

Awareness: A Way to Freedom and Wisdom

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AWARENESS...

- The goal of the human person is the self-transcendence of his/her life (ex-is-tere)...
- To be a human being means to be oriented towards something/someone beyond us... a meaning (purpose) to be found, or another human being to love and be loved by...
- To exist means to get lost... to give (lose, loosen, let go) everything...
- When somebody finds her/his purpose, s/he can develop all her/his potential
- To give content (theory) and direction to life (experience)

Awareness and Vulnerability

- Awareness is painful. *The more aware we are the more responsible we become*, not just for us but for everyone. This is why many want to live in blurry clouds. In our society there are many ways we are brought to un-awareness, instead of awareness. Awareness is a process that never ends... *how is the classroom a place to become aware?*

Capacity of Awareness (internalization): exclusive human capacity

The essential factor for human consistency (existential integration) and human efficacy is the capacity for human internalization (awareness) of values related to human options: PURPOSE AND MEANING.

The human person internalizes values not only when s/he knows them intellectually, not only when s/he accepts them emotionally but when s/he lives according to these values.

Human inconsistency (lack of awareness-integrity)

- Favors the search for non objective, non free values. Results in a person trying to adapt everything to her/his own mentality (manipulation of reality)... There is no transformation of heart...
- All real education has as the essential objective the **integral structuring** of the human person which is only possible through the way of awareness.
- An education that does not promote the capacity of awareness is only a process that leads to human inconsistency...

Developmental AWARENESS

- 1. *Personal Awareness* “I” individual significance
- 2. *Relational Awareness* “YOU” otherness – separateness
- 3. *Social Awareness* “WE” social intelligence / capacity to co-exist

WHO AM I? (an essential question for human awareness)

This question can be translated as:

1. What is inside me? (needs)
2. How I use what is inside me? (attitudes)
3. What is the reason (goal) of this specific use of what is inside me? (values)

Awareness of the “YOU” (exteriority)

- Relational Dimensions of life – dialogical beings-**OBJECTUAL** relationships

YOU:

- The one who gives me (exterior-explicit recognition)
- The one who receives me
- The one who threatens me
- The one who abandons me
- The one who calls me



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Awareness of the “other” – “O”ther (‘beyond-ness’)

What is the center (more than) of reality ?

- **The Human person?**
- **God?**
- **Universe?**
- **Me?**

Awareness of the Epoch (era) (place and time)

XXI century

2. Epochal characterization

- "Postmodernity"
- "Neo-baroque", "Hybrid cultures"
- "Late Modernity"
- "Broken World"
- Trans-modernity
- **Paradigmatic Transition**

What is
behind
the
buildings?



From ideas and theories to a coherent new practice (PRAXIS)

The first thing people conquer or embrace is ideas. To move from here to action is the most difficult moment of the process of awareness. Many professionals get stuck here and never go into transformative actions. They conquer the ideology and they talk about it, but they are not coherent with the way they act and live every day. We conquer ideas but we seldom conquer acts.



**Human
revelation:**

**Who we
are?**

**How can
others
know who
we are?**

Dia-logue



Decisions



Praxis



Challenge:

**The
classroom:
a place to
become
aware**

- Teach students how to read/understand reality/life and not just theories in books.
- Consistently link the classroom to real life.
- Don't answer all questions (subtle ideological imposition), let students live out their own questions (internal process of awareness)
- Don't see students as a-lumina. Let them find the light inside them.