

INTEGRAL TRANSPERSONAL JOURNAL

of arts, sciences and technologies



Special "Out of The Cave"

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Integral Transpersonal Journal

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Eurotas Official Journal



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INTEGRAL TRANSPERSONAL JOURNAL
VOL. XX, N. XX, 2023 – SPECIAL "OUT OF THE CAVE"

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The Many Faces of the Cave,
in the Third Millennium's Sciences of the Psyche.

The 23rd International Eurotas Gathering at
San Vincenzo, Italy, October 2023

Rossana Strambaci, Ph.D.

ITJ Editor Director

The 23rd Eurotas gathering, in October 2023, in the sun and in the gentle landscape of Tuscany, was dedicated to the call "Out of the Cave".

The cave from which we are called to emerge refers to the myth of the Cave, contained in Plato's Republic, a myth that defines and clarifies Western epistemology and the relationship of western thought with sensible reality.

The five days of the conference were preceded by two days of pre-conference dedicated to Transpersonal Constellation, led by Eleonora Prazzoli and Simone Curto, and to Holotropic Breathwork, with Claudia Panico.

The Conference opens on 4 October with a Lectio Magistralis by Lama Michel Rinpoche, a speech of great clarity that opens up a broad perspective on happiness, responsibility, well-being, in a fertile East-West syncretism. Lama Michel clarifies in a simple way the main truth of the epistemology of reference of the entire transpersonal world, namely that reality is the result of the relationship between the observer and the observed.

Then, after the welcome speech of Pier Luigi Lattuada, the first speeches of the Transpersonal Legacy Panel will be held online. So, we were able to

listen to the thoughts of the great fathers of the transpersonal thinking. During the days of the gathering there were the interventions of James Fadiman, Olga Louchakova Schwartz, Roger Walsh, Stanley Krippner, Ervin Laszlo, Amit Goswami, Andrea Calderon, Santiago Leon Andrade, Ivonne Kason, Vera Saldanha Pizzichini and David Lukoff.

Unexpectedly, the first day, Ken Wilber joined these thinkers and *maîtres à penser* at the very beginning of the Conference. With his speech and his words, he formalized the transition from the term *transpersonal* to the term *integral* for characterizing the “Science of Psyche” of the third millennium.

The most fluid and dynamic format of the Conference, every morning from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., were the Ted Style Talks. Short speeches, a total of 44 distributed over five days, with a strictly limited time.

These were extremely concentrated and dense communications, full of food for thought and in-depth analysis. Mines of suggestions to investigate all the facets of what goes by the name of transpersonal and which is the future, albeit ancient, way to the disciplines “of the soul”.

It is impossible to mention all the contributions, which have ranged from philosophy, quantum physics, neurosciences, the so-called “human” sciences, psychotherapy, literature, communication, ethics, ancient healing traditions, sexology, mythology.

Therefore, each afternoon was dedicated to workshops, a very varied series of activities both experiential, theoretical, and body mediated: many fascinating proposals (80 workshops and 48 Medicine Circles) to explore the different dimensions of the transpersonal horizon.

Participants in the gathering were able to enjoy many wide spaces, in the wood, or near water, or spaces indoors too, to share words, music, gestures, experiences. There were 20 performances organized, but others took place spontaneously, by natural aggregation.

Every night there was an event: the first night the movie of Niccolò Buongiorno, “Songs of the Water Spirit”.

After dinner on September 5th, the “BTE Night” comes to life.

The celebration – organized by Pier Luigi Lattuada’s Biotransenergetics groups from all over Italy – puts on stage the strength and the “Axe” of the archetypes of Afro-Brazilian religiosity and of many other different cultures, in a universal embrace of energy, songs, music and colours, in which everyone participates.

The last night of the Convention it was time for “Manifest”, Valentina Lattuada’s theatrical intense monologue.

It is really difficult to account for all the suggestions that communications and events of those days have made available.

We have the feeling of having walked on a very fertile soil, in which each shoot can give rise to a large tree, or flowers, or luxuriant shrubs, in a living and vibrating landscape full of differences and perspectives.

If we would look for a common thread from a theoretical point of view, we could perhaps say that the impulse “out of the cave” implies going beyond the power and the slavery of representation and arriving at the awareness that every representation in which we live is only one of many possible, made real and alive by our choice and our responsibility.

The subtle, and in my opinion decisive, passage of the Platonic myth is the recognition of what the cave is, in order to be able to look at the figures projected on the wall with the awareness that they are a projection.

All this passes through the reorganization of our thought, through the change of the state of consciousness, which can be extended to that dimension of consciousness that is everything and that contains everything.

This happens in the awareness – as Erica Poli said in her speech – that we are in the rhythm “of systole and diastole”, in the coexistence of darkness and light, and that perhaps we can become one with that fire that casts shadows, even in our humanity so vulnerable as prisoners.

Rossana Strambaci,

DECEMBER 2023