

Session 4:1 - Interview with Claudio Miranda
Living in the Gift
Charleseisenstein.net/gift

CE- Here I am Charles Eisenstein with my dear friend Claudio Miranda. Even though we don't share a language we have such a good heart connection and the reason I'm wanting to record this conversation is because Claudio is from Favela Da Paz in Sao Paulo

Translator Favela da Paz

CE- Da Paz

Translator- Paz, paz is peace

CE- Favela Da Paz in Sao Paulo where gift economy is a lived reality

Translator- So I will translate. Speaks Portuguese.

CE- So maybe I will ask you some questions?

Translator

CE- How to do people survive in Favela da Paz ?

Translator

CM - First of all thank you Charles. I always felt that there was a strong connection to you. I always felt that. I think that this connection has something to do with the way we live at the favela. When you say sur-vive, in Portuguese it means about living, suve is about and vive is living so it's about life. So that's what happens in this place. I observe that the less that the human being has the more he realises he's interdependent and he's more willing to share and co-operate with the other.

And there's a huge amount of people in this space where violence is the minority. So what we observe is that the media shows the picture as it that is the broad majority as opposed to small minority. But there is a very strong nucleus of cooperation so surviving in this place means cooperating with life.

CE- Yeah tell me the part that the media doesn't show us.

CM (and translator) - It is true that there is violence in this place. But it is very small relative to the whole but the media needs this to sell. Because fear sells more than trust but what the media is not showing is so much bigger and grandiose to me this is tied to the earth's process as well, to be invisible, it is a wonderful place with so many gifts and talents and people with all sorts of gifts

and the children that are being born are just amazing. So what happened in this place is that to (translation) the extent that you depend less than what is external to you , you are quicker to find your purpose so many, many projects were created in this place, many ways of living in community, where the common good is the priority it is the cooperation, that's the driving force so we have thousands of projects in this place and all of these projects are in service of life, they're in service of the children and that's not shown. Just now we were in Lisbon in Portugal and I went to visit a Favela and I found the exact same thing. We were in Palestine, they call the camps, I found the same way of life .

CE- Yeah it's amazing that the people who have the least are the most generous and that you speak of thousands of projects and so many people who are in a wealthy environment they feel powerless to start anything yet are people who have nothing yet they are able to create so much but actually it's not true that they have nothing, they have community, they have a feeling that maybe they belong there and this in my country is perhaps a form of extreme poverty

Translator - this what?

CE- the feeling of not belonging in my country is a form of extreme poverty, because you can buy things, you can pay your rent, buy all the things you need but as soon as you have no money then you have no one around you to care of you so it's very insecure. Do you have any comment ?

CM- Yes I want to comment ...*long pause*. So despite everything that you say we must also have a lot of compassion because you bring a certain reality. It is what is happening in the planet and many times ...so we, in the position we are in we don't want to have to convince people with money that they should help us. So for many years we were the most violent area in the world. The UN determined that their favela was the worst in the world. So the media attacked us but that was useful for something because we began as an excluded part of society and we got organised as a community. So the reduction of violence that we were able to achieve in our community did not come from government, it's because we lived with what was sufficient, with what we needed on a day to day so if we have a little bit more we share.

CE- Can you give me an example, maybe a small story about....

Translator- how you use money

CE- about how you learned the meaning of generosity

Translator- in Portuguese

CE- Maybe a person who you knew was very generous and you learned ...

Translator- I asked him to also share how the philosophy of how they use money in his house

CE- I am mostly interested in a story

Translator- Yeah no he's going to first tell a story

CM- I want to bring a story about my father, not only him, many people especially San Paulo. People migrated from the North of Brazil, they were very poor as the promised land, the land where the money was, they came from a very poor place but very rich in terms of nature and wisdom.

Translator: So that's the story of his (Claudio Miranda) father which represents the story of many people who migrated to San Paulo.

CM- He came, he started to work but he lived in the periphery of the centre, excluded. So he started to work to bring more of his friends. So that is the first experience of generosity when he is trying to bring other people from where he came to help them in that manner, so the money he made, he was working as a , as the person who took care of the pools you know.

CE- Swimming Pools.

Translator: in a very wealthy club and then as he earned his money for the tickets for others to come.

CM- So he brought this uncle called Sivolgy and this uncle began to work a lot to buy instruments for them because he wanted to play and in the favela there were no instruments. They were using the (many people talking....hands/bails/cans instruments ?) . I'm going to summarise that that uncle was incredibly generous, everything that he would make he would give, everything he would buy he would give and his father also, so these were amazing references to me. This uncle of mine disappeared for a few years because he had a drinking problem so for 25 years he disappeared and we thought he was dead and I looked for him all my life and in the beginning I set up a band when he disappeared ...showing something to CE...that is the logo of the band and after 25 years the favela changed a lot. In 2015 I was in Switzerland and I got a call that he had appeared and for me there is a natural flow, I believe in this natural flow and money is related to this natural flow, when we cut this flow we cut our heart, our mind, we disconnect ...

CE- When we cut the flow, we cut the flow from the heart

CM- I always believed in this. Because my father taught me to believe this. Because when you don't have anything, when you don't have objects and external things the only thing you can do is believe in yourself. And there's something else I'd like to tell you I don't like to, I don't like to expect something or create perspective. I was not trained to create expectation or plan. We only dream, one

day, so we live every single day for that dream and sometimes these are small dreams materially speaking but in this process we learn a lot. We never buy things when we want, they come to us when they do and there is a process to learn within that and music for me is the greatest teacher because you serve the other. The good musician is the one which makes the other play well. That's the sense.

CE- The good musician is the one which makes the other play well

All laughing

CE- Yes, and that's a beautiful metaphor for everything. One thing you said, about your uncle, "everything he has he gives, everything he buys is to give" and I think this world's problems would go away in a second if everybody did that. Even if everybody did half of that, if all the rich people in the world, had that freedom, that's not only freedom that's wealth because real wealth is the freedom to give. To feel so secure in the world that "of course I'd give everything, I'll be OK "Where does that form of wealth come from?"

CM- I don't know if I know the answer. I don't really know the answer but there is a part of me that is completely in tune with this flow. We were not so hurt in our essence by capitalism so when I was 9 I already knew my life purpose, so my purpose was to change where I live without having to change from there.

CE- Hold on, let me just absorb that for a second

CM- At 9 years old, I had the opportunity to work in one of the richest clubs of Sao Paulo which was next to his favela where the most important soccer players were members and this transition from between the favela and the wealthy club, I was looking for the mid point between these two worlds. What would be the road of the middle and my dream, when I was 9 years old, was to join these two worlds, favela and the wealthy world because for me this was just a mantle wall so I began in this path and with music so both music and my father had a very important role. My father asked me when I was 9 "what would you like to do?" and I told him I would like to be a musician because his father plays the guitar and when he does ...***ineligible***....so when he said he wants to be a musician he said "you will be a musician" as far as you use music for a good purpose because music is too sacred to be used for a bad purpose

CE- So he didn't ask you "well music, how will you make a living?"

Translator- Exactly !That's what we would hear

CM- So that's the difference, I believe that we come from a lineage of ancestors of blacks and Indians and whites, my family, my family is very mixed. I feel I am only continuing a lineage and with 9 years old this question made a big difference in my life and I have a picture with a big bag, as a kid with many old clothes and

old shoes where he would get it at the club and he would bring it to the favela, all the stuff that the rich people didn't want and one ball made such a huge difference you know in the favela you know, for them to play so 20 or 30 kids, one ball in a club was just a ball, thrown in a corner so for me these teachings of these two worlds was very important for me so I started looking at not only myself but how I could include more and more people and at 13 we already had a band and we were recording and I started to learn how to manifest things through the flow.

CE- I am sure that anyone listening to this is very curious now, "how did you learn to manifest things through the flow?" And is there, actually, personally this is not a question I would ask, I would not ask "what's the secret of doing that?"

Translator

CE- instead I would ask "Can you offer some necessary information that will come into the person hearing it and maybe change them from the inside a little bit so they too will understand how to manifest from flow?" or what do you need to know?

Translator

CM- There are many ways. One is to provoke. The other is to reflect and I prefer to reflect upon it. My aah, ***translator*** "in English...it is to question maybe is a better word ...like a word like that...like enquire inside". The world is collapsing in people's minds the planet does not need us. If the planet wants to do a radical change, it will, we are superfluous, so imagine we have little time and for how long are you still going to accumulate stuff? And for how long will you still be accumulating stuff in your head? Do you want to be happy? You have to find your purpose, what you came to do in this world and for me for someone to look at his eyes outside he will never find. You will be manipulated by a system that doesn't work any more. So for me the hardest part is to change, to change the way you think, if you look at too much stuff start looking at fewer things, if you talk a lot, start talking less, listen more, this brings physical balance in the body. I'm saying this because I live with 2500 people in a very small space and what makes my balance ... ***ineligible***... and my whole group is this process of listening.

CE- Yes. So this is counter intuitive to the modern mind because the modern mind says what do I have to do and the instructions from the modern mind is to do something, how to do it and your saying that the act, the action of creation starts with a listening and I think of course otherwise how would you align with the flow?

Translator

CE- If you can't already hear it? Thank you for that. I know we both have things to do but I am just wondering if there might be one more

Translator- take your time...you're in the flow ...yeah ...you have all the time in the world. you can use it whichever way you want

CE- That's true

Translator- We are available.

CE- I am wondering if there is a special person back home that you, that comes to your mind right now maybe you would like to dedicate this conversation to.

CM- To my father, because my father asked me a question no one else could ask and on top of it and he accepted me at 9 years old, allowed me to say what I wanted to say. And what I really believe is that the children will come to the world, they are more developed than we are, they are much quicker, they have much more of a heart than we do, that's why this planet is changing because they come to teach us so I would dedicate this talk to my father and the kids because they are the ones who are changing this place. We are just a bridge and because we are a bridge we have to offer what we have to offer and sometimes even offer what we don't have.

CE- Thank you so much for that . **Long pause.** This conversation I feel is very valuable. Sometimes to change one's situation you need input from the outside and yeah, I think it's actually a miracle that your world is speaking to our world. It's part of a reuniting of the world. Very honoured to be in this relationship and this conversation and to have this connection and I will see you next time where you live. Looking forward to that.

Translator- Good.

CM- It will be a pleasure to receive you because that is part of my 9 year old dream that we go to all these places together. I am very happy to be with you here, I had to do lots of things to arrive here and I would do everything again because that's the purpose, would you live the life that you have lived, again ?

Translator- He says we have to live with the purpose of serving

CE- Yes, and it took me many mistakes to learn that and in that way I don't even regret the mistakes because they were necessary

Laughter

CM- Me too

More laughter. Thank you, obrigada

