

Thanks to the Organizers and to You Distinguished Guests,

I'm here along with other members present today, to represent Associazione Archeosofica.

Associazione Archeosofica is a non-profit cultural association founded in Rome by Tommaso Palamidessi involved, since 1973, in spreading in society “the dignity and freedom of spiritual values” believing in the “responsibility that culture imposes upon each free individual”.

The Association is non-party, apolitical and independent and one of its aims is to raise the level of culture in every field of knowledge with the sole scope of humanitarian good. The association promotes among its members love for one's homeland and a sense of honour and duty in every act of one's private and public life.

To this date, after around 50 years since its foundation, we have 30 sections in Europe, 26 of which in Italy, and our members are dedicated and actively involved in an effort to spread the principles of love, peace and solidarity in society and within themselves.

Men often disagree with one another and disagreements spark from a lack of understanding and compassion as we all have different ways, we look at things according to our own mentality, upbringing and political or religious views. However, we can all agree on a common life goal that unite us: the pursuit of happiness.

If the pursuit of happiness is common to all, for all to achieve that same goal entails mutual comprehension, a broadening of our beliefs and values, developing trust in one another as both individuals and a global entity on the same journey. That is why our public events encourage “the comparative study of philosophies and religions and the study of the ethic and moral purposes of life”. Despite a “Culture of Peace” now being quite widespread, it is also true that it rests on very fragile grounds, threatened by ignorance, indifference and egotism.

Today, more than ever, we live in a historical moment where the temptation to promote hatred towards specific social, ethnic and religious minorities is very strong. All too often the media and the social networks become channels for misinformation and intolerance; prelude to hatred and, progressively, to persecution. For us, it is fundamental to build a true “social peace” based on knowledge, whereby knowledge means knowing and accepting people with different cultural references.

Therefore, the building of “social peace” is, we believe, a building of knowledge. To know means to comprehend, to comprehend means to “become closer with” and, therefore, be more united by going beyond any form of division dictated by ignorance and hatred. The future building of peace is a construction of knowledge that naturally leads to the idea of solidarity and brotherhood. This is one of

the founding ideas of “Archeosofica” which has been conceived as a “free school for free scholars” of any creed or religious confession, scholars that consider themselves as “brothers”, without the pretence of being superior to one another. To tie fraternal knots with others is, effectively, laying the ground for peace.

This is why most of our public initiatives focus on the study of philosophies, traditions and religions very different to ours with the intention of building bridges across the world, in space and time, promoting values of brotherhood.

Being the transcendental Unity of all religions at the core of the doctrine and beliefs of Archeosofia, there cannot be any room for intolerance of other people and cultures – as Tommaso Palamidessi put it – “the circle is big but there is only one centre and, from the centre, the Archaic Tradition reaches those men and women mature enough to embrace it through its numerous rays: Ram, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Pythagoras, Hermes Trismegistus, Plato, Socrates, Plotinus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen and many, many others. There are then those transmissions (of knowledge) filtered through the most suitable ones from India, Greece, China, Palestine, Italy [...] there is only one Brotherhood and it can only have one Master: Jesus Christ, however through different spiritual Instructors: Confucius, Goutama Buddah, Moses, Plato, Muhammad, Zoroaster, Hermes Trismegistus”.

Besides the values of “peace” within our society, Archeosofica promotes “inner peace” or “peace of the heart”. In fact, it does not forget, to use its founder’s words, that: “human beings were designed for infinite love, they were created for God, and they won’t find a solution to their sorrows or beatitude, peace, enlightenment outside of the blessed divine possession.”

We believe that our “inner peace”, or peace of the heart is, in fact, a prerequisite of any exterior peace. Without peace within our souls, any other form of peace would not make any sense. This is why Archeosofia provides, to whomever desires it, practical assistance made of spiritual techniques, meditations and prayers so that, independently and freely, we learn how to access our inner selves and, once in the secret chamber of our heart, find that place penetrated by peace and joy and inhabited by the Light of the Spirit.

Amongst the different forms of personal evolution and betterment proposed by Archeosofica there is one so called “social ascesis, in other words the effort, the methodic and progressive action to become a perfect citizen and a spokesperson for a new society based on the pillars of charity, of non-violence and of reciprocal economic, cultural and spiritual assistance.”

We are firmly convinced that the building of a future Humanity must lie on “interior peace” as a true source for “social peace”, in our view the two pillars to achieve true Happiness.

As the Dalai Lama says: “If we want to build world peace, let’s build it within inside ourselves in the first place”. We can all do it together as members of a global family. We, as an association, strive to “form a global brotherhood made of free seekers of what is true, right and just, actively involved in an experimental ascesis for a better knowledge of ourselves and others to accelerate the spiritual and social human evolution of the People.”

We believe in a worldwide brotherhood.

We would like to thank the organizers for having invited us today to speak at this event on Peace as a way to happiness, in the hope of being able to increase our contribution day by day to the spreading of such important ideals for the citizens of the world.