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The philosophy of martial arts in the ethical crisis of the scientific-technical civilization and globalization

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This brief paper was inspired by another great book by *Prof. Dr hab. Wojciech Cynarski* entitled *Anthropology of martial arts* [Cynarski 2012], which includes creative, original concepts from the author concerning the philosophy, sociology, pedagogy and anthropology of martial arts from a historical perspective. The work is an extensive compendium of the theoretical and practical issues of martial arts and in-depth philosophical, humanistic, social and cultural reflections.

In view of the enormity of the emerging issues I wish to draw attention to the particularly important and current issue i.e. the relationship of the function of the philosophy of martial arts in modern times, the deep axiological crisis of scientific and technological civilization in an age of globalization. The present is characterised by a special, distinctive antinomy: a dynamic progress of civilization, the development of many branches of science, technology, medicine and communication and the glamour and wealth of some social groups on the one hand and on the other hand a dramatic ethical, social and moral crisis, the impoverishment, famine and misery of huge numbers of the world's population, numerous hotbeds of armed conflicts, the threat of a thermonuclear war equivalent to the total annihilation of mankind.

In this light, and in the opinion of a number of thinkers and humanists a deep triple crisis of scientific and technical civilization in the age of globalization arose. It is a profound ethical crisis with further derivatives: the ecological crisis and an educational crisis. unprecedented in the history of education. The simultaneous development of these crises has exacerbated the threat of the self-destruction of humanity.

This raises an inevitable question of whether it is possible to rescue the world from an impending total disaster? The answer seems obvious. It is

necessary to strive to raise the total population of Earth to a higher level of ethical, social and moral awareness, and above all, policy-makers, politicians, economists, social activists, teachers, educators of young people and parents.

It is of major importance to restore the highest ethical ideals developed by mankind over two millennia of Christian tradition, the Mission of Jesus Christ: devotion to God, the Creator of the Universe, everything and everyone: love of fellow-men: the idea of nobility in thought, word and deed: generosity and selflessness: courage in the struggle against evil, injustice, exploitation, violence and terrorism and people's own weakness. It is crucial to strive for the creation of a modern, holistic and humanistic system of education based on the “joyful exploration of the truth by teachers and students” in the words of the Great Pope, Blessed John Paul II.

The path needed to rescue mankind from self-destruction is closely connected with the relationship between martial arts and modern times.

According to the basic principal and the central idea underlying these struggles are : the idea of self-improvement, developing a high level of consciousness, and the personality of martial arts practitioners – one should strive to boost one's strength, will and fortitude to fight the evil, corruption, hatred and ignorance which are leading to the destruction of mankind. The function of the philosophy of martial arts is to create a counterweight to the forces of destruction, chaos and confusion.

After all, it is clear that when the ship is sinking, the crew does everything to prevent it. Similarly, students of martial arts, led by instructors with high technical values and deep social and moral ethics should become fighters for freedom, peace, justice and honour, and should offer selfless help to “others”

treated as “themselves”¹ [cf. Szyszko-Bohusz 2006, 2012 and other works of the author].

I am convinced that this outstanding work by Professor Wojciech Cynarski clearly indicates this way as the right way.

In my opinion the main function of martial arts philosophy (symbolizing the struggle of every man against evil and weakness) is to point to a road of perfection leading to eternal bliss at the end of this earthly journey.

An example and a model worth following on this road is the Person and Mission of the God-Man Jesus Christ – the Master of Nazareth – who sacrificed his life to save humanity from moral fall and rose from the dead as the Winner of death.

References

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