

A United New Civilization

Speech Presented By Michael Laitman, PhD
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Presenter:

We start with Dr. Michael Laitman. He is the one you have to know if you're interested in Kabbalah. He has written many books about it, if I'm right it's about twenty-two books by now, and he is very well known all over the world for that subject. He's going to talk to us about creating a new civilization. Please, thank you.

Michael Laitman:

I am very happy and excited to be speaking in front of such a distinguished audience. I wish to thank our hosts, the World Spirit Forum, the World Wisdom Council (which we always call the "WWC"), distinguished guests, the youth, and all the organizations present here. I hope that we will take advantage of this meeting, using it to move another step forward toward creating a new civilization.

We all know that we are in a deep and very serious crisis, and there is no point going into all the details. In brief, we have a crisis in the family, in education, in drug abuse, in ecology, the increasing threat of nuclear power and basically, and we are losing control over the world we live in.

I had the honor to receive Professor László's upcoming book, where I could read in great detail about the vastness and gravity of the crisis. But the most important thing is to realize the reason for the crisis, because if we know the reason for the crisis, then perhaps we can also reach an understanding of the solution.

The world's matter is made of something called "a will to receive"—"the desire to receive." Within everything that exists in the world there is the will to receive within, to be internally fulfilled. This force that wants to fulfill itself, builds around it all the matter there is. When this power is weak, it builds **inanimate** matter whose entire nature it is to sustain itself. When this power is greater, it builds the **vegetative** around it that can already absorb or eject good things and bad things, and is already in contact and can sense its environment somewhat like the sun and rain, and the soil. It lives and dies, but it's still not strong enough to become mobile. A greater force builds around it some clothing that takes an **animate** form, which can already move from place to place and reproduce in a special way. It already has sense, it can sense other creatures. But it still doesn't feel the past or the future. It just feels its own life. All of these degrees—the inanimate, the vegetative and the animate—are all conducted by nature; they don't do harm and they don't do good—they exist. That's why we can't talk about the ego in the inanimate, vegetative and animate. They operate according to the precise rules instilled in them by nature.

Humans come from a still greater will to receive. In humans, even the desires that pertain to their body are excessive. Even in the desires that pertain to food, sex, and family, in all of the matters pertaining to the body, we go too far. We don't operate like animals, we overdo it. Besides, humans possess additional desires for knowledge, for power, for wealth and for domination. It is especially these desires, called the human desires; these are the ones that make people evil, or bad, because we want to exploit society, or others, for our own good.

Moreover, we enjoy degrading and humiliating others, and using others for our own good—this is the ego. Besides the over-measure in which these desires exist in us, they constantly evolve. And that tells us that, unlike the inanimate, vegetative and animate, we haven't finished evolving.

For thousands of years, we constantly evolve through our evolving will to receive. This propels the evolution of society to take new forms. In this way we constantly develop in education, in culture, in knowledge, in science and we always thought that these things would bring us a better life. But now we are approaching a special time, after thousands of years of evolution, now we realize that it's brought us to a dead end.

Yet this special time is a good one because now we have to realize what nature wants of us, and where it is leading us. If we understand it and use it correctly, then we will rise to an even higher level in our present existence to a new consciousness and to a new civilization.

The way the will to receive is built, naturally, cannot be fulfilled, even though it constantly desires to be filled. All this will to receive wants is pleasure (fulfillment), but once it receives the pleasure, it disappears. This is because once pleasure enters the will to receive, it neutralizes the desire itself. For example, if I am very hungry and I start eating, I enjoy it very much, but as I continue eating, I enjoy it less and less, and by the end of the meal, I have no pleasure whatsoever; the desire has disappeared and so has the pleasure. We are all familiar with the phenomenon where there is something that we want, maybe for years, but once we have it, after a very short time, the pleasure disappears. It's because the pleasure and the desire contradict each other and therefore neutralize each other. Therefore the more we want the emptier we become. Now humanity in general is finally beginning to discover that the pursuit of pleasure will eventually bring us no satisfaction. This is why the young generation, who haven't really had a chance to attain anything, to do anything, they are already attracted to drugs, suffer from an inclination to depression, to suicide; they're despaired from their prospect of enjoying life because it is impossible to enjoy directly.

On the other hand, we can see from many examples that when a person gives, then he can enjoy. Why does it happen? Because when a person gives, he doesn't instill the pleasure into the desire, but disconnects between the place of the pleasure and desire. They're in two different places. Just like when a mother nurses her child, the more she gives to her child, the more her child receives, the more *she* enjoys; there's no end to her pleasure. That is basically the way to a happy life, for a fulfilled person, for a fulfilled humanity. Even nature shows us that that's the principle by which every living organism, all life, is built.

If you examine every cell in the body, each one on its own, it's egoistic. Yet they all come together for the purpose of the life of the whole body. Elisabet Sahtouris, with her wonderful lecture in Tokyo, demonstrated it beautifully. From these few examples we can see how this can be the solution to the crisis that the world is in right now.

The crisis is really not in the world, but in our understanding of how to be happy by fulfilling others. We see that on the one hand altruism exists in every organism; without it the organism cannot exist. Every cell in the body takes only what it needs for its sustenance, the rest it gives to the body. That's how we have to exist at the human level and that's what nature wants of us. Nature has already made the preparations for that on all the levels, up to the animate level, but it's missing in

the human level. But, at the human level, we have the preparation to organize our lives according to the same law—the law of giving.

Among us, genetically, there are always up to ten percent of humanity who are altruists. They always exist everywhere in the world and that's the conditions that nature has prepared for us. All that these altruists need is to understand that through their uniting and recognizing the crisis and its solution—bestowing on the rest of humanity—this is the solution for the rest of humanity. Because before we balance ourselves with respect to nature, we will always be afflicted by it. Just like the inanimate, the vegetative and the animate exist only by receiving what they need for their sustenance, we have to apply the same law among humans where we take only what is needed for sustenance and give everything else to humanity, just like one body. Because we actually do all belong to one body; and the globalization, the evolution of humanity that we are now experiencing, how we're all connected, that comes to force us to understand that this is the way we have to exist.

This is the solution. So what we need is to come to balance with nature and the result will be that the forces of nature, which right now pressure us to be in balance with it, will no longer be pressuring us. It depends only on our own consciousness; the wiser we become, the less afflicted we will become, and the faster we will progress.

We are operated by inner information and by social environment. Some of this information is given to us by inheritance and once we are born we are placed in all kinds of systems, educational, cultural and so on, and by the time we are twenty or so, we are complete people. And by the age of twenty, we are ready, and we function according to the givens with which we were born or according to our upbringing.

So where are *we*? Where is our free choice here? Our free choice is when we are already grownups and there is nothing that can be done since this is how we were created—our choice is then in *changing our social environment*. This is the free choice of humans, because we are built in such a way, naturally, that everything we do is in order to receive society's recognition. We think we want money, power and honor, and all kinds of desires. Basically what we want is to look good in the eyes of society and that's what makes a person feel like a person.

So if we change the social values toward giving, then people will just have to change their behavior. If we artificially change social values so that society will appreciate a person only according to what he or she gives, then people will be ashamed of being egoists and will be coerced to give to society. If my children at home look at me and appreciate me according to the society's appreciation of me; and if my children appreciate me according to how much I give to society; if my kin and co-workers and generally everyone will only appreciate me according to what I give to society, then I will not have a choice—I will have to contribute, I will have to be a giver.

Nature has given us all the preparations to change society, and to do it in an easy way. The altruistic ten percent that exist in the world, they're also divided into ninety percent and ten percent. The ten percent of the altruists, or the one percent of humanity, are active altruists. They're the ones who should act, unite their ranks, and start implementing the program and unite around them the remaining ninety percent of the altruists.

Once our message is completely formulated and built, then we can turn to the remaining ninety percent of humanity. Of course, this has to be done with an attitude of love toward everyone, because nothing was created to be broken, to be oppressed or to be eradicated from the world. On the contrary, it is only through the right combination between altruistic and egoistic forces of society that we will find wholeness and perfection in society. Even within the egoistic society, we have the preparations to step toward the altruists.

If you examine our education system, our culture, you will see that they are all based on altruistic principles. At home, at school, we tell our children to be courteous and friendly to everyone. We want our children to behave nicely, to be nice to others, because it protects them. Even if you examine our culture, in movies etc., you'll see that altruism is always elevated; it is evaluated as something higher and noble. There is no open resistance to altruism by anyone in society. No one can say, "I don't want to give." On the contrary, the people who are the worst takers are the ones who say, "Oh, I give this, I give that, I always donate." Governments and capitalistic organizations take pride in what they give to humanity.

So we can approach every person and every organization, and introduce our message to them, provided it is a well formulated message. Basically, it is all up to us. We are responsible and we are the ones who should do it, and I see here people who really care for humanity and can do it. I think that our first step should be constructing a permanently ongoing center that will deal with everything that has to do with building our message and presenting it to the world. We have to shape our ideology. Through experts, we have to learn how to approach every faction of humanity. We need television channels; we need Internet channels to explain to people the cause of the crisis. We just have to remember that knowing the illness is already half the cure. By understanding our situation and that nature is pushing us to a good state, it will give us vitality, a reason to step out of depression and drugs, because it will give us hope for the future.

I hope that we will succeed in this together and that we will build our center de facto. I thank you all, I love you all, and I hope that together we will realize this plan and we will save humanity. Again, I would like to thank the World Wisdom Council, Professor László and the World Spirit Forum for having given me the opportunity to come here and speak.

Thank you very much.

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