

Under foot: how travel and escapism stem from a search for that which was never lost - from globalism to natural locality.

There was a time when mobile phone technology was constantly in the mode of minimization. However recently phones have become bigger again, dictated by consumers' changing needs for their functionality. In the end miniaturization was just not useful for the consumer, the small size of equipment wasn't manufactured with humans in mind.

On a larger scale the political ideology which aims to structure society, forming something which contains and directs the senses is an artificial madness supposedly designed for the greater good of the human but in fact formed directly from the distorted perspective of "self".

As explained in previous articles there may well be an abstraction which we might call the "global society" or ideas of "the nation", "the religion", "the ideology", the "tribal tradition", but all these labels mask huge abstractions that the human being cannot sense. Even the idea of a "family" is not understood in its true sense of connection which comes from a realization of non-separateness or non-duality.

Societies across the world are permeated with dis-ease, which is the feeling of separation. This encourages a process of seeking for an ideal which will in some way bring relief from this situation. People may attempt to resolve this by travel, though in this case not a natural, nomadic flow of movement but rather a desperate seeking for an experience to alleviate the problem of the stress of "self".

The direction always seems to be outwards, propelled from within by fear. A person can be either too petrified to move or conversely too petrified to stop moving, in either case there is a generated expression at root borne out of the fear of losing the sense of "self". This causes a looking outwards, away from the senses which are the foundation, there is an upwards and outwards direction to the nature of the dis-ease of "self" and an attempt to expand, to cover or recover. Hence we seek outwards travelling all over the world, until gradually "self" starts to let go and is not believed-in or felt so acutely.

When there is a realization that one has no reason or requirement for outwards-seeking there is simply a return back to the roots as in the story biblical story of the prodigal son. As there is a return to Centric living two things are noticed: that the "self" has no actuality, it is in fact an imaginative leap-of-faith so to speak, and that the 5 senses and living in this moment are all there is. The ground underfoot is no longer "mundane" but becomes intensely interesting and there is no force involved, no requirement to "do" or be "better".

The world of the machine, of high finance, obsessive exercising and striving are all unnatural for the human as there is no sensory connection with having jobs associated with greed and gain, of "looking good" or "becoming healthy". As self-image or the 3rd person view drops away and the 1st person becomes prime, then there is a deep,

unforced, natural simplicity to life. This is the nature of the human animal and of the health instinct. Home is that which already is. This creates a natural interest in localness not globalness, in friends and family, not international news, on what's happening here and now, not in the projected future or in the past.

One could view this as the difference between living life in a mathematical equation, considering everything based on patterns of numbers, attempting to almost be detached from it while working it all out, versus simply the sensory experience of life occurring as it is. The globalised idea of the human or the "global human" is abstract, once this notion drops away in reality the 1st person localized view is all there is then the global idea is simply a floating concept rather than a reality. When people localize down to the senses there is a total breakdown of society as we know it and an immediate return to the tribal community and family-orientated living, living locally and in harmony with the natural environment, not separate from it. Every native person's diagnosis of the western person's condition and the solution to it is to localize. Instead of attempting to take on another culture and methodology one simply needs to look at the ground on which one is standing, thereby regaining the secrets and subtleties of its essence through reconnection to the 5-senses. As Bill Mellison of the perma-culture movement suggested:

"The problems of the world are increasingly complex, the solutions however remain embarrassingly simple!"

Humans are not as complex as they are made out to be. In essence complexity suggests something fragmented, erratic, but in fact this is nothing like the human, even the dis-ease of "self" is relatively simple in its root structure, the "self" and the illusion thereof have been defined and re-defined for thousands of years but essentially are an hallucination of the senses, a mere dream or nightmare state, no more or less. It is only from within that nightmare that the world is broken into such complex fragments which seem impossible to put together. From within the box there is no escape from "self".

The nature of societal collapse at which we find ourselves is not some aggressive/wilful power struggle. It is actually a shift of interest from the abstract, theoretical ambition and thrill-seeking or any seeking, to a calm re-discovery of family and environment, a natural realization of Oneness which is both impersonal intimate and Centric rather than our "normal" state of eccentricity. This is something that changes the whole global expression to a perfect Eden, this is not an achievable goal for the seeming individual. The dis-ease of the human condition is an unravelling process, determined by the Oneness of nature. Some use the term "responsibility" as a personal action-plan, although the word itself means the innate ability to respond to what is occurring now, as it is, not what one has been told or what one believes but a ripeness to view life in its absolute nature without addition. Herein is absolute reality and you don't need a ticket to get there.

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