Ethics in a culture of crises

It's not easy today to analyze the cultural subject from an ethical point of view because of the amplitude of the era that we deal with and the sensibilities that can be felt wounded applying ethics to culture.

We all know that to put an ethical look to culture implies us to make moral evaluations and, therefore approvals and disapprovals. So, it surely will wake up sensibilities which will be felt wounded and attacked in its culture if we apply an ethical view.

If we briefly take our look to the cultures of the world we will find very nice expressions in all the people, we will be surprised by the genius of the human spirit expressing itself in very different ways; variety of sensibilities, multiplication of tendencies, gestures, shades in its cultural expressions, which are not only the artistic ones but also the traditions, the customs, the habits, the beliefs, the clichés and the approaches.

And simultaneously we will meet expressions that we don't like, independently of our particular sensibility. We do not feel good this expressions because they stimulate, or justify, or encourage kind of attitudes and behaviours that we do not consider defensible from an ethics that its maximum value is the human being, its life, freedom, personal development, happiness and its subjectivity.

How is it possible that we accept expressions which animate violence and revenge? For example, you know very well certain cultural expressions which animate revenge and violence; the myth of the harsh, strong, righteous and victorious hero. How can we consider appropriate the culture of nihilism, fatalism or the denial of the human being? As we do not consider appropriate the degradation or undervaluation of women in a lot of cultures. It makes no difference in which culture it happens but it neither seems right to outrage or spoil the individuality towards the cultural uniformity. Not to mention the other sexist, generational, religious etc. problems.

As it is almost inevitable, all human beings apply a moral look on their surroundings and we defend an ethical look which doesn't seek to ban what is not considered good for the people but to clarify, discuss, explain and show the consequences and problems that could cause for the human beings certain expressions and cultural tendencies even if they are very much rooted or traditional. It's not the case to carry out a vade mecum (manual) or an Ethical Decalogue of cultural expressions that do not seem

us ethical. Because in my opinion it's inadequate to ban, but yes it's important to clarify and understand the roots of these expressions and the negative influences that affect us. I mean negative, from the point of view which has a prejudice against the personal development, subjectivity, freedom, happiness, and the wish for peace and community in the entire world.

To consider that life has a meaning over death, it has some ethical consequences. At this attitude in front of life and death, there is an ethical posture which defends the meaningless human development with all of its numerous expressions.

Therefore, we can't support any ethics that doesn't respect the different cultures. We not only have to respect the different cultures but also encourage and defend them in front of the attacks of the so called dominant culture which tries to assert over other cultures. It also attempts to spoil or humiliate other culture for the simple reason that at this moment it has certain economical or military supremacy.

A kind of supremacy that momentarily starts to oscillate. We have gone over from a bipolar to a mono-polar world. If only we could reach a multi-polar world now! If we have suffered the supremacy of the western culture in the last years, of course now we are surprised of a certain cultural "nervousness" in the West and how important it tries to be or absorb new cultural saps trying to revitalize it.

This is the moment of cultural shocks that in my opinion, a lot of people misunderstand and brings more violence into the situation. To attack other cultures won't help to protect your own. Inevitably cultures influence. Unavoidably cultural elements are running trough the earth entering into all the corners of the planet. The mutual cultural influences create syncretism, synthesis, crises and disorientation. We saw it much time in our history. And we know it very well what it produces because we all can feel it. We feel it very well when in our hometowns; we live together with people who have come from overseas and with different cultures; when our friends or children not only take over fashions but also slangs of faraway cultural aesthetics getting in through the media. We feel a certain identity loss and this produces disorientation. If only this loss could help us to look for and find our deeper identity, in new regions of our inner landscape.

This is the time when cultures are interconnected and also are in crises which deepening day by day. What ethical posture do we have to take in front of these situations of disorientation, confrontation and violence? Of course we are not going to stand neither by the cultural supremacy nor by the cultural uniformity. In long-term, these are useless and furthermore immoral tendencies. I think that the world inevitably goes to a cultural synthesis. I believe that a new global culture is on the way as a result of a

new sensibility which understands that the world doesn't end up at national borders.

I think, a coherent ethical answer in front of these crises understands the cultural roots, not only the historical ones but also the sociological, social, and existential; understands that nobody has chosen his/her culture to be born in; understands that the expressions of my culture move by the internal expressions of the people and nations, by the searches, hopes, by the attempts which at the bottom and in its roots are the same in all the nations of the earth. These nations express themselves with a beautiful mosaic of colors, shapes, sensibilities and inspirations. I believe this is a coherent and sensible ethics for all the cultural expressions.

Last, I would like to save the so called Declaration of Mexico published by the UNESCO in 1982.

"..that it is culture that gives man the ability to reflect upon himself. It is culture that makes us specifically human, rational beings, endowed with a critical judgment and a sense of moral commitment. It is through culture that we discern values and make choices. It is through culture that man expresses himself, becomes aware of himself, recognizes his incompleteness, questions his own achievements, seeks untiringly for new meanings and creates works through which he transcends his limitations."

I have nothing much to say, thank you very much.