

World Awakening: Psychosynthesis and Geosynthesis
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Author's Comments

I gave this plenary speech at the International Psychosynthesis Conference, held in Italy in June, 1988, on the 100th anniversary of Roberto Assagioli's birth. It is full of the vision and confidence of that time, and in re-reading it now, twenty-six years later, I experience a profound sadness, as well as an awareness of my naivete. In these intervening years I have come gradually to accept that the process of world awakening described here will take much longer than I, and others, originally thought and hoped. We imagined at that time that global transformation was close by--and indeed there were signs of its emergence-- but what is clear now is that the forces of resistance are far stronger than I, in my youth, realized, and that the shifts in consciousness the talk describes, though still in progress, are not as pervasive as I envisioned then.

We all know the details of this resistance, and we are struggling with it still. As we look around the planet we see everywhere global conditions worsening, enmities growing, and climate change now presses on us as well. Certainly, we are in a dark period as a species, and old polarities and projections persist. National and ethnic identity is intransigent, and religious identity, as a colleague of mine, Paula Green, pointed out recently, is also playing its part in the conditions of war, environmental degradation, and human suffering that are present between nations, peoples, and faiths. And yet the drive to awakening is also still present, and there are countless examples of this positive force at work on the planet that express the possibility of peace and global synthesis.

One way of looking at these seemingly adverse conditions that have persisted is to hold them as a necessary emergence into human consciousness of our collective resistance to world awakening, and that we need to see, accept, and work directly with these in order to transform them. Our work now is to confront the shadow elements, in ourselves and in our species, and contain and/or transform them toward species maturity. We cannot leap over them into some new world. All dimensions of our human experience need to become conscious in order to be integrated into whole human being, and we need this revelation in order to make choices to live in another way and to relate to neighbor, citizen, stranger, with a "new mode of thinking" and feeling. The challenges are the same; it is only that this has turned out to be a work of many generations, not just of a few years, or even decades.

I have left the speech just as it was given in 1988. It is therefore both "dated" and still very relevant, and new events can be easily substituted for the ones mentioned here that exemplify both the movement of, and resistance to, world awakening. It is clear that we have a great deal of work to do, both within ourselves and in the world, and there certainly is no guarantee that we will come through. However, new generations have joined in now, and they bring both creative vision and new energy to the work, and perhaps a more realistic sense of what is required.

I am grateful to have spoken these words twenty-six years ago and to be still at work, in my own way, on the process of geosynthesis and world awakening.

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