

Indian spiritual practices and New Age

spirituality ... but also the "false prophets" and the danger of plagiarism. (Amadio Bianchi)

I feel it's important to start by saying that the content of this letter has no intention of representing an unsupported polemic in contradistinction to all that is happening today, instead, its intention is to search for what is "good" and "healthy", to stimulate thoughtful reflection and to help raise the quality of life at all levels: material, mental and spiritual. This is the fruit of my direct experience: I have been practicing Yoga, Ayurveda and Indian culture and philosophy for many years and consequently I can appreciate the concepts of Indian philosophy. This does not deny the fact that I have never wanted to renounce the free ability to give judgement. As a matter of fact, considering this last statement, I emphasize that the discriminative ability is a divine gift one should never have to renounce.

I need to establish whether Indian scientific and spiritual disciplines have managed to penetrate, rightly or wrongly, in a capillary way into Europe, to reawaken the hope of realising one's own dreams, utopic at times, and at the same time establishing bases for various modern movements which in time become referred to as spiritual.

It can be affirmed that some of us are born with a great need to nourish the most inferior cosmos within ourselves, and Indian culture, with its philosophical interpretations of the manifestation manages to bring some comfort to a society which has succumbed to increasingly materialistic wantonness, dissatisfaction and all kinds of insecurities.

Indian philosophy manages to direct the attention towards the spiritual substance of the manifestation and in giving back the dignity it deserves.

That's what's needed to make us feel alive, to awaken our senses as well as our conscience. In fact I maintain that Indian experience is above all an experience of conscience.

The road which awaits a researcher of this culture is a classic one: the same which generally involves oriental meditation. Above all else, he starts with the state of wake, which is followed by perception and finally he learns to live at peace with his own conscience.

But despite all this he must still reach the top of the mountain in search for a higher perspective which will allow him to contemplate Western and Eastern traditions, and become the third experience containing positive attributes of both.

An experience which can be called "Unity in Diversity".

In my opinion the universality of Indian vision is often misunderstood and it ends with the introduction of "characters" who are considered or consider themselves (which is worse) to be Gods.

A thin stream of deceit trickles into this over exaggerated interpretation and there are many Above all, these "characters" have absolutely nothing that can be termed

"universal", or to use a modern word, "democratic".

Their intention to provide a totalitarian regime is very questionable.

Sometimes I ask myself if we Westerners, who have completed the long painful journey towards social conquests in order to free ourselves from dictators, monarchs and others with most suggestive malevolent intentions, in search of a more universal vision we decided to call democracy, now want to go back.

But in other ways we have chosen to practice a more ample vision, which can only be given by a multitude of knowledge, which above all else also appears to be safer in terms of objective judgement, any yet today we allow these very few "false prophets" to decide for others in other words, subjugate the others.

In the past these new charismatic visionaries, convinced to be in the right (that's why they are called visionaries), completed their most "masterful disasters". Their best weapon, whether "used in good or bad faith" has always been plagiarism. No dictator has ever achieved anything without "forcing" the minds of others. Thus beware spiritual or material constraints!

Let us consider ourselves fortunate to be mortal and fallible, endowed with the benefit of the doubt, armed with humility and love, in search of a subjective Truth which we know is difficult to attain because of our human limitations. It is this very conviction that makes us prudent, respectful and humble.

Just think how sad the opposite would be: to be shut in a cage made of false certainties or illusions such as these "false prophets" who, be it in good faith or not, have not yet understood that to merely try to influence or subjugate another person's mind is already a disrespectful and violent gesture