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*You are what your deep driving desire is; as your desire, so is your will;
as your will, so is your deed; as your deed, so is your character;
as your character, so is your **destiny**."*

Brihadaranyaka Upanishad

VISIONS & LIFE EXPERIENCES

LIFE EXPERIENCE

2003 – January Talks and lectures in schools, colleges and universities in the following seven Asian countries: **Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand**. Before 2003 talks and lectures in the following European countries: **Austria, Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland**.

Topics:

- **Moral Education, Value Education, The Great Cultures of Our Planet: India, China, Islam, The West: An Overview** (in all humility)
- **World Cultures as a Medium of Language Teaching (English as a Foreign Language, e.g: Grammar Packed in Wisdom), How to Teach English Holistically, Unity & Peace**
- **The Fascination of Etymology: The Fascination of Words:** English, Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew etc. (in all humility).

Lecture in December 2011 in Auroville (India), addressing twenty teachers:

"I Have Taught and Lectured for 44 years and I am still, at the age of 70, both, full of energy and curious about life and it's mysteries. Why?"

All lectures are from an intercultural, interreligious, interdisciplinary and interlinguistic point of view (in all humility). No salary is asked and I am totally independent of any organization.

Languages: German (mother tongue), **English** (bilingual), **French** (fluent)

I have always loved human beings, and have, therefore, studied foreign languages and psychology.

At present: I only know German, English and French “well”, but I have tried to study “in a very humble way” the following languages:

- **Latin** (6 years in school)

- **Language Courses** in: **Italy** (Siena), **France** (Paris, Dijon, Pau) **Spain** (Malaga, Salamanca), **Poland** (Cracow), **Turkey** (Istanbul) and **Egypt**, Cairo.

- **Self -taught: Chinese, Sanskrit and Hebrew** (very modest knowledge)

Exercises for Health and Enjoyment: jogging, bicycle riding, tennis, badminton, skiing, yoga and meditation.

- 1983 - 2003 **Salzburg (Austria):**
Teaching English and History at the Musisches Gymnasium, Salzburg, -High-School, and **Teacher Training** (English and History - from a holistic point of view): University of Salzburg
- 1981 - 1983 Teaching English and History in **three high schools** in Austria in the district of Salzburg
- 1980 - 1981 **Secondary School**, Braintree (England)
Teacher of German
- 1973 - 1980 **German Protestant High School**, Cairo (Egypt)
Teacher of English
- Austrian Embassy**, Cairo (Egypt)
Volunteer in the Cultural Section
- 1969 - 1971 **Saint George's Austrian High School, Avusturya Lisesi**, Istanbul (Turkey)
Teacher of English. Teacher of German, Goethe Institute.
Honorary title: Professor
- 1967 - 1969 “Lehrerbildungsanstalt” Salzburg (teacher training), teacher of English and History

EDUCATION

- 1960 - 1967 Master in History and Master in English, (MA), University of Innsbruck (Austria)
- 1962 - 1963 Exchange program: University College and King's College, London (England): English Literature and Language, including Phonetics at the Phonetics Department, University College, with Prof. Gimson, the successor of Prof. D. Jones (both the greatest authorities on English pronunciation at the time)

SPECIAL INTERESTS & VISIONS

- 1990 - 2012 **Multiple Talks and lectures in thirteen countries** (Austria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, India, Laos, Malaysia, Poland, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand) on Philosophy, Psychology, World Cultures (China, India; Orient and Occident in general), Etymology (the origin of words worldwide and in different languages)
- Leisure Time Activities Yoga, jogging, bicycle riding, tennis, riding, reading (**6000 to 7000** books at home)
- Special Interests Philosophy, Psychology, World Cultures (China, India; Orient and Occident in general), Etymology (the origin of words worldwide)

FAVOURITE QUOTATIONS

*“The whole world is a big battlefield, but **the real fight is within you**”*
Bhagavad Gita

*

“Words are the most dynamic creative force in civilization”
Marilyn Wilhelm

*“**Etymology magnifies the fact that language is the greatest creator and shaper of character and health for the individual and for society**”*
Marilyn Wilhelm

*

I am a mirror and whoever speaks, of me, nicely or badly, he always speaks of himself
Omar Khayyam, Iran

*

“Gnotis auton” know thyself”

*

And the great Persian poet and mystic, ***J. Rumi***, says in the Mathnavi:

"Thou, Brother, art thy thought alone, the rest is only thew and bone”

*

*What a piece of work is **man**;
how **noble** in reason,
how **infinite** in faculties, in form and moving; how express and admirable in action; how like
an angel in apprehension, how like a god, the beauty of the world; the paragon of animals.*
William Shakespeare

*

*The greatness of man and the **moral law** are one:
The **moral law can be found everywhere.**
The moral man finds the moral law beginning with the **relationship of man and woman**,
but ending in the vast reaches of the universe."*
Confucius

*

To **think = to thank**, because in traditional culture people thought with their heart (modern science has finally realized this wonderful fact):

- Egypt: To see with the eye of the heart
- China: To examine with the heart. The Chinese knew that there is a vein, filled with a liquid, which goes straight **from the heart to the brain**
- India: To perceive with feeling
- Hebrew: To perceive oneness
- Greek: To conceive the unity (= the **oneness and unity** of the left and the right part of the brain of feeling and the non feeling intellect, of ying and yang, of the heart and the mind = heart/mind)

*“We human beings long for the **Infinite** and we indeed feels the sorrow that life passes away so quickly; but beyond our tears and our suffering, there is joy and happiness, and we certainly can love **the Infinite in all**”*

*

In the **Brihadaranyaka** Upanishad we can so beautifully read:

*“It is not for the love of a husband that a husband is dear; but **for the love of the Soul in the husband that a husband is dear**. It is not for the love of a wife that a wife is dear, but for the love of the Soul in the wife that a wife is dear; it is not for the love of children...”*

- Peace:**
- I Ging, **China:**
 - Male and female energy
 - Male: Heaven (Tao), father, unity, activity, head
 - Female: Mother, child, equality, the passive.
- In Chinese Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, Sanskrit:** Holistic, undivided.
- One:**
- Tao, Heaven; one; active; happy; moral consciousness; re-member
- Man, Woman:**
- Bantu, Africa: The living, the ancestors (the dead), the Gods
 - Greek (anthropos): Looking up, the one who is searching
- Education:**
- Arabic: Tanwir: To make something beautiful.
 - Mali: To set an example
 - Persia, China: To cultivate
 - Sanskrit, India: No word for to “teach”, only for to “help someone to rise” (in consciousness).
 - Japanese: **asobu: to play, to study under a teacher**, leisure, teach-ceremony, and: “I have heard that your uncle has died”, I have heard that **your uncle has played death**
- Meaning of Life:**
- China: To stand, the heart, the sun
 - Arabic: To have an interest in, something with a meaning, a goal. German: The way, to move

The Golden Rule:

“Do unto others as you would have others do unto you”
Jesus

*

“None of you is a true believer unless he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself”
Mohammed

*

“Lay not on any soul a load which ye would not wish to be laid upon you and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourse”
Baha’u’llah, Baha’i Religion

Sample of the title of a talk: (Auroville, India, January 2012)

Global Communication: Cosmos, Man, Words and World Cultures

1. **Communication: Latin:** “munus” obligation, “unus” = one, we “must” communicate.
2. **Cosmos: Greek:** order, beauty, jewel
3. **Universe: Latin** “universus”, lit. turned into one, whole, one song / **Sanskrit** “Sarva”, “sarvam”, perfect, everything, the totality / **Chinese:** “yü-chou”, space/time (orig. roof, house)
4. **Man:** Chinese/Sanskrit: the one that thinks and feels / **Japanese:** The spirit within / **Russian:** The one who has **eternity** on his forehead / **Bantu, Africa:** the Gods, the ancestors, the living. **Greek:** anthropos-looking above, searching / **Arabic, Persian, Turkish:** friendship, community / **Hebrew:** breath, soul, desire
5. **Culture: Latin:** cultura, agriculture, see: cult. **Latin colere:** to till the ground / **Sanskrit:** Sa.nskriti: (kriti- creation) well made, well structured / **Tamil:** panbaadu- the maturity of the way. **Arabic:** salafiya, root: salafa: to go forward / **Chinese:** orig. flower; pattern, process, to go forward / **Japanese:** bunka: ka- to change, to develop / **Persian:** farhang- abundance, plenty, unlimited thinking

A sample of how to “teach” grammar in a holistic way:

Grammar packed in Wisdom: I have taught English grammar using different cultures: e.g. Omar Khayyam, the **Adverb:**

I am a mirror and whoever speaks of me, nicely or badly, he always speaks about himself”

*

Present Perfect:

Monks, there never has been a human being who has not formerly been your father or your mother, your brother or your sister... Buddha

Many years ago, when I still lived in Egypt (1973-80), I came across a fascinating book about the meaning and importance of fairy tales by Bruno Bettelheim: “**The Use of Enchantment.**”

In the beginning of his book, the author gave his idea of a good story:

“For a story to hold the child’s attention, it must **entertain** him and **arouse his curiosity**. But to **enrich his life**, it must **stimulate his imagination**, help him to **develop his intellect and to clarify his emotions**; be attuned to his anxieties and aspirations, **give full recognition to his difficulties**, while at the same time suggesting solutions to the **problems which perturb him**.

In short, it must **at one and the same time relate to all aspects of his personality** and this without ever belittling but, on the contrary, **giving full credence to the seriousness of the child’s predicaments**, while **simultaneously promoting confidence in himself and in his future.**”

Bettelheim here described, what was to my mind, the perfect lesson arranged by an extraordinary teacher. **I have merely to change the word “story” for “lesson”**. Is it not self-evident?

- 1. The lesson must hold the child’s attention**
- 2. The lesson must entertain him**
- 3. The lesson must stimulate him**
- 4. The lesson must clarify his emotions**
- 5. The lesson must be attuned to his anxieties and aspirations**
- 6. The lesson must give full recognition to his difficulties**
- 7. The lesson must give solutions to the problems, which perturb him**
- 8. The lesson must give confidence in himself now and in his future**
- 9. The lesson must relate to all aspects of the personality**

Let us, please, not forget that education means **encouragement (Latin: cor= heart)** and “**setting an example**”.

If we want to survive, we have to study other cultures intensively; but only to study them will not be enough. We have to **love** them, even to identify with them. By loving them and by identifying with them, we will integrate them within ourselves.

Only then are we one with them:

- “Vasudaiva kutumbkam” = this world is one family, **India**
- “All under Heaven one family”, **China**
- “Tauheed”: God is one, humankind is one, **Arabic**.
- “You are all one in Jesus Christ”, **Christianity**
- “Consider humankind as one”, **Jainism**, India
- “This world is one big nest”, **Shinto**, Japan
- Togetherness, **Ubuntu**, Africa

Incidentally: “**humankind**” means “related”: kind-kin and kindred = related, and we should be **kind** to each other. Interesting?

Since I have worked “all” my life with the **youth**, I would like to share the following “poem” with you, by the Swiss philosopher and musician Albert Schweitzer:

Youth

*“Youth is not a specific period of life,
Youth is an attitude of mind,
youth is the energy of the will;
it is the originator of imagination,
of the strength of emotions,
of the victory of courage over cowardice,
of the triumph of adventurism over
laziness.*

*No one grows old, because he has spent a couple of years.
One only grows old when one has discarded one’s own ideals and visions.
In the course of one’s life our skin gets wrinkled, but with the rejection
of enthusiasm our soul withers away.
You are as young as your optimism and faith,
as old as your doubts,
as young as your self-esteem,
as old as your pessimism.
As long as the ideas of beauty, joy, courage and
grandour can reach your heart,
so long you will be young.”*

(translation: Edwin Zappe)

***Life is a chance, use it.
Life is beautiful, admire it.
Life is nectar, try it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, accept it.
Life is duty, fulfill it.
Life is precious, be careful with it.
Life is abundance, keep it.
Live is love, enjoy it...
Life is sadness, conquer it.
Life is a fight, take it up.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is happiness, keep it.
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.
Life is life, fight for it.
Mother Theresa***

Errors and mistakes are possible, only God is perfect
Salzburg (Austria) / Auroville (India)

