

Global Thinkers Forum 2015 (25/04/2015)

Moderator: Professor Vlavianos Arvanitis, you speak of creating and developing a new understanding of a global citizenship, a global democracy, what is your vision? How do you define the big goal?

Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis: “Before answering specific questions, we need to set the framework, so let me begin with a poem:

Galaxy or galaxies are small dimensions, not infinity

Neutrons are small very small, not infinity

And who am I? A neutron to the galaxy or a galaxy to the neutron?

I think this is our inquiry, to understand our place in the universe, and to see where we stand in terms of the macrocosmos and microcosmos. As human beings, even though, we appear in the last minute or even second of evolution, we raise our position to such a point of arrogance that we have lost our balance. This is because, we assume that everything belongs to us; we do not hesitate to exploit all the natural resources and destroy other forms of life. However, the truth is that, out of the search of the whole universe we have not found bios – life – on any other planet. Bios is our only source of joy, the unifying dimension that we share and because of this we have so many possibilities, but also responsibilities.

Nowadays, we face crises, multiple crises. Especially, the environmental crisis threatens the continuity of most beings. However, mitigation of climate change can be a unifying force for creating a new society. Moreover, there is a major crisis in values and leadership. And this is why this particular meeting is of crucial importance. I think it is time we entered a meta-capitalism state. The meta-capitalism challenge is not about threatening vested interests; rather it aims at inspiring the 1% of the population who hold the 50% of the world’s wealth to make a voluntary commitment to invest in securing the continuity of bios on our planet. If we wish to secure the continuity of bios on our planet, we need to cooperate and reflect on what is our vision, how we wish to use the enormous gift of bios that is given to us, this miracle that we possess.

From our observations of the human body, we know that if one part of the body suffers the whole body suffers. Thus, we need to understand the complexity of interdependence, and respect diversity in religion, tradition, and language and protect it as our wealth and treasure, maintain these differences and fear not each

other, as we are reaching a point where fearing each other is like fearing our own shadow.

Enlightened leadership is the kind of vision that could motivate actions. We do not want strict rules and new taxation, as it seldom has the anticipated outcome. Nevertheless, we want to inspire leaders, involve them into planning a society of hope and vision. Let us delegate responsibilities to capitalize on the photosynthetic process, so as to have clean oceans and more food, to make available clean water to everyone in Africa, every place in Asia and the entire world. In this type of unified effort, people who make money are not threatened; on the contrary, they are invited to play a greater role and undertake the responsibility to create a new vision for a new millennium.

Today, we put so much value in material things, and those who are greedy are not criticized because they are considered successful models. So to bring about change, models have to change by creating new inspirational paradigms and value systems. Let us use Greek mythology and ancient philosophical contributions to assess technology and create, through a 'bio-assessment', the new values that humanity needs. Let's develop international projects based on the new values that will make millennium thinking possible."