

resurgence

January—February 1979
Vol. 9 No. 6. Issue 72

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Journal of the Fourth World

Resurgence is a voice of new civilisation, it is a journal of new politics, concerned with small nations, small communities, decentralisation and ethnic cultures. It is a philosophical, ecological and spiritual forum.

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Book Extract: **38-39**
'One Straw Revolution' by
Masanobu Fukuoka

Erratum

Resurgence Issue 71, Page 31, in the second paragraph of the first column. The figure 30,000 should have read 300,000:

This additional money could have been used by the government to purchase approximately 300,000 four-panel solar hot water systems at £750 each.

SCHUMACHER LECTURES

(Chairman's Introduction)

AFTER THE SUDDEN death of Dr. E. F. Schumacher last year, *Resurgence* with which Dr. Schumacher worked as an associate editor, decided to launch the Schumacher Society. One of the prime concerns of *Resurgence* magazine has been to promote the principle of 'small is beautiful', but, of course, not just 'small is beautiful' as small can be ugly too. We are promoting what is beautiful as well as small. Small must be ecological, spiritual, fulfilling and harmonious. Then and only then can small command our attention.

We will do better if we do not stop at the generalities of the goodness in small and take the concept in concrete terms and see how practically small is workable and possible in health, in education, in agriculture, in commerce and industry. Here is the challenge which Dr. Schumacher has left for us to meet. It is our task to work out concrete and dynamic proposals for our social, political and economic organizations so that we can create a revolution not only in consciousness, which is of course fundamental, but in structures as well.

One danger we face in this world of specialization is that we tend to take only one aspect or one dimension of reality and think of it as total reality. Like those blind men who met a certain animal and each of whom touched a different part of its body — legs, ears, trunk, tail and so on. When they gathered together to describe the animal, they all had totally different ideas of what the animal looked like. The one who had touched the leg thought it was like a pillar. The one who touched the tail thought of it as a thin hanging rope. The one who had touched the trunk thought of it as a fat crusty worm. In this way all of them kept arguing and quarrelling with each other without knowing the whole animal — the total elephant.

We, the friends of the late Schumacher, seem to be in the same boat. Some of us see him as a champion of intermediate and appropriate technology; others see him as an exponent of organic farming; there are others who see him as a prophet of new economics; still others consider him the apostle of ecology, environment

and alternative sources of energy. But none of us seem to be able to see the total man and beyond — beyond his personality. It is not good enough just to offer him a few words of praise. We must open ourselves to see the three-dimensional reality. Therefore it is an apt tribute to Fritz Schumacher that here we have three speakers who individually and together represent that three-dimensional totality — the holistic vision. Here we have Dr. R. D. Laing, who on the surface may appear to be concerned with the internal reality, but that is only on the surface. His ideas and experiences of reality are in total harmony with the external realities of our planet.

In the same way the concerns of Amory Lovins for soft energy and Illich's concerns for deschooling, medical nemesis and conviviality appear to be in the sphere of the external world. But that is only an appearance. In truth they touch the core of personal, social and cosmic existence. Therefore I can think of no better way to pay tribute to Dr. Schumacher than have these three most original and radical thinkers to speak their minds. Not only their minds, but their hearts too. As they unite the inner and outer realities they also unite the intellect with the emotions and that is why our three speakers stand out from the dry world of pure academics. There is no life in pure academic and intellectual gymnastics. I am most grateful to Laing, Lovins and Illich for accepting my invitation to come here and be with us. It is a promise to work together and be part of the new process, the process which does not provide a ready-made blue print for a new society. It is not a process of left wing or right wing politics. It is not a process to follow the leaders, but it is a process of autonomous action by all of us with a new consciousness of wholeness.

This process does not begin and end with today's event. Events of this kind are only manifestations of our solidarity and togetherness. But it is the everyday activities, choices and actions of an autonomous nature that makes the process work.

Satish Kumar

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Printed by Salesbury Press Ltd, Llandybie, Wales.

Many thanks to all those who helped with this issue, especially:
Betty Carey, Reg Dyer, Timothy Hyman, Eiry and Tony Ladd-Lewis, Steve Lambert, Peggy, Ailsa and Ian Richardson.

Annual Subscription For individual subscribers UK £4.00; Overseas \$11, Air \$16.
For libraries and other institutions: UK £6. Overseas \$17, Air \$22.