

— Le origini del male —

Ch. 5

Trascrizione dell'intervista a Philip Zimbardo¹

1. **Education to heroism**

Do you think it is possible to do something, at the systemic level, to improve good actions?

Yeah, but that's what school should be doing. I mean we should have classes in school, not just reading, writing, arithmetic. Classes on compassion. Classes on heroic training.

In all my research, in Milgram, in Bandura, all these studies, in the real world how easy it is for good people to turn evil.

“How easy would it be to get ordinary people to become heroes? To switch around? I said, «I think I would like to devote the rest of my career to that question»”

The evil thing I've been doing since I'm a child. I've had enough evil. No more dining in hell, and then people came up afterwards and said ... Al Gore, Pierre Omidyar, the one

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who started eBay said, "We think it's a wonderful idea". Omidyar said, "I'll give you money to start a non-profit foundation". Which we did.

We started in 2008. Heroic Imagination Project in San Francisco, a non-profit and the core of our program is I've developed six lessons, and we hope to develop many more. Each in great detail with provocative videos, with a script that a teacher gets, where students work in pairs, not in an amorphous big group. One lesson is: How Do You Transform Passive Bystanders Into Active Heroes? How do you transform people that have a narrow fixed mindset into growth mindset? How do you transform stereotyping, discrimination and prejudice into understanding and acceptance? How do you understand situational power? We have all these lessons and what we've done is these are worked on in detail, and so our lessons were really organized first for college and high school. We hope to bring it into middle school.

We've been very successful. We're mostly in the western part of the United States, California, Oregon, Arizona. We're in junior colleges, community colleges, in Flint, Michigan, but not in the rest of America, but we're all over Europe. One of my best programs that I'll mention is in Palermo, in Corleone. In Bali, Indonesia. I just came back from Doha, Qatar. In Iran, Tehran.

In Prague. In Slovakia. Hungary is our most impressive program. In Krakow, in Warsaw, in Portugal. It's really a global problem. Global program.

The last thing I want to leave you is in Palermo. Claudia Libero. She runs our program in Palermo.

What they've done in Sicily, which is amazing ... She's had our program where I trained her and her assistant and they set up a program for high school kids in the ghetto in Palermo. Now, in the last three years, the Sicilian government has accepted many African youth, 17 years and older into Palermo. They've given them shelter, they've given them clothes. Teach them Italian and now, what Claudia is doing, is getting those Italian students to learn our lessons and deliver them in high schools to Italians. Now they are teachers. Now they have a sense of self-worth. They get paid. Half the money they send home to their family. Half they keep. I visited them last year, I'm going to go again in May.

The point is, it's not just giving a job. It's now you're a teacher.

“Ordinarily, you're a migrant that nobody wants and now you're a valuable person”

Because then every high school student wants to do what you're doing. Claudia's program is one of the most inspiring.