

The No-“alternative” commune: having your carrot cake and eating it.

There is an idea that human beings have two options, either they can go the way of “normality” and do that which is what the vast majority of people who attempt to join the rat race generally do, or there is the possibility of the “alternative” way of living. These so-called “alternatives” are a spectrum of “hippy-like” ideas as living closer to nature, off the land, off-grid, finding or re-connecting with community spirit and again becoming a unified collaborative expression, a process of natural re-tribalization if you will.

This is actually far from being “alternative” or a “choice”. People who believe living in a different way is a lifestyle “choice” really miss the point. Actually when it comes down to it, when you truly can no longer do something, it isn’t a choice is in fact a situation of no-alternative. When something hurts too much to continue doing it, the actual sensitivity of the body is such that it forces a way of re-thinking that might seem radical to the “normal” perspective of society, but this needs to be realized is a deeply instinctive response arising out of the nightmare of millennia of being imprisoned by social norms. It is totally impersonal and deeply intimate.

Some people who are incredibly rich will contemplate the situation of having two homes, one in the country in order that there is connection the nature and one in the city so there is connection with people. However, the country is too isolating, either due to its remoteness and they are unwilling to try and integrate with the “locals” or because those people who do live nearby are also from the city using their house as a second home, which doesn’t provide a stable long-term community so they don’t communicate with one another. And the city is far too overcrowded to allow anything more than merely superficial connection with those around them. The problem is one of detachment, of trying to have “the best of both worlds” yet ending up with the “worst” of “oneself”, for you always take “you” with “you” as every traveler trying to escape their normal existence knows with great clarity. As Buddha’s life expresses, finding a situation without suffering, which is fundamentally what all humans are seeking, has nothing to do with the smallness or largeness of their bank balance. While there is a certain amount of connection with people in the city and in the country there is connection with nature, how is it possible to be in connection with people but to also be in the country, i.e. to have your cake and eat it, and this is the big perplexing issue for the very wealthy, how to achieve the ultimate.

In fact this actually calls for a situation where something is let go of and in this case it's the situation of trying to attain something no matter what that thing is. Instead there is a possibility of following the innate sense, the inner compass or simply the instinct for health/Oneness. This is really a movement for humans towards connection to nature and senses and towards people without expectation or regrets, in fact so-called communal living is not a choice but a necessity, it’s not chosen but occurs when all choices and attempts to control the environment fail no matter how much wealth people may have. Then all one is left with is a deep aching desire to re-connect to a simplicity again, which is actually a deep child-like sense of wanting to play without reason or judgment.

The process of decay occurs to the expression we call “self”. The “self” is the contracted energy of “me” or “I am”, it is the human condition of the sense of

separation, and currently the world is reaching a peak of turmoil and suffering which essentially is about to turn over and fall into an anarchy. This anarchy is not that of total violence, though this may well happen in some instances as we are seeing in the news, but in essence anarchy means the stripping away of the old models of how society “should” be and a movement towards a more directly sensory, immediately natural connective sense of being in the world and the actual reality of that, not the image of “myself” but the sense of truly *being*. This is something that has occurred in the lives of expressions such as Buddha, Christ, and others through history, but never in such a large number of people and in such a widespread way.

The cultural revolution of the 60s was a part of this peaking but change is about to hit again and this time it will take everyone with it. The decay or “entropy” process of a falling away of what it is that “I am” occurs both on the microcosmic and the macrocosmic spectrum. It occurs internally as the end of a process called “self” and this is expressed most clearly in the form of Tony Parsons, please see <http://www.theopensecret.com>. In Tony’s expression we see a clear representation of the ending process of the “self”. From a more macrocosmic perspective, the expression of the permaculture movement, the transition town movement and the quick or gradual movement towards the situation of re-tribalization is also occurring. While the ending of “self” is really the bottom line, before this total collapse is a dance between “me-ing” and “being” as Tony says, before the eventual ripening and dying off of the “self” which ends the contraction. In the same way this is exactly what society will go through to end up in a *true* communist expression that importantly is not driven by any leader but is *nature-driven*. This utopia is really the ultimate state of no-suffering, so “self” has to die for the seeming “individual” in order for this to occur. When there is a beginning of a reliance on nature to support the human and a letting go of any attempt to control, aspire to or prove anything, we are left with the natural state of the human in both the expression of internal collapse and the external expression it reflects.

What is never explored in non-dualist circles is the effect of the complete collapse of “self” in society. Fundamentally the end of ambition would utterly and irrevocably collapse society as we know it into a totally different expression which would be the tribal society as expressed by indigenous peoples of the world today especially those who have had little or no contact with the *uncivilized* West. However, this situation of decay is not occurring because of something we do, but rather that more and more people are going towards so-called spirituality or else have come to the end of that ideology and been inexorably drawn further towards the non-dual expressions and within that some of the more unique and what some will describe as “radical” expressions, such as that of Tony Parsons which essentially reveals the total illusion of there even being a possibility to “get” life. The main reason we can’t “get it” is because we *are* it already, life is living through us, it’s not something separate which we can *do* anything about, and so the popularization of “alternative” living and the movement towards a greener lifestyle is all a transitional landslide towards indigenous connectivity with the whole of life.

As we are now is only the beginning, but as the metaphorical ball gathers momentum as it rolls downhill, there will be a tremendous energy occurring in the process of that transition. At the moment to some people transition may appear to be the “decision” about whether to get a 4x4-turbo or a standard 4x4, but to others it means the total

dropping away of all that they know and the moving towards the potentially frightening yet thrilling prospect of living in community with others again. When this comes from the deepest level of the child-sense within, this is not a choice but simply a process of change that's happening. There is no move to "do" it for altruism or because it's good for the environment, it's done because there really is *no alternative*. In fact a friend suggested that the alternative approach should naturally be the other way around, living as an elderly person by oneself in a flat with a single heater in winter should be called the "radical" or "alternative" lifestyle, yet that is the norm especially in the UK and in the western world in general.

In fact what's normal is to want the connection of a community and to people who are interested in the intimate-impersonal connection that is the essence of life. This is not about Non-duality or about the totally realized state of collapse, but it is the slow dissolving of detachment and dissociation from each other and a realization that something really is on the move. Very importantly this is NOT something *we* are doing, it is something *happening to us*, we have absolutely no control over it, yet the realization is occurring in all our minds at this time that what is going on is weird and that there's something essentially "not right" about knowing what's going on in the Sudan, yet not being in connection to the left foot.

The nature of natural sensitivity is such that it draws people to locality. In the end when locality is taken to the deepest possible level, at the core of the human being, it is realised that no-"self" resides there, life in truth has an empty centre. However even on the periphery of this realization is the sense that something is awry with what's going on in the world, with the idea of being a "global citizen", and that being drawn out into conflicts and wars that have nothing to do with the natural senses is a total madness. Gradually as politicians are recognised to be sensorily bankrupt and that actual money means nothing, then simple connection to the air in the lungs, the senses at the fingertips, the taste in the mouth, all these become interesting again, they feel alive and vital, not dead and contracted.

We live in total poverty, yet have riches beyond compare, they are just completely obscured due to our seeking for what already is, or conversely we could say they we are rich with wealth that we don't need and that all of life is in poverty, it has nothing, but it needs nothing to be added. The point is that every expressions in all the niches of society that relate to a non-dual state can simply be differentiated by the core principle that they are not about doing something but allowing nature to take over, all these situations are really a call which is much stronger than "myself", as Tony explains it is "the loudest thing in the room that no-one is listening to". These expressions humans are making are all moving towards the same connective process of non-religious communion and connection, having nothing to do with global altruism or domination, or about putting teachers on pedestals, but simply about the authentic truth of what is coming to the fore.

Transition is a process not of moving upwards to a new height of so-called human civilization, but in fact a move to complete the circle, to go through the autumn and winter cycles of dropping away what is unnecessary and a process of decaying of "self". So society based on "self" is dying here and in its death we immediately witness that which was always underlying it, the true nature of the natural-human.

This has never been something we could strive to become or to achieve, because it has always been with us, no matter what has happened.

When we consider non-duality and the passing way of “self” as something to be “done” it is then an insurmountable problem, impenetrable to the mind, the same is true of trying to make a plant grow through willpower or trying to stop the waves from coming in. In the end we have to recognize that “I am” the edge of an almighty wave which has the vastness of the whole energy of the universe behind it. The “I” is a speck of dust on the back of a flea’s leg in relation to the galaxy of stars, yet it is just as vital as any other dust particle, and as such the transition to a return “home” to Eden is truly occurring without “me” being the director of it, for in the end there are no such things as “individuals making choices”, in fact everything is happening without the necessity of “me” being involved. Life is being lived through “me” and so as the process of the retirement of “myself” ripens and comes to a point where it drops from the tree, so the whole expression of humanity follows this very process, without cause, rhyme or reason.

The movement towards communal living is expressed here...

<http://www.cohousing.org.uk/>

<http://www.diggersanddreamers.org.uk/index.php>

...these are not really about choices or ideas any more, although they may seem to be. Actually they represent a movement that is occurring of natural re-tribalization where something is letting go and people are moving home to their roots, weather it is known to them cognitively or unknown.

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