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Synthesis Essay #3

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I have to start this essay by first saying what an incredible past weeks these have been. I’ve learned so much and made so many connections throughout every dialogue and in my personal life. I have no idea why I left this essay for later on because these two weeks I can say that it has been my favorite in all MPC time. Starting by the fact that I saw many relations that were connected with my personal life especially on my favorite dialogue so far, which has been Meno, and Godel, Escher and Bach, when we talked about the essence and the existence of the human being.

Therefore I will start off with the two dialogues that have marked a lot in my learning process. I was very impressed the way in which Socrates uses his words wisely so Meno could discover the meaning of something he said he already knew what it meant but without mentioning the qualities that conforms it. Also the way he teaches Meno how to approach a dialogue even though Meno has no idea whatsoever of what Socrates is trying to teach him. We learned that we have to look for the whole instead of the parts such as color and shape. In order to get to an answer of what the meaning of something is, first we have to suspend what we believe its true so we can absorb everything new that we are learning, and be able to reach a shared meaning. Constantly the human being is searching for knowledge and many other times without searching it takes us by surprise and new understanding comes to us from one way or another. According to Socrates, he is telling us that the soul which is eternal and has no beginning and no end, already knows everything about the universe, but the human being which is the body and is mortal and has an end, is acquiring his knowledge through a recollection of thought and is remembering all that the soul already knows.

I relate this insight that I had with Meno, with what we were talking in Roberto Blum’s dialogue about essence and existence. The essence is everything that is and which it will not be. While a person lives, their existence is changing everyday with the new experiences, knowledge he acquires but at the time of death of the person the essence is something that doesn’t change anymore. This makes me think that it is highly important what we do and the things we leave without doing in this life, because when we die we leave a print of our essence which is irreplaceable and there is no second change to change it. The identity of a person is determined through time by the own conception of ourselves, and it varies from person to person. I like to think that each and every soul in this planet has a meaning in this life, and we are here to discover it and through time learn, and remember what our souls already knows. Like Socrates and Hofstadter advices us is to look the whole instead of the parts.

Changing a little of topic, Bohm in On Dialogue, it tells us the importance of suspending our assumptions, to get to the truth. Often we limit ourselves to understand the others, because there is a barrier in our minds that tells us how it is according to our believes, and that’s the reason we only get to see the negative aspects of what the other person is trying to convey to us and we don’t manage to understand them. Here it has not been reached a shared meaning, because we are using a pair of spectacles that appears in Copernican Revolution that we base all of our assumptions with theories that has been provided to us.

The importance of suspending our assumption goes beyond having a misunderstanding with someone. Like in Copernican Revolution the root of the discovery of the heliocentric system came from a theory of the two-sphere universe, which explained it in a very logical way, and many other theories had its base on that same theory even though it was proven wrong many centuries later.

Little by little, based on observation and the same thirst of wanting to learn more about the universe in which we live in, many theories arouse because scientist had the courage to take off those spectacles which made them think the same way as the other theorist did before, so we can be closer to the theories we have about our universe now. And that is what’s incredible about theories, which if there are not the truth at least it encourages us to pursue the search for truth and construct over the discarded theories.

In the activity we did in drama, it was incredible that I realized that many times we are not connected with who we are, who we were, and who we might become. By picturing myself when I was a little child and little by little looking at myself all grown up, I saw the changes physical and emotional I’ve been through, and realized that I might not be the same person as I used to be 20 years before, but I’m the same Marcela which everyone knows and will know, just with a few more experiences which has made me the person which I am now. And with which I will find my purpose in this life and pursue it all along until the end of my existence. Probably what most shocked me was looking at that innocent child who had no idea what the world had prepared for her, and like a timeline I was seeing the decisions and the actions I’ve taken along my life. It amazes me all that which I am missing to learn, know, experience and rediscover, as Socrates would say.

The most amazing discovery which these past weeks left me was the importance of not supposing things about other people and above all, suspend my assumption at the time of encountering something I don’t know, at least have the intellectual humility to say I don’t know and listen to the other person give their point of view which deserves to be heard. How will I encounter that which I don’t know what is that I’m looking for, well I will recognize as learning everything which presents to me as new and with that in mind become a better person and grow personally to finally put into action my purpose in this planet earth.

When someone has the base of a theory or a thought we assume it is the truth, and that could lead us to misinterpretation and will affect our learning and will limit us to discover what the objective truth is. We have to see the world as if we were little children, ready to discover new adventures, learn something new, be amazed of the small things which actually are extraordinary, and above all doubt what the status quo says is the right thing to believe in and question the why’s of everything.