

THE MEETING

This meeting does not belong to believers or atheists, or to any particular religion or belief.

This meeting takes place simply among humans, among people who believe in the Good.

Because of this, we -men and women of different races and beliefs- are reading these words at the same time, which is by itself a reason for joy.

However, today we are not going to focus on what divides us but on what binds us.

Some may think that we do not look very much alike, that there are few resemblances. Whether many or few, they are so important that they may be enough for us to set off together.

Let us imagine something: What would happen if Jesus of Nazareth and Muhammad met each other? or if they met Buddha? what would they do? would they quarrel...?

I do not think so. I think they would look at each other, smile and talk amicably. I imagine that on seeing themselves, they would recognize mutually as beings working for the Good, bound by a joint labor.

What would Gandhi and Mother Teresa of Calcutta have said to each other? How do you imagine a meeting between them? It could have been quite similar since they were people who helped their fellow beings with their thoughts, their prayers and their own hands.

In those places where there is suffering, do members of different confessions not collaborate with each other? Do believers and non-believers not collaborate? Are they all not people of goodwill trying to help others?

Many of you reading this have specific religious beliefs, and many others do not. Still, there is something very important uniting us and it is Goodwill.

This faith we have in the Good, in the search of our own good and of the other's. This faith in the Good inside each human being, in the existence of Good inside things, is probably one of the fundamental pillars of all religions and of the moral convictions of so many non-religious good persons.

Does this Good in us, this intention of doing good to each other, does it not make us Brethren?

Are we following the founders of our religions, our masters, the good persons that we admire when we forget this?

Even when it could sound daring on me, if we wanted to sum up the purpose of our religions, I would say it is a double one: the development of that Principle of the Good that lies within us, and the expression of that Goodness towards our fellow beings and towards the world we live in.

Only two points in common may not seem many, but... are they not important? are they not... the most important?... do they not define our way of life?

What is more, this will to improve oneself and to do Good to the others, is it not shared by so many people who do not have any particular creed? Are our neighbors, our friends, those who smile at us in the market not like this?... Are we not a majority?

And even more, also those not believing in the existence of a Good inside people or in the progress of mankind... those not waiting for anything else, either a better life beyond or hither... those sometimes falling in despair... also those having such a vision of the world... they take side and choose to do the good they can... Those, showing perhaps more faith in Good or more courage than the others -even against the world they see- are unable to ignore that good feeling inside them. Those... are part of that same brotherhood.

The aim of this meeting is to make us recall this Brotherhood among us, and the fact that we should not focus so much on those things dividing us because we are united in the essential.

We do not mean to say that there are no differences, or that we should avoid them, but as well as we live together with people with different professions, political ideas or tastes; as well as we have found a common base for coexistence whilst we follow our own path; we –believers and non-believers, but good people- must be the first ones in the search of that common base so that when we face common problems and sufferings, we can all meet, bound by our goodwill, and work together to find the way.

Shall we never forget this Brotherhood formed by all the people who in a way or other do the good in the world. Let us work together... we are in the same boat.