

TRACES

RAIMON PANIKKAR

This sense of sacredness of life: [...] every being is sacred. And thus the dignity of every thing cannot be violated. And thus, if you want my opinion – which could be questionable but it is my opinion: It is a matter of sensibility, not of reasoning. I suffer the fusion and the fission, the breaking of the atom, the indivisible, as a violation of the sacredness of matter. Even before thinking if it is for peace or for war, for the bomb or for the energy: it is the same. We have lost this respect for the dignity of matter, and then – evidently – we end up going where we are going. The problem is not the atomic bomb *per se*. No, the problem is that we have lost the sensibility for the sacredness of matter, which doesn't want to be used as a mean, as an object. [...] Matter is not an object – they are not 'resources'. One will say: "But look, matter doesn't feel..." NO: When this symbiosis, this sacredness is broken, then we are where we are.¹

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1 Raimon Panikkar, 2001. Extract from the documentary: "Il filo d'oro: Raimon Panikkar, l'arte di vivere", by Werner Weick, 2001, min. 25-27