

A REFLECTIVE INVITATION

When we stop and look at any phenomenon, if we pay attention, we can see the relational process of transformations that have brought it into existence. And when we look at it, we become aware of something that we already knew: *every 'now' is the present of an historic drift*. In this way, we as person, family, organization, business or any other kind of human community, are all in our *now* (present). We are also in the presence of a process which has given us our origin. The happening of the realization of any living occurs in a continuous process of transformation around conservation of multidimensional preferences that living guides in its drift, generating and defining its history.

All of us in every instant of our *now* are the continuous result of a history which has been generated moment after moment by the intertwining of our particular choices, preferences, tastes, fears and joys, as well as our experiences of well-being and ill-being. From this reflection we can become aware that all of our thinking, reflecting, and living together has been what gives shape and sense to our historic drift. In the same manner we can bring forth those ways of engaging and relating to each other that arise as fundamentals in our desire to conserve well-being in our living: ethics, responsibility, collaboration, co-inspiration and loving, which all make the latter possible.

Whenever we are serious about asking about the structure of the organizations of which we are part, we are in fact asking ourselves about our own drift and experience in relating with that organization. It is from this basis that *now* we can ask about our reflective history with the following questions.

How have we done what we have done in order to find ourselves living this particular present? How is it that this has been the orientation of my desires which has led the drift of my existing to this point?

It is from this perspective that we wish to invite you to reflect with us and others on the quality of our living together - to comprehend how this cultural-biological present, in any domain it becomes revealed, finds itself in a state of well-being or lack thereof. This is an invitation to look, reflect and converse about the social and cultural-biological drift which has followed our fundamental individual as well as organizational processes, and to position ourselves towards a common desire which can expand our space for collaboration and co-inspiration in well-being. It is a gathering, and even more, a walking together in the explanation of a domain of particular interest of our existing – for example as an educator, businessman, academician, poet or student.

As all of us already know, the question we accept defines the sphere of doings of our answer which will follow. And so, the level of consciousness from where we ask will be fundamental to the drift of the answer. With this, we invite you to live the experience that occurs when all of these distinctions and reflections arise from the understanding of being human. We invite you to discover what happens when we reflect about our daily living and about knowing and understanding our fundamental cultural-biological nature as loving and ethical human beings.

WHO WE ARE

Who are we?

The Matriztic School was founded by Dr. Humberto Maturana and Ximena Davila in the year 2000. We who invite you include Humberto, Ximena, Gloria, Sebastian, Gabriel and Dennis.

We bring forth the school so that we can collaborate and co-inspire with others through reflective conversations and experiences. In so doing, it is possible for us to comprehend how we operate as cultural-biological beings that in our origins emerged as loving beings, as people who can live in this loving and ethical manner but who are also capable of creating the opposite.

At the moment we create this invitation for you, we follow a history of our own flow of reflecting upon our loving nature and the well-being that emerges whenever and however we reflect together conserving our caring for others and for their well-being. This invitation is for you to join us on this path, to release the illusion of transcendent notions and concepts such as control, domination and logical-sequential order in favor of living in the concreteness of our daily living. Accepting this invitation, we hope you will realize that love and well-being inside the dynamic ethical matrix is the source of human progress, business profit, and transformation from a world of pain and suffering that we no longer wish to bring forth.

What do we desire?

We would like to deepen our comprehension of the basis of our spontaneous ethical behavior. How is it that pain and suffering moves us? How is it that sometimes we do not like to see the pain that we witness and we act in order not to see it?

We would like to expand our capacity to see and understand the relational-operational matrix in which our human existence and what happens to each other matters from the ethical basis of its biological-cultural origin.

What do we hope will happen?

We hope that for those that accept our invitation, you will join us in this journey through Reflective Circles to experience together a growth of our consciousness and understanding of our cultural-biological nature as loving and ethical primate beings, able to be responsible in the psychic, philosophical and relational domains of our own living.

Together we can have this be a source of energy for realizing this work, and living that we wish to realize, knowing that our ethical and loving nature will bring us together as an ethical human community to take care of ourselves, each other and all that surrounds and nurtures us.

OUR UNDERSTANDING

From which place do we invite you?

We invite you, ourselves and others to live together in an experiential-reflective process, through the understanding of the cultural-biological matrix of human existence, and see the extraordinary of the ordinary and the ordinary of the extraordinary, in our operating as observers in our daily living.

We invite you, ourselves and others to distinguish and investigate the simplicities and complexities of our cultural-biological human living and the relationships that we generate in the continuously changing present by reflecting upon our cultural present, whichever this might be.

We propose to find ourselves in the epistemological¹ foundation from which arises the comprehensive orientation of our reflective processes, in the unity of our bodyhood and our mind by attending to our inner feelings, in experiences as well as in the explanation of those experiences. We reflect about our operating as human beings, generators of worlds, and as observers capable of seeing and comprehending the worlds that we generate, by bringing forth the different domains of existence that constitute us.

We propose to look at our existence as languaging beings, as we live in a recursive dynamic of continuous transformations of our inner feelings in the conscious or unconscious temptation of irresponsibility, even as we desire to be responsible for our living. We invite you, ourselves and others to look at three different domains -what is living, living and life- as the proposition of three separate domains that when they intertwine they constitute our experience-existence-action as human beings.

We invite all of us then, in an audacious manner, to no longer confuse the fabrication of explanations of an observer, who seeks unifying absolute truths of the diverse domains of human existence into one transcendental existence, generating pain and blindness. In this way, we invite you, ourselves and others to a reflection that would permit us, without losing our autonomous reflection and action, to distinguish, from an impeccable scientific and serious observing, the different domains of our own existence. All of this we wish to happen without becoming trapped by the seductive notion of a transcendental reality, and not in the absolute truth that arises when, in our thinking, we treat what we distinguish as if it existed with independence of what we do, when we distinguish it from our own explanations.

The three reflexive domains of human experience-existence-action that we invite you to look at, are distinguished from the particular understanding of our cultural-biological human existence - that arises as the **unitary epistemology** – which appears when we realize that in our experience we do not distinguish between illusion and perception. We would like to create a space of shared living (co-existence) that generates within people a flow of intimate inner feelings that open spaces of well-being as a consequence of the expansion of consciousness or awareness that is brought forth when one lives the comprehension of "what is living", "living", and "life".

The reflection that we have brought forth arises from our understanding of the origin of human cultural pain and suffering in our cultural living, which is centered in relational networks of power, domination and submission. This then generates a living in the fragmentation of the conflict between our inner feelings and the explanations that we give to such conflict. In this way we distinguish that this phenomenon of fragmentation that we live daily, arises from the pain that we find ourselves living in the separation of body and mind, while wanting and working to unite them.

¹ By epistemology we refer to the particular manner of knowing and understanding of the experiences of the observer in daily living.

Our invitation is to become conscious of the unity and fragmentation of these domains that configure our condition as biological-cultural beings.

From this understanding we invite you, ourselves and others to live the experience of the process of reflexive transformation in shared-living (co-existences), where what is core is finding one and others in a social community experiencing the loving-conversing-reflecting about our daily living, where the ideas and concepts that appear to us, occur as a natural result of this way of finding one and others in an educative-reflective process.

The variety of inner feelings, experiences and doings that trigger pain and curiosity within us as human beings, naturally brings a self-reflection about the basis of human existence. This also brings the realization that when we observe our daily living, we can generate abstractions, reflections and explanations of the coherences of the living by the observer that observes the coherences of his or her own living when we ask ourselves, how we do what we do?, and from where do I feel what I feel?

We invite you, ourselves and others to a shared-living space in which all the experiences that people bring have presence in self-respect and respect for others as legitimate others in co-existence. It is from here that we invite you to respect and learn from the diversity of experiences and doings.

What we will live and comprehend:

- The experience of the process
- The loving nature of human beings
- The comprehension that the phenomenological and explanatory domains that we live are disjointed, but constitute a unitary totality that we see when living the experience of observing the observer and hence, when comprehending our biological-cultural-spiritual nature.

What is required?

The opening of a space of reflective intimacy: this is patience. It's about an invitation to be conscious and aware of the living that is lived and wants to be lived. Finally, we are inviting you, ourselves and others to discover within ourselves the three pillars of the spontaneous ethical-social conduct: knowing, understanding and adequate action at hand.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

Where and when

We will meet in Portland, Oregon in the facilities of Willamette University from September 7th until the 11th. We will meet from 09:00 am until 1:30 pm (morning period) and then from 03:00 pm until 06:00 pm (afternoon period). The first day we will only meet after lunch and the last day we will only meet in the morning.

The dates are the following:

September 2010

- 7th : Only afternoon period
- 8th : All day long
- 9th : All day long
- 10th : All day long
- 11th : Only morning period

The only structure that we will offer of these days together will be this organization of the day, but the content of what we will conserve and reflect with you will emerge in our conversing together.

Registration and tuition

Cost: US\$ 3000 for each individual participant.

US\$ 2750 each when registering as a team of four or more people.

To register for this workshop:

- Email: edc@willamette.edu
- The link to the registration form and process options for payment will be sent to you.
- Please register early as space is limited and we are expecting a full course.

For further questions on the program, please contact any of the following people:

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