



DR. MATEJ MIKLAVEC

Razvoj osebnih potencialov

BONSAI

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Dear Toastmasters and guests,

I would like to share my Bonsai story with you. It is a story, that starts with a limiting belief about Bonsai. I have never seen a real Bonsai in person until 2 months ago and until then I always thought, since childhood, when I first learned about them, that Bonsai are trees, that are weakened by humans, as a sort of degradation of the tree to capture it in a pot as a souvenir. I felt bad for the trees and never wanted to grow one on my own or have anything do do with them.

Now, my perception is a lot different. I had an unexpected opportunity to see a Bonsai exhibition in Brooklyn New York and fell in love with this Japanese art of Trees in a pot, the literal translation of Bon-Sai. The experience was so great, that I went to Washington Dc to meet a friend and decided to meet him in one of the most spectacular Bonsai gardens, with trees from all over the world. Most trees were around 100-200 years old, all sorts of sizes, shapes and types, but there was a tree 500 years old, that has been trained for 5 generations and donated from Japan to United States as a sign of peace, since this tree survived the Atom bomb. A powerful message.

And a powerful perspective change for me about nurturing Bonsai.

Let me tell you about the impact Bonsai have had on me in these few months of getting to know them.

The first encounter was a sort of love at first sight. There was a beautiful tree on display, a Larch tree in its beautiful orange autumn colors, a perfectly green moss at the base of the little tree forest and a minimalist clay pot to complete the presentation. The beauty slowed me down and opened up a presence in me that felt like the world slowed down, my mind went blank and I was just there with the tree and could look at it for the whole day. When did you have an experience like this? I felt complete and one with the tree at that moment, recognising myself in the tree.

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The experience was beautiful, but I also saw, that this little perfect tree was very very old. I could not believe it. This touched me again, this time from the perspective of time and patience. A great deal of mastery and training for the master and the tree is required to create such a living piece of art. The mind can have a great idea and create it, like how the tree will look, with the branches and the trunk, what the display will be, the pot and so on, but the most important is still the tree, that has its intelligence and lives within a sort of perfect democratic intelligence and grows within the boundaries the master created with the wiring and the environment.

This leads to another quality that is just as important for the Bonsai art as it is in all other, leadership, family, and other relationships. Its balance. There are so many factors that create this living art form, from the Bonsai master to the tree. If we dont take care of the tree, it dies. If we dont cut the right roots and prone it correctly, it is not beautiful. If we dont provide food for the bonsai, it cant display its full potential. There is always a delicate dance of intelligence working through the tree and its master taking form within and as an expression of the presence I am as well. Its all an expression of the same source. The source being, the source of patience, the source of intelligence, the source of creativity expressing itself as perfect balance.

The mind gets philosophical, broad, open and creative when in touch with this creative presence. It opens up new possibilities in every kind of endeavour we are in. For me it is currently sparking great interest in these beautiful miniature plants that are experienced as if the most beautiful large trees. For others it is sparking life in different expressions, business, leadership, coaching, relationships, health, and so on. I wish we would experience what is possible, when we are touched so openly from things we take for granted everyday and seem so boring and old.

When we see as if for the first time, it is only then, when we can say that we actually see clearly. New opportunities are opened when we go beyond what we already know.



I have planted my first wild bonsai tree. It is a black pine that I found in the forest and replanted in a small pot. When I look at it, it is mesmerising, my mind clears and becomes still and present. I am happy to have done it and feel hopeful for what happens next. With the tree as well as in the new year 2020.

“Where could we be more open and present, allowing whatever we are doing in our life to touch us as if for the very first time?”