

Spiritual education

Towards a sense of the sacred

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“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience.” – Teilhard de Chardin

All humans without exception are spiritual beings; we are pilgrims on the path to our final destination, which is to discover within ourselves, the presence of the Universal Being, the Universal Creative Intelligence that gives life to all and unites us as one family: the Earth Community.

The Universal Being is the Supreme, the Eternal, the Truth of the Universe, a state of consciousness that is beyond time. In humans, the Universal Being is our soul.

The wise say that in everything there are two dimensions: the visible dimension and the invisible dimension. Matter, that which we can measure, is the kingdom of the Earth; and the soul, that which we feel, is the kingdom of Light: this invisible dimension cannot be understood purely by reason – in fact, it can only be grasped through spiritual imagination, through intuition, through that which makes our heart leap.

What is the point of conquering the material world only to lose our soul? Are we prepared to become aware of our true Being? To live and share spirituality and ecology as sacred activists? The seed of spiritual wisdom is already within us. A good teacher touches that seed allowing it to awaken, sprout and grow. There is no knowledge higher or more conducive to full satisfaction than knowing one's own

Self. We are here to awaken into this awareness. Let children self-design their own schooling and learn to connect to their innate wisdom, the wisdom of their hands, of the Earth, of community, and thereby discover the great mystery: ‘I am.’

Our children have been born into a new era, so let's not limit them to what family, teachers, schools and universities know; let us walk alongside them with our presence, our wisdom and our creative love. Children carry the ‘great teacher’ inside them, deep within their Being. Just as the seed knows how to become a tree, and the bird knows how to build the perfect nest, the child knows how to Access their innate wisdom. The forces that guide the stars are the same forces that make our hearts beat; the Universal Intelligence that awakens each Spring is the same intelligence that awakens our dreams. The sun, the stars, the mountains... they know – and we know. Everything is connected to the Creative Universal Intelligence.

If you want to understand this Intelligence, follow Saint Augustine's advice: do not search outside, because the truth lies within you. Listen to your consciousness, since everything else is conditioned by it, beginning with the way you relate to yourself and

then to other living beings, to Nature, to the material world. You, child, are the teacher. The Creative Intelligence of the Universe will guide you. Let us learn from the invisible, from the sacred dimension of life. Knowing who you are, knowing yourself, is the highest offering each of us can make to the whole of humanity. That is the essence.

You, child, are the teacher

Educating our Inner Being offers us the opportunity to reconnect with the spiritual and ecological dimension that lies within each of us. Wisdom should not be confused with intelligence, information nor even with education. You may be highly educated yet show a complete lack of wisdom, or you can be illiterate yet be connected to that inner kingdom of wisdom, which is the dimension of consciousness or presence. So, the most important thing to learn is how to be in contact with this inner dimension of consciousness. It's not just another subject to add to the academic curriculum; it should be the foundation of all teaching in school and in life itself.

Our relationships with people and Nature are based on the quality of our Being.

When that quality has an inner stillness, the terrain upon which future actions occur will change and thus events will take a different turn. We simply return to our true home, reconnect with ourselves, with our own spirituality. Our most significant interaction is with our true nature. In this way we offer harmony to those with whom we connect. Connecting to one's limitless qualities in daily life, to then connect in the same way with others and with the world, is surely the path towards the realisation of our Spiritual Being.

The wisdom of spiritual education is that it is based on commitment to truth and non-violence. It teaches how to express love in our daily actions, through a method based on ethics and work. Spiritual education moves outwards to the hands and the senses, to the brain and the heart; to school and to society, all the way to the Universe.

Creative love is the way to turn life into light, it is the interface between the visible and the invisible, the way to reach the Universal Being. Socrates tells us that, "Love is the messenger between the visible and the invisible," while St. John of the Cross affirms, "We can only call love that which connects the soul with the Universal Being." Saint Teresa explained that, "The important thing is not to think much, but to love much," and that, "The love of the Universal Being should not be built in our imagination, it has to be experienced. We experience love in contemplation, in the silence of the mind, when we enter the spheres of poetry and art, where true love and joy can be found."

Love, invisible and immeasurable, is the force that moves the Universe. Just as the rational mind can see that all matter is energy, so the soul can see that all energy is love; any part of creation can be a mathematical equation for the mind and a love song for the soul. Love leads us to light. It is not enough to have more nor to know more – we need only live more, and if we want to live more, we must love more. Love is the foundation of spiritual education.

Educating the Inner Being awakens people's consciousness and the ecology of Nature; it protects and regenerates the planet's ecosystems and delivers a message, a clear mantra for all of humanity that is precise and precious: all is one, all is connected, inter-

related and inter-dependent. We are a large family sharing planet Earth.

If we cultivate consciousness and recover the spirit of the sacred, our egos will surrender and we will discover the beauty, goodness and truth in the coexistence of the animal, the vegetable, the mineral, the human and the divine kingdoms. Together they make up a whole within the laws of Nature and of the cosmos. Spiritual education is the path of wisdom, of love, of light and of the Universal Being.

Being a child

is believing in love, believing in beauty, believing in kindness, believing in faith;
it is being as humble as the Earth, as innocent as a butterfly, so small that the ants
can whisper in your ear;

it is living in an almond shell and feeling like the queen of infinite space;
turning pumpkins into carriages and mice into horses;
it is transforming the small into the sublime and nothing into something; because
every child has a little fairy in their soul.

Being a child, in William Blake's words is:

To see the world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.