

Interview of Paola Pacifico -- Leader of the Aquarius Group

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The Age of Aquarius has been predicted by many people; in fact, in every sacred book we find that there will come an era in which man will make a qualitative leap in evolution. This era should start in about 1975 and end towards the year 2000 -- a cosmic occasion in order that man may make a step ahead towards the evolution.

The people who live in Milan, Italy, form an energetic mass that for the moment works for a selfish purpose. However, they have been trained to work seriously, and for this we have opened an Age of Aquarius center in Milan and not, for instance, in Rome, where there is more dispersion and more amusement. If they first worked for the external things, now this training may be useful to work for internal things.

What do we propose? Since in the Age of Aquarius in every being grows as an internal search, we stimulate man not to search outside himself, but inside. Instead of spending energy for material things, we must use this energy to research spirituality. With this spirit a sort of community has started, which is interested in everything, since we start from the point that man must find his right, way to reach completion.

There are many ways, as we also see in your symbol. We deal with the famous esoteric discipline, that is, we are interested in astrology and reincarnation. All these disciplines have given us a sort of inclination which we call Aquarian. We treat astrology as the science of the energies, so we make a horoscope of the personality.

It was necessary to bring reincarnation into the Western world under the appearance of a universal principle, that is, the evolutionary law. In Asia nobody is interested in reincarnation, because they discount the idea that we need to reincarnate many times in order to evolve. We are fragments of past lives, which are simply atoms loaded with energy, flying about in space. To discharge they have to tune in to certain energy fields and that's why a person is born in one way rather than in another, in one family rather than another.

From the past lives we don't only inherit these fragments of Karma -- some negativity to unload -- but we also inherit talents. If it's not possible to express the real talent, this talent "taints" a person and produces a physical symptom. It has been proven that some people have discovered hidden talents like dancing, painting, architecture. There are hundreds of those cases, and once we've expressed these talents, we are cured of physical diseases caused by being prevented from expressing them.

So the study of reincarnation and astrology gives us a method of preventive medicine. Therefore we have a group for psychic dancers, for architecture, for photography. In short we explore all the various artistic sectors. We analyze the people through a series of questions and we discover if they have a talent which matured in their past lives; and through astrology we discover the predisposition of a certain type of art. So we insert this person in a certain artistic sector and he embraces it freely, while he frees his artistic push. We make the people become aware of the divine sparkles 'he has inside, and because everyone has

his own cosmic function, the only mortal sin in life is not to live one's own cosmic function while on earth. When someone finds his note and plays it with harmony, he automatically enters into harmony with the cosmos and becomes a cosmic man. After he has realized himself he becomes a positive man and proceeds positive energy.

The "Ashram" which I have been leader of is very small. Only a few people have left everything and have come to live with us, and because we don't have any more room we can't accept many others who will dedicate themselves completely to this work. But these people radiate positive energy and learn to realize the divine on earth, in their job or studies. Our biggest problem are not the adults but the children. Education as it's seen these days is a mnemonic exercise; that is, they go to school to learn who Garibaldi was, who George Washington was. People don't want a child to express himself, but they oppress him through a didactic education. At school they don't awaken the talent of the child; rather they give him cultural knowledge and so restrain the divine part in him. So we've made sections where children of our associates come to learn how to express themselves. Because children are full of destructiveness, we have made rooms where they can unloose their energy, where the child frees himself, rolling on the floor, screaming. After some time he begins to create, painting and singing, and outcome come beautiful things. In the school of the Age of Aquarius we would like the child to be educated, not only physically but also spiritually.

The Age of Aquarius must be the age of inclusiveness, of collaboration, an era of union and joy. In our center people of all kinds come, even blind or spastic people, and after some time they are at ease with us, because we are united in spirit in an internal search. Our community is the only one where a two year old child lives together with an old man of eighty. We want to keep this, because totality consists of everything. Because the adults, those physically disabled, already felt at ease with us, we thought immediately of children. So handicapped children have come, and we've seen that they, through our way of living, feel very well. There has been a spiritual enrichment for the handicapped, as well as for the normal children. The normal child has the possibility of doing good to the handicapped and of course the handicapped has done good to him, so the enrichment has been reciprocal.

Whoever wants to adhere to our movement has to spontaneously give us his strength, energy, money, everything he wants to give, because a spiritual center has to be born from spontaneity and collaboration. Our only problem is the lack of space, because there are many people: all are ready to do something. There is somebody who types with a typewriter, another who cleans the house, etc... because we want this to become a small village. We should also like to come together for the holidays, during the other months to live together, to experiment together. We want to create a community where we can live spontaneously not taking account of material values, but of values of another kind -- that of the heart. We feel it growing abundantly inside, pushing us to make this new experimental community. We don't teach anything new, but simply experiment with that which has been said already by many others; we search to live it in the reality of every day and of course to give it to everyone who wants it. We have many bodies, but only one soul, and we must come to understand this through the soul that everyone of us has.

In this Age of Aquarius many groups are working: yours and ours for instance, are a part of the whole and in practice we do the same work. We try to give people the possibility of plunging into their internal reality, and show them that this reality exists, that it's real, that it's equal for every one of us, and that it's what Christ has taught us. If Christ has come to the world it is because there is the possibility to evolve and that possibility is for everyone. Of course, once the individual is on the right way, all doors, even that of negativity, begin to open. This negativity is changed into light. Only the individual can do this work: there are no elevators to Paradise.

If we should be able to say: we lead you on this path, we bring you the light, we should have much help today. But our basic point is not to give anybody a crutch. We simply have to say to people that the Age of Aquarius is the cosmic era, in which help comes from the divine and every individual has to learn to get in touch with and to use the energy coming from God. We have to open the doors to receive this energy. Every man needs to know that he has two legs, discover them and walk, to see how beautiful it is to walk on two legs. This is an incentive we can give, even if of course we always have to be ready to give advice, to resolve the doubts of this man. He has to learn that all the techniques, all the disciplines are nothing but a snare. Sooner or later he has to learn to eat by himself, to get up by himself.

We have to test life through our intuition, through the way of the heart, discovering every day the divine essence with which we want to get in touch, through various paths necessary to arrive there concretely. We see that in the whole world there are groups, many groups, which want the same thing. We are not the only ones. We consider Aquarius everything that takes into account the internal truth of man, which is that other truth inside man. Inside us we feel the vibrations of this future world that will lead to an evolution, not only for us, but for the whole earth. In the Age of Aquarius there will be a complete disappearance of that veil that separates the visible from the invisible. By studying, experimenting, observing, we can synthesize these two worlds: the visible and the invisible; we can also translate into Occidental terms that what a man has within himself and what has already been said by Oriental philosophies. For instance, we have to teach that the emission of negative thought defiles the air around

us. We try to exclude everything that is of mediumism, spiritualism and divination, not because we don't believe in it, but because we must not be dominated by the spirit world anymore. My body gives hospitality to the divine, so I have to discover the divine that is already in me and make it master of myself.

Mediums have made us understand these powers which were first outside of us. But when we discover that these powers are in us, occult must not exist anymore; no mysterious form must exist anymore, and nothing must enthrall and degrade man. Man has to discover the divine that is in him, and he only has to live it. However, he must live it from the moment he wakes up till the moment he falls asleep, during the whole day, not just for one or two hours a day. Every action must be divine, and therefore he has to know what happens when he thinks, when he talks. We have to teach man to create thoughts of peace and well-being. We have to learn that at last it's possible to cure people through the power of thought. All this new knowledge has to lead to the new era, and we want to live it consciously and without fanaticisms, with spontaneity and sincerity towards ourselves and others, creating right and good relations and upright actions in our lives -- but everything without prejudice. We have to make the divine fully living in us. Mediumistic gifts are translated into intercession; that is, we must become mediators between us and the divine.

We can receive the divine powers channeled through us, not to be superior to the others, but to help the evolution of the world.

All the movements that bring us an explanation of this internal reality, that make us discover a method to be able to live the divine are welcome. We should want our center, "the Age of Aquarius," to become a center of sorting out all these disciplines so that anyone can realize himself by reading a book of Aurobindo or the "Divine Principle." We should want to become a center of connection between the various movements through the exchange of addresses, of magazines, books, and information and above all, of love, of ideas, of confidence, of joy. We should like to give everyone the possibility of self-realization, to choose the most adequate and adherent road for his needs.

Do you think that Christianity is in crisis?

The real Christian principle, the real Christian function is that of love and union. As for me, this has not been realized yet, there can't be a crisis because Christianity in this way has never yet existed.

Do you think that the lack of realization of this Christian principle is due to the influence of Oriental doctrines?

No. On the contrary. Someone who approaches Oriental doctrines returns to the Christian doctrine with so much knowledge and can become a real Christian. Therefore the knowledge of Oriental doctrines never separates one from Christianity. The Christian idea of union and love has been assimilated mentally, but it has still to be lived in the heart. It's not enough to understand an idea mentally, it has to be lived. The Christian idea has been understood mentally by everyone, but it has not been lived yet. I think that even today it doesn't exist yet, even if it has been tried.

What do you think of the people who say that this is the era in which Christ returns.?

Christ returns in us. Everybody has to realize that inside. As Aurobindo says: "The adventures outside us have finished." We have to make the Christian part live in us; mankind has to bring forth a new conscience. In practice, we have to realize ourselves, we have to become the messiah to ourselves. Certainly, we have to become the priest of ourselves, doctor of ourselves. Man has to understand and become a guide of himself, manage himself on his own, putting himself in contact with the divine. When you have discovered the divine in you, what else do you want? Automatically this puts you in the track of real life. I personally can't believe that Christ comes from outside. Now we have to realize Christ in us.

So why, beside theosophy and Christianity, do other religions talk about the coming of a man.?

Even if it may seem strange, everything that has come to the world is right, is real. Only everything proceeds according to its determined time. For instance, theosophy was born a hundred years ago, but we can't stop at theosophy, we have to go on. Mankind was not ready at that time to absorb certain ideas, because he was not yet enough developed. Now is the moment in which the organs of light develop, as well as intuition, conscience, psychic sensibility and internal vision. We can get learning from the doctrines of the past, but we must not acquire the knowledge that today can wake up man inside. We have to amplify our conscience and vision. We have to realize that the coming of Christ that everybody is waiting for is nothing else but the arrival of man at a totality, the same totality of Christ. Two thousand years ago a physical being came who represented this totality. We have accepted it and now we have to realize it. For two thousand years we have understood that outside us was Christ. Now we have to assimilate the fact that Christ is in us. Christ has been the symbol of everything we can realize inside. Is there a center outside? There will be a center in us! This is the principle.

Christ has not come only for the Christians, but he has come for the whole world, the whole mankind, as Buddha has not only come for the Buddhists. Now we've understood that all religions say something right, and therefore by uniting the religions the famous universal religion will come out. We have to free ourselves from every prejudice. At Buddha's time, the illumination and self-realization taught by Buddha was given to everyone; therefore mankind was in the position to attain that kind of knowledge which Buddhism reaches. When Christ comes to the world, he has come for everybody; and through the knowledge of his message everyone could realize the same things. The symbol outside us has already come and has said and taught that what he had to say and teach. Now we have to accomplish the internal work, the individual work.

This can be accomplished by self-determination or through the many pushes we receive. For instance, a physical material misfortune may be the method and the way to get free from chains which prevent us from dedicating ourselves to the divine, to the search for union with the divine in wholeness of body and mind, and with joy. This research of the divine must be our evolutionary leap in the Age of Aquarius.