

GLOBAL PLENARY  
Closing

August 8, 1986

The Rising of the Great Eastern Sun  
Charlene Fowell

I am delighted to share with you some reflections on the Bilbao Plenary. You understand, this is a talk any of you sitting here could have made. There has been a significant sharing of reflections and interpretations of this time together as the Global Order.

Our journey into this Plenary began with the 1984 Global Order Council. We have spent two years positioning ourselves for a radically new 16 year phase of being the Order. What this Plenary has revealed is that we are a brand new people, standing in a whole new orbit. Out of two years of experimenting, retooling and broadening our frame, collaborations and networks, we have arrived at a new dawning and two years ahead of schedule. Beginning in 1984 was like beginning a long journey and starting well before daylight. This meant that we had to use our whole being to sense what was out front, what was there for us. Testing the market for programs, entering new collaborations, and experimenting with the new Planetary Unity while establishing 21 Primary Units across this globe was a bit like walking home from Izzara at night --when you reach the college campus and start up the hill under the thick foliage of trees, you can not see a thing and have to rely on your senses. You quickly become attentive and alert or are in danger of wandering off the road or running into a tree. A new sensitivity and style develops not unlike that which developed in us over these past two years.

This dawning had its beginning in individuals and Primary Units and was intensified in Think Tanks and Councils. The Hongkong meeting focused our resolve and our direction and signaled the 1986 Global Council. All P.U.s participated through collegiums and focused on the implications of strategies of the 3 R's --research, residue and resources. Fanchayat treks and individual and family assignment conversations prepared recommendations for the Bilbao Plenary. Our new vision was intensified and deepened by the Chicago P.V.O. in July.

Bilbao has been the dawning of the Great Eastern Sun. Shambala reminds us that the dawn is based on actual experience. We touched basic goodness of life in the Shambala study every morning and experienced it throughout the time design and activities of the Council. The Vision of the Great Eastern Sun is based on the celebration of life: Someone reflected that this Council has been full of everyday celebrations. I want us to rehearse the great celebrations we experienced and ask Janet Sanders, David McCleskey and Patrick Mbullu to come up here. Everyone else stands. Patrick, while you have a kilo clap, Jan, I want you to lead us in the body-glyph of warming the coals and David, I want you have us all to breath in the natural way. --Let us all participate in this great drama.

My, my, my. What a great group. And, have you notice that you have also become great dancers? This has surely been the council of the dance. Those ballgames were a bit of a game in themselves. I haven't seen such passion since the World Cup series. Dancing was the theme of one of our major celebrations. I wasn't prepared for the second one. The surprise of the local Basque families and musicians was a genuine treat. Being in Basque land and visiting Vitoria and Guernica has gotten us in touch with the deep spirit energies that have been deposited and cultivated here in this culture.

Our time design allowed for time for optional group sharings with everything from Flex Social Style seminar to Frogoff writing. The relaxed schedule and beautiful surroundings of this campus allowed many times for individual sharings. This has been an extraordinary time of openness and talking to one another.

The Great Eastern Sun is based on the appreciation of every individual as well as the world. The excercises of the heart and the ritual of Greeting the Sun were deep times of sharing our lives receiving healing energies. We have learned to live in a new space --a space of high heart and high energy. This high space living flowed into every aspect of our life together.

Outside resource people injected radical new life into our emerging directions. Marty Seldman demonstrated a new passionate marketing style as an authentic style of humanness --his commitment and support to enable us to produce a book and begin marketing our product was impactful and releasing. We came to see that distributing our stored-up wisdom with a diversified product line was an effective way to reach the masses and enter fully into the communication age.

The vision of the Great Eastern Sun is organically based on the naturalness with no imposed boundaries. New missional directions developed organically. After the 21 Primary Unit reports, and the presentation of strategic models, the Council allowed for these new directions to be clarified and formed. Another deep dialogue surfaced. This dialogue on profound understanding informed and aligned with the missional forces. The mind mapping of spirit was a turn in the council as we began to see our deep common understandings grow out on paper. We saw we were standing on common ground though we couldn't articulate it clearly --"We had returned to pure ground, to primordial ground", as Shambala would say. Joep van Arendonk, program director of UNFPA in New York, visited us for a day. He gave directions to these streams of dialogue and called us the People of the Question. He called us to stand before our Reason for Being. He reminded us that we were the ones uniquely placed to raise the question of what it means to be human today and how to create Social Justice out of that consensus. We are positioned to catalyze the research that will raise these questions across the globe. This is the time, he said, as there is no consensus on human rights --no one knows how to do development or create

structures of social justice for this planet. We could tap the major think tanks of the first and Third Worlds and link them with local practitioners to launch a planetary quest for new foundational understandings. We could change the whole World!

As directions of the next two years emerged, we also saw the new order emerge. "The way of the Great Eastern Sun is based on seeing that there is a natural source of radiance in this world - which is innate wakefulness of human beings". Great quiet resolves focused the Council. The first was the resolve to make marketing our program mode. This would give us financial substance and a new public image. The second was to break open a forward moving, long range financial investment style to undergird the next 16 years. Our work in the four communities of development, economics, education and planetary unity provided entry points for the third resolve of an integrated research project toward New Planetary Spirituality and Social Justice. Finally we resolved to be the people who explore the spirit deeps and live the light touch by attuning ourselves to our Reason for Being.

As we observed this Council, we did not forge out hard strategies but, rather, spent a great deal of time in the spirit arena and the Reason for Being. Jean Vonier had some wisdom about this in his book "Community and Growth" :

"When a community is born, its founders have to struggle to survive and announce their ideals. So they find themselves confronted with contradictions and sometimes even persecution. These oblige the members of the community to emphasise their commitment; they strengthen motivation and encourage people to

go beyond themselves to rely totally on Providence. Sometimes only the direct intervention of God can save them. When they are stripped of all their wealth, of all security and human support, they must depend on God and the people around them to understand the witness of their life. They are obliged to remain faithful to prayer and the glow of their love; it is a question of life or death. Their total dependence guarantees their authenticity; their weakness is their strength."

This Council has been a "first". Products were completed two days before the Closing Plenary. We had all the time we needed. Assignments have never been done with such care, co-creativity and ease. They were dramatically presented with the beat of the drum, the silence of meditation, picture drawing of rhythms and Latin American Dancing. Every Order member was named and uniquely honored. As much as possible personal preference for assignment locations was honored. There was no "strong arm" approach used and the predominant shifts were worked out at the P.U. and Continental levels.

Configurations were seen as organic systems and therefore allowed for flexibility. After global directions were set, teams were aligned with these directions. Some Primary Units were rebalanced within the Continent to allow effective teams to care

for our missional tasks, .i.e.:

Lusaka becomes the Program House of Nairobi

Kingston is transisting to Caracas

Houston is becoming two Program Houses :

Houston - L.A. Program House

Atlanta - Chicago Program House

Our global relatedness has been symbolized by having the Panchayat in Hongkong. The International Development and Funding Breakthrough team is located in Brussels. The Reasearch Breakthrough team is located in Toronto. The Capitalization and Investment Breakthrough team is located in Chicago.

I was struck on reflection that this has placed our global nodes in 3 continents and four nations.

This Council Plenary was not only attended by the Order representatives gathered here, but in spirit by many members in Primary Units across the world. The support and prayers of colleagues and friends have been overwhelming. I suspect that if we looked closely, we would see that even the 'crimson line' of ancestors, archtypes and gods were in attendance as we went throught this great transformation and began leaping into the next 16 years.

I was caught yesterday when Marsha said that we were leaping into the future not with decision but with bravery. We are leaping as the fearless and sacred warrior, radically investing in the future and knowing how to live in both worlds of the inner and outer realms. Standing with us are literally hundreds of colleagues as we move into this new order. Shambala reminds us that :

"This moving out is also a letting go of hesitations. The result of letting go is so you can be without deception and contacting that uplifted energy which allows you to completely join together discipline and delight. Everyone has experienced a wind of energy of power in their lives. This self-existing energy is called windhorse in the Shambala teachings. The wind is that energy of basic goodness and is strong, exuberant and brilliant. At the same time this energy can be ridden, which is the principle of the horse. Experiencing the upliftedness of the world is a joyness situation, but it also brings sadness -- it is like falling in love. The warrior who experiences windhorse feels the joy and sorrow of love in everything he does."

Our document cover holds the mythology of this Council. In the center are the great Basque rocks -- reminding us of our groundedness. Surrounding these is the Great Eastern Sun with the windhorse always available to us. The rays of the sun remind us of the four dignities and authentic presence as well as our four resolves.

"The Rose" has been a song we have found heartwarming and perhaps it is appropriate to sing this song to celebrate this.