

Brother David: *When i thought about the Bau-sheds which allow one to see the stars, it reminded me of other beautiful thoughts by you with regard to "considerare." When the Bau-sheds are open to the stars, what questions might one ask?*

CONSIDERARE

And the answer might be that when we speak about stopping and considering- we often say that- "Now stop and consider," then we are talking precisely about that gesture of prayer, and it's a very risky things. We are talking about prayer, because that inner gesture of stopping and considering is prayer.

The very word, "consider," it's a beautiful word. It means, literally, from the latin, "considerare" to lift our eyes to the "sidera," to the stars. To look up to the stars. And more than that. "Considerare," to get our bearing from the stars. To lay our course by the stars. So it means to lift up heart and mind to god and direct our life by this orientation that we get from lifting up our heart and mind to God.

But "to stop and consider," if we really do it, is risky business. Because if we do that, we might ask questions which we otherwise don't face. And we might, for instance, ask ourselves, "Well, what is the meaning of my life?" Our lives are full of purpose. We are all engaged in many different purposes. And one purpose leads to another. And one purpose accomplished produces the need for five more. And it goes on and on and on. And suddenly we might ask, "Well, what is the meaning of it all?" And we can't answer it. And someone will say to us, "Well, just go on. Just keep smiling. Just keep going. Just keep busy." But that doesn't help. Because purpose is not enough for us. And the question of what is the meaning of it all, is a very risky question. It is the basic question of our spiritual life. Because our whole spiritual quest may be considered as the "quest for meaning."