

## **A Just Community or Ethics of encounter**

**The Spirituality to Be , To Do , to Know , to Share**

**Can community survive in the ideologies of a global economy ?**

**The object of Just in Community places the emphasis on the common good**

**in the light of Harmony and Non-violence.**

**The spirit of non-duality is central in the growth of the individual and of a Just Community.**

**2 subjects have pushed forward my thinking about a Just Community.**

**1\_- Should Restorative justice be regarded limited to criminal justice or rather as a living cell, a ecological engine of reform and stability in a JUST community ? What good is Restorative Justice in a control environment ? In a fragmented community or in a Unjust community ?**

**2- In the recent years 3 individuals have been killed by Montreal Police Officer. What they had in common is poverty, mental health issues and homelessness. Prior to these sad experiences at the Vancouver Intl airport Monsieur Dziekanski was arriving in Canada. At one time he had become distraught, confused and was certainly unarmed. He was violently brought down and killed by 4 RCMP officers. In what manner does these types of deadly responses indicative of Community values?**

**Values:**

**Compassion and protection for all life forms , social justice, generosity, respect, inclusiveness, harmonious exchange, respect of commons property, safe community for Kids, elderly, handicap individuals , one that tries to lessen inequalities and disparities, solidarity, altruisms, emotional –spiritual and cultural support for others in the community, a Just community that values the spirit of family or of singleness, of brotherhood and of sisterhood, the spirit to dream and care as a community, the spirit of celebration and of love**

## **Types of Communities**

**There are no adequate definition of community that can contain the multiple diversified forms of community.**

***" Community has temporal and special connotations... potentially nomadic... it can be displaced unjustly and forcibly-and somehow retain its identity even as that identity mutates in new circumstances. This was the case in the African Diaspora... and of the Diaspora of European Jews."***  
***Fischlin***

### ***Under British Rule: Acadians***

**We may all have a picture of a ideal community and that can be easier for someone living in Gaspé or in Le Paz Manitoba: We find proximity, common interest, common basic practices ,language, culture and local story transmission .**

**Communities that exist by proximity , by neighbourhood, by face to face, by a composite of church, school , common property, complex interest and beliefs,**

**Gated communities:**

**China, offers some paradoxical communities gated for the security of the rich and others gated for the poor; a type of contentment of social inequalities. Similar gated communities exist in the US and in Europe and in South Africa and Russia.**

**Others : Religious communities, community of prayer others of wars, Political communities, Industrial communities, Non-elected communities such as Samsung and others in which the entire economical base is corporate own. Communities also range from Sunday football fanatics who tail-gates into a parking lot and others who congregate to Malls. We can also find a community of hermits or of homelessness or small local and larger communities such as NDG upper or lower or Gay communities, etc.**

There are also Electronic communities with 2.2 millions identified via single interest groups such as Justin Beiger, white supremacist, bitcoins, Lego and environmentalist, etc . Many of these communities provide commercial benefits ranging from vitamins ,clothes, banking products, sexual bliss and pardon regardless whether you need it or not.

**Community of the Other:**

A community can be like Via Campasina. A international community of peasant, small landless producers, pluralist, multicultural, independent of political and economical affiliation.

*Ashram communities: "... the student, the householder, the hermit, and the mendicant, All stages are aspect of community capacity to generate self-critique and generosity " Gandhi, A.*

*A world Community: " Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation..." Martin Luther King*

*A RADICAL Community: A community planted on earth bringing together people with disabilities with those who assist them.*

*L'Arche " ... I am talking essentially of grouping of people who have left their own milieu to live with others under the same roof, and work from a new vision of human being and their relationship with other... Departure entails risk taking, adaptation, improvisation, and encounter with difference. The ability to negotiate these challenges, then, is fundamental to community formation." Jean Vanier*

## **Just**

A Just community should seek what needs to be restored, repaired, reattributed and compassionate care. A Just community negotiate agreement, discord, engagement and creativity.

We can contemplate for a very long time on the meaning of community and of a Just Community. The word just is so present in our conscience and lives. As a kid in our games or when trying to get something from our parents, we are quick in raising the ultimate argument of fairness.

Later we seek a Just payment for our work and for our creativity, we plead for a just retribution for our manual and intellectual labour, we seek at times a just resolution to conflicts, we require Just treatment and just dialogue when encountering others, we pray for a Just God. Now! What about a Just Community...

*" When we think we know what is just, we become inhuman. It is the root of all forms of terrorism, political or religious"* Michael Haneke

Thus both Saint Thomas Aquinas and George Bush referred to a Just War

The word Just is profoundly encrusted in our vocabulary, in our culture and in our daily relations .The word refers to equilibrium, to harmony and respectful coexistence. The word lost some of its purpose and spirit in the hands of individuals or corporation who are simply driven by winning, gaining more than the other, by protectionism, by greed, by the obsession of being right and more and more by not questioning the rules and laws that sanctions inequalities and injustices.

**Attacks on Communities:**

In the same manner that a fly is stuck at the tip of a bull frog tongue ready to be swallowed. The average and poor individual with their communities are left dangling by the needs and laws of the financial world and by organize syndicates be it of professional by nature or by illegal cartels.

As reported in the Economist Out of 100 of the largest economies 52 are corporation and 48 are countries. Globalisation as produces diminishing corporate taxes from 33% to 17% while individual taxes have risen to 44% and in some areas to 73%

*" The Monopoly game of tax evasion- in which elites, corporations, and financial institutions almost always win- causes huge losses for the vast majority of individuals and communities: Security, health, environment, standard of living, equitable labour conditions, and direct control over one's life in a community are all impacted by tax evasion "* Fischlin

In the US between 2003 and 2006 lobbyist have spent 9.7 billion \$ which represents 4.5 millions\$ per member of Congress.

**According to Ipsos Global public affairs polls: 74% of Citizens believe that corporations are far too powerful and that corporation are now more powerful that government.**

**That Gov either share the free market ideologies of Corporation or are too scared to confront it.**

**Can we live with a moral ethical economy? That will rid our communities of economical and cultural inequalities?**

**In the last century community groups have challenge, more or less unsuccessfully the displacement and destruction of their communities by corporate needs-greed, for bigger dams, incinerators, factory farming, big box retail outlets, roads and highways or displacement of companies seeking more incentives.**

**The conventional wisdom that human and societal progress is achieved through greater wealth is a major blow to a Just Community. Since it produced a greater concentration of the poor and a disempowering of community and of community activism through islands of self interest to the detriment of community needs?**

**I would suggest that materialism as provided for many a false sense of wealth and a deconstruction of the Self that is rarely able to identify with the Other and with Community. Through the promotion of a dualistic concept the Self and Community have become disengage from their natural destiny.**

## **The Law**

**Are we burden down in our daily conduct by authoritative voices coming from the gods of Corporations or by the elite that are churning out living rules on 144 characters flowing from twits? In their own times, In Jesus, Buddha, St Francis of Assizes, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Thomas Merton Thomas Berry and many others , they have all denounces in their own ways the LAW and the elite that diminishes Humanity and Community .**

**The daily path of a Just Community is the expression of spirituality in action. Action of equity, action of justice, action of ethic instead of structural inequalities.**

**As suggested by Sedgwick: Right are protected by laws that consecrate the unequal relationships.**

**The LAW (administrative, environmental, criminal, taxation, property, health, etc) is frequently associated with the end goals of social justice. Is the LAW achieving this ? What the LAW as produce under the world systems of economical growth is predictability in the pursuit of greater control by elite and greater disparities or disengagement of individuals in community.**

**The LAW main purpose should not be the administration of justice but the promotion of a healthy and joyous community. Justice should not be a reflection of transitory and arbitrary interest of the dominant elite (corporate or individual) which will deny such necessities as equality, distribution of wealth , freedom of achievement and self worth of individuals and communities.**

**Questions ????**

**Is there a place for Religion in a Just Community? I would suggest NO! Since too often they are clannish, territorial, absolutist and in constant need of wealth and recognition.**

**Can a Just Community be without the Spirituality of Jesus, Buddha, Abraham, Moses, Martin Luther King, of a Thomas Merton or of Jean Vanier? NO! Since they have voiced Love, Compassion, Inclusiveness, Justice and emancipation for all.**

**Have individual/ Community values taken a back seat to the imperatives of economic growth and the associated promises of greater individual wealth?**

**Ask ourselves if the pursuit of economical growth as produce a more Just community? Or Can we live with unethical economy ? What is our community? Is it dysfunctional or blessed?**

## **Are we active or disengage from Community?**

**Is it stagnant water or a flowing river? Is it more or less material than spiritual?**

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