

Integral Transpersonal Journal

of arts, sciences and technologies



Eurotas Official Journal



EUROTAS
Global Transpersonal Network

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INTEGRAL TRANSPERSONAL JOURNAL
VOL. XXI, N. XXI, 2024 – "OUT OF THE CAVE" PART II

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The Future of Transpersonal Thinking: The Interplay of Reality and Representation

Rossana Strambaci, Ph.D.

ITJ Editor Director

The article that opens this issue raises the question of the future of transpersonal disciplines. It also – according to the tight reasoning of M.Yu. Mianie – connects this topic to the epistemological status of these disciplines and to their coherence with a reliable and somewhat retraceable inquiry system, which is a characteristic of scientific thinking.

The way to unravel crucial issues for the future of transpersonal sciences involves achieving a detailed “description of the structure of the Human Consciousness, of the Subtle Worlds and also of the processes occurring in them, at the level of energy information systems”.

In the context of transpersonal experiences and thinking, effectively, it happens that “most of the provisions presented are already being implemented in practice, yet require evaluation by the scientific community and experimental verification” (Mianie, ITJ 21).

This is, also in my view, one of the knots that needs to be solved to get out of the way the obstacles that still prevent the transpersonal disciplines from having a pervasive and constructive impact on shared thinking and also on philosophical and scientific ways of thinking.

While Mianie points the way to the method, the contributions of the other authors deal with specific aspects of transpersonal psychotherapy (as in the

writing of Michael Karpathiou), or about awareness, mindfulness, or Presence – as a quality of consciousness – as a crucial ingredient for the success of transpersonal approaches such as psychedelic-assisted therapies (the issue is treated in the work of Robert Hirsch).

A particularly significant type of "coming out of the cave" is that dealt with by Verena Schmid in her piece on initiation, both of mother and baby, in the process of birth.

We then have some contributions that are elaborations, or transcripts, of some of the speeches on the theme of "Coming out of the Cave", which has been the common thread of the 23rd World Transpersonal Conference, organised by EUROTAS on October 2023 in San Vincenzo, Italy (Tuscany): *Waking Up: Out of the Cave*.

The metaphor that often runs through the contributions of this section is that of light, as opposed to darkness.

Here the particular symbolic meaning of the Cave intervenes: in the Platonic myth the Cave is the place where one can only perceive projections of what exists.

From this point of view, Erica Poli speaks of a "heliotropic tendency", from the philosophical tradition of Neoplatonic origin. The word "truth" – she remembers to us – in Greek is Aletheia (ἀλήθεια), "unveiling of things".

Truth is taking out the veil, seeing reality through unveiling, through a direct relationship with the source of light, and not just its projections, as is the case in the cave.

"The generating role of Socratic conscience is to awaken", as Mauro Ventola writes.

Light, uncovering and awakening become strictly connected, from this point of view, because light connects the two sides: "the one who sees with what is seen" (Poli again, ITJ 21).

By doing this, light creates the representation of reality in which we all move and we create our own decisions and beliefs.

If this is true, as we believe, a choice arises: it's a radical one.

Editorial: *The Many Faces of the Cave...*

We must decide whether we want to see, if we agree to see while knowing that what we see is – however and in essence – a representation.

This decision and this accession are the founding themes of philosophical hermeneutics and they are also, we believe, the theme of adherence to life, to its flow, for what it genuinely is.

Rossana Strambaci,

JUNE 2024

The second part of this 21st issue of Integral Transpersonal Journal is dedicated to the Ted's Style Talks of the 23rd International Eurotas Gathering "Out of the Cave", held in Italy in October 2023.

The ITJ editorial staff deliberately chose not to over-edit the text of Ted's style talks in order to convey the naturalness of the speakers' speeches.

Website of the event: www.eurotas23.com

