مقال د.جابر الوندة بعنوان: الاستدامة ومكافحة الفقر

Sustainability & fighting poverty

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In our previous article, we discussed some aspects of positively engaging with sustainability goals in light of our culture. Today, we continue the discussion by exploring this point further and offering some of our suggestions and reservations regarding some of these goals.

We begin by recalling that our heritage is rich with examples of how to positively engage with the three pillars of sustainable development (economy, environment, and people/society), stemming from a desire to sustain the positive economic impact on people, preserve the clean environment conducive to development, and nurture communities while safeguarding resources to ensure their sustainability. All of this is rooted in the belief that we are stewards of the Earth, entrusted to develop and care for it, and held accountable for our actions toward it, ourselves, and others.

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Building on this positive engagement with these goals, we proudly affirm our commitment to and activation of our values, civilization, and authentic traditions. Our approach to these goals should ensure that they are logical and achievable from our perspective, so we do not feel overwhelmed by them or view them as unrealistic or in conflict with reality and possibility. This way, we can remain connected to our values, civilization, traditions, and customs, without blindly imitating others or accepting what they may find acceptable based on their own circumstances. Our reservations about certain goals or their wording do not imply a rejection of their positive content or a lack of responsiveness to them.

We can provide several examples of our reservations regarding the wording and context of certain goals. For instance: The first goal is "to eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere" - We suggest approaching this goal with the phrasing "combatting poverty in all its forms everywhere". This is because our understanding stems from the idea of activating potential, capacity, and possibility, and aligning with universal laws rather than opposing them. From this perspective, no one can claim they can completely "eradicate" poverty. If someone does, we would ask: What is the standard for this "eradication of poverty? On what basis is it measured? One might be considered rich by some and poor by others.Moreover, the correct methodology for "combatting poverty," in our view, starts with two key aspects: perception and implementation. In terms of perception, there should be discouragement of accepting and succumbing to poverty. In terms of implementation, people should be encouraged to work, with opportunities facilitated and paths opened for them. Despite this approach, no rational person has ever claimed to have the full ability to "eradicate" poverty. The logical pursuit is to focus on "combating" poverty and closing off the paths that lead to it.

Another example is the second goal: "to eradicate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture." We believe that it should be approached through "combating" hunger and "improving" food security and nutrition. What we mentioned in the proposal for the first goal can also be said and reiterated here. This approach aligns with the logic of things and what can realistically be achieved … we shall address additional reservations later...

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