

Ramón P. Muñoz Soler

HOMO – UNIVERSITAS

Or circulation of the Light

Excerpt from

Homo-Universitas, o de la Circulación de la Luz

Translation by Héctor V. Morel

Subject of
“University of Synthesis”
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Great CHALLENGE to the intelligence

How can we join power-of-knowledge
and will-of-meaning together?

New IN-PULSE

Chemical clocks of life strike a different hour.
Symmetry of matter is broken.
But still we do not know how to handle the human energy released on the planet.

Existential DISORDER

Loss of the image of the world.
Collapse of systematic values.
Sunset of ancient gods.
Disappointed soul.

But something NEW is born in man.

New functions of life.

and THE UNIVERSITY?

What is its role on the coming civilisation?
What are the bases to build the new temple
of knowledge?

What **IS essentially valid** for material development and spiritual development
of coming men and women?

National gross product?

Human development rate?

Or new ideal conceptions of the world?

Or new molecules of life?

Another University Reformation?

Or a return to the Original Foundation?

University at the turn of the century

Galaxy of particulars and flight of meaning

The University, originally intended to be intellectual centre of unified knowledge and being, this **UNIVERSITAS** is at present reduced to a “galaxy of particulars”. The link of parts with the Whole is lost.

The University crisis at the turn of the century is not a crisis of organisation, but of **function**.

What is the function of the University in a new world society

(if we still can use the term University to name a space of knowledge which goes beyond the narrow frame of ancient university cloisters)?

What is its **role**,
its **mission**,
its **content**,
its **task**?

And more questions without an answer:

Conveying information?

–It was packed in electronic brains,
and circulates through webs!

Forming technicians and professionals?

–Just one “Politechnical Institute” is enough!

Returning to the unity of the original pattern?

–We have lost the “key” to assemble it!

As the end of the century is nearer, the ancient formula is filed in “survival arks”, in electromagnetic tracks, in coded informatics; “catastrophe” of the systematic thought and advent of a new function, a new mind, simpler and more luminous, more in touch with the cosmos, a mind polished like a mirror. which reflects wisdom of the Universe and translates it into codes of life.

We face a great challenge: above all, to recognise that this new **function** does not derive from the unknown, and cannot be exposed by more knowledge, more information, new theories or new paradigms.

On University level, the revolution did not start yet:

- Denunciation of the old system is not enough
- Critical philosophy is insufficient.

–Revolt does not repair anything.

But the question about the foundation remains:

How to bring the new function into action?

–By In-plosion of knowledge and revelation of meaning!

On the *vanguard*

of

unsuspected events

Or about the new *place* of man in the world

A man of the 21st century demands of the University immediate solutions to urgent problems of life: unemployment, ecological unbalance, economic-financial crises, growing and alarming corruption and violence, weakening of the immune system, and social diseases. Technique achieves dramatic breakthroughs, hundreds of universities and research institutes are working on web with radio-detective satellites, eyes and ears observing Antarctic ices cracked, Amazonia deforested, courses of oceanic streams, velocity and direction of winds, measure of the ozone, weather changes, planetary pollution..., but all this marvellous earthly cartography hides what happens in man himself: existential void, collapse of values. Double face of a unified movement of the light, which we are unable to understand.

And at this point we ask again:

**What is the place, function and task of the University
in the future city of man?**

The vanguard of 1918, with Joaquín V. González as the leader of the Reformation, had broken a religious dogma prevailing in the ancient university cloisters. The revolt of 1968, with Cohn-Bendit and the “night of the barricades” (the 13th of May) questioned (but did not break) the scientific dogma.

Years went by, student revolts failed, political revolutions failed, and the technological revolution failed (as a “message of salvation”: bread, work and knowledge for all).

At any rate, they made something so that everything remained the same. But the vanguard disappeared!

And now what?

–Theory of the information, electronic webs, astronauts on space, genetic engineering, all these instruments of knowledge make us see the illuminated face of the Moon, but are of no use to enter the holes of one’s loneliness, isolation and despair. And a new question appears: Is it possible to perceive right now a post-technological era enabling us to circulate freely between these two worlds? In other

words, is there some signal enabling us to notice the presence of a new vanguard on the horizon of the time to come?

HOMO – UNIVERSITAS

From Theory of Knowledge to **Gestation** of Knowledge

The key to the time to come is not ideas, but “space” in which those ideas are revealed.

Homo-Universitas does not name any particular sciences, or “faculties” (among many of them forming the university galaxy), even though ultimately it refers to all sciences, to all philosophies, to all faculties and to all functions of life.

Homo-Universitas does not restrict its significance to the way of community life among “students and teachers”, formerly coined by scholastics with the word “Universitas”. And even it is not an announcing signal trying to rescue a “University Humanism” which has disappeared long ago.

In few words:

Homo-Universitas is not a concept, or an organisation, or a Utopia, but a *Gen-ethical* movement of knowledge, a force of integrative-disintegration which, with debris of ancient universities and faculties (“*materia secunda*”) tries once and again to create a new city of man.

Here we do not refer to new knowledge, but to new “gene”.

A new “gene”?

Yes, so that Earth may communicate again with Heaven through Man.

Homo-Universitas, as a function, means to “bring into action” that which comes to knowledge as fundamental need for life. And here the question:

with what matter?

–**With our own matter.** In other words, now we face a giant task: to make the human matter speak the same fundamental language which artists of the Renaissance made the stone speak.

INITIAL – POINT

Or about Reversibility of Values

Sooner or later, somewhere on Earth or Heaven, we must **return** to the Mother's bosom for our continuous progress on the way of knowledge. Neither Nicodemus nor modern doctors in law understand this.

Leaves are open in autumn, and flowers bloom in spring. But where can we find the **point** of transition of different phases of life?

“Initial point” is a symbolic frontier. We are without a language to describe what happens on this singularity, on this threshold of reversibility of values. Metaphysics, physico-chemistry, history's philosophy, and cosmology approach (with different languages this “passage area”, but cannot explain this mystery: but a new term has been coined, “break of symmetry” (and modern biologists say without a break of symmetry, evolution is impossible).

What today we call existential crisis or global dilemma is a “disease of our civilisation by a break of symmetry in the system”. As it were, a cosmic man is born, but we have not any sciences to explain him. Now the University has not any answers to man.

The technological era has introduced a power that we cannot control. Social, economic and political patterns proposed today from Universities to solve problems of man, instead of giving a solution are producing new problems. Now ready-made clothes are not fit for our body, because our body is ahead of those clothes. The electronic money became a sort of parallel global government, and nation-states do not control the destiny of peoples. It is impossible to pay the public and private debt, and the problem is solved with more debt. The technological revolution accelerates the creation of wealth on one side, and increases the rate of unemployment on the other side. The era of antibiotics has put an end to many of bacterial diseases, but also weakened the immune system and brought about new social diseases.

The circuit of Baudrillard's “fatal strategies” is closed: technological development on one side, and adaptation disease on the other side.

Adaptation disease?

–Yes, a corset imposed on the reality. If we have nothing essential to balance it, then the socio-political, technical and economic system will continue to work, but not to “cure” itself, but to go on by adapting itself to the disease.

–Adaptation disease. The human being remains prisoner in a sort of “limbo”, an intermediate world; a patient is neither healthy nor ill.

UNIVERSITY OF SYNTHESIS

Circulation of the light on a Circuit of Combined Mirrors

The light of knowledge circulates through invisible channels and is reflected on combined mirrors. Something similar occurs in human physiology: perchance is not the hypophysis reflected on the ovary, and the ovary on the hypophysis?

This may be the key question to a University of Synthesis.

The point is to unveil fundamental laws of *Gen-ethics* of knowledge, hidden laws behind the veil of practical intelligence. Communication satellites, observatories on orbit, radio-telescopes, parabolic antennae, informatics webs, all these technical tools just configure “one mirror”; the “other mirror” constitutes a current of invisible messengers. As on a technical hologram, as on molecular genetic, a transmission of knowledge-life derives from circulation of light through a circuit of combined mirrors.

We are on another kingdom, we accede another vision of the world, another dimension of life. As Prigogine would say, here “five minutes of terrestrial rotation are not equal to five Beethoven’s minutes”.

To approach the idea of University of Synthesis as a “circuit of combined mirrors”, we have to return to the function of the Vanguard: an activating enzyme of human potential on different phases of social *Gen-ethics*.

Today the Vanguard has left, its *gen-ethical* function follows another way (**ad-inferus**), enters the bosom of *mater-materia* and finally reaches the turning point of reversibility of values by constituting “the other mirror”.

When we speak of University of Synthesis in terms of reversibility of values, we understand for this “synthesis” something more than a dialectical synthesis, something more than an interrelation between University and Enterprise, something more than the University in the service of the people. “Circulation of Light through a circuit of combined mirrors” does not refer to some new institutions; it is a new function, a new instrument.

For centuries, sages and saints spoke different languages. In his “*Tao of Physics*”, Fritjof Capra sums up this break in language with this ancient Chinese motto:

**“mystics understand the roots of Tao, but do not understand its branches;
scientists understand its branches, but do not understand its roots”.**

But scientists and mystics were aware of the existence of a secret circulation of the light between branches and roots (Wilhelm-Jung, “*The Secret of the Golden Flower*”), but they knew it by intellectual intuition or spiritual revelation. The new, anticipated today by the Vanguard of science, technique and

mystique is a *gen-ethical in-pulse*, which transcribes on and translates essential values of the soul into goods of life.

DESCENT OF THE IDEALS, AND THE SALT OF EARTH

Beyond Philosophy of History

From “logic” of thinking we pass to “geometry” of living.

Without the light of a guiding-star (hide of Being), the human universe is ungovernable, social phenomena are out of control, and molecules of life have lost their ability to recognise predators.

Today, the prevailing world paradigm is not a “liberating war” or a “political pact among nations”. “Guiding ideas” hide behind the will-to-power, and alliances between peoples became fragile: “Market” controls everything, the political and ideological scenery can radically change. The world did not explode, but we witness paradoxes of our civilisation. In connection with economy, Rudi Dornbusch typifies this situation as follows: “The Japanese and their overvalued yen flood the world with their products. Perversely, the result is that so sturdy yen impedes them to live according to its strength” (El Economista, “Why Japan is committing harakiri”, Buenos Aires, 5 May, 1995).

Now political and religious leaders, economists and trade unions cannot govern this new disproportionate humano-technical phenomenon.

The new Vanguard responds to this challenge, but not founded on political doctrines, history’s philosophy, or theologies of liberation, but in terms of a *Gen-ethics* of *trans-mission*. Without this “salt”, ideals move upon the waters, and “poetry is not made flesh in history”.

Final words

to **start**

a silent meditation

on geometry of the light

504 days

Subterranean chronicle

By 1980, in “*Anthropology of Synthesis*”, I announced something far away for many people: “A boy is born”. Today, in 1995, I finish these reflections on “Homo-Universitas” with a quite moving newspaper article: “**A retired man is dead**”.

504 days. His name takes part in the long list of the “social missing”. In his own way, he protested against precarious conditions of living which millions of human beings must stand with a minimal pension after more than thirty laborious years. He began by chaining himself to a lamppost at

Plaza de Mayo, before the Government House; physically weak, the police carried him to a hospital, but as soon as he felt well, stayed again in the open and exposed to the elements, in a hollow, before the Mortgage Bank (because he lacked a dwelling). After 504 days, he died in that hollow, as a living proof of despair.

Who are the *prot-agonists* and the new history?

–“A boy is born”: we have to go quite above, beyond Earth. “A retired man is dead”: we have to go quite below, beneath the social aspect. Circulation of the light, in a circuit of combined mirrors.