

Conference Commentaries

ON OUR IDENTITY IN AMERICA

with Bing Escudero

The search for identity is part of our human nature. Our own individuality would like to be something always more than what it is now. Wherever we live, we tend to identify with the customs and traditions of our our social environment. As soon as we are transplanted, the past continues to assert itself. While the present, pressures us to a new or even conflicting conformity.

Identities that conform to ideas, whether of the past, present or future will remain problematic. As long as a self or ego seeks to enlarge itself with a larger identity such as that of race, creed, custom or tradition, oppositions to other races, creeds, customs and traditions will arise.

It may be, that the only workable identity, that unites rather than divides, integrates rather than polarizes, is our identity with our own higher or inner ethical center. This center is our idealistic nature. It is universal in all human beings. Our human identity is in a constant search for more love, kindness, peace, openness, goodwill and so on.

Let us seek the ethical themes that are the underlying and lasting foundations of every great culture and civilization.

Outward customs and practices may seem different and intriguing. But history is proof that the inner ethical and spiritual principles extend their expressions in various cultural modes that transform and advance the positive nature of our human potential.

On our planet, there is a great experiment taking place in America. People of almost every country, race, religion, political and social inclination, can still come together and live in freedom. The multidimensional interactions that take place here will distill the best and finest from every cultural identity, bringing and spreading forth a world-culture that will be of planetary significance in terms of global unity and peace.

It will be a new humanity that will bring forth a new identity. This new identity will grow from competition to cooperation, from communication to communion, from rationalization to intuition, from deals to ideals, from passion to compassion, from selfishness to selflessness, from conception to perception, from intellectuality to intelligence, from multiplicity to unity, from fellowship to kinship, from individuality to universality, from discord to harmony, from sectarianism to spirituality, from wholeness to holiness.

May our youth and every youth throughout the world arise to champion this urgent and transformative challenge of the coming millennium.