

OUR EVOLUTION OR INVOLUTION?

Our greatest human adventure is the evolution of consciousness. We are in this life to enlarge the soul, liberate the spirit, and light up the brain.

Tom Robbins

Adriana VINTEAN¹

“Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania

Abstract

We are being shaped by society. The process of transmitting the knowledge becomes a problem with global implications. We have access to all information on the globe and this means power, as we became more creative, rational, successful, and we speak of it as the output of life's algorithm. What do we choose? How do we use information? We hesitate between “to have” and “to be”. We have options and choices. We evolve but at what price? The system of values must be reconsidered as the rush for accretion can become destructive. „To be” becomes more and more the essential moment of our existence. It may be a way to redefine ourselves.

Key words: progress, opportunities, to have, to be, options, soul, values

JEL Classification: Y9

1. Introduction

It is XXI st century when technology, information, inventions, all have exploded. There is an exponential growth regarding connections, links, our ability to get informed, the access to data.

And we continue in this way.... As we have miraculous discoveries: in science, in researching more and more fields and so there is a continuous change. We must adapt whether we like it or not.

Who could have predicted years ago? How many of us are aware of our addiction to technology with everything it means?

¹ Faculty of Economic Sciences

The trend we are following is that of evolution, of progress and those who do not wish to tally with are being dragged by those around or are being sidelined.

But most of us have forgotten to live a simple life.

We have reached such a high level of civilization that we forgot the basis. What will happen later? Will we ever stop? When? Are we to be addicted to technology in such a way as to completely forget simple things, traditions?

Who would survive without light? Probably those not accustomed to technology, those not service addicted, those who try to keep with the rest, but are less understood, isolated by a society too strange for them, the non-adapted . They will survive because they know how to live in a simple way, to be less dependent on the others, continuing what they have learnt from the ancestors.

There is another category, namely those who are training and are ready. More and more communication sites have appeared to survive. What for? Hobby, boredom, or on the contrary...information on everything.

We are so skilled in doing anything, to discover, to learn, to search and find it difficult to save ourselves.

Why?

Are we being overwhelmed by this style of life?

We need more. And it seems that the indifference for the genuine values, transmitted from generation to generation, the attachment to a comfortable life is leading to addiction and oblivion.

We are evolving today, tomorrow, every day, on all levels and this is normal to happen but are we aware of our involution at some levels? We could accelerate our evolution and the deeper you go into yourself the more experienced you will be and with superior knowledge.

In a world that no longer believes in happiness through consumption or the benefits of selfish competition and unlimited progress „to be” and „to have” is a manifest for a new psychological and socio economic order . We can follow the history and the outcomes of two fundamental ways to exist: the one based on fortune, power and aggressiveness and that motivated by love, spontaneity and dedication.

The solutions to come out of depression and birocatic dehumanization are being articulated in a thorough socio economic program that goes from individual initiatives of healthy consumerism and intensification of spiritual experiences to global measures in favour of some participative democracy, a humanistic management and diminuation of obvious inequities.

By placing together some psychoanalytical arguments with subtle macroeconomic analysis „to have” and „to be” is a synthesis quite updated.

„To have” gives birth to doubts, desilutions, disapointments, hessitation, desires, comparisons and self pride, lack of satisfaction, the fear to loose, hatred, fear for competition, it also gives birth to greediness, frustration.

It seems that the verb “to have” can put an end to our life. We become the slave of the villa, of the car, of the bank account.....

To consume represents a form of „to have” , probably the most important. It relieves the unrest as far as whatever you own cannot be taken away; but it urges you to consume more and more because what you had been consuming before no longer satisfies you. Health consumption can be only if more and more people wish to change their patterns and life style. People if exagerated can entail passivity. The need for novelty reflects the inner unrest, the flight of man from himself.

„To be” is a natural condition. It means presponsibility. It means existance, life, feeling. It is a personal option, an individual one. We „are” the way we are not as we wish to.

„To have” means a social game, to be placed in an accepted order while „to be” comes with the inner fret. Which is more important? Laking time, the modern man became the slave of consumerism at the expense of moral values. The system of values must be reconsidered as the rush for accruement can become destructive. „To be” becomes more and more the essential moment of our existance. We can have feelings of fulfilment only after we attained the status of happiness. And then we can do something if we feel that it is our way and can help us beome happier.

„To have” is related to success and this is the answer to everything you had been, you are, and will be. We must understand it. We” have “the ability to learn, to communicate, we have opinions but all we are being represented must be improved every day. An idea must be unique, people around you must “be” valuable, important. We must “have” a habit “to be” successful until it becomes us. Then we are powerful. But more we must “Be” content “to have”

done everything that is in your power, everything you knew in order to get where you are. And most of all if possible never feel any regret.

The modern man is caught between the to verbs “to have” and “to be”. Hence the crisis, mostly that of the man who is focused on accumulating assets, focussed on his own personality and on the welfare it can reach. Societies are modernizing and they become more complex, more individualistic and the modern man has become the owner of his soul, has assumed a new existential state by rejecting transcendence, his world being cleaned by any superstition.

But as man is looking for a meaning in life, for a meaning given to events, for a meaning of words, of suffering, he becomes more and more complex. He finds the meaning when he understands everything that is happening around him and inside him. Homo economicus has a different world focused on efficiency, a binary thinking at a single level of reality. He is interested by his own good, he looks for satisfaction in collecting assets and looks for his own happiness. He is a **Kaizen**- meaning continuous improvement. He knows that society now is competitive and that is why he is striving to become better in everything he does.

The existential void? He fills it with pleasure and assets.

What can we do as such?

2. We can find options for today's man

- man should redefine himself. He should be more careful to consumerism and to the verb „to have”. The trap he is being caught is the pressure to be successful. The idea of success is being sold to us as quantity(how many clients, cars, houses,...) quality is subordinated to figures. We become greedy in accumulating more and more. We became dominated by the need to consume all possibilities as quickly as possible. And then what? We have options for everything : loneliness, depressions, alienation.....

What about the concept of the “nice man” of today? He seems to climb the stairs back to front in this way confronting not only those who get down but the insults too.

It is not exactly what we wish. First the nice man must not climb back to front. He is aware of his balance, wisdom, sympathy, understanding. He has attained a high level of his development. He believes in understanding and therefore he

will climb the stair normally. He is not affected by anything bad that exists around him. The nice man must be loving and wise with everybody around him. Sometimes he disturbs around. His simple presence will entail outcomes: questions, thoughts, changes) . His simple existence is an example. Human beauty is not a gift, it is being taught and for this we must learn not fight.

- man should become kinder. In this way he can understand the imperfection and therefore accept and forgive. There is a vortex of the evil things around us where there is no room for a friendship, love, sympathy. We must be careful to people with close universes, to those who make use of raw material the feelings of others, and seduce and manipulate.

If the mind is being used in a distructive way the ego gets the power and competition appears, the split with the others and the wishn to live in the future. That is because the ego does not like the moment. It needs to see oponents everywhere and to say „I have no time”. The soul is being covered by the power of the ego as it always wishes more...

- man should ponder over time, body and soul. We should reflect on change to focus all energy on building the new not fighting anymore with the old. We must do what we should in order to give up the past. What we are today is more important than what we had been in the past and will determine who we shall be. We must learn to live in the present. A crisis must become a positive thing; when we pass through a crisis we have the opportunity to redefine and become stonger in order to better adapt to reality. We should try to receive everything as it comes because each moment is precious and brings with it a life lesson.

Here are some opportunities that we are being offered:

- breaking the illusions. Often a crisis wakes us to reality. It can be destructive to make you feel upside down. We can break illusions only through a crisis when we realise the falseness we had to live with.
- we must discover new meanings about life and so we have a better chance for experiences that otherwise we could not have lived
- the change is something that we wish and can bring us something good

We need more time for ourselves. We are obsessed with so many things in life and forget how quickly time is passing away. And time never leaves empty handed : it takes a lot of luggage

- It is not good to be wrong in order to learn something. Tomorrow might be a better day if we are content with ourselves. Thus we can climb higher and discover the secret of human existence and we may find the reason we live for. There is nothing more valuable and useful than a nice memory and the person who collects more memories in his life and for sure will find salvation in them.

- Man should love with all his being. Casual love is worth almost nothing. Anyone can love by chance. We long for something more: an opening of our self and the other selves it dreams for. As if it is an opening of the arms of the soul to embrace what is unseen and misterious in the other.

- Selfishness dehumanises. There is a tendency for alienation with people around and isolation reigns over.

Maybe that is why we wish more happiness. Sometimes a single day should be enough for us to know all the happiness in the world. We should choose regardless the consequences, we should choose now because we may have only a few moments..

Very touching the comparison in the famous book and film „The English Patient” is that of the flower whose heart if removed is replaced with a fluid that contains all kindness in herbs. Every morning you can drink a quantity of liquid that equals an absent heart...This makes you stronger and aware of the value of life.

As far as I am concerned....

- I would give value to things for what they signify
- I would sleep less but dream more ; for each minute when we close the eyes we loose seconds of light
- I would not let a day without saying something good to people around me
- I would defend sadness
- I would be more careful to our world
- I would take care of my thoughts, of my uttered words, of my habits.
- I would be more careful with the value of time and be more powerful through my time converted into experience, knowledge, values. I would take of the chances offered by time and give meaning to it.
- I have learnt that there is no ending on our way even when we meet obstacles or even when our dreams come true. Our decisions are

important as well as our actions to place us closer or farther from our dreams. Each can be the beginning of something or an experience.

There is always tomorrow and life gives us another opportunity to do things well. Tomorrow is not assured to anybody whether young or old. Today may be the last day when you see the beloved. So make time for a hug, for a smile, for a kiss and you will not regret to have been too busy ...

We should long for more. We never give as much as we should but we take less than we are being offered. We should be kind, merry, well balanced, lacking arrogance and vanity, ready to forget ill deeds and to forgive the one who made mistakes.

May be the most suitable example for the evolution of man concerning his values comes with F. Dostoevski, whose characters have genuine moral beauty under their frightening dark character.

Within our character there is always a treasure of qualities that make us evolve with wisdom. We start in life with a light soul as if looking at the sun with hope and we find ourselves to carry a luggage full of bitterness, disappointments and pains. What do our dreams change into? What remains after you dissipate your soul? We must assume more in life. Every time in life when I allowed more than my heart wanted I knew I had only one heart. I also knew when I forgave that my soul will be broken. I knew but I was too stubborn and let all hurt me.

And I agree that there are two types of people: those paralyzed by the evil in the world who refuse to do something because they see no purpose and those who fight to the end because they consider that doing nothing is infinitely worse than doing something and fail.

We all agree that life becomes harder and harder, insecure, and happiness can be an illusion and envy, wickedness, lack of trust, hatred, selfishness, treachery make people change and become bad. The evil is no longer an isolated reality but a universal one. If the human being is made to inquire all the time, to search, to hesitate, to become nervous, along the agitated race of his life he loses the dynamic serenity that characterizes the healthy search for his meaning. Now in a crisis man must be more attentive to the natural state he was born with: the true man is the one of the virtue, of generosity, responsibility, he must be forgiving, trustful, wise, friendly, sincere.

Our evolution is from an individualistic vibration centered on mental logic, reason, action to the sensitive vibration. We have been expressing ourselves during the last century in a world that has forgotten "to be" in order "to have".

But too much of anything leads to involution. We need balance and to trust the power of the heart. We cannot “have” in order “to be”. “Having” cannot define you unless you identify with matter by forgetting about the soul. And we do not expect this.

3. Conclusion

With the entering into the new millennium the vibration of our planet started to change by announcing different mentality, social, cultural, religious evolution of the world. We have passed from number 1 to number 2 namely from “me” and “you” to “us” and we started to develop the cleverness, understanding of the heart, passing from the mental way to that of our heart. We need a new perspective of the world in which we could better understand that we can reach the good in ourselves by taking into account the common one. Looking around us we wonder if our creation sustains us, if we have reached the balance.

Are we stuck in rigid patterns of individualism or open to a new vision on the world?

To evolve we need the inner recovery, as we had been disconnected from the soul ,the acceptance of the wounds that we have to heal because what once was power, vanity must turn into wisdom and patience.

4. References

- G.Jung, *Modern Man in Search of a Soul*, Routledge, London 2014
- Erich Fromm, *To have and To Be*, Bloombury Academic 2013
- *Creating Values in Life*, Ashok Gulla, Author House, 2010
- *Faces of the XXIst Century*, Oficyna Wydawnicza "Rewasz Publish House 2008