

The Art of Realizing a Unifying Spirituality

1. From different perspectives we are getting aware of the urgent need to give answers to the world-wide crisis that manifests as a crisis in our natural environment and that is felt to be deeply linked to a spiritual crisis of contemporary mankind as a whole. Crisis means uncertainty and also a renewed chance of birthing into conscious self-evolution. Let's have a creative look at exploring the foundations of an evolutionary network and spiritual forum to meet the challenges of our times.

There is a special time in history (*kairos*) when the spark of the *Spirit* lifts our spirits up to a higher level of consciousness and propels us to acknowledge our thoughts and inspirations as not being mere 'theory' but embodied collective Intention.

As *cultural creatives* we can now recognize the chance to convert our often felt aloneness into all-oneness, our individual and idiosyncratic inspirations can constructively converge into a common Aspiration, acknowledging the spirit of *interdependence* of our institutions and centres in their desire to 'conspire', and 'co-enlighten' one another in a transdisciplinary and transpersonal perspective.

2. A '*philosophy of creative spaces*' may serve to manifest the space of the '*inter*': *inter-spiritual* as based on intersubjective, interaffective, interdisciplinary, interreligious, intercontextual, interconnecting, interrelating, international... experiences; and the '*cross*': cross-cultural, cross-paradigmatic; and the *beyond*: acquiring experiential wisdom beyond knowledge, seeking spiritual insights that are universal in nature, existing in and beyond creeds and religions, exclusivist or inclusivist; and the '*trans*': transdisciplinary, transformative, transpersonal..., seen as ways of *integration*, as transformative practices to experience and live (more) wholeness.

As never before we are connecting with worlds of cultural differences, constantly crossing frontiers; and, as never before our identity is being challenged, undergoing permanent philosophical and psychological deconstruction and reconstruction work. Seeking our identity, we are becoming 'pilgrims' in a secular world, on a quest to find a space to define as our own. The space that manifests in the experience of the *inter*-, *cross*-, *beyond* and *trans*-, highlights that space where crises are experienced, where life-changing transformations happen and many forms of transitioning through feelings of inner fragmentation or temporary lack of existential poise; 'normalcy' is not supportive anymore; deep inner completeness and fulfilment seem to be a fake and the 'soul' inaccessible. However, this same space, delineating what separates and defines us on a three-dimensional level, is at the same time that space where we tap into the luminous universal wisdom, are transported into subtle states of altered consciousness, connecting with the 'akashic field', the 'noosphere', Spirit. Experiences of crisis and change turn into experiences of enlightenment and open up to the *transpersonal* field of archetypal resources that have a unifying momentum. A universal space of interconnectedness becomes accessible, a space to experience unity in diversity and diversity in unity, by safeguarding the space for each one's uniqueness to blossom. Only an ethics that gives room for the unfathomable otherness of the other allows for the individual to breathe.

3. Art is expressive of *freedom*. More freedom from internal conditioning and outside determination, as much as possible, is as much the happy result of a grace received as an arduous endeavour of transformative practice, of contemplative concentration. The Art of Creating a Unifying Spirituality does not endorse any aesthetics of resistance to reality, of the distant uninvolved observer or of spiritual bypassing. It departs from the open sensitivity to the world in both its exciting beauty and existential dramas of inequalities calling for compassion and commitment. As knowledge discerns but also separates and isolates elements and parts, love ‘sees’ the whole, combines opposites and resourcefully invents new forms of human harmony.

The Art of Creating a Unifying Spirituality is based on the experience of freedom, of the artful unfolding and playful use of personal resources indispensable to establish a unity in oneself and in the collective fabric – l’unité fait la force. The part of genius in each of us, the God within, provides and provokes the specific contribution needed for this planet to heal.

The mystics of all traditions affirm the presence of the divine wisdom at the heart of reality with each of us constituting the subjective hub of a worldwide net in which we communicate and that is held together, also, by the sum total of individual efforts and generosity. In such a panentheistic perspective, we self-evolving conscious beings manifest the unfolding of Divine Consciousness.

4. *Integration* is what *yoga* (from Sanskrit “yuj” to unite) is tending to achieve, the union with oneself, with others, with the Other, the Divine. This project is about a *yoga of integration*, comprising all aspects of life as a path of spiritual integration. No technique will do this, no fixed rules can bring forth what only the art of individual integration can achieve. We are all *artists of our yoga of integration*.

The art of creating a unifying spirituality is the *art of integration* : to integrate the poetry of our heart into the prose of everyday existence ; to integrate the highest intuitions of our consciousness into practices of transforming ourselves and our environment.

Today’s urgent need is to enhance the conditions of integrating the plethora of data that are now instantly available to us via the world wide web. To existentially deal with this acceleration of time and the overflow of information, to flow with it without being carried away, integrative transformative practices of mindful awareness help to keep us in the flow, on a yogic path, drawing from the resources of the wisdom and contemplative traditions of the East and the West. The paths are as many as there are human beings.

Enlightenment can not be organized, but the light that shines in every human can be highlighted in a way that the dormant potential of personal freedom is found more easily accessible. In support of such a vision, an evolutionary network and spiritual forum is a chance to function as an independent interface at the service of yet unforeseen synchronicities waiting to manifest.

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