

RETHINKING SOCIETY AFTER COVID 19

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We cannot forget the time we are living in. This is a special time where no one could have imagined what kind of changes COVID19 would bring into people's daily life, in business activities and in social interactions and we don't know for how long we will have to cohabit with such a situation. But this event gives us a big chance to redefine our way of living individually and collectively.

Therefore the need to pause and reflect on this historical time is critical if we want to be part of shaping the future...

Over the past 100 years there have been events that should have made us think: two world wars, several global financial crises that have affected the entire world economic system, a huge migration of millions of poor people in many parts of the world, racial wars, terrorism attacks everywhere, climate changes and pollution of the environment at incredible speed, increase of extremes of wealth and poverty to a nonacceptable level, concentration of the planet's wealth into the hands of a minority of the population and increasing poverty everywhere, the rise of conflicts, whether ethnic or religious across many nations of the world affecting children, women and innocent populations, the escalation of corruption and thirst of power, the growing inequality between men and women in several fields like economy, environment, employment, health, and the increase of ideologies such as nationalisms, souverainisms and so on.

As humanity, we have not reflected on these crises; we did not reflect on the consequences of these crises, and now a small invisible virus is teaching us that the structure of the society at large is not adequate to solve global problems with more than 200 national policies in operation. Today there are about 200 Nations in the world and each one of them is acting independently from the others while the virus is an international virus and it does not look at geographical borders, it does not look at the colour of the skin, gender, religions, wealth or poverty, different political systems, precisely because it moves quickly, without passport, on the entire planet and has shown humanity it is able to attack the people and the structures at any level and everywhere.

And it finds us unprepared both at the individual level as well as at the structural and institutional level on which society is based today. Our society has not learnt

until now what is important, very important the absolute necessity to develop a global structural system with global laws, global executives, global economic system and global institutions. Now we are paying heavily for the lack in our capacity to deal with it. I hope that the governments, the institutions, the inhabitants of the planet are learning that this is the time to start to move TOWARDS A NEW WORLD STRUCTURAL SYSTEM. So we have to rethink that our society will be safe, only if the entire planet will be safe. The question therefore that emerges from all sides then is: will we make it? and if so, how?

The answer is yes: YES but with some conditions:

First condition: The new scenario of the pandemic drama which fell upon us, is the best opportunity, for our Western capitalist, liberal and profit oriented system to be questioned and revisited.

Second condition: Western, liberal, extreme capitalist, heavy materialistic style of life, is based and oriented only towards consumption and profit, to enjoyment and to the claim of rights to indulge in our lower impulses and passions, and should be revised.

Third condition: are we ready, as western society, to change the way with which we have been living in the last Century? If yes, can we accept that we have to work hard to change it? and also, are we ready to accept that we may not fully see the results of this transformation? and again are we ready to believe that this is not only possible, but necessary and inevitable?

How can we think that such a deteriorated social system, driven to to the point of being able to destroy the planet itself , the same planet we host and use, how can such system face the challenges of a “de facto globalized world,” without barriers, borders, empowered with technology and information unimaginable a few years ago?

The whole scene is ready for the BIG JUMP: the recognition that humanity is a unique living organism, composed of interdependent elements so that the well-being of the one affects the whole, and the health and wealth of the whole depends on the interaction between the individuals.

We need to acquire awareness of our essential nature, which is not only made of a physical body , but also and above all, of intelligence, of inner qualities, gems of inestimable values, skills, mutual service and respect. These inner qualities, these spiritual virtues, must be taken out from Ourselves and offered to the society at large in a humble way. All of us understand what are these gems of inestimable value: love, humility, generosity, friendship, interest in the community and not only

in Ourselves, Service to others, beauty, acceptance of diversity in all aspects of life such as gender, race, nationality, culture, religion, economic and social level.

But we also need a social order based on fairness and justice, without which no real unity is possible. No profit, no economic growth, no success of a company or of a society, can be imagined without putting women and men, and generally, human beings, at the center of the picture. The new values of this Era are precisely universal education, equal dignity, human rights, opportunities and protection for every human being. And finally a world government system that capitalizes the cultural, historical, political, artistic and ethnic heritages that make our planet a garden luxuriant and attractive for the variety with which it is enriched.

And as many still fail to accept, we must realize that man alone cannot make a qualitative leap, because the future is immensely greater than our thoughts and our miseries.

We need to lean on enlightened minds, high inspirations, hidden energies that emerge from the darkness of our ignorance. This is why in 1800 a Nobleman with the title of Baha'u'llah has come to give us vision, instruments and hope to realize these goals. The banner of His faith is that " the earth is but one country and mankind its citizens ". This quotation at the first appears just as a beautiful phrase. But we have to search the depth of its inner meaning.

The first part is easy: the planet is becoming a common house where the people of the house are free to move from one room to the other without asking for a visa or presenting the passport, changing the language, changing the currency and so on. But the second part is a strong part of the quotation and is still not clear to the majority of the human beings living today on the planet. Baha'u'llah is introducing the subject of citizenship which today is a conflictual item. Today the passport is fundamental. I am an Italian and so I have an Italian passport. This passport gives me some rights which are fundamental :

1. Freedom and liberty
2. Free education at the charge of the government
3. social security and great possibility to have a job or to be helped by the government if I do not have it
4. Pension at a certain age

These are granted by my government only because I have an Italian passport. But if I was born in Zimbabwe or in The Congo with a Zimbabwean or a Congolese passport I would not have all these rights granted.

So the second part of the quotation “the earth is but one Country and mankind its citizens” tells us that “independently where you were born you should be granted the same rights and benefits and opportunities. This means the children, the women, the men of the entire planet will have the same possibility independently from where they are born because they are citizens of the world.

This **is** a revolution in the society at large, a big revolution.

This is only an example, which shows how immense is the depth of such statement for all aspects of our life, whether in our individual behaviour and attitude towards others, but also how it guides all levels of human interactions, of governance, of institutional organization of society and systems, and reflection on this is necessary to flash out the practical steps to be able to reach this level.

Our contribution to rethink society after the pandemic is to share this Vision, the vision of Baha’u’llah to the society at large with wisdom, detachment, flexibility and patience.

The responsibility that everyone has, is the ability to distinguish what is useful and what is harmful, in the sole interest of the collective good.

I send my love to each one of you