

Experiencing the Collective: Moving from Struggle & Blame to Love & Cooperation

Dear Dharma brothers and sisters,

Christopher has invited me to address a few words concerning the Peacewalk that happened on September 11th in Nuremberg, Germany. I had decided this significant date and place to be ideal conditions for healing and forgiveness, being disappointed by the way the collective consciousness was once again dealing with a severe conflict: searching for guilt and blame!

During the actual economic crisis the collective formed by us individuals has easily found someone to blame and to make guilty: the greed of some bank managers! 8 years ago the responsibility for the act of violence was given to a person called “Osama Bin Laden” and more than 60 years back the responsibility for the holocaust was given to a person called “Adolf Hitler”. We are really progressing in the sense that we are moving from persons to groups which is a step closer to ourselves. Deeply understanding spirituality or modern science we can't escape the fact that there is no other to blame beyond the projection of the mind. Greed is a driving force in all of us, it's just a convenient old habit to pass the responsibility to others. The separation in consciousness creates me and the other, man and nature, the inner and outer life. As an unavoidable consequence of the separation the feeling of fear arises, fear of the other, fear of nature, fear of life itself. In order to get rid of the feeling of fear, we start fighting its projected cause: the other, nature, the inner and outer life, finally fighting life in its totality. On top of this mental confusion, the self regards oneself as the victim of external events, actions and circumstances.

It requires the support of the collective to enable single persons or groups of persons to commit massive acts of violence. Being aware of the collective responsibility as a German and passing Nazi monuments during the Peacewalk in Nuremberg, a deep wish for healing and forgiveness has arisen, the question came up: “How can we collectively create a different world, a peaceful world?”

Merely to remember the violence is not enough, that doesn't change the collective pattern of selfishly living on the cost of the other. Fighting our own fear of the other, we try to defeat the other, to sacrifice him and to avoid being the victims ourselves.

There is definitely a need for a positive collective cooperation. And we really have a challenging task to do. The collective pattern of fighting and exploiting each other has gained such a force that it is turning our planet into a desert and graveyard. Can we forgive the past instead of repeating patterns of blame, guilt and destruction? Can we allow old wounds to heal that still affect actual conflicts? Can we overcome the separation and begin to cooperate and to collaborate for the preservation of life on our planet? The current mass destruction through the collective consciousness and lifestyle of our civilization is another act of brutal violence. And simultaneously this is our present chance to grow as human beings in consciousness, to really start living together.

Therefore let's see clearly what the economic crisis reveals: the consciousness of separation, separation between me and the other, human and earth, mind (spirit) and matter, inner and outer world, is getting transformed into a consciousness of interconnectedness and unity. The scientifically supported materialistic self-perception has justified an economic system to pursuit happiness in material possession and consumption:

As a consequence of the separation of mind and matter, the material realm has been considered to be the real one. This fact seemed to be proven by physics which had

successfully shown that the material world has neither been created nor been influenced by any higher spiritual being. The world appeared to be a product of pure natural laws. Therefore the spiritual existence was completely rejected which was an act of liberation after centuries of privileged spiritual interpretations of the mundane by the Catholic Church. Therefore the collective consciousness, now completely identified with the material sphere, was bound to pursuit happiness in the materialism, having successfully removed any spiritual aspect of existence and along with it any sense of interconnectedness. Within that mental frame it seems to be quite logical that a collective struggle of existence, a fight for the possession and consumption of the material products, has been established in the economic market structure. Living on a limited planet with limited resources, the scarcity became a major problem for the material desire. Economic growth was invented to solve that issue by producing more and more material “goods”, so that we can all pursue happiness in possession and consumption.

Honestly looking at ourselves and the planet, growth and consumption seem to fail as means for happiness. Power, possession, position and wealth don't make people happier, in spite of the entire economic effort to prove that it should. Obviously we are just experiencing the constant dissatisfaction of the material pursuit of happiness. The exploitation of human life and natural resources by living on the cost of others, the sacrifice of freedom and independence by power and control has caused a miserable state of being for both parties, the exploiter as well as the exploited. The fear and failure of dualistic separation as a means for happiness is revealed by the constant thirst for more, the need for economic growth.

Along with these realizations, the entire mental structure around the consciousness of separation is collapsing. As an inevitable consequence, the economic structure of struggle for survival and mutual exploitation is bound to pass! The separation has fulfilled its purpose in the growth of consciousness towards freedom. But now we need to let it go in order to step further. We have a new challenge, an enormous task to do: *Which world are we creating just now?* Freedom and responsibility are inseparably one, we cannot claim to be free and at the same time we keep on projecting responsibility and blaming others. There is no one to carry our self-responsibility, no one to liberate us, no one to make us enlightened, no one else to create another world for us, but there are billions of brothers and sisters for mutual support.

I would be delighted if particularly Germans and Jewish created a healing partnership in the uplift of the collective consciousness. Instead of holding on to the suffering of the collective burden don't we rather prefer to live in the creation of collective brotherhood and joy? The most effective remedy for healing is love – love as our own relationship to every thought, every feeling and every action. Let there be love - love for oneself, love for the other, love for the human beings, love for the nature, love for the spirit, love for the matter, love for the inner life and love for the outer life! Maybe in this spirit we can start another Peacewalk next September 11th: Germans and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians, Christians and Muslims, Men and Women of Mother Earth, Sons and Daughters of the One Life. I would be glad to receive your response, especially from Israel.

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