

I know, you're afraid of getting lost in the infinite spaces of my ovoid, spaces that extend from nothing to Everything, from matter to spirit, from rational to esoteric, from rationality to imagination, but if your alternative is to remain still and deaf where you are, this is equivalent to having no alternatives.

Maybe you came to look for something in me that you don't know, for which you have no idea for now, but you know that somewhere there is the answer that your unconscious is waiting for.

The question and the answer call you and you cannot ignore that call because you feel it would be like giving up for dead.

When you will know what you want along the way of life, even away from Florence, ask me questions and wait for answers, because I will always be in you and with you.

Wherever you are, talk to me and wait for my answer that won't come to you directly. It will reveal itself in front of you, perhaps with the voice of another person, with a writing, with a sound, with something that happens, with something that does not happen ... and you will have no doubts: it is my answer to your question.

If you have doubts, it's not my answer. If you feel wonder, it is.

For every my message you receive, a transformation takes place in you, you will no longer be the same as before and you will understand more and more how energetically you are connected to me, to Casa Assagioli, and to Assagioli.

A serene greeting.

TO THE FUTURE: FROM COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE TO GROUP CONSCIOUSNESS

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This article originates from the presentation made during the Conference on "For the emergence of a new humanity" organized by the Psychosynthesis Center of Catania on 6 and 7 October 2018.

This writing starts from the conviction that at the base of the manifestation in which we are immersed there is a specific purpose and a relative plan, and this purpose is: the *Evolution*.

In order to grasp the evolutionary tendency of humanity, we will try to observe it following a sufficiently broad historical dimension.

As the first synthetic clue to the evolutionary sense of the universe, which could reveal its purpose and the plan of the universe, and perhaps show its congruence with the path of humanity, we can consider the affirmation in the book the "Treatise on cosmic fire" by Alice Bailey:

"The global trend of the evolution is to produce the ability to build with mental matter"

In particular, making specific reference to humanity, it starts from a state in which were highlighted only its animal origins, in which it moved mainly in the physical-energetic dimension. From there it developed to a state in which the emotional dimension predominates and a mental dimension emerges. A dimension that today has a greater value on the rational logic (often referred to as a concrete mind). Starting from the current state and in consideration of the development that has taken place, one could imagine a subsequent evolution in which the mental dimension takes over, with an ever increasing presence of the superior mind, the most intuitive one,

creative and representative part of the state of wisdom. A further element to take into consideration and characterizing the human kingdom, concerns the relational dimension. On the other hand, as is now well established by recent physical studies, in life / reality everything is relationship. In line with this consideration, again in the "Treatise on Cosmic Fire" we read:

"The immediate goal of the human kingdom is to consciously establish systemic relationships and to actively and consciously participate in group work"

From this we can deduce how the development of humanity passes through the expansion and strengthening of one's own conscience (or rather one's self-awareness, the characteristic that makes us aware of our being), together with the growth in terms of quality and strengthening of the relational dimension.

Given the importance that it plays in the considerations that are developing, it is appropriate to dwell on the term conscience.

It is not easy to define its meaning, but in order to have some coordinates, although not exhaustive, we can consider what is reported in the De Mauro New Dictionary: (Technical Specialist Term in the psychological field) - Psychic function which summarizes every experience, knowledge of the subject.

(Technical Specialist Term in the philosophical field) - Situation in which the soul is in relationship with itself and is able to know and judge itself in a direct and infallible way.

Some further indications can be found in a brief excerpt of the text "The destiny of conscience" by Sergio Bartoli (founder of the Community of Living Ethics):

"... consciousness, that is an intrinsic sensitivity towards a goal, a direction, a growth";

"... the conscience, understood as the perceptive and expressive capacity of life";

"... to the man, in which consciousness is individualized and becomes" self-consciousness " , that is, the capacity to interpret and direct one's " phenomenal instrument " .

Even if the evolutionary process has its natural deve-

lopment, in the case of the human kingdom, (as indicated by the different paths of inner and spiritual growth), it can be accelerated through a conscious and focused work on oneself. In this regard, in an unpublished text entitled "Setting up a plan", says Enzo Savoini:

"Being moved only by emotion and driven by action only by desire is not a symptom of true self-awareness. In truly evolved and self-conscious man ... not only are direction, purpose and program present, but there is also awareness of the active agent of the plan and the work " .

Direct consequence of the process of development of humanity, which embodies the growth of self-consciousness and the typical relations of this kingdom, is on the one hand the word (concrete and material expression of the symbolic dimension of *sound / vibration*), and on the other hand the intelligence (1), expression in the human dimension of what is symbolically represented with *light*. The work of growth that humanity has so far operated on itself (albeit more on a level of concrete mind) is also made evident by the fact that biological evolution, characterized by change and adaptation, in the human kingdom has now been supplanted by cultural and technological development. That is, from what, consciously and intentionally, it is produced by the same man through the use of the mind, of the hands and generally within a relational space. An evolutionary process that has led to contemporary human society pervaded, and often dominated, by a high technological dimension, sometimes even indicated and pursued as a solution to the problems of humanity. Despite the technological development has brought an advancement and an improvement in the level of average life, it does not seem however that the great problems, as for example the dimension of world-wide conflict, or the suffering both physical and psychic of the humanity, are resolved, or that can be solved with technology. On the other hand, we hear a profound agreement with what was written by Sergio Bartoli in "Nuova Vita" (one of the first articles of the magazine "Poggio del Fuoco"): *"Technology will not produce the Future, but the laboratory of conscience"*. Or what can be found in general in the introduction

of the book “The Act of Will” by Roberto Assagioli

The historical period in which we find ourselves, although important for the significant presence of the dimension of concrete mind (whose products are precisely the technological evolution and its high impact), could be taken as a precedent to a further evolutionary leap of the human kingdom, and in which the superior mind will dominate the scene.

The current level of human development can be called, as indicated in the interesting and detailed analysis in Matt Ridley’s recent book “A rational optimist” (Edizioni Codice, 2013), of “*collective intelligence*”. In this text it is also well highlighted and described how the human instinct for cooperation, that is to say to relate, has evolved along the ages. In fact, the man, starting from individual needs, has pursued their satisfaction by exchanging both of favors and objects. And it is precisely through the development and increase of these exchanges that we have reached the current evolutionary state of “*collective intelligence*”.

We started from the Paleolithic period dating back to about 400,000 BC in which there was the homo erectus, being that realized as a technological product the amygdala (fig.1). An oval stone chipped on purpose to become sharp and pointed, useful as a tool for work or defense and capable of being held in one hand.

From there, as Ridley points out in his book, we came to 1980 where the technological object of a more or less oval shape that can be held in one hand is the computer mouse. An object with a shape similar to that of the amygdala, but of a much higher technological level, both for the use of technical-scientific knowledge on which its operation is based, and for the materials and the workmanship for its realization. And just go on for just twenty years (from 1980 to 2000) that the technological evolution, whose speed has an exponential growth trend (2), brings us to the birth of the smartphone, an object that is in one hand, born mainly with a telephone function, but thanks to its high calculation capacity, flexibility, and interconnection, it is suitable for multiple if not infinite applications.

All this, of course, always thanks to exchanges and relational dimensions. Exchanges and relational modalities

that have gradually determined the division of work and tasks and always triggered a process of specialization of individual talent. It should also be emphasized that such exchanges do not only operate on a material level, but are often carried out even on a purely mental level. So much so that allegorically ideas can be imagined as involved in a process of meeting and even pairing, so as to generate new ones. We can therefore summarize the current period of “*collective intelligence*”, such as that in which more and more minds and ideas are set in motion, in relation, exchange and creation.

A *collective intelligence* that brings into manifestation a development of humanity structured as a set of increasingly complex and cooperative societies. Already Assagioli in one of his notes concerning inter-individual psychosynthesis wrote:

“... *General objective: the organization of the mass in a hierarchy of groups through the activity of self-conscious individuals*”.

Micro and macro societies in which both the intensity of collaboration between strangers and the branching in the division of labor are continually growing. Just as an example, just consider the design and production of a simple smartcard for mobile phones, or an usb to store data, consumer products that require teams, that is a structure of relationships and exchanges, with almost a hundred engineers (team then with large number of high professional profiles where the exchange of ideas dominates).

Today it is enough to look around to find ourselves in a crowd of objects created by man whose complexity is continually growing. And a look at the landscape not infrequently shows forms modified by the human contribution that never would have existed without such a contribution. This development is certainly positive, but as everything takes its shadows, among which, thanks to this impressive technological advance, it emerges how the human species is the only one that has created tools of war capable of destroying itself and the entire planet in which he lives.

If one tries to investigate in the world of causes, it appears that the motive for this *collective intelligence* is,

however, an individual conscience. The various intelligences that relate in order to bring out something new are mainly driven by individual interests and needs, both material and psychological. In this regard, a clear synthesis of these needs / motives has been symbolically proposed by Maslow in the well-known pyramid structure (Fig. 2).

For example, some of these needs are due to the need for a salary (necessary for daily living), to the desire for career progression for a higher income, for the search for greater prestige within the working, family and social context; or the pursuit of a power in one or more of the social contexts in which one lives. And again, leveling up in the scale of needs indicated in Maslow's pyramid, looking for what we call achievement, or the need to manifest one's creative side. All motives that depart, however in a conscious way, or often unconscious, to satisfy primarily an individual dimension. From what has been shown above, we started from the prehistoric man, in which the distinction from the animal kingdom was less clear and worked in a pack logic. This logic, moved by the gregarious instinct, still present in the profound and archaic nature of the human being, can be understood as a dimension of *collective Consciousness*, in which self-awareness is not fully manifested. It has therefore come to today where gradually humanity manifests itself as *collective Intelligence*, moved by an individual conscience that is self-aware. What, then, is the future kingdom if we continue this trend over time? Certainly one of the concrete and desirable possibilities is that further leap of conscience that can lead to what is termed *Group Consciousness*, considered in some sapiential and esoteric texts as a further goal in the evolutionary path of humanity.

Says Sergio Bartoli always in the writing already cited, "The fate of conscience"

"... *this transition to a higher maturity occurs only when we are willing to recognize ourselves as part of a larger reality and therefore to extend our responsibility to humanity and the planet. But this is possible only to the extent that we succeed in overcoming the identification with everyday life, identification that transforms unreal,*

or transitory, values into absolute goals of life".

Certainly it is not easy to define what *group Consciousness* will actually be, given that it will perhaps be something that will come into manifestation in a not so immediate future. However, if we want to try to delineate some traits, or at least summarize the evolutionary direction that traces its birth, we can take cues from the various sapiential texts, or from high consciences that, like the Buddha and the Christ, have indicated and anticipated this process. Starting from these ideas, the prerogative of the birth of a *group Consciousness* seems to be the type of motives that induce actions. Motives that in the specific case pursue the objective of the common good, of collective well-being, of integration and union of the group. So a consequence of the process that would lead to group consciousness is an evolution that moves towards a dimension of less individualism and selfishness. Acquiring *group consciousness* would also mean identifying not so much with one's own needs, but with the group's motive. And this, on the one hand maintaining the current state of human self-awareness, on the other adding the awareness of the progressive human development along the divine dimension that belongs to humanity (Fig.3).

Gaetano Palumbo

Note:

1. Also this term is not of simple definition, but as a point of reference, from the Nuovo De Mauro dictionary: Faculty of the human mind to understand, think, judge, communicate facts and ...

2. This peculiarity is also evident in the text by Alfred Korzybski "Manhood of Humanity: The Science and Art of Human Engineering" (published in 1921), where the author points out as sciences of the humanistic area (legal, economic, political etc.) grow with a typical rate of an arithmetic series (eg 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 ...), while those of the technical / scientific area (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology etc.) grow with a typical rate of an arithmetic geometric series (eg 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 ...).