

Ecce Homo - how one becomes what one is¹ **~ travelling through my life story ~**

I was born in Jakarta, Indonesia (1952) and 10 months later we moved to the Netherlands. My parents had decided to emigrate and because of the colonial ties we left for the Netherlands. We were no refugees or poor immigrants. We (parents and 5 children) traveled 1st class on the Willem Ruys (a very large passenger ship) to the Netherlands, a 1 month journey.

I grew up in the Netherlands but also partly spent my time at boarding school with the Ursulines (Roman Catholic nuns) in Belgium. My travels of 'how I become what I am' was not only a migration between East and West, but also between Christ and Buddha. For at the age of 22 I met my Buddhist teacher and became a Buddhist. What do I mean by migration between Christ and Buddha?

The Christian dna is – if not wholly, then at least for a large part – engaged with 'saving the world'. I mean literally: saving this planet and the people that inhabit it, establishing God's Kingdom on Earth. Apart from faith itself, values such as social justice, rule of law, equity, sustainability, fighting poverty and democracy come to the fore and become widely accepted values. Even if one is not a churchgoer. And this may also lead to engagement in social-political activity and activism.

The Buddhist dna is the knowledge of the profound connectedness between all and everything. A knowledge that precedes science and never is nor will be in contradiction with science. Out of that knowledge then, automatically, comes forth love. Love never is an imposed morality. Also, one knows oneness, certainly, but at the same time one knows 'different-ness'. That is the way reality is: oneness is different-ness, and different-ness is oneness, form is emptiness, and emptiness is form. Enlightenment is attained by acquiring deep knowledge of the things as they are and not by wanting to change the things. But also: right knowledge brings us to right action, and that is action that celebrates life and does not harm it. (One could consider here the following: if the Christian political and social structures of power – that are in the majority in this world – would do as their Teacher preaches, there would be world peace and prosperity for everyone to share).

So, as I travel between the Christian and the Buddhist culture, holding my own self as my basis, I can see that peace on earth and peace in our hearts can only unfold if we unite these 2 ways of seeing within ourselves and then apply it to the world.

The encounter with my Buddhist teacher took place in Switzerland, when I had just completed my studies of Economics (1974). So, my journey was also one of traveling between economics and spirituality. By the term 'economy' I mean the overall structures by which we organize producing and distributing the things we need to live and to survive. However, 'economy', in toto, is: producing, distributing and consuming. The 3rd element 'consuming' of course concerns each one of us, sometimes as a collective, but always, finally, as an individual. The overarching – macroeconomic – structures are, therefore, always connected with the individual. In fact, the core business of any economy is always the individual, so that he/she can live and survive. That is, at least, what I argue in my book *Interdependent Economy*.

In that sense the story of my travels also is the connection between macro and micro, and between physical and spiritual life. As my Teacher recently told me: "an economy that takes care that everyone is provided for, at least in his basic needs, is the precondition for further spiritual development."

¹ This title is totally stolen from Nietzsche whose biography is titled: *'Ecce Homo – wie man wird was man ist'*. Thank you, Friedrich Nietzsche!

In 2005 my book *Interdependent Economy - from political economy to spiritual economy*² was published. In that book I explain the views and basic principles of an economy as indicated in the previous paragraph.

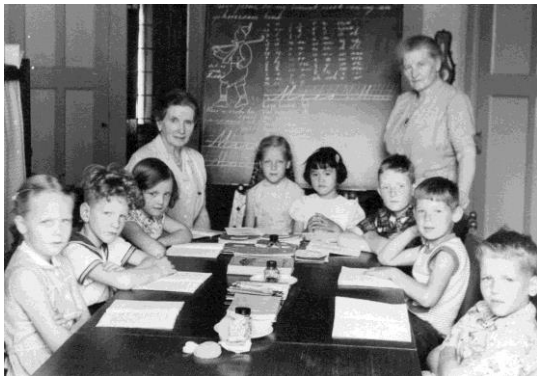
One could also describe it as ‘an economy of the 5th dimension’. That is the dimension where raw egoism (1 – 2-dimensional), but also negotiating between the interests of the ‘I’ and ‘the other’ (3-dimensional) have been transcended, and via the 4th dimension (time and space are consciousness) have arrived at the 5th dimension, where I, the other, time and space have all been transcended. The only reality is that what I consciously create, always in the now. So, the journey of ‘how I become what I am’ also led me through the dimensions of my own consciousness.

It also took me through different understandings of the right approach to explain my views to the world. I traveled from ‘if we want to change the world economy we need to change the political and power structures’, passing by ‘if I want to change the world economy I need to try to influence the consciousness of the people’ to now arrive at ‘if I want to change the world economy, I need to firmly root my views in my own consciousness, anchor them in my own energy, and then simply manifest it in the world out there’.

By consciously creating in and by my own consciousness, I, simultaneously, change the world. Because I am All and All is I. Equally, each and every person is All. In that way, as individual consciousnesses change, All will change, and overarching structures and use of power will change ... for these are mere manifestations of our consciousness.

My journey of ‘how I become what I am’ has arrived at the point that I am now aware that only my true creations have meaning. Surely, like everyone, I plan this and that, fret over this and that, I like to have fun and try to avoid unpleasant situations. But this is all white noise – something can be heard, but there is not much meaning to the sound. Only by expanding our consciousness so that it reaches overarching fields of energy, we can save the world.

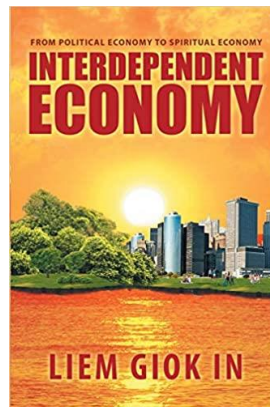
Pre-primary school, Den Haag 1958



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Saviour of the World – Salvatore Mundi,
Leonardo da Vinci



² See: www.liemgiokin.com for my book *Interdependent Economy - from political economy to spiritual economy*