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Book review

"Let's change road"

By Edgar Morin, Raffaello Cortina, 2020

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The coronavirus pandemic (Covid 19) will cause momentous changes in world history.

"Let's change road" is the reflection of one of the greatest living philosophers who I had the honor of knowing, on the occasion of the awarding of an honorary degree by our University. The memory of this event is aroused by the reading of Morin's essay, which starts from a short biography: from the changes that occurred in his life to the hope of achieving happiness. A writing that reflects the current condition of the pursuit of happiness by humanity and in particular by the victims of this pandemic, who have been deprived of the last caress.

Reviewing this essay therefore means overcoming the differences between Journal and Magazine, with the hope that the communication of knowledge will find questions and solutions in this epochal experience. These issues are summarized by the father of complexity in fifteen lessons, which propose philosophy as a cure for pain. It is a polycentric reading that starts from the condition of existence to the uncertainty of our lives and the relationship with death, from ethical dimensions of solidarity to the shortcomings of politics in general.

Faced with such a divergent mind, many will develop different opinions by renewing the dialogic of opposites, whose roots have metaphorically biological origin: the struggle of antigens and antibodies that, desperately, scientific research fights against time.

The fight, according to Morin, is based on challenges that not only the resilient must face both for themselves and for the weakest. The use of archaic defenses, far from reality, will only

produce those irrational solutions that many countries have already paid for their rulers. These policies, as in the past, will sacrifice individuality to favor the strongest and harm the weakest.

As usual, Morin is not a prophet of doom and proposes a series of solutions that can be adopted and reached by all: it is significant that in a final part of the essay he evokes K. Jaspers who, at the end of World War II, suggested the need for a humanism in continuous transformation as a guarantee of continuity of the human species.

Faced with the danger of a great regressive process linked to the crisis of democracy, the ecological question and the crisis of globalization, the essay is proposed as a "scream" that we hope can be actively listened to by all, diverging in thought like this father from strong ideas.

References

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