

Document 3: Notes by *Min Ameen*



Taking Diversions and U-Turns: Conversations and Dialogues on Sustainable Futures and Spirituality, Loyola College, Chennai; 11 – 13 February 2015

Notes on the Economy Breakout Session

- Our ideas around progress are warped – they are equated with material growth, mindless consumption.
- The current economic system does not provide a level playing field
- The current system is based on the false premise that the cities are engines for growth
- Might is right
- The current economic system provides sophisticated products and services at our doorstep
- The current system is marred with budget cuts, stratified economy and systematic violence
- It does not promote that – No choice could sometimes be better
- Media oppression is one the major threats for us
- It drives consumption, misinforms us, creates sports and entertainment stars that influence us negatively
- Individualism is threatening the social fabric and is destabilising relationships
- The one who buys and sells, counts. Consumption is KING
- WTO and Free trade agreements are designed in such a way that multinationals go scot-free
- Economy is politicised

Notes on the Last Session on the Four Groups

Mountains and rivers, Other living beings, Missing People and Unborn Souls

- *Unborn Souls* – Be what you are and let me be what I am
- *Mountains and rivers* - Tread lightly and gracefully on this earth and grace will come upon you
- *All* – Stop this nonsense – we will survive but what about you
- *Mountains and rivers* – We have given life to you for millions of years –we are joyous when you are joyful. We suffer when you suffer. Please take care of me. I also feel pain. You are my family
- *Fish* – We are also living beings. We also experience pain. You think sharks are dangerous. Sharks are thousand times more dangerous
- *Soil* – It takes thousands of years to make this soil. It has given life and food to all. It is dying now. I want you all to restructure this soil.
- *Unborn Souls* – I want to come to you as your daughter. But I am afraid. The air is polluted, food is polluted. I also see that some parents are working hard. Work hard for I want to be born as your daughter
- *Mountains* – I am disappointed to see that you have destroyed us, you have polluted us. You have destabilized the peaceful coexistence of living beings in the mountains
- *Missing People* – I hear your worries, I see your suffering but you have not invited me. I am neither male nor female. I have something to say. Do not leave me out
- *Missing People* – you have marginalized me
- *Mountain ranges, meadows, valleys, trees* – I am not just a thing to see and enjoy, an exhibit. I am a living being. I was before you and I have provided for you. Remember that and care for me.
- *Ocean* – I am deeper than your imagination, more shallow than you think. I have stories to tell you. My silence is not to be misinterpreted as my weakness. I am the god of thunder
- *Voice of the indigenous* – How will this go on when you represent me without my presence and voice
- *People in jail* – Does prison make us prisoners better? People with bigger crimes do not go to prison. Listen to our voices. Stop trying to teach us on how to live.
- *Amazon forest people* – Every year you are destroying more and more forest. You are killing me and killing yourself.
- *Politician and Capitalist* – Forgive my ignorance. I hope you can correct me. I hope you will not get into the same things
- *River of life* – For millions of years, I am flowing through the mountains. I fall from heights and I am not hurt. Now, I have been dammed, poisoned and killed. Give me my life. I was your school once and I provided for you. Now you are killing me

- *Other living beings* – I fight for food. I fight for existence. I try to dominate but I do not take more than what I need.
- *Workers* – Working from dawn to night. It is a new form of slavery. Poverty is a new form of slavery. We do not have enough work. Just look at the problem you have created. Is this what you call development? We are millions of souls. Our voices should be heard
- *Tiger* – I am the tiger of the forest, I am scared. I am the tiger but I am scared.
- *Earth* – Stand up and protect me. If you don't it is your loss
- *Mountains and rivers* – I am your home. Without me you cannot survive. You cannot create mountains and rivers. Pursue the goals of the eco-village movement
- *Rivers* – You have lived with me and you have poisoned my blood. I still love you. Take care
- *Unborn Souls* – Can we have a chance to be human?
- *Missing People* – I need you to continue your work with love and continue with good will
- *ALL* – I am asking for your commitment for honouring life with your every breath. I am not asking for anything else
- *Unborn Souls* – I am asking you – stop being so afraid, stop hiding in the spreadsheets, stop taking orders, stop being in jobs you do not like. Stop being afraid, you have so much potential. Start living again
- *Ancient wisdom and wisdom of the natural world* – 50 million years of survival at the amazon. Think of 7 generations whenever you do something to the earth
- *Unborn Souls* – I wish I remain unborn because the world I am in is far better than the world you have created
- *All* – I am the wisdom of all – what are you afraid of? Be compassionate and care. Be what you are
- *Unborn Souls* – When I was born – bomb blast, killing, crack of the bullet, underground, army. I do not want to kill
- *Spirit of nature of all living beings* – We are the cosmic family
- *Other living beings* – Rhinoceros – Horn cut off. Elephant – tusk cut off. Chicken – tiny cages and beaks chopped. Pigs – no sunlight in the tiny cage. Allow us some dignity or you will lose your humanity
- *All* – Speak for the world, that celebrates life and shines light on anyone who is on doubt. I am the voice that can be called upon and honours every contribution you are making
- *Missing People* – Christ, Mahavir and Buddha. No fight – surrender. Do not use our names anymore – we are not there
- *My Voice* – Direction and purpose in life and emancipation to all my fellow beings
- *God* – Acknowledge the God that has brought us together. Reality of creation is within each of us