

## **Rethinking society and the economy after Covid-19”**

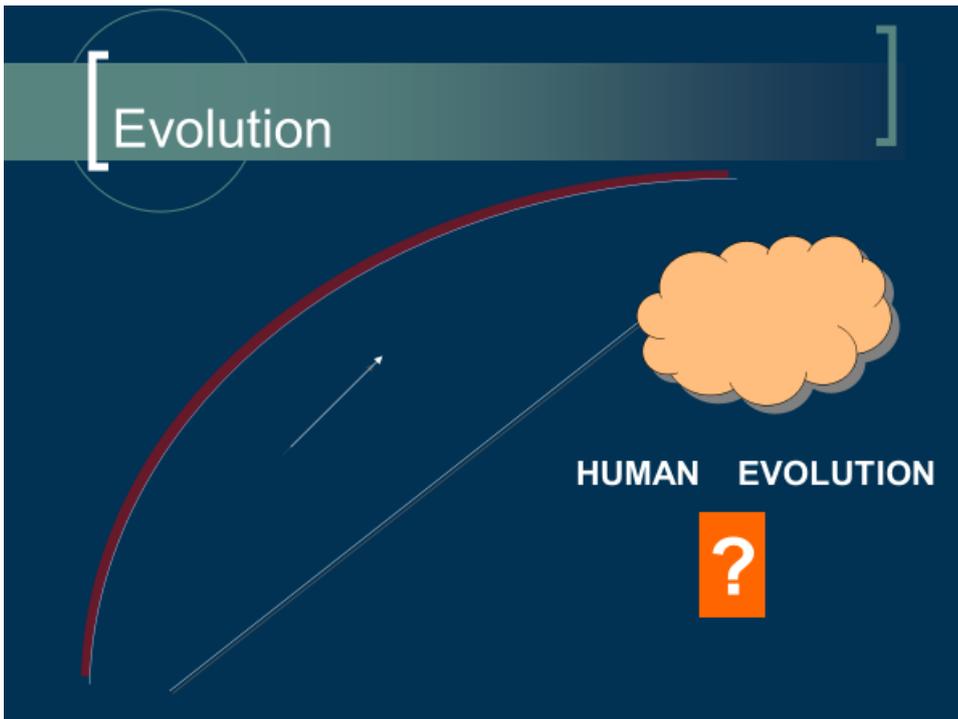
**Beppe Robiati**

**We cannot forget the time we are living in. This is a special time where no one could have imagined what kind of changes COVID19 would bring into people’s daily life, in business activities and in social interactions and we don’t know for how long we will have to live with such a situation. But this event gives us a big chance to redefine our way of living individually and collectively.**

**Therefore we need to pause and reflect about the history of evolution to understand this historical time and if we want to be part of shaping the future -**

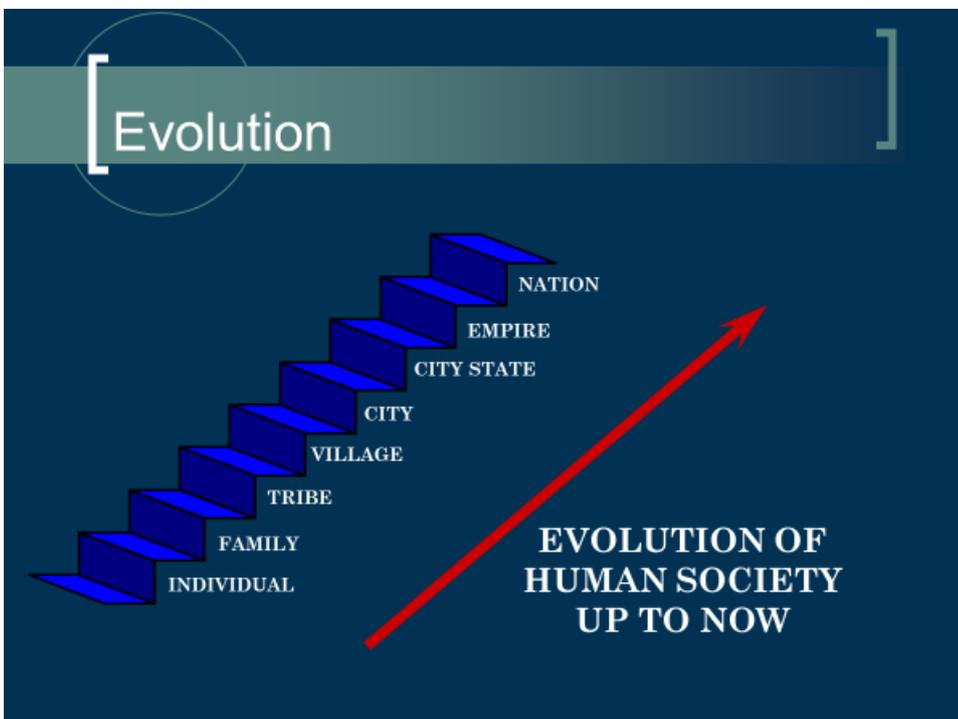
**The evolution of human society it is not like a parable – we were here thousands of years ago and now we are here: Everybody is happy.**

**Slide 1 and**

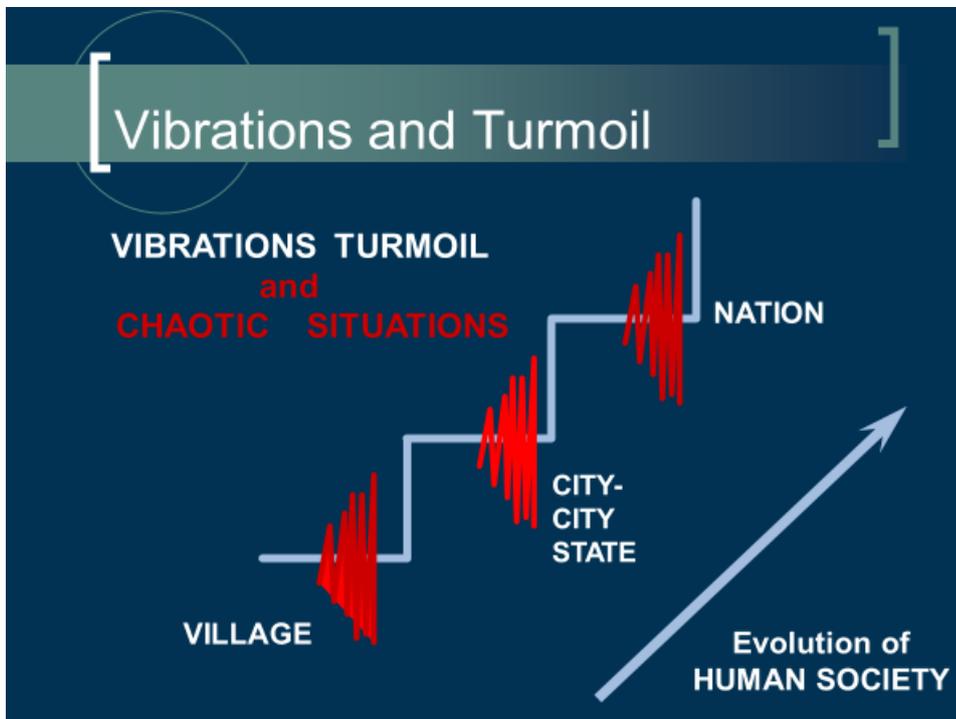


Human society in reality has developed through difficult transitions, stages or steps jumping from a lower level to an upper level

## Slide 2



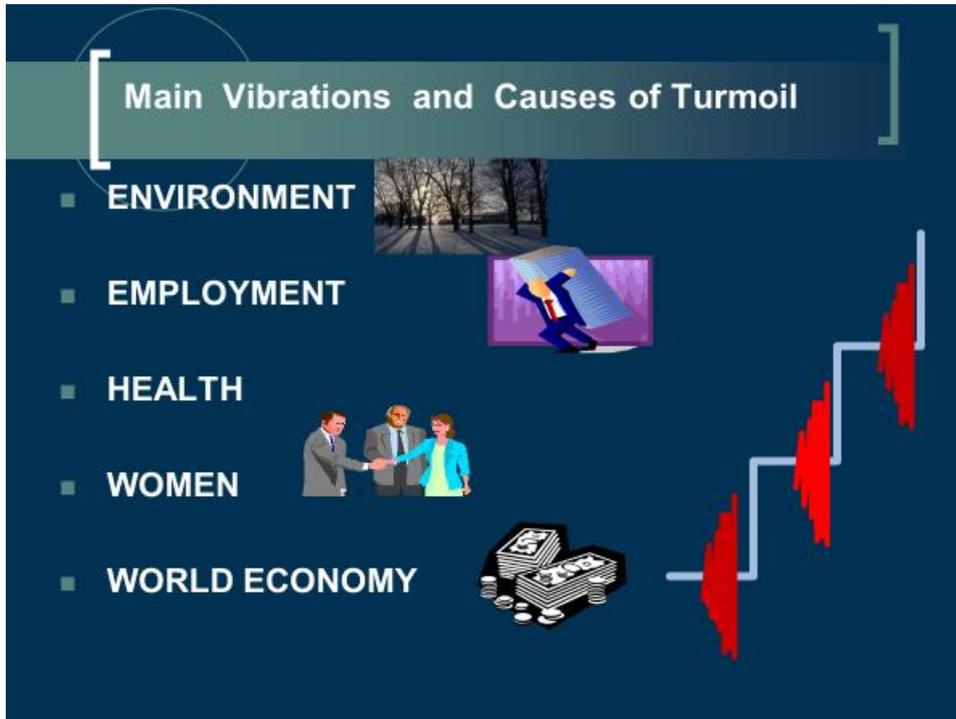
To jump from the lower level to the upper level there were periods of transition with vibrations and turmoil like civil wars, social crisis, growing problems and so on



We reached the level of the Nation in the 1700 – the time of nations can be divided into 3 stages- a nation depending on an empire, an independent nation and finally a sovereign nation.

If we reflect on the last 200 years there have been events that should have got us thinking: two world wars, several global financial crises that have affected the entire world economic system, a huge migration of millions of poor people in many parts of the world, racial wars, terrorist attacks everywhere, climate changes and pollution of the environment at incredible speed, increase of extremes of wealth and poverty to an unacceptable level, concentration of the wealth of the planet into the hands of a minority of the population and increasing of poverty everywhere, the rise of conflicts, whether ethnic or religious across many nations of the world affecting children, women and innocent populations, the escalation of corruption and thirst for power, the growing inequality between men and women in the fields of economy, environment, employment and health, to name but a few, and the increase of ideologies and so on. This means that we are in a period of

transition with strong turmoil. The turmoil is chiefly caused by 5 big vibrations :

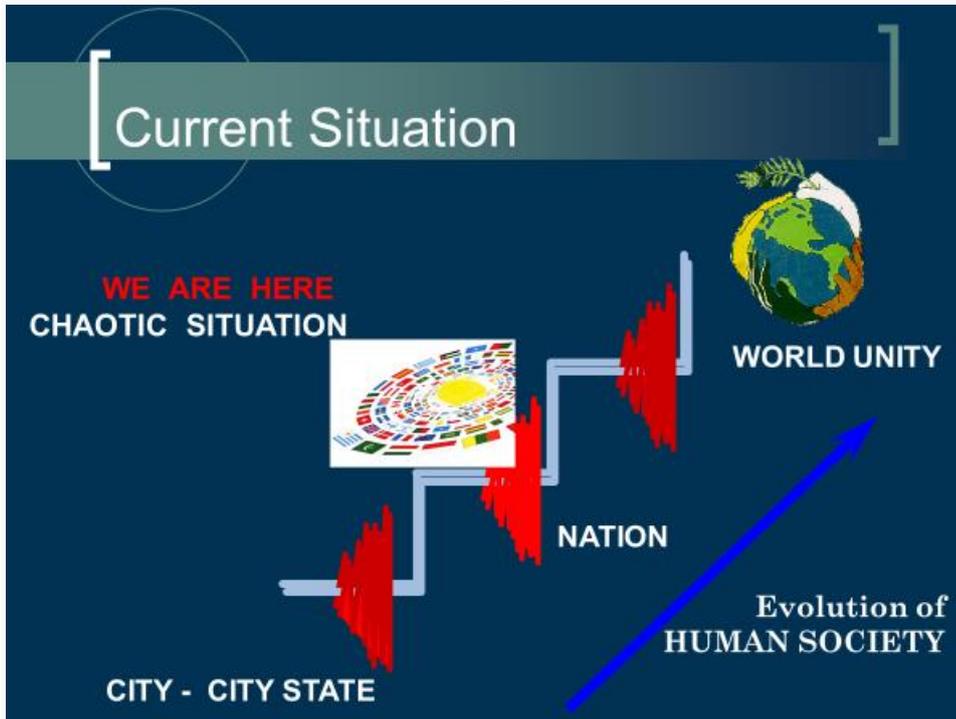


Today there are about 200 Nations in the world and each one of them is acting independently from the others to find a solution to these five main problems, but the solution cannot come from the level of the nation. We need to think on a wider scale.

Humanity has not reflected on these crises; we did not reflect on the consequences of these crisis, and now a small invisible virus is teaching us that the structure of society at large is not adequate to solve global problems with more than 200 national policies in operation. The virus does not respect geographical borders, skin-colour, gender, religions, wealth or poverty, different political systems. It moves quickly, without a passport, through the entire planet and has shown humanity it is able to attack people and structures at any level and everywhere.

And it finds us unprepared both at the individual level and at the structural and institutional level on which society is based today. Our society has not learnt until now the absolute necessity to develop a global structural system with global laws, global executives, a global economic system and global institutions. Now we are paying heavily for

our lack of capacity to deal with it. I hope that the governments, the institutions, the inhabitants of the planet are learning that this is the time to start to move **TOWARDS A NEW WORLD STRUCTURAL SYSTEM**. So we have to realize that our society will be safe, only if the entire planet is safe. The question therefore that emerges from all sides then is: will we make it? and if so, how?



The answer is yes: YES but with some conditions:

The first condition: the liberal, extremely capitalist, heavily materialistic way of life, which is based and oriented only towards consumption and profit, to enjoyment and to the assumption that we have the right to indulge our lower impulses and passions, should be revised.

The second condition: are we ready, as a global society, to change the way in which we have been living in the last century? If so, can we accept that we have to work hard to change it? And are we ready to accept that we may not fully see the results of this transformation? And again, are we ready to believe that this it is not only possible, but necessary and inevitable? Are we ready as nations to give sovereignty to a wider and higher institution like a world government? Are the G7 ready to leave the economic power to a world institution? Are the

**national governments ready to declare that the resources under their territories are no longer their property but the property of a world institution like a world government? Are the people of the world ready to accept the idea of having a world legislative body which will issue laws for the entire planet?**

**How can we think that the current social system, driven to the point of being able to destroy the planet itself, can face the challenges of a “de facto globalized world”, without barriers, borders, empowered with technology and information unimaginable a few years ago?**

**The whole stage is set for the BIG JUMP: the recognition that humanity is a unique living organism, composed of interdependent elements so that the well-being of the one affects the whole, and the health and wealth of the whole depends on the interaction between the individuals. The big jump is the answer to all previous questions**



**Furthermore we need to acquire awareness of our essential nature, which is not only made of a physical body, but also and above all, of intelligence, of inner qualities, gems of inestimable value, skills, mutual service and respect. These inner qualities, these spiritual virtues, must be brought out from ourselves and offered to society at large in a humble way. All of us understand what these gems of inestimable value**

are: love, humility, generosity, friendship, interest in the community and not only in ourselves, service to others, beauty, acceptance of diversity in all aspects of life such as gender, race, nationality, culture, religion, and the economic and social level.

But we also need a social order based on fairness and justice, without which no real unity is possible. No profit, no economic growth, no success of a company or of a society, can be imagined without putting women and men, and generally, human beings, at the centre of the picture. The new values of this Era are precisely universal education, equal dignity, human rights, opportunities and protection for every human being. And finally a system of world government that values the cultural, historical, political, artistic and ethnic heritages that make our planet a garden luxuriant and attractive because of the variety with which it is enriched.

And as many still fail to accept, we must realize that man alone cannot make a qualitative leap, because the future is immensely greater than our thoughts and our miseries.

We need to lean on enlightened minds, high inspirations, hidden energies that emerge from the darkness of our ignorance. This is why in the nineteenth century, a Nobleman with the title of Baha'u'llah has come to give us the vision, instruments and hope to realize these goals. The banner of His faith is that "the earth is but one country and mankind its citizens".

This quotation may at first appear simply a beautiful phrase. But we have to search the depth of its inner meaning.

## [ The Ultimate Goal ]



the earth is but one  
country and mankind  
its citizen

The first part is easy: the planet is becoming a common home whose inhabitants are free to move from one room to the other without requiring a visa or presenting a passport, changing language, currency and so on. But the second part is a strong part of the quotation and is still not clear to the majority of the human beings living today on the planet. Baha'u'llah is introducing the subject of citizenship which today is a point of conflict. Today the passport is fundamental. I am an Italian and so I have an Italian passport. This passport gives me some rights which are fundamental :

- 1.- Freedom and liberty
- 2.- Free education paid for by the government
- 3.- Social security and great opportunity to have a job or to be helped by the government if I do not have one
- 4.- Pension at a certain age

These are granted by my government only because I have an Italian passport.

But if I was born in Zimbabwe or in The Congo with a Zimbabwean or a Congolese passport I would not have all these rights granted.

So the second part of the quotation “the earth is but one Country and mankind its citizen” tells us that independently of where you were born

**you should be granted the same rights and benefits and opportunities. This means the children, the women, the men of the entire planet will have the same possibility independently from where they are born because they are citizens of the world**

**This is a revolution in society at large, a big revolution.**

**This is only an example, which shows how immense is the depth of such a statement for all aspects of our life: guiding not only our individual behaviour and attitude towards others, but all levels of human interaction, of governance, of the institutional organization of society and systems. Reflection on this is necessary to flesh out the practical steps needed to reach this level. From an economist who was the CEO of the BCE mr Mario Draghi I want to quote a part of his talk given few days ago:**

**"There is a fundamental area for growth,... whereby a long-term vision must be committed to immediate action: education and, more broadly, investment in the young generation. This was always true in the past, yet the current situation makes a massive investment in intelligence and financial resources, in this sector, both imperative and urgent.**

**Participation in the society of the future will require today's young generation to possess even greater capacities for discernment and adaptation. If we consider the cultures and the nations that have best handled uncertainty and the need for a change, they all have assigned education a fundamental role in preparing young people to handle change and uncertainty in their life paths, through wisdom and independence of judgment “.**

**Our contribution to rethinking society after the pandemic is to share this Vision, the vision of Baha'u'llah with society at large with wisdom, detachment, flexibility and patience.**

**The responsibility that everyone has, is the ability to distinguish what is useful and what is harmful, in the sole interest of the collective good.**

**I send my love to each one of you**

