

Jiddu Krishnamurti project Pergine Castle 2022

PREMISE

*In the 1920s and 1930s he frequented the castle of Pergine, first as a secluded group of customers of the hotel business that had settled there after the Great War, and then by renting it, a rich cosmopolitan community of followers of the Theosophical Society, which a certain point (1924, August 18 - September 28) also hosts **Jiddu Krishnamurti**, putting together a series of activities of reflection, meditation, comparison and experimentation of alternative ways of life to those then dominant.*

It was the American **Annie Halderman** who recommended the castle for Jiddu Krishnamurti's summer stay in August-September 1924, being herself a devoted follower of the Indian boy. That summer the group was gathered for one purpose: to advance on the path of Discipleship. For this reason, every morning, before breakfast, all together went to the "Tower of Krishna" for half an hour of meditation, then he read them passages from the "Gospel according to the Buddha" (by Paul Carus 1894, one of the first books to disseminate Buddhist teaching to the Western public), followed by the recitation of a mantra. Life in the first weeks of the stay is described in an anonymous document as "of intense inner activity and almost total external inertia". Helen Knothe (American family follower of theosophy, guest of her aunt in Amsterdam, violinist, Jiddu Krishnamurti's first romantic love) recalls: "Almost every day Krishna gathered the group and urged them to be exemplary and to achieve greatness in their lives." Meet life directly ', he encouraged us,' Be extraordinarily alert, aware, constantly observing, open to every challenge, every opportunity, every occasion. 'The morning continued with outdoor activity: the group went down to feet from the hill - crossing the vineyards on its slopes - to play rounders (a kind of softball) or volleyball in the meadows below, or to go for a swim in the lake. The group of Theosophists were not the only guests at the hotel: many customers, Krishnamurti himself later recounted, interrupted their visit to the castle distracted by the exotic spectacle of the group of Indians.

*He also forms fruitful relations with the interesting personality of the mayor of Pergine of the time **Luciano Chimelli**, an agricultural entrepreneur who followed the anthroposophy of R. Steiner and precocious experimenter of biodynamic practices, who protects the unusual community from the curiosity of local public opinion and from the concerns of the fascist authorities for this strange group of suspected foreign guests. World War II will pull a curtain on these dissonant presences at the castle, preventing further possible developments. The project intends to investigate these events from the historical-anthropological point of view, and then disseminate their knowledge through different languages.*

DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE PROJECT OF THE EVENTS THAT INTERESTED THE CASTLE, THE THEOSOPHIS, JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI AND MEETING HIS THOUGHT IN THE WORLD

1. Knowledge of Jiddu Krishnamurti's biography and an approach to thinking about him.

1. **Friday 27 August 2021** at 6.30 pm, the book "*Mary Lutyens. Krishnamurti. A whole life*", translation and edited by **Monica Dematté**, Edizioni di Maieutica. The biography of Jiddu Krishnamurti, one of the greatest spiritual teachers of the twentieth century, written by a woman who has known him since she was a child, and who has remained his friend throughout her life. Accompanied by a detailed unpublished chronology and accurate photographic documentation. Gian Carlo Calza spoke with the curator and translator Monica Dematté introduced by Alessandro Fontanari Nerofonte.

2. Preparation of a photographic **DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITION**

3. **Traveling theater show "Near the sky and among the trees"**

In the woods of the hilly park owned by the castle and dedicated to Jiddu Krishnamurti, the show entitled VICINO AL CIELO E TRA GLI ALBERI "**Near the sky and among the trees**" premiered in the early morning in July 2022, directed by Chiara Benedetti and with Giuseppe Amato and dancer Claudia Monti, ariaTeatro production in collaboration with the CastelPergine Foundation.

13 repeats scheduled (22-23-24-30-31 July, 19-20-21-26-27-28 August, REPLICA PER JACOP SLUIJTER on Saturday 15 or Sunday 16 October).

Through the theatrical / artistic intervention, the show recounts the events and internal debate of that small counter-current community, framing them in the local context, intrigued and suspicious of the otherness of the wealthy guests and with the parallel contemporary realities of the affirmation of totalitarianisms in Europe, of the anti-colonial struggles especially in India, and with the Second World War in preparation in the background. Forays into Jiddu Krishnamurti's philosophical thought

and his extraordinary personality traits. The traveling show will have the triple function of acting as a guide for some little-traveled corners around the Castle of Pergine, of bringing the viewer some historical knowledge of the manor and of the territory and of creating an approach to the figure of the thinker Krishnamurti.

VICINO AL CIELO E TRA GLI ALBERI a project conceived by Chiara Benedetti with Claudia Monti, Giuseppe Amato and Chiara Benedetti choreographic movements made collectively co-production ariaTeatro and CastelPergine Onlus Foundation

It is not necessary to seek the wise, but to seek what the wise were looking for
Jiddu Krishnamurti

Imagine living in an era in which every day is dedicated to the art of inhabiting the planet, the mind and the heart. That setting out on a path means coming into contact with the most authentic part of the human being. Imagine that in the passing of the seasons of life a special presence appears one day, a man capable of looking beyond the boundary of the known, and of guiding humanity towards the true Revolution. A revolution that comes from within and that teaches that silence is a living thing. This project was born with the intention of covering a small fragment of the experience that Jiddu Krishnamurti has matured over the course of his existence, through a path that merges with the forest and approaches those walls that were once marked by the passage of him.

4. **Meeting with Carlo Buldrini Saturday 30 July at 6 pm**, Pergine Castle Hall of Arms of the Baronial Palace **"Conversando con Krishnamurti"**

CARLO BULDRINI 7/30/2022

KRISHNAMURTI AT THE PERGINE CASTLE (TRENTO) - I Jiddu Krishnamurti stayed in the Castle of Pergine from August 18 to September 28, 1924. To remember this, on July 30 of this year the Castel Pergine Foundation organized a lecture of mine entitled "Conversing with Krishnamurti" in the Hall of Arms of the castle. During the conference I related the long interview I did with Krishnamurti in December 1982 in Rishi Valley, in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. [The following passages are taken from my lecture]. In 1895, Jiddu Krishnamurti was born in Madanapalle, a small town in today's Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Krishnamurti's father is a humble local employee of the British government's tax office of India. In 1907, after the deaths of both Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott, an English woman, Annie Besant, became president of the Theosophical Society. His right arm is Charles Leadbeater, a former priest of the Anglican Church, also a psychic. In 1909 Krishnamurti's father, now retired, finds work at the Theosophical Society of Adyar and is assigned a small house where he lives with some of his children. In that same year, while walking in Adyar park, Leadbeater met for the first time the young Krishnamurti who, at the time, was 14 years old. Leadbeater believes he sees a particular "aura" in him and thinks that this boy is destined to become a great spiritual teacher. The members of the Theosophical Society then decide that Krishnamurti will be that "Master of the world" that everyone has been waiting for. In 1911, the Order of the Star was formed to announce the arrival of the new Master to the world, that is, of Krishnamurti himself. Krishnamurti, together with his brother Nitya, is sent to study in Europe and, in England, he frequents the English aristocratic circles. Krishnamurti and Nitya then move to Ojai, California, where it is hoped that dry weather will help Nitya in her fight against tuberculosis. But, in 1925, Nitya dies and this death will deeply mark Krishnamurti's life. Krishnamurti in fact begins to distance himself from the Order of the Star. The definitive break took place in 1929 in Ommen, the Netherlands, when, in the presence of 2000 of its members, Krishnamurti dissolved the organization. The meeting was dramatic and, perhaps to ease the tension a little, Krishnamurti told this story in his speech: "The devil and a friend of his were walking down the street when they saw a man standing in front of them and picking something up from the ground. The friend asked the devil: "What did he find?". "He has found the truth," the devil replied. "This is a big problem for you," the friend commented. "Oh no - said the devil - now I'll help you organize it.

(By this, Krishnamurti meant that all the teachings of the great masters of the past, once "organized" into institutions, into religions, inevitably became corrupted). Also on that occasion, Krishnamurti uttered a phrase that would later become famous: "Truth is a land without paths." In fact, according to Krishnamurti, no religion, no church, no sect can lead to the truth. Krishnamurti concluded his speech to Ommen by saying that, from then on, his only concern would be to "make man absolutely and unconditionally free". For more than 50 years, Krishnamurti will travel around the world and speak to large crowds, trying to analyze and understand the meaning of human existence.

KRISHNAMURTI AT THE PERGINE CASTLE (TRENTO) - II

When Krishnamurti gave his lectures about him, he said he wanted to reflect with those who were listening to him: "Together, - he said - you and the speaker". That is, he did not want people to listen to him passively, thinking at most that he agreed or did not agree with what he said. "We talk together - he said - like two friends sitting under a tree". Krishnamurti always posed a question in an interrogative form and it was he himself who tried to give an answer. He will always remember how Krishnamurti, in one of his speeches, addressed the theme of beauty. Krishnamurti asked: "What is beauty?" And since he had a strong connection with nature, to exemplify beauty, he described an ideal landscape. He said, "Suppose we are facing a chain of high mountains with snow-capped peaks. At the foot of these mountains there is a blue valley - he said - a blue valley, with a dense bush and a lake. Faced with this image we say: How beautiful! ... But what is beauty? ". Krishnamurti then gave another example. He said, let's take a child, a capricious child, who's having a tantrum, and put a very complicated new toy in front of him. Faced with this toy, the child will be completely taken with the new object and will immediately stop complaining; he'll forget why he was having a tantrum. «The same thing - said Krishnamurti - happens to us when we find ourselves in front of that landscape. For a few moments we forget ourselves, we forget our problems, we forget our vanities, and we see the beauty ». And Krishnamurti concluded by saying: "Beauty is when the self is not", beauty exists when there is no longer the "self", when there is no longer the self. I related this short fragment of a lecture by Krishnamurti to highlight the simplicity and strength of his arguments. And that "Beauty is when the self is not" is one of the central points of Krishnamurti's teaching.

KRISHNAMURTI AT THE PERGINE CASTLE (TRENTO) - III

We have seen how in his speech with which he dissolved the Order of the Star, Krishnamurti said he wanted to make man absolutely free. I asked him: "Is there a limit to individual freedom dictated by collective responsibility?" He replied: "Does the individual really exist? The entire consciousness of humanity is contained in each of us. All men have the same conscience in common. When this is understood it becomes impossible to kill another human being ». Krishnamurti's answer is worth analyzing more deeply here. "All men have the same conscience in common," he just told me. For Krishnamurti, consciousness is the totality of the experience of life. This experience may have different "colors", but it is fundamentally the same for all human beings. Krishnamurti says: «Let's say 'my' conscience. But that conscience is not "yours" because all human beings experience pain, sadness, pleasure, sex, fear, anxiety, uncertainty, everyone hopes for something better, and so on. This is our conscience and this conscience is not "yours" but it is "human". It is humanity ". And he adds: "So you are not an individual, an atman, a separate soul. Your conscience is the conscience of humanity: You are the world, You are the world," says Krishnamurti. And he adds a short but decisive sentence: "If you change, it will affect the rest of humanity".

KRISHNAMURTI AT THE PERGINE CASTLE (TRENTO) - IV

But let's go back to "thinking" for a moment. Krishnamurti says that thought creates a space around itself and, in that space, love is absent. It is that space - says Krishnamurti - that separates a human being from another human being. In that space created by thought there is the battle of every single existence, there is agony, there is fear. That space is the "self", it is the "I". For us, that little space created by our own thinking is very important because it is all that our mind knows. And it is in that space that our fear of "not being" is born. Meditation is the end of this space created by thought, it is the end of the "I", it is the end of the "self". When the space created by thought dissolves, one enters a completely different dimension. In this new space the "other" does not exist because - says Krishnamurti - "you" do not exist. In the space created by thought, what we call "love" is the conflict between the "I" and what "I" is not, that is, the "other". That is why - emphasizes Krishnamurti - thought is the negation of love. Thought cannot enter the space where the "I" no longer exists. In this infinite space - continues Krishnamurti - there is that something that man has always sought and that he cannot find. Something eternal, not disturbed by events, by thought or by human corruption. He cannot find this something, because he continues to look for it within the frontiers of thought.

THANKS TO THE CASTEL PERGINE FOUNDATION For two months I had prepared a lecture on Krishnamurti which was to be held in Verona. The posters had already been posted when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. For two years, everything was stuck. Then, I received an invitation from the Castel Pergine Foundation. On July 30, the Castle's Weapons Hall was packed. All seats booked. The people present, very involved. The experiment was successful. I will try to bring the lecture on Krishnamurti to other Italian cities. Thanks to the Castel Pergine Foundation for this "premiere" which was held in a beautiful place that I will remember for a long time.

5. Friday 14 October 2022 AT 18.00 **Meeting with Lorenzo Castellari**

Physicist, former researcher in physics, member of the English Krishnamurti Foundation, Lorenzo Castellari has been actively interested in the teachings of Jiddu Krishnamurti for over four decades. After studying physics and a few years of work as a researcher, he cooperated with various schools and initiatives aimed at developing and proposing a new education, starting in 1988 in Brockwood Park, the school founded by Krishnamurti in England in 1969, a path that has followed until today, with deep passion. He has been working for more than thirty years, as a teacher and educator, in Brockwood Park (the Krishnamurti school in England), as well as in Swiss state schools. He collaborates with educational projects of various sizes, especially in India, connected with Krishnamurti and his teaching him. He will argue on the theme of war and peace, referring to Krishnamurti's thought and message.

Saturday 15 October 2022 (TIME TO BE DEFINED) AT THE MARIE CURIE INSTITUTE IN PERGINE (meeting reserved for students and professors) Lorenzo Castellari will propose the thought of Jiddu Krishnamurti in the educational and scholastic context, sharing the reflections on this theme in the form of dialogue with students and professors.

6. Saturday 15 October at 4 pm

Meeting / conference with Jacop Sluijter Executive Director of the J. Krishnamurti Foundation of Ojai, California, collaborators, Santi Borgna of the Umbrian Peace House (presence is hoped for).

a) introduction by the CastelPergine Onlus Foundation: the castle and the historical origin of its "cosmopolitanism".

b) Jiddu Krishnamurti bunk: when, how and why. From his biography. By Monica Dematté (presence to be confirmed), translator of the biography written by Mary Lutyens or Alessandro Fontanari

c) Jacop Sluijter tells Krishnamurti in the world, his thought, his actuality. KFA and study centers around the world.

7. Sunday 16 October –

- **Replica of the play "Near the sky and among the trees in the morning**
- **Lunch (Ca'Stalla) and 2 pm: visit to the Castle with Jacob Sluijter**
- 4 pm, Castello di Pergine: **Conference on emigration in collaboration with the Associazione Trentini nel mondo O.d.v. and his Circle of San Francisco**
The migratory flows of the people of Trentino and world citizenship. California, a land of conquest, technological innovation but also spirituality, in an adhesion to the contemporary that can allow you to rediscover the past that produced it.
Introduces and moderates: **Mariano Anderle**
First moment: presentation of the phenomenon of emigration of the last century from Italy to North America with particular reference to that of Trentino towards California.
 - i. **Frédéric Spagnoli**, Université de Franche-Comté
 - ii. Emigration and youth mobility. o Liaison with **Luca Dorigatti** - US Consulor for the Autonomous Province of Trento, 2013-2018; Single Coordinator for the USA for the Trentini nel Mondo Association, 2013-2018, and West USA Coordinator, 2018-2021; General Secretary of the Circolo Trentino of San Francisco, 2000-2008, and Board Member of the same, 2012 to present. S
- **Second moment:** interview / round table with 4/5 young people from Trentino who have emigrated in recent years (the reasons for the choice, the expectations, the return or the choice to live elsewhere).
- **Concludes: Frédéric Spagnoli**