

Rally in Madrid  
(sports pavilion, Madrid, September 27, 1981)

**NOTE:** *Through an invitation from The Community for Human Development in different countries, Silo embarked on a tour in which he participated in many public events. His expositions were accompanied by those of his friends Bittiandra Aiyappa, Saki Binudin, Petur Gudjonsson, Nicole Myers, Salvatore Puleda and Dany Zuckerbrot.*

*The main point of the ideas presented by Silo in Madrid was repeated in Barcelona, Reykjavik, Frankfurt, Copenhagen, Milan, Colombo, Paris and Mexico City. This book only includes his participation in public events in Madrid and Bombay.*

Some time ago I was told: "Why don't you explain what you think?" Then I explained. After this, others said: "You have no right to explain what you think". Then I shut up.

Twelve years passed and again they tell me: "why don't you explain what you think?". So I will do it again, knowing beforehand that once again it will be said: "You have no right to explain what you think".

Nothing new was said then, nothing new will be said today. Well then, what was said then?

It was said: without internal faith there is fear, fear produces suffering, suffering produces violence, violence produces destruction. Therefore, internal faith prevents destruction.

Our friends have spoken today about fear, suffering, violence and nihilism as the greatest exponent of destruction. They have also spoken about faith in oneself, in others and in the future. They have said that it is necessary to modify the destructive direction by changing the direction of human acts. Besides, and as a fundamental thing, they had said how to do all of this. I will not add anything today.

I would only like to make three reflections: One, around the right we have to explain one's point of view; the other around how we have arrived at this situation of total crisis; and lastly, one that would enable us to take an immediate resolution and to operate a change of direction in our lives.

This resolution should end in an act of public commitment among all of us.

Well then, what is the right we have to explain our point of view and to act in accordance?

First of all, we are assisted by the right of making a diagnosis of the present malady according to our elements of judgement, even though they do not coincide with those established. In that sense, we say that nobody has the right to prevent new interpretations, basing themselves in "absolute truths". And, as regards our action, why should it become offensive for others since we do not interfere in their activities?

If, in any part of the world, what we say and what we do is prevented or deformed, we will be able to say that there is bad faith, absolutism and lies. Why not allow the truth to flow freely and then the people, freely informed, can choose by themselves what seems to be reasonable for them?

And then, why do we do what we do? I will answer this in a few words. We do it as a supreme moral act.

Our moral is based on this principle: "Treat others as you would have them treat you". And if, as individuals, we want the best for ourselves, we are compelled by this moral imperative to give others the best.

And, who are the others? The others are those closer to me. And there, where my real possibilities of giving and modifying reach, there my neighbour is.

And if my possibilities of giving and modifying should reach all the world, the world would be my neighbour.

But I would commit an absurdity by claiming a rhetorical concern for the world if my real possibilities would only reach my immediate neighbour.

Therefore, there is a minimal requirement in our moral act and it is that each one clarifies and acts in his/her immediate environment.

And it is contrary to this moral not to do it, getting suffocated in a dead-end individualism. This moral gives a precise direction to our actions and, besides, clearly defines to whom these actions are addressed.

And when we speak about moral, we refer to a free act, to the possibility of doing it or not doing it, and we say that this act is above all necessity and all mechanicity. This is our free act, our moral act: "Treat others as you would have them treat you". And no theory, no excuse is above this free and moral act.

Our moral is not the one that is in crisis, other morals are those that are in crisis, not ours. Our moral does not refer to things, to objects, to systems. Our moral refers to the direction of human acts. And every criticism we make and every solution that we contribute is to orient, in the sense of the direction of human acts.

But there is another point I should deal with now, and it refers to the situation of crisis at which we have arrived. How did all this happen? And who have been the culprits? I will not make a conventional analysis of this, here there will be neither science nor statistics. I will put it in images that reach each one's heart.

It happened a long time ago that human life blossomed on this planet. Then, and with the passing of millennia, the peoples went on growing separately. And there was a time to be born, a time to enjoy, a time to suffer and a time to die. Individuals and peoples, building, went on replacing themselves till they finally inherited the earth. And they dominated the waters and the sea. And they flew faster than the wind, and they went through the mountains, and with voices of storm and sunlight they displayed their power. Then they saw their planet at a distance, a round blue shelter, amiable protector, veiled by its clouds.

What energy moved all of this? What powerful motor did the human being put in History, but the rebellion against death?

Because since ages death accompanied his step as a shadow and also, since ages, death entered him and wanted to win his heart.

That, which in the beginnings was a continuous struggle, moved by the necessities natural to life, was later a struggle moved by fear and by desire. Two pathways opened before him: the road of "yes " and the road of "no ". Then, all thought, all feeling and all action were perturbed by the doubt between the "yes " and the "no ". The "yes " created all that which made suffering to be overcome. The "no " added pain and suffering. No object or relationship or organisation was left free from its internal "yes " and its internal "no ".

Then, the isolated peoples went on linking and at the end the civilization got connected. The "yes " and the "no " of all the tongues simultaneously invaded the last corners of the planet.

How will the human being overcome his shadow? Perhaps by running away from it? Perhaps by facing it in incoherent fight? If rebellion against death is the motor of History, then rebel now against frustration and vengeance.

Stop searching for culprits for the first time in History! You and the other one are responsible for what you once did, but nobody is guilty of what happened. May, in this universal judgement, it be declared: There are no culprits! And be it established as an obligation for every human being to reconcile with his own past.

This will begin here, in you and in me, and we will be responsible that this continues among those around us... in this way, till reaching the last corner of the earth.

If the direction of your life has not changed yet, you need to do it; but if it has already changed, you need to strengthen it.

For all this to be possible, accompany me in a free, courageous and profound act, that should also be a commitment.

Let's stand up!..... and in front of our own future let's ask ourselves: "Is it necessary for me and for others that the direction of my life changes or strengthens?"

Then, in silence let us listen to the voice, the internal voice that comes up within ourselves.

"Is it necessary for me and for others that the direction of my life changes or strengthens?"

"Do I want to change or strengthen the direction of my life?"

"Do I have faith that the direction of my life will change or strengthen?"

Then let the force and the light of life well up within me.

Today and not tomorrow, go towards reconciliation. Kiss your couple and your child, your mother and your father. Embrace your friend and your enemy. And tell them with your heart open: "Something great and new has happened today in me!" And then explain to them what happened so they too can carry this message.

I would like to repeat these phrases.

Today and not tomorrow, go towards reconciliation. Kiss your couple and your child, your mother and your father. Embrace your friend and your enemy. And tell them with your heart open. "Something great and new has happened today in me"!

And then explain to them what happened, so they too can carry this message.

For everybody: Peace, Force and Joy!