

## Shamans, sound of the drums

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Man is afraid when he sees only himself, is afraid of the outside world, until he is willing to become acquainted with the cultures of others. A lack of dialogue could drive the democratic world into danger, says *Ashok Gangadean*. According to the American professor of philosophy (who originally hails from Trinidad), the World Wisdom Council, whose goal is to unify different representatives from distant cultures and academic fields and is led by *Ervin László*, aims at helping others to recognize the only way to move forward is to look at their own world from a distance, and accept the values of other cultures. This is the way we can recognize the essence of our own culture. According to the professor, without "global wisdom" and "cultural unification," mankind cannot complete the tasks before him.

"Culture has already recognized, a long time ago, that which is currently visible to science: that reality is a field of energy. It contains that ancient energy which created us and which – if we recognize it – may create harmony among soul, spirit and body", explains Gangadean. That is why the founding co-president of the Global Dialogue Institute valued the opening Eskimo shaman-dance of the Budapest meeting. "Should we believe in any kind of God, the voice of the drums opens up our heart and highlights the common base of our cultures," he stated.

According to the professor, the European Union may become a fruitful creator of global wisdom, unless it excludes the outside world and fails to offer possibilities for dialogues among cultures. In his opinion, the EU-enlargement is a tool which – unless used in inappropriate ways – may open up new horizons. On the other hand if it does not leave old economic models behind, it ends up in the mere recreation of former problems.

In Gangadean's point of view the world currently stands on a dysfunctional development level. Technological novelties did not reach their original purpose, that of bringing people and their cultures closer to one another. "But dialogue is the basis of human existence. Without it we are not really humans. We must recognize that we are not isolated from each other. Chinese wisdom, the Old and the New Testament, Islam, Hinduism or Buddhism all preserve the traditions of wisdom. It would be the real revolution of mankind if everyone would respect this common tradition in other cultures, as well," thinks the professor of philosophy.

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Written by *Mr. Gergely Nyilas*, edited in the *Népszabadság* (the most popular Hungarian daily journal, means "Liberty of the People") pp. 16, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2004