UNIVERSIDAD FRANCISO MARROQUIN

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Synthesis essay #5

On our trip to El Zapote, we watched the movie Agora and I already had watched it before but it wasn’t until I studied Copernican Revolution, Euclid and knew about the Ptolemy system that I appreciated the movie even more. The movie is an amazing example of how the religion came to change most of what the people of that era thought to be truth. Religion was one of the main factors for this shift of mentality. There were the Greeks who were pagans and rendered many gods, and others which were the Christians who believe in one God. The Ptolemy system was based on the Earth as the center of the universe, being us the most important creation of the universe, and that impacted a lot when it was proved wrong Ptolemy’s system and proved that the Sun was the center of our universe.

What we often search in science and at the MPC is the approximation to truth. We wish to get closer to become the best version of ourselves. Most of the time the culture in which we live in doesn’t support curiosity and many of us feel the need to question things but because of the religious dogma and the culture we’ve been born, we maintain quite and doubtful. How then can we change this result of many years of the same culture? Is the educational system we now have (authoritarian) is the one and only path to success? I believe not. To the contraire, the educational system has to be one that as well as truth must be acquired and practiced every day, like truth we constantly are searching for it and have close approximations to the truth every time we put ourselves to the task of finding it.

The MPC is a process of learning that you learn by experience; it becomes something tacit within you. When reading Meno, Socrates tells Meno that virtue is the willingness to learn, and I must say that the mpc’ers have that same willingness about learning. He even mentions that it is not something you can teach, it is something that comes with every experience. Having this willingness to learn opens many doors for you, that probably have been in front of yourself your entire life but now that you’ve become a natural learner, you have the skills and courage to take them as they come and learn the fullest from every experience eventhough sometimes it might be of a big challenge.

Thanks to the awakening I had in El Zapote with nature itself, I can now appreciate more life’s small details. I’ve noticed lately the birds singing every morning, the different textures of the plants and trees, and most importantly I’ve learned to be present in every situation, keeping my assumptions besides so the message of the other person is received with completely honesty without any predispositions. This is what is called proprioception discussed in Bohm’s book On Dialogue. And I believe we’ve been trying to apply it at the MPC.

One thing that impacted me this week was my calling in the MPC, since the day I decided to talk with Bert about my idea, which is writing a book of all mpc pioneers and our experiences with past education and being part of the MPC. My purpose here has even more meaning, each dialogue or conversation I have with my classmates I try to learn the much I can and write down ideas about the upcoming book. It is much easier when you have a mission to take the most advantage of the things MPC offers us. But, it is not until you take your time and think for yourself when your true vocation comes from.

The most important thing about this type of education is the environment you create to your students. You have to show them that the only way to education is not behind a desk, quiet and isolated. The MPC helps you put some sort of spectacles on how to approach different situations and learn how to see life. Once I entered the MPC, things out there had more sense, or less sense I could say. I’ve learn to analyze different environments and have different approaches depending on the public you have. The culture is created when an environment has its own set of values and works independently of the creators, in this case for example is the MPC working just fine even though Bert is on a trip for the week. Here it enters self govern responsibility and auto-didactic, when one has to assume its responsibilities for its own sake of learning.

If we could ever reach a moment in time were to choose which culture we wanted to create, I wish I could have been around in order to have applied this one. But I’m happy at least that I have been introduced to it and could somehow change other people’s way of living. By having this new culture of learning we can build meaning together and have a metacognition about our actions and of ourselves, behaving more in line with our own set of values created by us. By this we become successful in all aspects of our lives, wherever the future takes us, we will be able to take every opportunity as a learning experience.

With this type of education, you work in collaboration and not isolated. This helps you more than you think. Your peers will be constantly giving you feedback on things they noticed you doing right or wrong, and they will often offer you help, because everyone is going through the same learning process, it will be easy to identify the things you notice them doing. The only way to learn about yourself is when you live within a community, for the reasons mentions above, feedback from your peers is the most accurate advices because they see your improvements and your needs almost everyday.

When we live in a community, the purpose of it is to become a better person and make other people become better as well, and because they say we learn by imitation, we should try to get around with the people who want to become better each day and who makes us become better. When you become the best version of yourself you are more present in dialogues which you have real intentions and you are being honest about your learning.