**Paulo Freire Reflects on His Life**

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The "Paulo Freire reflects on his life" article was the last public interview that Freire did. It was recorded in the 1996 World Conference on Literacy, organized by the International Literacy Institute, Philadelphia, USA. He reflected on his life and told a few, but very interesting things about life. Freire said curiosity is what caught his attention the most because he was a curious person and by being curious he discovered the virtue of tolerance. By being a tolerant person he discovered all the possibilities of learning different things with different people. He said “It is a duty to be tolerant, an ethical duty, an historical duty, a political duty”. When you interact with other people you have to be tolerant of their ideas but that doesn’t mean that you have to change your personality. For Freire, it was a great honor to be known as a specialist in literacy but since he started working, his main focus was on the critical understanding of education. When Freire was asked about language and power he said something very interesting: “Who says that this accent or this way of thinking is the cultivated one? If there is one which is cultivated is because there is another which is not”. This is a very important problem in society, people think that there is only one way to speak, write and think properly. He believes that teachers should teach the “cultivated” part of the language and he defends the rights of all kids and adults to learn the dominant pattern but it’s necessary to have in mind and to make clear to everyone that every way of speaking is as beautiful as the “cultivated” one. He also said that everyone has the right to speak the “cultivated” language, it isn’t exclusively for the rich people. This will break the oppressed system that the poor people are suffering from. Freire later said “I am now almost 75 years old, sometimes when I am speaking like right now, I am listening to Paulo Freire 40 years ago. Maybe you could ask me, but Paulo, look then you think you did not change? No, I change a lot, I change every day but in changing, I did not change, nevertheless some of the central nucleus of my thought.” This goes back to what he said in the beginning, you can be opened to every idea that the people has, but that doesn’t mean that you have to change your mind about it. He was a curious boy and a curious man and he said that in the last moments of his life he will be curious of what it means to die. He finished the interview with these incredible words: “My philosophical conviction is that we did not come to keep the world as it is. We came into the world in order to remake the world. We have to change it." One year later Paulo Freire passed away.

**Work cited:**

"PAULO FREIRE REFLECTS ON HIS LIFE." The Reflective Educator. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Aug. 2016. <http://davidwees.com/content/paulo-freire-reflects-his-life/>