

The source of consciousness is correct, real and esthetic action

From Work and Capital, by Norberto Keppe

There are two attitudes characteristic of the human being: that of the individual who accepts no awareness of his errors, not wishing to know about them or deal with them; and that of those who can feel guilt, and who struggle to make things better and return society to goodness. The first group is made up of the arrogant and the second of the humble; these last accept goodness, truth and life, and for this reason can see their problems and become ashamed of them; the first allow themselves to be dominated by envy, and never become aware of it. Goodness exists in itself, and evil is no more than the absence of good. The individual who is full of hatred does not succeed in perceiving even his own anger, let alone correct himself. So those who show their feelings are able to see the difficulties they are in, and eventually solve their problems. The economic life of nations is dominated by the first type of people, who judge themselves capable of directing humanity, and each year increase the poverty and unhappiness of all peoples. They are very bold, and give orders and produce plans with great facility, deceiving everybody. When they attain the most influential positions (Finance Minister, for example) they have the power to lead any country to disaster.

Those who refuse the conscientization process, that is, who do not want to see the truth about themselves, are by the same token unwilling to put themselves into action. So what is generally called laziness is the attitude of rejecting what is good. One who is like this generally has no doubt about what he thinks or says, giving a false impression of great knowledge. However, those who are in action are well aware of all their problems as they are struggling not to be overwhelmed by them.

Action is the result of the union of feeling and thoughts, and the origin of all that exists is action, within goodness and truth. To learn and to feel through work – this is the road to a future humanity, because the centre of life derives from action. The perception of feeling and the development of intelligence are functions of a person's correct activity.

Most people think that work damages you, and not that work is that which conscientizes you to the damage you have done to yourself. Action is linked to consciousness, forming a real dialectic; more work means more awareness, and he who is most aware does the most work. The negative factors of laziness, avarice, envy and hatred do not develop consciousness but destroy it.

I can say that consciousness is linked to action, as truth to speech, and feeling to love; and though they coexist, one cannot substitute for another. This being so, only a people truly developed by action can make their country great.