



Dieter Duhm

HEALING OF LOVE

Why the Issue of the Love Between the Genders
had to Become the Central Focus of Our Project



"The Kiss in Syria"
Painting by Gustav Klimt projected on a wall in Syria (by Tammam Azzan)

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WHY THE ISSUE OF THE LOVE BETWEEN THE GENDERS HAD TO BECOME THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF OUR PROJECT



Translated from German by Jens Burkhardt and Cameron Phelps

I am the founder of a community project, now called Tamera. Tamera is a peace research center in southern Portugal. The project has received worldwide recognition for its concepts of ecological and social renewal as well as for its global school, the “Global Campus,” which disseminates the ideas of a new earth. Since the beginning of our project, the focus of our research work has been the themes of sexuality, love and partnership. A humane culture emerges from the humane relationship between the genders. For this work, we founded the “Global Love School” under the leadership of Sabine Lichtenfels. Below, I will explain why we had to put the subjects of sexuality and love in the heart of our work.

On the news, there was another of these terrible stories from everyday life in Germany: While his wife was away, a normally inconspicuous, friendly man kills his three young children and then himself.

An isolated case? And the many similar cases? The daily drama of unsuccessful love relationships and marriages, the desperation of love partners, the suffering of children, and the ever increasing cycles of rage, and then, inevitably the explosion: vengeance, violence and war. The themes of failed love, separation anxiety, jealousy and despair are not just a private matter, but a universal human issue. The drama of humanity is in large part the drama of unrequited love. How many murders must be attributed to unrequited love? How many women are beaten to death because men do not feel accepted by them? How much of the sorrow of children, how much disconsolate desolation is created anew every day in a society that has not solved its theme of love and its theme of sexuality? Once we have opened our eyes to the sorrow of the world there is no easy consolation, yet still, global healing is possible.

The spiritual epicenter of the human world is the relationship of the two genders, of man and woman, because man and woman are the two halves of humanity, they are spiritually and corporeally reliant on each other. Man and woman come together to create children. This act of procreation is intimately linked with a high physical and mental pleasure. What a gift from the universe, that the propagation of the human race is connected with pleasure and joy! These two halves have to come together properly to insure that human life can proceed smoothly. If they do not merge properly, there will be disasters – catastrophes such as cancer, child pornography, sadism, hatred, violence and war. The animal world also suffers because of the pain of man – the daily massacres that are committed against animals in slaughterhouses and laboratories are only possible because people have closed their hearts.

The unfathomable violence that is today perpetrated against humans and animals all over the world is the act of a closed heart. It is also an act of the banks, secret societies and multinationals, but their plans can only be implemented by a society that suffers from a collective closed heart. As long as the two halves of humanity do not come together properly, there will be a calamity in our souls that cannot be healed by wealth and creature comforts. It is this calamity of unrequited love, which despite all moral or religious appeals, continues to repeatedly produce “evil.” There are incredible things taking place behind the scenes of the bourgeois world. Marital rape, family tragedies, murders out of jealousy and child abuse are rampant. How it must look in an adult, human soul if they have to satisfy their sexual urges through sex with children! Moral outrage is no help here; the only help is the construction of a new sexual culture that returns to man the joy that they have lost in a world hostile to love.



The mystery of love and sexuality lies in the relation between the sexes. The deepest human longing is for this love, for spiritual as well as sensual, physical love. What bliss there is when a man and woman embrace for the first time – and yet, what of it remains after ten years? A fulfilled sexual life, like a fulfilled religious life, is a foundation of human happiness. The sexes have sought and missed one another for centuries. And they will continue to search and miss one another until a solution is found. The world is languishing in lover's grief. The healing of this grief is a major global challenge of our time. We are facing a new stage of evolution. If the latent gender war ends, there will be no more war on earth.

The global pain in love is the result of a several thousand year long history of war. It is the result of a chain of unimaginable atrocities that were committed against people, mainly women, in the name of patriarchal power. We all carry this collective trauma in our hereditary cellular memory. We all follow the unconscious information of fear and violence. In order to build the power of the church and state, the patriarchal world needed the repression of sexuality and subjugation of women under the command of male domination. The obedience of women was a condition of male potency. Sex and power were inseparably intertwined. Women who did not obey were punished or eliminated like Hypatia of Alexandria. In many countries, unimaginable male violence against women took form. In the Middle Ages, in the year 1487, the Hammer of Witches was published, a book about the execution of all women who were not needed for reproduction. The book was written by two monks and soon became the most widely read book in Germany, after the Bible. One must hear this a few times before it can be believed. Consequently, women who stood out either by their attractiveness or by their will and courage were slandered as witches and burned alive. Burned alive!

Once one has perceived the global suffering of the female half of humanity, one wonders how there could still be women capable of love. This is a crucial point, and I would like here to thank the entire female sex. The female half of humanity must possess a very stable and faithful heart, faithful to the male half which abused and suppressed it for so many thousands of years. What madness! Humanity has blocked its inborn wellspring of joy and thereby destroyed itself. Generation after generation, century after century, it has passed on the false propaganda that demonized the flesh and led to the chastisement of children and burning of witches. What was originally intended to create joy and love was outlawed and persecuted. Thus humanity began to hate the things they once loved. Even today, our culture suffers for this perversion of values. The original sin of man is not carnality, but its suppression. The lust of the flesh was called "fornication" and cruelly eradicated. Since then, no truth has been possible.

The sexual nature of women is a gift from god as a dowry for a joyful life on earth. The lust of the flesh is the deepest lust that has been given to us for the conscious understanding of life. But what woman can freely profess her nature, her desire and her sexual hunger? And what man may dare to speak of the

“sexual nature” of women without being slandered as “sexist”? In every woman lives a part of that wild nature, which was intended to be tamed by marriage. And every man has also met Lilith in women and has felt fear before that sexual power. This wild nature fits neither into the housing of matrimony, nor into conventional notions of morality and decency. The plump wife, who lives obediently at her husband’s side, is caught in a secret masquerade of constant lies. The man senses this, observes her and makes daily accusations. The children who receive too little love in such conditions, begin to lie, to steal and to get into fights – a tragic chain without end. We need a different ethic and a different sexual culture to be equal to the onslaught of sexual images and energies. When we think further, we need a new relationship to truth, to life and to all creatures, we need a new civilization. This shall be initiated by the concept of global Healing Biotopes.

The center of our healing work is a new relationship between the sexes. It is based on trust and solidarity. For the genders to be revealed to each other, they need primal trust, which could hardly arise in the patriarchal era. We need a new way of interacting socially, new social structures and new pictures of love, so that the old despair can be overcome. We can liberate the world from war, if we are able to end the war in love. We can liberate the earth from violence, if we are able to end violence in sexuality – without suppressing our own wild nature! The passion is allowed to stay. If it is associated with trust, it does not lead to violence, but to spirited tenderness. This is arranged beautifully in the plan of creation.

There is something inside of life which we all love infinitely. If humanity succeeds in giving continuity to this “something,” we will have accessed an historic path of bliss. The wisdom of the East has created a beautiful aphorism: “The Tao is the way that cannot be abandoned. The way that can be abandoned is not the Tao.” How about replacing the word “Tao” with this ever most deep, knowing love? And this is also always meant physically, knowing love goes through the body and through the flesh because, “the word became flesh, and dwelt among us.” It is almost incredible how many truths we find in the Bible, if we look behind the distortions and misrepresentations. The high point is found in the story of the Fall, when Adam ate the apple from the tree of knowledge and then discovered sexual pleasure, “and Adam knew his wife.” In Hebrew, they have the same word for knowledge and intercourse! They knew it!

The healing of love hardly happens at all in face-to-face meetings between partners, because they are too involved in their problem. This healing is a process of being born anew. To become capable of love, we must learn not to become wrapped up in ourselves, but to participate in the world. Participation is part of the secret of love. This brings us inevitably into the field of ethics. Participation means trust, resolution of fear barriers, overcoming prejudices, and throwing back the bolts with which we have locked our hearts. To become capable of love, we must develop a system of life in which real trust between people arises and grows. The new centers, which we call Healing Biotopes, are greenhouses of trust. This is the crucial point. In order to free our communities from sexual falsehoods, we have developed the concept of “free sexuality.” But free love and free sexuality only make sense amongst people who trust each other. It is this trust that opens the heart and the body, dissolves the body armor and heals the soul. We work in Tamera on environmental and technological issues of water healing, permaculture and green energy, but the most important work is the creation of trust among the students, staff and children.

We need a functioning community in order to do these things. The issues that are connected with the area of sex, love and relationships, are much too heavy to be carried by two people alone. They are historical topics for all of humanity. We need communities that know these subjects and have agreed on a fundamental, absolute solidarity with all those who reveal their inner self as they share their issues. For this, we have adopted the method called the SD Forum. SD means self-expression (“SelbstDarstellung”) and is a process in which the performer can unreservedly show himself with his fears and conflicts to the group without the threat of condemnation. This process is about learning true solidarity. When people recognize each other in their shared afflictions, they feel less need to disguise themselves and can live together with greater trust. “To be seen is to be loved.” This is a true statement. But it takes courage to let oneself be seen. We had to develop many unusual methods to find the way of truth in the field of love.



We are far from finished, but we may have crossed the half-way point on the “suspension bridge.” It has been a long and sometimes tedious work. Those who come to Tamera looking for quick sex should rather look elsewhere.

For the coexistence of the sexes, some basic rules have emerged, which could be included in the ethical canon of the foundation of a new culture:

- Love is humanities highest power for good.
- Trust between the sexes is the basis of a future without war. Never lie to your love partner.
- You can only be faithful if you are allowed to love others. Free love and the love of a couple are not mutually exclusive, but complementary.
- Jealousy is not a part of love.
- Partnership cannot be given life by people making claims on each other, but rather by mutual support.
- Sadism and masochism are the result of humanity’s historical mistreatment of sexuality. As a matter of principle, violence is not part of sexuality and love.
- No sex with children.
- Sexual actions may never be conducted against the will of any partner.
- There is no ownership in love. Relationship problems cannot be solved legally, but rather by the help of a supportive community.
- If you have a choice between love and something else, follow love.

In the relationship of women towards men, behavioral patterns have emerged which we might call “gentle feminism.” Women begin to explore their feminine source, and thus establish their own sovereign power, which no longer depends on a relationship with a single man. This establishes a historic new anchor point for women in the Holon of life and human society. Sabine Lichtenfels, in her book *Soft Power* (p. 249 in the German language edition, not yet available in English) formulated the new relationship between men and women:

Over 3,000 years of history have been imprinted by the dominance of men, establishing a principle of hard power. The power within male-dominated societies lay in breaking resistances, which was expressed as conquests, religious warfare as well as in their methods of education and handling nature. By using these methods, modern man has maneuvered himself into a dead end from which he cannot escape without female support. We do not intend to reestablish ancient matriarchal structures, nor do we want to dominate or patronize men. Feminine power is not targeted at men, nor is it targeted against our love for men – it simply, decisively leaves behind those male structures that have led to the worldwide extinction of life and love. Unless women take a public stand, nobody can escape this dead end. It is

up to us women to again assume the political and sexual responsibility that has been abandoned for so long. We invite all dedicated men to join our peace work.

The healing of the love between the genders is not limited to the relationship between the sexes. It also includes a new relationship to nature, cooperation with all creatures, the healing of water and a loving relationship with animals. We need a reintegration of our human world in the overall world of life, to heal our primal pain of separation. Ultimately, it's about reconnecting with "Omega," the divine center of all things. To love is to encounter each other center to center, wrote Teilhard de Chardin. The aim of our work is the new earth, Terra Nova. As long as a single child is still starving, a single girl circumcised, a single woman raped, a single animal tortured or a single young man forced to war, this world is not in order. We will continue our work.

For the solidarity and love between the sexes.
For all children of the earth.
For a future without war.

Dieter Duhm, Tamera, March 2013

LITERATURE

The thoughts presented here can be studied more profoundly in the following books:

Dieter Duhm: The Sacred Matrix. Verlag Meiga

Dieter Duhm: Eros Unredeemed. Verlag Meiga

Sabine Lichtenfels: Grace – Pilgrimage for a Future without War. Verlag Meiga

FURTHER INFORMATION

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