

3rd Spirit of Humanity Forum, 26-29 April 2017, Reykjavik

Caring for a World in Transition:

Building Foundation for a Loving and Peaceful World,

The second day of the forum started with a panel on "Caring for our planet: A new way of being". The audience was asked to reflect: How might our 'duty of care' and a growing collective consciousness change decision-making processes in ways that express more love and foster compassion for the planet?



The panelists were:

- Karen Blincoe, CEO, Chora Connection, Denmark
- Four Arrows, AKA Professor Don Trent Jacobs, Native American Writer, Educator, USA
- Golo Pilz, Adviser, Renewable Energy, Brahma Kumaris & World Renewal Spiritual Trust, India
- Emilie Parry, Doctoral Researcher, School of Geography and Environment, University of Oxford, UK

The facilitator Maureen Goodman of the Brahma Kumaris and one of the co-organisers of the Spirit of Humanity Forum opened the session by framing the urgency of environmental care.

Karen expressed that she felt at home here in the Forum. "I love nature, I love people and that is why I am here." Her time spent in environment organizations is only half of her sustainable story, the other half is the inside transformation. She didn't want her emotional barriers to restrict her work for the planet. Her attention on the inner well-being has helped her a lot. She feels God is with her and supports her work. "And there is a lot to do when we come home!"

Golo then shared his life story of how he came to India and found spirituality. He was also struck by the poverty, the level of deforestation and frequent power cuts. He was inspired to help Brahma Kumaris with renewable energy and started by getting funding for solar energy for the projects from the Indian and German Governments. They have now set up several systems that can be replicated by other local communities.

Eight years ago, he also initiated the research project India-One, a solar thermal power plant. Golo emphasized the importance of guiding science with ethics. He shared how his spiritual practice helps him to carry out his work. "I look into the inner world, create a paradise inside and from there start shaping the outer world. We are all wizards that can transform this world into a beautiful place with the power of thought. That is my inner engine of hope that keeps me doing. We are all creators, mastering matter, and that is the deep secret in spirituality."



Emilie continued by expressing the need for a word that could capture her feeling of overwhelming grief and loss but also joy, gratitude and grace. That word would be able to touch the energy and space in this room, but also our existence as humanity. Words are meant to be created, inhabited and then broken apart, not to be attached to. She encouraged the audience to explore language, but also to let it go.

She shared her story of realizing that the structures of organizations were limiting their capacity for building relationships and solutions. Compartmentalization has become a destructive force. She then wanted to work with climate change as it joins all sectors of society. She came across the International Network of Engaged Buddhist and their holistic approach working with healing both people and the earth. She stated that one must heal oneself from within first and then one can naturally and organically engage in the world. In their network, they begin with meditation before coming into action with the values of appreciation, care and compassion for the earth. That is for her modeling the system of the divine.

Four Arrows was the final speaker and he asked a very direct question: How do we move from courage to fearlessness? In his youth, he was courageous but still angry and egoistic. What he has learned over the years is that fear can be a catalyst for practicing virtues. When fear now comes, he asks himself: I have this fear, what should I practice? Generosity, fortitude, care or patience? With courage we commit to action, and it grows to trust in the universe. Then we don't need courage anymore; we trust the universe and are fearless.

Finally, Maureen asked the panel if our worldview has become too polarized to create a functional world? How do you see the simultaneous powers of both violence and hope playing out as we move forward?

The panelists said that we need to return to a world view that honors the complimentary, the masculine and feminine, the solar and lunar. We have come to a point where what we are doing does not sustain us anymore. We need to get together to avoid the collapse the civilizations.

The light will win! Face the state you are in, and hold the light. Combine love with purpose, there is a task bigger than each one of us, join in the task. To move forward we need to first embrace all we have done, for good and bad. We can't leave something behind.

Golo finished the session by describing how he heals himself and the planet: I connect to the Divine Light and go into silence; I go beyond concept and ideas. I let the Divine light do the work of creating a new future for us all.

Four Arrows closed with a meditative moment with the Navaho lullaby "The trail of tears".

