

World Café – Truth & Reconciliation – Table Notes

Mon, Jan 25/16, Le Zephyr

3 Parts to Truth & Reconciliation in South Africa:

- (i) Listen to victims
- (ii) Provide reparation
- (iii) Grant amnesty (based on full disclosure and political motive)

1. How does this process touch me? What could I gain from such a process (as an individual, or as a victim or perpetrator)?

What touched us was mostly how radical this process is, as it goes against the mind which wants to be “right.”

It's a jump into the heart, which is so powerful.

Love, inner peace.

Amazing that a whole country dealt with systematized murder.

We talked about “nourishing the heart of humanity.”

Not wanting to hold someone out of our hearts.

Very strong to be listened to as victim – can be very healing.

Evolutionary and revolutionary to realize we are brothers/sisters at the source.

Truth brought to light.

Bringing violence to light might reduce violence.

Truth in facing oneself (and others) means taking responsibility as a perpetrator (for how I feel, my actions and motivations).

Sincerity creates truth, love and understanding, and trust follows.

Self-forgiveness (not judging self, finding a soft place, kindness).

Forgiving others as a process: not easy, not instant.

Forgiveness as not wanting revenge.

Entering into a new consciousness.

Forgiveness: “It's over, it was terrible, I survived, and I don't want to keep hate in my heart.” Letting go of tightness and really understanding that it's good for my health to forgive.

Realizing the other has a history and has a problem.

Revenge breeds revenge. I need to know if I did something painful as I don't see it by myself. I need feedback. Humility, I too have caused harm to others and want forgiveness or an opportunity to come clean. Humility.

Equality: I am not better than you.

Courage, and clarity of the process, letting go of the story.

The victim and perpetrator touch their own humanity, and something happens between them.

The transformation that can happen within the victims and perpetrators and also among all the people of that country.

As victim, I can release my pain: this pain can take me within, to touch my inner being.

As offender, the courage to confess: understanding how I have wronged, how I can grow from this process.

Willingness to change, transforming guilt into constructive change.
Repairing the damage, returning to safety for both victim and offender.

Seeing each other's divinity again, touching the other's true essence.
Hope, living in community, oneness.

2. What areas of AV could benefit from a process like this?

Everywhere, it should be as a spontaneous tool. Once people use it, they'll see the benefits.

Cases of old stories from 30 - 40 years ago in which people don't speak to each other.

Loss of trust. Not evolving.

People kept out of the 3-Day Selection Process (for WC and AVC).

Working groups, Entry, AV Council.

Auronet "fights."

Bring this to schools and to teachers, which will have an effect on the collective consciousness. Start young.

Unresolved Newcomer issues.

Fights with neighbouring villages.

Kottakarai issue.

Master Plan arguments.

Angry, violent people.

People need to realize they "did" something/take responsibility.

Administrative processes are different from human processes.

Who's going to ensure the safety that's required?

We can't work by mandates.

We want to work by the heart.

To do this, people have to be vulnerable and expose hurt.

Whoever makes the container, we have to touch our hearts.

Possible title: "The Grace Forum."

Nothing exists except the Divine.

What happens in AV is here to help us grow.

Voluntary process.

Realizing we have a lot less hurt here than in South Africa.

Truth and transparency: we hide too much in AV (individually and beyond).

Make this process a new habit, like brushing our teeth.

Find a way to forgive, what happened is in the past. Let's move towards something new: not easy.

You have to do something good to be forgiven, so that we sense it comes from the heart (more than simply saying "sorry").

Difficulty to accept the other, attachment of the ego.

We have no legal system, so granting "amnesty" is not exactly applicable here.

We need to talk about success stories.

Impeccability.

3. How would a T&R process look like in AV? Who takes part? How to create it? How to guarantee transparency? And would you like to be involved in its development?

It's only fair to offer a process to those people who want to come back into community.

This process starts with ourselves, but it doesn't stop here (with me). It needs to be translated into our outer reality.

Safe space needed.

Safe group needed.

We can only offer Safety; we can't guarantee it.

When we ask to the victim to revisit the trauma, safety and support are necessary.

Find heart calling to facilitate this process.

Need a physical room, maybe a "confidential room."

Issue of transparency – how much transparency?

If healing happens in this process, those involved can agree on what to share with the community.

Our Groups are not confidential. There's too much gossip, and people don't feel safe entering into such processes.

We are very judgmental in Auroville; we need more maturity.

Wish for deep healing.

Need for trust.

Sometimes people start a healing process, but then step out and still have pain. Concern about finishing a process.

This is a Big process, not just saying, "I'm sorry."

May use a modified "Restorative Circle" process.

For "justice" in Auroville, we should look at our spiritual aspirations and find our divine being.

Reaching out to Mother's 12 Qualities.

Fear of letting go.

Individual sessions instead of group sessions; easier to speak to each other.

Group support: empathy, safety, listening.

Many modalities: 12-Step Programs, Dialogue, Hooponopono, singing together, Healing Environment, Sweat Lodge like the Natives had, etc.

Getting naked, getting out of the head.

Create a grace healing forum near the Matrimandir: protectors chosen by the community.

Developing a healthy sense of humour.

Naming our brokenness.

Confession.

Patience, trust, perseverance.

Long term project to work with kids, so that they can express their feelings, learn to listen to each other, to be more open minded.

Should be brought to the Newcomer Aspiration week.