie them to the chair legs.

That is how superstitions are created; people take the accessories as principal, as if the rope and the cat were responsible for his illumination.

Of course, this is a mistake. In the Christian context this mistake is called "sin".

"Sin" is the translation of the word "amartia" and it means "missing the target". When we take the accessory as principal that is sin, we are mistaken; we hit the periphery of the target and not the center. What should we do then? We have to try again, don't we? Until the moment we develop the ability to see properly.

The worst part of this is that the consequences of the loss of the consciousness of our true nature is not limited to ourselves, many times they generate important social manipulations. Some "smart" people with not exactly good motives create "waves" of superstition, generating prejudice, hate, disputes, etc.

If we watch the movies "Schindler's List" or "The Pianist" we see clearly these manipulations. What is astonishing is the level of education of the German people when they were deluded by the Nazism. The German government, after losing the First World War, signed some treaties that were suffocating from the economical point of view. It was the time of the Second Industrial Revolution; some countries produced much, but did not have markets to sell their products. In this environment Hitler tried to exalt the superiority of the Arian race, making people think that although they were in a bad economical situation, they were racially superior and because of that had the right to subdue all the world to their superiority. But racial superiority did not solve the immediate problems of the lack of money. What to do? Say that the Jews were an impure race, take their goods, kill them and everything is solved. The Jews, after a long history of political persecution, kept themselves united as a nation, but with no country. Because of that, if not for other reasons, to save money has always been their priority. In this scenario a Jew killed a German man in Paris, that was the pretext to attack businessmen in Munich. It is considered that 6.000.000 Jews died in what is called Holocaust. If we think that Jesus was a Jew, would He expect that from the German Christians?

We can also talk about Northern Ireland, or the slave ships where only few Negroes used to arrive alive to America or to the place where they were supposed to be sold. They "had no soul". We can conclude that the motives of these tragedies were economical, not religious.

The essence of religions is: "love God above all and your neighbor as yourself". What is the meaning of that? All religions affirm that God is omnipresent, that means God is everywhere, in us, in the air, in plants, in buildings, in animals, in everything that exists.

We can say that everything is formed of subatomic particles and they are the essence of everything that exists. This essence is also called God. It forms the molecules, cells, organisms, beings that think they are different, losing the consciousness that they are the same subatomic particles arranged in a particular manner.

My understanding is that there are small and big changes we have to make to improve the world we live in. But there is one that is essential: to recover Alaya consciousness, our true inner being. And this is called spirituality. In order to practice this spirituality, to recover Alaya consciousness, we have to live in a way that would make possible to recover the consciousness of our essential nature, God, that is everywhere.

How do we do that? Every religion tells us how to get closer to our original nature, God, Alaya, through different methods and we may call them different methods of meditation. Christianity talks about Prayer, Judaism Kabala, Muslims Sufi, Hindus Mantras, Buddhists Meditation and Africans Rituals. These are all means for us to get closer to God, to our essential nature, to the "subatomic particles" of life.

The Hindus say, be like the sandal tree that perfumes the axe that hurts it and Christians say, when someone hits your face, give the other cheek. Are they not saying the same thing? In Christianity we also find the expression "love thy enemies". How is it possible to love one's enemy? Only if we are love; if love flows from us to everyone and everything that exists. This is only possible if we get closer to our divine nature, to God, to the essence of our being that is love and truth. But religions don't talk only about God, they say that we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves. How is that possible? Realizing that we are sons and daughters of the same Father, we are brothers and sisters; we are "all in the same boat" so to say.

How can we change the world around us? Changing ourselves, getting deeper and deeper into spirituality. Through spirituality we get to know our true nature, helping each other and the planet we live in, becoming happier and more and more caring about the inhabitants of this planet (minerals, plants, animals and human beings).