

A new discovery of the world

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Introduction

A song of the seventies recited “We are the world”. In facts, we feel to be part of the world. Earth is considered, in ancient literature, the mother of human kinds. Christian religion considers Adam born from the mud and Eva from one of his ribs. Hindus consider that all the creatures do have the same importance in the existence. Our attachment to Earth remains in our constant sense of nostalgia of something to be found elsewhere, or for the place of our birth. Migrants try to return home. When we feel unsatisfied, we try to change life or, almost, to change place of living. Probably no one is satisfied with what he or she has, or the place where they are living. Everyone has the feeling of something that exists somewhere else, which could fulfill his/her life in the best way. Surely it is not easily explicable the sense of dissatisfaction of a routine life, or the sense of “going”, like it is for some nomads. Birds are the ancestors of humans; they know where to go, unlike men, who don’t know where to go, only they feel to go somewhere. This sense of “otherness” could instill an illness of unrest.¹ The dialog on the film “The Wild One” with Marlon Brando (1953, directed by László Benedek), testifies this desire of “another world”. The nice girl, working in a bar, as a waitress, asks the boy, a new customer from another city: “Bring me somewhere, it doesn’t matter where, only somewhere else. I have attended all my life someone who takes me away”. The discoveries of Colombo, Vasco de Gama and the other great navigators were surely not only related to commercial expansion, but, probably unconsciously, to the sense of understanding where our world starts and finishes. The ameliorations of economic conditions of the modern world, and the increase of travel opportunities have renewed the sparkle of departure.²

Man and earth

A singer from Matera (EU cultural capital of Europe 2019) is restoring popular songs of South Italy. One of them tells: I ‘m born from Earth, my mother womb is Earth. All what is round reminds us life in her movements. I’m born from Earth. Earth is a star. I’m a star. I’m a star among stars. De Martino³ “L’etnologo e il poeta”.

Human and stars

The great Italian poet Giacomo Leopardi refers also in his poems, to stars, as generators of our life. This is confirmed by science, physics, since the stars contain the same mineral elements of animal bodies. All this makes us to understand how strict is the relation of us with Earth. It is not only a material relationship, of tangible chemical elements, but also a mental correspondence, since in our brain it is stored all the past memory of past existences on Earth. It is a collective memory of nature and culture, of all the experiences which brought humanity until here, along the paths of the impacts of human beings with flora and fauna, and atmospheric elements.⁴ Even climate change is impacting on human existence, it will probably modify our bodies, and surely our behavior, and, at the same time, their psychology. As demonstrated by scientists, human and animal brains maintain all the past knowledge of millions of Earth life’s

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Adriana Galvani

Department of Socio-Economic Sciences, University of Mediterranea, Italy

Correspondence: Adriana Galvani, Department of Socio-Economic Sciences, University of Mediterranea, Nola, Italy, Email adriena.galvani@live.com

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memory, especially correlated to natural world features. Examples are the animal migrations, following always the same paths, guided by natural characteristics, like sun and stars.⁵ Bedouins and nomads are able to follow the horizon, without instruments. Surely this was a capacity which had already pertained to hominids.⁶ With progress, education, economy, technology, science, our contacts with the natural world is progressively diminishing, like the feelings with the natural biome. We are surely away from the innate ideas of Plato, but not from our security brain-box described by psychology, especially by Jung. In facts, animals, which remain more in contact with the global biome, continue to remain strictly dependent from natural elements. Losing the contact with Earth will impoverish human abilities and sensations, so a powerful goal could be to restore these innate skills and combine them with new digital instruments.

Living creatures and space

Special education could merge the knowledge of the natural world with the new media abilities.⁷ The last discoveries, made at Trondheim University in Norway, awarded by the 2014 Nobel Prize, are confirming that animal brain can store several information on spatial organization.⁸ During space exploration, pathways, in form of grids, are permanently stored into mental connections, so that animals can restore previous experiences and retrace an already done way.⁹ Such information is stored into space cells and organized into grids cells. It is certainly obvious to suppose that the same capacities are present even in humans, since many animal species do have a spatial memory, inherited from ancestral times, even from the first appearance of those species on Earth. All this has been experienced on mice and it is supposed to exist also in humans, for whom the experiments are more challenging.¹⁰

As a confirmation, we can bring the example of birds, being these among the oldest living species. They are surely the most able to organize their scheduled trips along thousands of kilometers, even if other species are more mobile. They use innate capacities, related to Earth movements, or solar and stars’ relative positions.¹¹ Some of these capacities were also present in human ancestral mobility, as demonstrated by Bedouins, and by the skilled navigators of the time of the great oceanic discoveries. Surely, animals continue to maintain those capacities; instead, men have already translated natural abilities into technical instruments, reaching the excellence of GPS and GIS.¹² The process of maps digitalization represents a cultural

revolution, so decisive, like the language evolution. It corresponds to the transformation of spoken language into written language, which has changed civilization forever.¹³

Conclusion

Unfortunately, at the time when technological processes facilitate new skills, innate skills risk to disappear. We think that new instruments, could better advance, if scientists will be able in coordinating biological research with medical, engineers, astronomical, geological and geographical research.^{14,15}

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Conflicts of interest

The author declares there is no conflicts of interest.

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