

Reconciliation

1. Excerpt from Silo's words during Three Days of Spiritual Inspiration, Punta de Vacas, May 3, 4, and 5, 2007

...We have made the pilgrimage to this desolate outpost searching for the Force that nurtures our lives, searching for the Joy in doing and searching for the mental Peace necessary to advance in this altered and violent world

In these Days we are reviewing our lives, our hopes, and also our failures, with the aim of cleaning the mind of all falsehood and contradiction. To have the opportunity to review our aspirations and frustrations, even if it is only once in our lives, is a practice that every person who searches to advance in their personal development and their action in the world should do. These are days of inspiration and reflection. These are days of Reconciliation, sincere reconciliation with ourselves and those who have harmed us. In these painful relationships that we have endured we are not trying to forgive nor to be forgiven. To forgive means that one of the parties is placed in a superior moral position, and the other party humbles themselves before the one who forgives. And while it is clear that to forgive is a more advanced step than to take revenge, it is not as advanced as reconciliation.

Neither are we trying to forget the wrongs that have occurred. It is not the case of trying to falsify the memory. This is the case of trying to comprehend what happened in order to enter into the superior step of reconciliation. Nothing good is achieved, either personally or socially, by forgetting or forgiving. Don't forget or forgive! The mind should remain fresh and attentive, without concealments or falsehoods. We are now considering the most important point of Reconciliation which does not admit adulterations. If we are searching for sincere reconciliation with ourselves and with those who have hurt us intensely it is because we want a profound transformation of our lives – a transformation that takes us out of resentment where clearly no one reconciles with anyone and not even with themselves. When we are able to understand that an enemy does not live in our interior but rather a being full of hopes and failures, a being in whom we can see in a short succession of images, beautiful fulfilling moments and also moments of frustration and resentment. When we are able to understand that our enemy is a being who also has lived with hopes and failures, a being that has had beautiful fulfilling moments and also moments of frustration and resentment, then we are placing a humanizing look over the skin of monstrosity.

This path toward reconciliation does not appear spontaneously, as in the same way the path toward non-violence does not appear spontaneously – because both require great comprehension and the formation of a physical repugnance to violence.

It will not be us who judge errors, neither our own nor those of others. For that there is human retribution and justice and the stature of the times in which their dominion is exercised. I don't want to judge myself nor to judge others... I want to deeply understand in order to clean my mind of all resentment.

To reconcile is neither to forget nor to forgive, it is to acknowledge all that has happened and to propose to oneself to emerge from the circle of resentment. It is to look at the situation, acknowledging one's errors and those of others. To reconcile within oneself is to propose not to walk down the same road twice, but rather to dispose ourselves to repair twice-over the wrongs we have done. But it is clear that we cannot ask those that have offended us to doubly repair the wrongs they have caused us. However, it is a good task to make them see the chain of harm that they are dragging through their lives. In doing this, we reconcile with those whom we have previously felt as an enemy, even though we may not achieve that the other reconciles with us. But this is now part of the destiny of their actions about which we cannot decide.

We are saying that reconciliation is not reciprocal between people and also the reconciliation with oneself does not bring about, as a consequence, that others leave their vicious circle even though it is possible to recognize the social benefits of such an individual posture.

The theme of reconciliation has been central in our Days, but surely we have achieved many other advances by physically making this pilgrimage to an unknown landscape that will have awakened profound landscapes. And this will always be possible if the Purpose that has moved one to be a pilgrim is a disposition toward renewal, or better still, a disposition toward the transformation of one's own life.

In these days we have seen the situations that we consider to be the most important in our life. If we have located such moments and taken them through reconciliation, cleaning them of the resentments that have tied us to the past, then we will have made a good pilgrimage, reaching the source of renewal and transformation.”

2. Excerpt from Silo's words in the Public Talk in Madrid, 1981

...How will human beings ever triumph over their shadow? By fleeing it? By confronting it in incoherent struggle? If the motor of history is rebellion against death, I say to you now: Rebel against frustration and revenge!

For the first time in history, let us stop looking for people to blame. Everyone is responsible for what they have done, but no one is to blame for what has happened. If only with this universal judgment we could declare: “No one is to blame,” and with this establish a moral obligation that every human being reconcile with his or her own past. This will begin here today in you, and you will be responsible to see that it continues, reaching those around you until it has spread to the last corner of the Earth.

If the direction of your life has not changed, you need to change it. And if it has already changed, then you need to strengthen this new direction. So that all this may be possible, accompany me in a free, courageous, and profound act that is also a commitment to reconciliation. Go to your parents, your loved ones, your companions; go to your friends and your enemies alike, and tell them with an open heart, “Something great and new has happened in me today,” and explain to them this message of reconciliation. Let me repeat this: Go to your parents, your loved ones, your companions; go to your friends and your enemies alike, and tell them with an open heart, “Something great and new has happened in me today,” and explain to them this message of reconciliation.

For everyone, Peace, Force, and Joy!

Bibliography

- Speech: [“Three Days of Spiritual Inspiration,”](#) May 3, 4 and 5, 2007, [Video](#), www.silo.net
- Book: [Silo Speaks](#), Public Talk in Madrid, Pabellón de los Deportes, Madrid, Spain, September 27, 1981
- Video: [Silo, Compilation of Speeches – Public Talk in Madrid, 1981](#)