

Keynote Address

Connectivity 2006

By

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I'm really very excited about being here with you at this amazing and historic event of Connectivity. Today is the day of reflection.

I think the event has been beautifully organised energetically. We began with a wonderful ceremony by Uncle on Sunday evening to open up the energy and remind each of us of our indigenous origins and roots.

On Monday we heard very moving stories as we looked into the world scene.

Flavio spoke from the heart, telling us his compelling personal story facing crisis near death and discovering life, meaning and power, and moving into the world to make a difference.

Julia then shared her powerful story and was a compelling witness again to what happens when we awaken and find our deeper self, our meaning, calling and vocation. So we're really trying to reflect back on this week because reflection is a rite of passage. It is a chance to recollect ourselves, to reflect on what has happened not only this week but to pause and reflect on our own journeys in our life that bring us to this point.

Reflection is a moment of deep introspection and recollection and as such is an ultimate rite of passage and ceremony.

This is a ceremony!

I think that on the planet now we're in the middle of a profound shift from an old way of a culture that has fallen apart and is bankrupt and dysfunctional. It depends upon us here and now to cross over into a new way of being and culture and that's what this event means to me. So I am very grateful to the organisers who conceived it and showed the courage and vision to bring it together – Elizabeth, Juliana, Valentin, and Fabia. Thank you very much!

Let's give them a hand!

As we continue our reflection into the second day where Ashu spoke out of a pure heart, and shared her story, taking us into her world, and spoke about Space.

Orland picked that up and was a voice that spoke from that deep space, giving us powerful messages.

And I'd like to show that over 3000 years of evolution on this planet, all of our great cultures and teachers have been pointing to that deep space. I'm going to make a distinction between the space where most of us live here and the space that we need to open and inaugurate and initiate together where the rainbow people are going to meet. The space of Connectivity - and the old space of Disconnectivity. I'll put a power point up to visualise this.

(At this point Prof. Gangadean began to draw on a flipchart, illustrating graphically what he was saying. He repeatedly refers to these drawings in the course of his talk)

Then on Wednesday we went into Self - from the World to Self to Idea; and Santiago and Ute created a powerful ceremony where the rainbow people gathered here in Brazil in the place of the original palm tree. Recollect that powerful story, that prophetic story about the time on this planet when the people of the earth had been scattered. But they still carried a common seed and all the races and all the colours were gathered together in the new culture.

So when we experienced that ceremony on stage that was a very moving and powerful event. Santiago spoke from the heart to show us, without falling into despair and loss of hope, the crisis that we face on the planet today.

We heard from Julia and Flavio, and also from Orland - we got the impression that there's a bit of crisis that one goes through in awakening to become a self.

And you might wonder; do I have to face a crisis in my life where I almost die or break down, in order to awaken?! But Santiago reminded us, and Luciana reminded

us again - and we all know this - that we are in a crisis together. The planet is in a deep crisis.

And our generation; and when I say generation I do believe that because the rainbow people are people of all age - the rainbow generation of the awakening people on the planet must gather in Connectivity at this time if the planet is going to survive. And I think, and I'll try to show why, there is every reason for hope. Every speaker spoke of hope and empowerment.

So Ute spoke about the people on stage, and we could witness directly the living situation on the planet, remember the poverty and the suffering of so many people.

She pointed to that deep space where we meet and become human beings and can serve the other as we serve ourselves in the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner, remembering the twin angel within us that we all carry and that Orland speaks of. All of this resonates!

On Thursday we went into action to take all this out in to the world after having all these powerful ideas.

And today we go into deep reflection.

I'm going to put a marker of two spaces that sums up over 3000 years on the journey of human evolution to this moment.

But in this space... imagine the space! (*pointing to the drawing*) This is the space within which most of us live, it's the place of our consciousness, our everyday consciousness.

We learn who we are, we develop our culture from our parents, at home, in school, in the culture, TV - all of the ways we learn our culture. We're learning our culture - and there are many different cultures across the planet that people learn.

The self, the I that is aware of all this information we are processing, what we learn in our schools, the history of our culture, and so forth.

But no one teaches us that we must pay attention to how we are processing information and making ourselves and our world.

I spent my early education as a young philosopher learning out of the many philosophies and all of the information is being processed here. (*Drawing*) We join different ideas and words in whatever culture, whatever language.

Philosophers know that there is a basic technology of putting information together as we make up our worlds in our culture, in our religions, in our ideologies. There are many different ways of doing this.

So I can say that I am a man, I'm from the United States, I was born in Trinidad, I am a philosopher, I'm a father... And we make up our ID and develop our ID with all of the information.

It doesn't matter what culture - I could be doing this as a Christian or a Muslim, as a Buddhist, as a Hindu, as a person living in Africa, as a Lakota Native American Indian - it doesn't matter. We're making up our world from our information.

So when we process ourselves we are a thing with all this information and this is where we are. (*Drawing*)

So when we're within a culture, we have a lens of the mind. (When I use the word lens here in Brazil, people thought I meant Lands. Lens is like a camera lens, a lens of the mind.)

So we have a lens that our culture shapes that shows us who we are, and gives us a worldview, and so if I'm raised as a Christian in a Christian lens mind, my Christian world makes sense of my common sense and my culture.

If I'm raised as a Muslim I have a different lens. If I'm raised as a Lakota Native American Indian, I have a different view of the world. We have very different worldviews here.

And the tragedy of education is that most of us are not taught that we have a lens, that there are many different worlds that can be made, many different lenses that we can have here. And what happens is that we are not educated to *know how to cross worlds!*

If I'm raised in the Christian world and I see that Jesus is the truth and my world is organised in the way that the bible shows me - that God created the universe, I see the world very differently than a Buddhist would see it. There is no God for him, there is no Christ, there is only connectivity for a Buddhist. They see the world differently, the language is different, the mental ecology is profoundly different.

So if I use my Christian lens to understand the Buddhists and interpret them through my way of thinking I don't get their world.

Yet this is what we do.

We interpret the other through our lens and we violate their world. We are not educated to cross worlds and mental ecologies because in order to do that, if I'm a believing Christian and I want to enter the Muslim world, enter into the world of the Hindu, or the world of the Buddhist, or the world of the Lakota, I have to somehow step back from my lens and enter into the other world and we don't know how to do that.

And the result of that is tragic because these worlds are all divided. And there is no dialogue, no communication between them, so what has happened in history is that when we're thinking in this space, (*Drawing*) we're broken into fragments and pieces.

There is no dialogue and profound violence is taking place in this place of culture.

But that is part of the story. The most important part of the story, the beautiful part; is that, if we could step back from our local views, our local cultures, our local lens and open up a global mind, a global space; look across the worlds, enter into them and experience them, you begin to see an incredible story, another story, and that can break the cycle.

There is a global story that has been evolving on the planet that has to become our story.

If you go into the Chinese ancient world of Lao Tzu you begin to see across the planet all of these great traditions. We're saying there is something fundamental, a unifying force of the universe. Just to be a thinking human being is to recognise that, if you follow the trail of consciousness and thinking, there must be a unifying force holding all of this together, holding the universe together.

How do we name it; how do we think it? And so Lao Tzu (*Drawing*) – I hope you can see this at the back – Tao; T, A, O, Tao. Is the name for that infinite force in the Chinese language and Lao Tzu, the great thinker begins teaching: the Tao that is named is not the Tao! You cannot speak and write and express and think this space here. (*Drawing*)

If you go into the Hindu world, the ancient wisdom, they say: focus on Aum – A, U, M – Aum - the infinite symbol, the infinite word that holds all reality within it.

All reality comes out of Aum. That is the name for the fundamental force.

If you've read the Baghava Gita, the basic text of the Hindu wisdom, it is all about moving from here to there. (*Drawing*) If you've read the Bhagava Gita, this great Hindu text; it is a dialogue between Krishna, the voice of Aum and the warrior, Arjuna.

Arjuna is a war hero. He is in a battle; his family is divided, (this always happens here – war and violence). His family is broken. He has to kill his own uncle and cousins and family members and he drops his weapon... He has a crisis! The type of crisis that Julia and Orland and Flavio spoke of. He has a crisis of identity; this is not working!

This space (*Drawing*) opened up in him and he drops his weapon on the battlefield, and says,

“Krishna” – Krishna is here, Arjuna is here – “Krishna, help me?

I can’t kill my own people and if I drop my weapon, this is suicide because I’m dishonoured as a warrior. So I’ve lost either way. If I kill my people I cannot live with myself, and if I drop my weapon I am finished. Help me Krishna?”

His life collapsed.

And Krishna has a dialogue with him. Krishna understands that he is stuck in the old evil mind. He has a local lens that breaks everything up and he doesn’t even know it. So the Bhagava Gita, this great text of the Hindu teaching, is to help Arjuna. Krishna speaks to Arjuna and says, “You’ve got to step back from this closed mind. That is the cause of all this destruction, and move step by step into this space. (*Drawing*) The space of Connectivity.

I want to give you a sense of how all of our great teachers repeated: If you make yourself an object here, (*Drawing*) this self is an artificial self; the identity you have here is not your true self.

So all of yoga philosophy and teaching is the technology of how do you break out of your fixed, closed self to awaken and become a true self, a true human being where you are connected, and interconnected here?

I took me years as a philosopher. Since I only knew this space it took me years to help open up this, as I saw these great teachers speaking a deeper language from a deeper place - A place of Connectivity.

I saw now that Buddha, Buddha’s great awakening, was to see 4 simple truths - local truths or global truths. When Buddha awakened he saw that ego-existence is suffering: You’re going to suffer here; you’re going not to have a good life here. It has a cause, the cause is holding on ego, holding on to your ID, your old identity.

You have a choice, the third. You have a choice; you don’t have to do this. You can remove your mind into a new pattern where everything is interconnected. And a way to do that is the discipline of being mindful, paying attention in everything you do in your action, in your judgement, in your interpretation, in your livelihood; in everything you do pay attention and you will develop a new mind from disconnectivity to connectivity.

And as I began to see that we are speaking a different language here; because if you try to download Buddha’s voice or Krishna’s voice, or Lao Tzu into this place (*Drawing*) that we are familiar with you lose the message, you lose the power.

So it took me years to be able to see: I must help my students and myself! Mark these two places (*Drawing*) to see the difference between them.

They are very different languages.

And if we take this and put it down here we lose it! So in a way, as I began to study the different cultures across the planet, African cultures, indigenous cultures, Maya, Lakota, all of the European stories from Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, all the way through from Augustine, St Thomas, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkley, Hume, Hegel, Nietzsche, I saw that they’re all struggling in different ways: How do we get out of this place to reach connectivity and true coherence and connection?

I began to look back at that the biblical tradition and saw that the bible is teaching this too.

If you think about it, how does the Judaic faith of the bible begin with Abraham? God, Jahve, Jehovah, the Infinite Spirit, sends a message to humanity: "Hear, Oh Israel, the Lord is one! Love me with all your heart, mind and soul."

That call to love, loving what is first, requires a re-orientation from putting your own ego identity first to putting *this* first.

So the story of Abraham and Isaac is a story of this struggle; like Arjuna, a crisis, because Abraham finally has his son Isaac. He got only his wish. He has Isaac, his son and he is attached to Isaac.

And God is saying, "Don't put your ego first, put what is first, first."

So the origin of the Judaic faith, that we're all clinging within in the Christian and the Muslim tradition from Abraham onwards, is that Abraham is struggling with this crisis because he wanted his son. Yet the higher world was saying: give him up!

And of course Abraham interpreted it this way: kill your son!

But the message from God is: put me first, not your ego.

That's all that matters, because if you cross into *this* space, you enter connectivity and love. If you can love God with every fibre of your life, you would be in service, you would be connected, you'd become a true self.

So when Abraham finally made that decision: I will listen to this infinite word and its call to me, God said, "Of course you keep Isaac!"

But people keep pulling the stories down.

When Moses is on the mountain getting the Commandments, he said to God, "Whom shall I say sent me?"

And God said, "I am that I am."

That's how God speaks: I am that I am!

That's a different language. When you say, "I am," You have to write it in this space. (*Drawing*) That's why I use these marks.

If I say, "I am," *here*, it doesn't work.

This powerful language of the infinite space is so powerful that any word that goes into there connects with everything else. But the whole technology of ego-mind breaks information into pieces, then breaks me up as well.

Think about it; an ordinary citizen in today's world can have multiple identities. When I think of an ordinary US citizen, for example, (I can't say American, because of course this is America too), but an American, US citizen...

Let's say I am a Christian. Here's one ID. I'm a Christian. I believe that the bible is true and god created the universe. That's one world, that's one me.

I am also a scientist, a physicist. And physics, science, teaches me that the big bang started the universe. Energy and matter evolving, not consciousness – it's a very different world; this ID is different as a scientist. So when I speak as a Scientist, it's different from my Christian.

But I'm also a citizen in the public space, and I believe in America they say: don't bring your religion into the public space. Keep your religion separate from your politics. This is giving me trouble now, because my citizen's identity is different from these other two... And I'm going crazy, I'm disconnected, I have different identities, multiple personalities.

So I'm seeing my psychiatrist.

She's not Freudian, she's Jungian; Jung... And she's telling me, "Ashok, you've got a male and a female side – Anima, animas. Everybody has, and until you connect them

you're not going to be a whole person. So now I have to cope with that too, I have a female side too.

I'm really getting *stressed!*

But fortunately I have a friend who is doing yoga. So they show me, "Aum: you chant Aum and do yoga and it will take away your stress." So I'm now chanting Aum... But it's not working! I'm less stressed, but I'm still divided. These are not connected.

It's getting worse, because when I'm chanting Aum, what about my Christ life?

It's all fragmented.

So fortunately my yoga teacher has a tree-hugging friend who told me to practice Feng Chui. Move all the furniture, so that Chi energy can flow. So I go home and change everything around, so now I'm with the Chi.

But I'm still sick, so I'm going to see my doctor, who is an integral man/woman who's saying: I will do acupuncture on you. And you take these Arjuvedic medicines! Don't go to the regular doctor...

You go crazy...!

This is a typical person today – multiple identities, no inner dialogue, and you're broken in pieces.

So it's not only in communication across the cultures that there is violence, but there is the inner breaking up of not having the integrity and unity of communication and becoming a whole person. And so on...

But you can see Jesus too; if you put Jesus in the box here (*Drawing*) you lose Jesus. But who is Jesus?

Look at it this way- Speaking from the space of God, the space of...I use the word Logos – Logos from the Greek meaning speech, word, mind, thought reason, science...

We don't have a common recognition that there's one fundamental logic or science or grammar in this space. And I spent all of my life trying to understand these two languages.

So I will sum up my suggestion. If you can remember just this, and take this with you, it is my gift and sharing.

It took me years...when you are in this space, mark it!

Mark it with single brackets, like a quotation mark to remember, "I am in this space!"

Again, when you are using and thinking in this space, let us mark it, whatever the word is, if you said, "I" in this space, mark it so that at least you know, you're being reflective, creative and thinking about it.

And when you hear the voice from this deeper space of Connectivity, (*Drawing*) mark it with double brackets like this, just to make a difference between the two languages.

Do not confuse these two!

It is deadly to do that because when Jesus said, "I am the Way the Truth and the Life," He was speaking this language.

And if you download Him *here* and say: Jesus = God; this is dangerous!

The language of the infinite script cannot be downloaded into the place of fragmented thinking.

And yet this is where we live. This technology has dominated our planet and our cultures, even though our great teachers have been warning us and teaching us: step back from *this* and cross into *this* space

This is where you become human!

Can you imagine what it would be like to say, "I am," in this place?

Reflect now how our speakers – they were speaking from *here*, I believe... When Orland said, we carry a twin with us all the time; it's *this* - The two selves within us! And this is powerful; this is always speaking to us.

So what would it be to say, "I am," *here*?

If you enter into this space, every point is powerful.

Imagine... this sums up everything you've been hearing from me, because in this space, the infinite space. Every point; and there are infinite points and each of us is a point in this sacred space. But we forgot that and we're here in a broken, separated, isolated ego.

We lose our power; we become victims of existence and culture and everything begins to fall apart. That is the state of the culture on the planet now. We have been living in this old technology that all of our great teachers have said: its dysfunctional!

It is violent! It's a place of death! And we cannot be human here!

So imagine... here's pen! Do an experiment... Here's a pen here.

What is a pen? Tell me what a pen is?

Its a piece of plastic, its got ink, it is black and blue, it's used for writing, and you throw it away when its empty.

I'm going to do a miracle with you know. I'm going to put the pen up *there*. I'm going to cross over *this* and I want you to think what the pen is now.

Well, if you are paying attention, the pen, understood as a power point in this interconnected field, expresses all of the information of the universe in this pen.

All of culture, all of language, all of evolution, all the words, all of the logos... It expresses the interconnectivity of everything. Imagine if this were found on Mars! The explorer picks this up and Houston is looking and sees a pen, and at that he would say, "Houston, we've got a problem."

What does this mean? It would change history!

If you found this on Mars, it changes history!

Do this with yourself now. This is what our speakers would say. What do you have to do to be *there*?

Put yourself *here*, and you know what that is. You may even have many stories. Imagine what it would be to stand in your space as a human being, outside of the structures and boxes!

I'm American, I'm woman, I'm a student...

Drop that for a moment and attempt to feel the connectivity of each, that is connected to the entire universe.

Why?

Because this is what reality is.

Reality is a unified, dynamic, ever changing field of interconnectivity where you can't be separated.

When you are *here* you are connected with everything else. The self is connected with the other. You cannot break them. I cannot break myself from you. I cannot break myself from the rain forest. I experience deep connectivity not just in the mind but in every cell of my body.

My body comes alive, I can see, I can smell, I can taste.

Here I'm contained and blocked, I become calloused and ossified. My mind awakes it, but it's not separate from my body, its mind-body. Its one!

Imagine what time would be - to cross into time. Ego time is broken – past, present, future – separated; ego time, stressful and deadly.

I look at my past, and I was a victim, I was hurt, I was abused and I hate it, it haunts me, I can't get rid of it. I'm preoccupied with the time, I can't live now.

I'm a student and I'm worried about my future, getting into medical school, and I'm just anxious about the future and I can't be here now.

And if I try and be here now the only way I can do it is by drinking a lot of wine and getting wasted - to be here in the moment, which is a dream, because it's always gone. But imagine what time would be *here!* What you'd be *now!*

All moments are connected now. All places are connected *here*.

So if you can perform the ultimate ceremony of initiation; and every human being has to do this, no one can do this for you. Each person has to make a choice to step back from the story of a lens, of the identities that have been given to you by your culture, by your family, by yourself, to step into the space of becoming a whole human being. So that when Orland says: 'Be here now,' he reminded that broken person to help him heal.

'Be here now!' is the most powerful act every human being can perform. Because if you can enter here now, all Zen philosophy, all the meditative wisdom teaches how to enter this moment right now and be myself. You can't do it in ego-time; you can't do it in ego-mind.

To cross into the now and be here now is the place of power, freedom and safety that our speakers spoke of.

But my students say to me: "Prof Gangadean, that's so far away. I want to get there; I want to go from here to there. That's so far!"

And I saw what they were saying. You see, the more I try to get them awakened, the more I get trapped here.

How do I get here? How do I cross over?

And it took me ten years to redraw the picture.

The logos is everywhere!

So whatever story you have, whatever world you're in, you're still always in the logos.

So when you write your name, always remember that your higher self, your angel twin, is right with you already, always. You don't have to go far away. This is the most powerful force in the universe, the infinite logos. It doesn't go away. It's always with you and in you and in each of us and we carry this seed. This is the rainbow people. Each of us has this seed and each of us is a unique miracle.

So the ultimate rite of passage for each of us, the initiation of becoming a human is to dare to step back a bit from these stories to allow the experience of the deep connected self that's always with you and influencing you.

This has a profound influence on you. So I tell my students when they ask me: how can I get there, its so far away?

I say, "No it's too close. It's so close that you can't even see it. Just step back. The path of awakening to become a human being is to step back from these fixed stories and labels and names that we give ourselves and get caught in, to be able to feel the moment and be in the moment and become a true self."

So I give the example; you all have this example: you have had moments when you were here.

I have given the example of a runner who is running. She's a cross-country runner, and she's been practicing and her coach has been saying how to run.

I am running!

And for 3 years she's practicing and breathing and moving her body and extending her legs, and she was still making an ego-effort – ego running!

And then one day, three years later, running into nature, or into the woods, SHE WAS RUNNING.... What is that? My gosh, she lost herself! She was just running.

It's not, "I am running." It's; running is happening!
You are the running. It is a powerful integral language. Every word here connects everything together.

The point that many of our speakers have made is that, if you could enter your power point, that is, your twin self, and activate it, you will release boundless power and freedom - when you become a human being.

Mandela knew that, Ghandi knew that. Ghandi called this power Sattya dhavina – truth power. And he understood that if you could tap this power you could move mountains, you could take on regimes, you could move worlds.

Marin Luther King learned that too and brought it to America. The power of one is boundless.

And all of our teachers taught us that. Jesus taught that if you have consciousness the size of a mustard seed - one point - you can move mountains.

Our poets see this. William Blake; if I can remember the lines? He says

“To see the world in a grain of sand,
And heaven in a flower.
To hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.”

That's this language. And that's where we become human beings.

That's where we are connected!

And right now what's exiting and difficult is that this culture is in a crisis, and it's imploding and deconstructing after thousands of years of the dominance of ego thinking.

And this rainbow generation has no choice but to cross together into this place (*Drawing*) - each of us individually and collectively. And that is the ultimate initiation, the self-initiation in becoming a human being.

And I just want you to think, as I close, what would it be like for us to really connect at this point.

What a power that would be!

Scientists are beginning to learn this language. Advanced physics knows that there is non-locality in space and time in the universe. Distant points of the universe are instantly connected. It blows away the old Einstein story about the speed of light. Distant parts of the universe are instantly connected, because of time and causation - all causation, linear causation?!

There is nothing like causality– this is your power!

What is causation? Everything is interconnected.

And that is why scientists speak of the butterfly effect.

The movement of the wings of the butterfly in the rain forests of Brazil is connected with the typhoon, the tsunami in the pacific. You can't think that *here*. You need a deeper science to connect.

That's the butterfly effect, and for us now, of course, for us it's the Julia Butterfly effect...

Because if we can connect, then the wings that we have, the angel wings of the twins that we have, that we are; if we could activate that and come out of our cocoon as a human being and imagine we could connect up this planet, this rainbow generation...

It would be a different planet.

Because when you're in this place you are not alone, you are always connected.

I'll conclude with that. The 'I am' is always connected with the other, the 'Thou'. The other, whatever it may be; another person, your lover, your child, your culture, other

worldviews, nature, all sacred space. This is sacred space, safe space, powerful space, free space, human space; this is the space of Connectivity.

And that is why this event is so magnificent and historic for me.

Because we have no choice but to connect. Within ourselves and between us across the planet, between us now.

There has got to be a critical mass of awakening rainbow people of all generations, which is the same generation, connecting to bring a just safe, sustainable culture - a humane world as one human family, living here and now.

Thank you.