

“THE FUTURE WE WANT”- A THEOSOPHICAL RETROSPECTIVE

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Course 370

Considered the most important event of the decade, the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, also known as Rio+20, was an initiative of the United Nations, a Conference on Sustainable Development which provided all cultures and countries many opportunities to gather and discuss new paradigms and pathways towards a “safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all”... It entailed a revision of the event held in 1992, also in Rio, when countries elaborated, approved and adopted the **Agenda 21** as well as the **Treaty on Environmental Education for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility**, an important blueprint to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure governmental protection, both still active.

Our purpose here is to share with our readers some of the main aspects that were discussed, as well as relate them to the teachings of Master D.K. through the writings of AAB concerning the problems of humanity and others. The event had the participation of all the three main sectors of society: the public/political, private/economic and civil society/third sector. Their ideas were compared to the main universal principles of the Divine Plan and work of the Hierarchy and of the New Group of World Servers, with the perception that not only ideas but aspirations were in common, since we share the benefits of our times, provided by science, technology, internet, globalization and integration of peoples and cultures. However, we were all very much aware that the civilization model we presently have has no sustainable future, as we witness millions of people still suffering from starvation and hunger, illnesses, climatic changes and the perverse effects of capitalism all over the world. To identify the roots of chaos and crises demands a very broad comprehension of all aspects of our civilization, perhaps a Herculean feat, but if we were having the intention of helping and cooperating with our limited means, the doors were open to participation.

Our main source of consultation and inspiration in the ‘lighted side of our human vision’ was the book “Problems of Humanity: Building Right Human Relations”, written by AAB; we focused on Chapter 4 which deals with Capital, Labor and Employment, since these aspects are cornerstones of the present struggles. The book “Education in the New Age”, with which we are most directly involved due to our present work with education at the Project Star of Peace, was consulted as well.

KEY STATEMENT

“The key to humanity’s trouble (focusing as it has in the economic difficulties of the past two hundred years and in the theological impasse of the orthodox churches) has been to take and not give, to accept and not share, to grasp and not

to distribute. This has involved the breaking of a law which has placed humanity in a position of positive guilt. War is the dire penalty which mankind has had to pay for this great sin of separateness.”

Alice A. Bailey

(PROBLEMS OF HUMANITY- Introduction)

THE PROBLEM OF CAPITAL, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

“The problem of capital, labour and employment brings us face to face with some of the most fundamental issues on humanity’s path towards right relations...Those who are working for the spiritual transformation of humanity are not ‘on the side’ of the one human family. The economics of right relations is based on the principles of sharing and distribution. At the same time it is important to leave individuals and corporations relatively free in order to stimulate creativity and the capacity to generate (and share) wealth. For sharing to become a keynote of the new civilization, however, freedom will have to be balanced by responsibility. The freedom of the market must be tempered by regulation and management if poverty is to be eliminated. The healthy global economy of the future will stimulate local economic activity in all areas, facilitate equitable distribution of resources, and ensure that economic activity develops in **sustainable ways.**”

Alice A. Bailey

During the preparatory months and during the event *per se* (that) these issues of Capital, Labour and Employment underlined all major discussions. It is thus necessary that we now understand what is meant by the word ‘**SUSTAINABILITY**’, since this is the main focus of the present world discussions, necessary to interact properly and achieve possible solutions.

In 1987, the United Nations released **the Brundtland Report**, which included what is now one of the most widely recognized definitions:

**“Sustainable Development is development
that meets the needs of the present
without compromising the ability of
future generations to meet their own needs.”**

‘It contains within it two key concepts:

- The concept of ‘needs’, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs.”

(Source – Wikipedia)

This Concept also interrelates the three main axis of human’s activities: Social, Environment and Economic.

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon made the following statement relating the need of sustainability with the maintenance of peace:

“Around the world, sustainable peace must be built on sustainable development. That is why I have said that the Sustainable Development Agenda is the agenda for the 21st century.

The People’s Assembly held in Rio organized the presentations around three main topics:

- **The main structural causes of present crises;**
- **Possible solutions for the crises and presentation of new paradigms available to all people;**
- **The anti-capitalistic movement.**

We also accompanied this movement in the media, considering the correlation we were seeking to make with the **main causes of chaos and crises as defined by AAB: CAPITAL, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**. We watched through TV and media the several gathering of people from all over the world, with very noisy and obstinate speeches, yet considered as peaceful by the policemen who were on guard around the ‘Aterro do Flamengo’, where they were held. **The ‘purely selfish interests’ are no longer tolerated by humanity – this was the message common to all**. Local representatives of the Occupy Movement and NGOs were also very organized and active while sharing with others their main visions and solutions.

We soon realized that the collective unconscious of humanity was quickly being awakened through the correct and intelligent use of the public space. This attitude is perhaps what differentiates the ongoing tendencies from the strikes of the past, which had political or spurious underground bases. We do believe that it is the gradual expansion of consciousness aiming towards a planetary convergence that will unite us all: through accessing and processing new information more rapidly, creating social groups, seeking to dialog in a constructive way, developing new options for distribution of resources, implementing a better utilization of the money energy, and improving human relations related to labor and employment, thus optimizing all resources available.

In the midst of the turmoil, confronted with so many theories and propositions, we were on the verge of losing our discriminating ability, but the wise words of our masters accompanied us throughout the long ordeal – how enlightened and incredibly updated was the following reading of the situation:

“The dominating words in our newspapers, over our radios and, and in all our discussions are based upon the financial structure of human economy: banking interests, salaries, national debts, reparations, cartels and trusts, finance, taxation – these are the words which control our planning, arouse our jealousies, feed our hatreds of our dislike of other nations, and set us one against the other. The love of money is the root of all evil. There are, however, large numbers of people whose

lives are not dominated by the love of money and who can normally think in terms of the higher values. They are the hope of the future but are individually imprisoned in the system which, spiritually, must end.” (A. Bailey)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS - SDGs

One of the main objectives of the Earth Summit was to establish the so-called SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – the SDGs, previously discussed and negotiated among the public leaders, entrepreneurs, transnational corporations, NGOs, and civil society through its legal representatives; hundreds of meetings and conferences were also held locally, nationally and internationally, as well as virtually (through the internet).

Patricia Lerner, in her article “Sustainable Development Goals: a Call for Urgency and Action” stated:

“... Based on the experience of the Millennium Development Goals – the MDGs, the idea is to have goals to guide the international community’s efforts and make it easier for governments, institutions and civil society to work together to achieve them.

We finally accessed the **FINAL SUMMARY AND DOCUMENT** issued by the UNITED NATIONS, entitled **“THE FUTURE WE WANT FOR ALL”**. The UN System-wide Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda makes the following recommendations, among others:

- A vision for the future that rests on the core values of human rights, equality and sustainability.

- An agenda format based on concrete end goals and targets, one of the key strengths of the **MDG** (Millenium Development Goals) **framework should be retained, but reorganized along four key dimensions of a more holistic approach:**

- (1) inclusive social development;**
- (2) environmental sustainability;**
- (3) inclusive economic development; and**
- (4) peace security.**

This focused approach is consistent with the principles of the Millenium Declaration which set out a vision of **freedom from want and fear for present and future generations and builds on the three pillars of sustainable development.”** This attitude, perhaps wise of the United Nations, immediately reminded me of the insights of Annie Besant, through the following mantram:

THE MANTRAM OF UNIFICATION

**“Let vision come and insight.
Let the future stand revealed.
Let inner union demonstrate and outer cleavages be gone.
Let love prevail.
Let all men love.”**

CHAPTER IV OF THE FINAL REPORT to the Secretary-General of the UN states:

“IV – VISION: THE FUTURE WE WANT FOR ALL

- a. **Transformative change towards inclusive, people-centered, sustainable development**
- b. **Three fundamental principles:** Human rights, Equality and Sustainability
- c. **Four core dimensions:** Inclusive Social Development, Environmental Sustainability, Inclusive Economic Development, and Peace and Security

“The world economic council (or whatever body represents the resources of the world) must...set the resources of the earth free for the use of humanity. This will be a lengthy task but it will be possible when world need is better appreciated. An enlightened public opinion will make the decisions of the economic council practical and possible. Sharing and co-operation must be taught instead of greed and competition.”

(AAB – Problems of Humanity, p. 177)

PROPOSALS FOR A NEW WORLD GOVERNANCE

- Organize multi-actor forums by sector, the keystone of effective world governance (which reminded us of the Seed Groups of the NGWS);
- Form geopolitical groups at the regional level (reminded us of the meditational groups at the centers of input/output of energies already established by D.K. in the five continents);
- Create a **World Governance Index** (see enclosure) – a work already producing excellent results, aiding governments and businesses in general;
- Set up an **International Court for the Environment** (*i.e.*, the initiative of the Noo-Constitution for the Noosphere, which aims to solve the problems of the Biosphere and protect the Noosphere);
- Put together a **volunteer world army**, independent from states and governed by international law (the solution of volunteering was one of the important contributions made by the European group in their work called ‘Eurosteps’);
- Promote local **industrial and service network**, connected to the regional and transnational levels via a system of regional currencies.

EDUCATION

For all of us who have chosen to contribute to the betterment of humanity through Education and to create opportunities for the New Age Education to be shared with the largest amount of people as possible, participating in the Earth Summit was a little discouraging. The issue of Sustainability of the Planet for all its *species* is going through such moments of upheavals and crises, that the main focus of the event was threefold, constituted of the three pillars: social, economical and environmental, and as such, did not contemplate education primarily.

THE FINAL DOCUMENT

The Final Document, in the 26th statement, as Lessons for the post-2012 UN development agenda, considers:

“Given the high degree of **global interdependence, setting collective goals and targets to be pursued by the world community, will remain meaningful.** In doing so, however, a one-size-fits-all approach should be avoided. **Needed flexibility** should be ensured to tailor targets to regional, national and sub-national conditions and priorities, while respecting international standards, and should be tracked with data disaggregated by sex, age and geography (including rural-urban location). Such tailoring of development targets to national and local circumstances is most effectively and legitimately done through **participatory processes.**”

CONCLUSION

We consider the participation in such a world event as an educational opportunity to learn more about the world problems, analyzing various angles, which are related to AAB's trilogy of causes: CAPITAL, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, among others. Secondly, to be able to participate in such an important Earth Summit also gave us the possibility of presenting our individual contribution, which was accepted by the United Nations (the Star of Peace Project); finally, to be present at the Section 6th of the Forum, which duly approved the Constitution for the Noosphere (elaborated by NSEWA, which we represent in South America) was invigorating and motivated us to continue our quest.

We were in constant search of those ideas which reflected the Ageless Wisdom and especially the concepts of AAB mentioned in the books “The Problems of Humanity” and “Education in the New Age”. The interdependence noted was astonishing and therefore, we are very optimistic as to the future development of the efforts being carried out by all the Seed Groups of the NGWS, and by other serious and altruistic contributors. Thus, we hope to have summarized the main aspects and instigated our readers to further their research consulting the documents hereby attached or participating of the world efforts; we want to welcome any new contributor to join this immense network which is now available; and also to congratulate the incredible visible and invisible workers who are indeed being telepathically inspired and/or oriented by the Hierarchy.

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