

THE CALL-OF-THE-TIME DIALOGUE

Summary

November 7-10, 2002, Chile

On Thursday, November 7, participants boarded a Lan Chile flight, heading for Puerto Montt in the South of Chile. On arrival we were taken by car to Puerto Octay, the site of the final Call-of-the-Time Dialogue for this season. We had been told that the South of Chile was spectacular, but the breathtaking beauty that surrounded us was impeccable. The Llanquihue (pronounced Jankiway), a huge lake and the volcanoes of Osorno, Puntagudo and Calbuco were the backdrop to the dialogue and in many ways became the images that described the magnitude and depth of the experience. The Hotel Centinela was the perfect retreat setting.

There were 27 of us coming from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, El Salvador, Uruguay and Chile -- also from USA, U.K., Croatia and Australia.

This dialogue was a different one. Different in that instead of one resource person, we had 2 – Dadi Janki, who served as the spiritual resource and Dr. Humberto Maturana, a renowned biologist from Chile, who served as a resource for science. The theme was the impact of ‘elevated thoughts and pure feelings’ on the world. Pablo Walker, Managing Director of McCann Erickson – Chile, a large communication and marketing company, served as co-host of this dialogue.

The dynamic between Dadi Janki and Dr. Maturana set the tone for the weekend. Each of them emerges from an entirely different world – Dadi Janki from the world of faith and Humberto Maturana from the world of science. More interesting than their obvious differences are their surprising similarities. Both of them are reflective people. Both of them have spoken often about the impact of the outer world on the human being, about the power of love, about our capacity for reflection, and about the impact of our thoughts and our words on the world. It was this dynamic between their different perspectives and their common vision that led the dialogue into the deep and cool waters of contemplation and rich conversation.

Both Dadi and Humberto continuously referred us back to ourselves as the point of departure as we take action in the world. Humberto observed, “Each of us is the center of the cosmos.” Both of them reminded us that life unfolds in the present. Dadi said, “Our feelings about the past and our worries about the future interfere with the present.” So, how must we show up in the present in order to have a beneficial impact on the world? Maturana said, “A baby is born with trust, confidence and love. It says to us, ‘I am here. You must be loving with me, then I will be an adult who has self respect.’ “

As they spoke about these subjects, they modelled the kind of love, confidence and trust about which they were speaking. Dadi said, “The visible form of love is that we have been able to listen to each other so peaceably, seeking understanding. It has been a pleasure to hear my brother today. At times I felt he was expressing the things of my heart in his own words.”

Their wise reflections and extraordinary tenderness to one another elevated the emotions in the room. We were not simply talking about the impact of elevated thoughts and pure feelings, we were creating the exact kind of dynamic in the room we all wanted for our world.

Later in the dialogue when we went into small groups to explore the subject of creating trust in a changing world, we found ourselves describing the dynamic we were living: “We generate trust by trusting. We look at others in their own splendor. We are caring, which produces generosity.” On Saturday Dadi invited us to reflect on our role in transforming the world, when she said, “Within the last 24 hours what has

become the atmosphere created in this hotel? Who created it? Love and trust have pervaded the atmosphere. In today's world you don't even feel such an atmosphere in churches, mosques, or temples.”

By Saturday afternoon everyone was ready to move into silence, and the natural setting of Puerto Octay accommodated. All clouds vanished and the vast expanse of the Osorno volcano rose majestically from across the lake. Participants moved silently out of the room into the woods, onto the docks and beach – some choosing to share an hour of silent Chi Gong with Beatriz Gensch, some resting or writing in their journals. We came back together in the evening for a collective meditation and then sharing in small groups. Many said that the silence was so deep and comforting, that they were reluctant to begin speaking again. Some suggested that in the future we might extend the silence to include a full day.

By Sunday morning when we took our places in the circle, it felt as if we were old and good friends who had come together for a generous and leisurely retreat. We each took a few minutes to describe our experience in silence. Monica Herrera said, “I discovered that silence within me brings all the answers. If I were to draw it, I would draw a diamond – simple and beautiful. That is silence to me. I would like to be wise. In listening to Humberto Maturana and Dadi Janki, I realized that to be wise is to be humble and deep. I entered silence like a child, with no expectations and I discovered I was the daughter of God. He is not far, far away as I had thought. He is as close as my brother. I felt an incredible sense of power.”

At the end of the dialogue Humberto reflected on the importance of experience: “If someone has an experience, it is valid. To some extent we have moved within a circle. Dadi is a being who moves towards the divine. I am a being who lives in curiosity about nature. We scientists move around the world explaining what we find. Dadi finds the divine in everything. In the center we stand in the Kingdom of God. The experience is the important thing. The explanation is not the important thing. Searching for the divine we find nature. Searching in nature we find God.”