

# The Essence of Being and

## Man's Spiritual Destiny

By Pietro Grieco

*The mission and spiritual destiny of  
being  
are the reasons of his existence*

Have you ever asked yourself why people seem permanently dissatisfied? What is the reason why it seems impossible to arrive at fulfillment in this world? It is not because we cannot obtain what we wish. Paradoxically, people can get what they pine for, many times to excess. If it is a home, they get it. If they eventually want a bigger one, in time they will get it, but that does not get them fulfillment. If it is a new car, after a short time it feels as if they always had it; its newness is forgotten. Perhaps they wish to get some new friends; after they have them, the same thing happens as with the new car, the same problems arise. If the idea is to move to a different place, after they are there awhile, there are always reasons for disenchantment. Even those who love the pleasure to travel after some time they get tired of it.

It becomes obvious that the problem is not rooted in work, home, family, friends, health, pleasure, monetary assets, success or fame. Facing vast possibilities the individual is a child wanting to explore them all. However restricted by means and time, the question for each person is what activity, and where will he or she fulfill the innermost desires. Thus, the real problem is that we do not know our destiny. And that destiny, due to the longing of infinite, cannot be found in the limited human sphere.

If material things or circumstances do not satisfy the inner being, how and when we humans find our destiny? When we are able to put forth that which is in us—the light and beauty of our core being—coming to fruition and giving it to the world. Human beings

are like seeds having in themselves the kernel from which a new tree is going to emerge, to give shade, shelter, and fruits.

A seed can roll all over the world or it may be hidden in a pyramid for thousands of years in a golden tomb; does that mean that its destiny was realized? It won't be until it germinates and brings forth the tree that is in it, only then will its destiny be fulfilled. It must die as a seed in order to become a tree. Jesus said this about himself. This is why every person, regardless of age, places visited or things experienced, should ask to her or to himself: have I realized my destiny? In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there have been some people who gave much of themselves, such as Gandhi, Chaplin, Picasso, Stravinsky, Marconi, Edison, and Luther King among others.

To fulfill one's destiny means to be transformed, opening to one's essence, liberating the inner magnificence. Such as the Indian weaver and poet Kabir said:

*There is a Secret One inside us;  
the planets in all the galaxies  
pass through his hands like beads.*

When we look inside us with luminous eyes for the Secret One, the transformation is a realization that all is possible. Probably this is what happened to individuals like Siddhartha transformed into Buddha, Simon the fisherman transformed into Peter the apostle, after realizing the divine kernel of the Christ in Jesus. Kernel that is the Core Being in all of us.

If we obstruct or do not allow this spiritual essence flow freely, or if one unconsciously separates oneself from it, the feeling of dissatisfaction and frustration may alienate—even destroy—the person. The delinquent, the suicidal, the mercenary who fights for causes foreign to him, are alienated because they could not discover their primordial nature and share it with the world as a flower shares her fragrance.

It was for this reason that Jesus said “*And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin.*” Their beauty surpasses that of a king or a queen, because it gives the essence of its nature effortlessly to the world. The Greeks called this manifestation of being *Daemon*, the Romans: *Genius*, other peoples called it “the call of the soul” or of the heart.

Bringing forth from inside the light of the artistic, literary, scientific or creative genius was that made possible a Leonardo, a Galileo, a Mozart a Beethoven or a Disney. Uncovering this genius or daemon in each individual is what gives a destiny to us individually and collectively. Even if we do not get famous, we get a sense of realization and meaning giving happiness to our lives. This is one of the causes why political systems fail: blinded in their ambition of power, they impose a leader’s ideas pretending to seal the creative capacity over the people. They do not realize they are destroying the same essence of individuals and the nation.

This essence is the leitmotiv in the symphony of being, it is what defines a character. It discovers the Kingdom of Heaven in each of us. It is to find the pearl of great price and sell all we have to keep it. It is to find the unending hidden treasure: our own light. Arriving at this point, we realize that we don’t have to go anywhere. It is right here where we fulfill our own destiny, finding the ultimate meaning of existence. This is what Victor Frankl verified in the concentration camps, in himself and others, including those unfortunates who were to meet their death there. Discerning the meaning of transcendence there was less trouble to face death and passing through it.

Many times trying to know who we are, we do the wrong questions. Thomas Merton said: “*If you want to identify me, ask me not where I live, or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair, but ask me what I am living for, in detail, ask me what I think is keeping me from living fully for the thing I want to live for.*” This is the root of our dilemmas: the distance between the reason for our existence (which is the essence that we bring to the world), and the present identity we manifest to others and the reason we want to live for. If there is an abyss between our daily life and the thing we want to live for, it causes alienation in the

world. This situation produces a constant questioning: what am I living for? And, what is it that keeps me from living as I know I should and want to? Where do I find the essence of my being? The answer—as I see it—resides in the clear understanding of the meaning of our existence and our destiny.

This aspect is so crucial that one of the greatest wise men in the Middle Ages, the Persian Omar Khayyam, wrote: “*Let us admit that you solved the enigma of creation. But, what is your destiny? Let us accept that you have found the Truth, but what is your destiny? Let us admit that you have lived happily one hundred years, and will live another hundred, but what is your destiny?*” It is clear that if a person would solve all the enigmas of creation, know the most intricate details of Truth, or have more riches than King Solomon in all his wisdom, that person could not be happy because he or she has not realized his or her destiny.

An example is Siddhartha Gautama, who lived in his father’s palace in ignorance of the world’s problems and enjoying riches and pleasures, yet could not realize himself. On the contrary, riches and pleasures became obstacles in fulfilling his destiny of enlightenment. Until he reached enlightenment and became a Buddha, he could not realize his destiny. It wasn’t even reaching Nirvana because that would have been egotistical; instead enlightening others was his destiny. Muhammad didn’t find his destiny managing Camel’s caravans, but as a revelator of messages to his people, later compiled as the Qur’an, and rescuing the Arabs from idolatry under one God.

Jesus found his destiny not in being a good carpenter, but preaching the coming of the Kingdom of Love among men. He demonstrated the spiritual power that can conquer all evils, including hunger, sickness, and lack of money, false theology, hatred, wars, and fear of death. He demonstrated the power that let us be transformed and ascend to a higher state of being. He demonstrated that the power with which it is even possible to conquer death, the ultimate enemy. And His highest mission—as the Messiah—was to demonstrate that love is invincible and the union with the Father an indestructible link. His disciples—demonstrating their own essence— followed him preaching his teachings and doing his works.

Everything that the Master Jesus and his disciples proved makes sense only when we understand that behind them is the spiritual essence of man created in the image and likeness of the Spirit: a model or form of perfection. That is the essence of the Messiah or Christ in Greek. It is the new being of every man and woman; the one all of us have to bring out and participate of. Achieving that we will be illuminated with a light that like Buddha's light cannot be hidden.

Being is the indivisible identity of the Spirit. It is the invisible essence of man, luminous, present and hidden; which does not mix in with history or with the world but maintains its unity with Being. It is the great treasure that belongs to all of us and that Hindu wise men, prophets and Jesus came to reveal: the Atman or the Christ in each one of us: the ultimate reality; the consummation of our life; the everlasting and hidden incomprehensible Peace; the Logos, the Alpha and the Omega. It is the omnipotent force through which we live, we move and we realize ourselves. To understand our being in unity with The Being gives us identity, individuality, beauty, mission, and destiny.

© Pietro Grieco