

REFLECTIONS ON SPIRITUALIZED SOCIETY - I

Todd Wilson



Spiritual Significance : Aspiration for Spirituality
(Photo Credit : www.blossomlikeaflower.com)

Note to Readers: Upon being charged with the creation of a reflective essay, crafted from sitting with the wisdom of chapters 21-24 in Sri Aurobindo's 'The Human Cycle', I found the inspiration to draft a segment of a larger fictional work. For nearly two years, I have been crafting a work of fiction that concludes with characters living in oneness with Spirit. The speech below by one of the characters is a leap beyond my ability to craft with clarity and light an exegesis (of sorts) that expresses the human pioneers towards a Divine Life. Even so, I realized after meditating on the essay that this genre and segment was to be my reflection on Sri Aurobindo's treatise. Although it sits below far from finished or even in a state of pale polish, I am appreciative for this course assignment and direction, as it has stretched my vision beyond what I knew before; I can gratefully claim the same of the course.

Excerpt from a speech by June Reyna, delivered atop Haleakala on Maui, Hawaii, December 21, 2030

...and then there was a mountain. This aged and resting volcano, the Hawaiian "House of the Sun" has been our home now for over half a century and all who listen today have been scaling like summits in the vastness of their being.

The paths you have opened have guided us all in an earnest attempt to stand here today in spiritual comradeship. The center of our evolving society here in Hawaii, now a center for global soul work, these sacred volcanoes, sea cliffs and coasts that have heard many declarations and concords and transformations are an affinity for us. This day is one of unity and one of presence and as you know voices encircling the globe have spoken of a shifting and opening beyond the subjective age for humanity. These evolutionary markings come at the end of a decade of the multitudes in society, more and more, moving within and heeding the calls for equalization, a harmonization of the strife and perversions at the ending of the last millennium. The turning one by one of individuals from the collective to their own work towards Truth has unfettered many, coalescing with our work. Many have heard the chronicles that I have already shared or will share; these accounts recall the years prior to the now wondrous potential for a society on Earth, united through Divine freedom. In 1978, I read each day with a small group, mostly native Hawaiians, large swathes from *The Life Divine*, speaking with them of the individual transformations that are necessary for creative human evolution. With bare feet and honest words, we sketched and mediated the initial work of equality in all aspects of one's inner life, leaping forth from the heights that Sri Aurobindo made possible to all who sat at his feet. The equality was compared to a still ocean, an oceanic expanse in one's heart that was not stirred by desire or fear. This was the beginning of true strength and vigor, worthy of the light and intuitive vision that would come from above, just as the rains return to the ocean. This light and vision was the truthful way to progress and find our way. The then current exaltation of reason and mechanized progress was on the edge or larger and larger catastrophes, of limitations to freedoms that humans needed to gain an understanding and creative vision of their minds and bodies and souls. We recognized the limits of a rational society and a society that hungered for progressive gains, stealing more and more from the future without awareness, without heeding the studies or the insights of theorists, environmentalists, and visionaries. Without condemnation and with awareness of the same drives and forces within our own minds and hearts, we sat along the ocean in the sands of Makena and looked upon the wounded shell of Kahoolawe, the "Sacred Island." For over two decades the U.S. Navy sent every known warhead into the red cinder of the volcanic dome. The maneuvers bombarded the island, shelling it with the innovations of the war department and each projectile having more and more power to destroy, each man or woman more and more precise in the art of destruction and false power. It is not difficult to feel like that Sacred Island, for we emerge from the sea and then are bombarded by the forces of human society. We protect ourselves at the cost of our freedom and at the cost of our future unity. With our eyes full of destruction of the Sacred and our flesh wearied by the constant bombardment of capitalism's spearheads in the name of progress and material power, we turned within our hearts from the idea of heaven, the dream of away. Lulled and without thought, we sat as

one and enclosed each other, wrapping around the distant island and spiraling up beyond what is known and believed but not real. The reality of our words and plans conditioned through an egoic source were soon separate—a cloth that could be removed. With the slap of the wave's arrival, we awoke as one.

By 1988, nearly 3,000 of us lived on Kahoolawe and the first agreements, although simple were lived by all. Each man or woman would have the freedom to discover the inner oneness through his or her personal path towards equality, and each man and woman would contribute daily to the collective soul of not only the island but to the collective soul of the Earth Island. These agreements were without an exact order or allegiance; there was no constitution or pact. Many were aware that the agreements were beyond their current ability and thus the order that we knew would surface was a collection of elders; soul elders stood up and spoke from deep experience and the others recognized their evolved sense of consciousness. The elders were consulted, and they continued their own earnest expansion. Sooner than any planned, the collective of humans on Kahoolawe became a synergistic organization that provided with and for the two agreements. At no time, as many of you remember, was the island an attempt to prove anything to the world or to secure a rock of sanity in the tumultuous 80's. We were a mountain on the horizon of Spirit and an ocean of *sattva* in the collective heart. That was enough.

Very quickly, the world noticed, felt us in the middle of the Pacific and came calling with questions. The governor had agreed to our cleansing and of the island and returning it to its sacred appellation. When she returned a few months after we signed a land use agreement with the State of Hawaii, a press conference was held and our first international statements to the world's nations were articulated. All of our initial statements are not important today, as most have emanated beyond the words of that day and have guided multitudes of humans to take up the daily work realizing Freedom, Unity & God. One is worth restating as the others have carried a divine message, abetting many democratic nations through transformations beyond rationalistic or romantic ideals.

Clearly the answer that was incredible at the time, the one that rocketed through the media, was our response to why. The questioners were not interested in the fact that we were seeking to change society, for as you all remember, the U.S. had entered a decline that became evident to the world's nations around 1976. Even the skeptics had resolved themselves by the late 80's and therefore the attempt to secede or reform a democratic society, one able to ascend beyond the crushing and stagnant corruption of capitalism and its inability to transcend greed was not completely novel. What was, was our declaration that we lived by an agreement to transcend the national ideals destroying nature, life, humanity, through an inner government and ultimately an inner freedom, an affinity that results in unity, one to perfuse & imbue individuals with an origination from the Divine source. And therefore why?

The sweating reporters asked again. We, as many of you remember, simply quoted the great elder, Sri Aurobindo:

“The solution lies not in the reason, but in the soul of man, in its spiritual tendencies. It is a spiritual, an inner freedom that can alone create a perfect human order. It is a spiritual, a greater than the rational enlightenment that can alone illumine the vital nature of man and impose harmony on its self-seeking, antagonisms and discords. A deeper brotherhood, a yet unfound law of love will not proceed by the vital instincts or the reason where there are plenty of other passions to combat it. It is in the soul that it must find its roots; the love which is founded upon a deeper truth of our being, the brotherhood or, let us say,—for this is another feeling than any vital or mental sense of brotherhood, a calmer more durable motive-force,—the spiritual comradeship which is the expression of an inner realization of oneness.”

Upon the reverberation of the final phrase, silence settled within the gathering transfigured with awe. An egret winged overhead to the west and the cameras and microphones were impotent to hold or capture all that evinced and proclaimed what has since been lauded as miraculous but was simply the seminal shifting of the subjective to the spiritual. For as many of you remember, Thaddeus and I stood before the members of State, humans who were suddenly without meaning and who for all and evermore represented the once established regimes and ideologies of reason and power and science. To this grand audience who once thought that the mind could merely manipulate Nature’s elements to make the most seductive images of power or the vilest defacements of human life, and carried this thought to edgy destruction time after time, the utterance of Truth, the transliteration of Light in the words that had become mantra and method to us for years, echoed. The façade of media and progress and force dissipated, crumbled within the gossamer rain that the wind carried from this volcanic peak to the humble island of Kahoolawe, and we rendered the soul again upon the Earth.

Two days later we began the process to secede from the United States and to unify the entire archipelago without war or State, and without an idea or ideal, we spoke only an inner freedom and the spiritual comradeship that would express “an inner realization of oneness.”

This is a miracle that men can love God, yet fail to love humanity. With whom are they in love then?

SRI AUROBINDO, CWSA, Vol. 12, p. 429