

What People Are Saying About This Dialogue

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o

Author of *Wizard of the Crow*

A discussion on the role of religion in the struggle for material and spiritual emancipation of the human has never been so necessary

The gap of wealth and power between the have and the have-not nations of the earth and the social haves and have-nots within each of the nations, is deepening and widening daily, with the irony that the haves, between and within nations, depend on the resources of the have-nots for their power and privilege. The result is material and spiritual misery of millions. This condition is human made not God made. It can only be righted by human action. A discussion on the role of religion in the struggle for material and spiritual emancipation of the human has never been so necessary.

Rev. Cecil L. “Chip” Murray

Professor, Center for Religion and Civic Culture, University of Southern California; Co-Founder of the Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement, USC; Host Committee for the Cornel West/Bob Avakian Dialogue

I do look forward to the results of this Dialogue on questions of such vital importance to humanity.

The Dialogue between Cornel West and Bob Avakian of the Revolutionary Communist Party will hold anyone of care in fascination and examination. My initial probing is to ask BA, a man of sensitivity, courage, and caring, what he explicitly means by “revolution.” I agree that we must “rise up and fight back” but feel strongly in the road of Ghandi, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King. I also share both Cornel West’s and Bob Avakian’s thoughts on the need to have a face off on questions such as prison or police brutality, such as women’s struggle for equality, but the question remains: while Avakian has masterfully given description, I part ways with him on the prescription. I do look forward to the results of this Dialogue on questions of such vital importance to humanity.

From Alice Walker

Let The People Decide

As a young Southern black woman I was deeply impressed and changed, in the Sixties, by the appearance in our local communities of SNCC, members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, whose mission was to transform the Apartheid/Jim Crow South. They were the first activists of color, with their white allies, that I saw who respectfully listened to poor black people—and to the poor white people who would allow it—and had as their guiding mantra: Let The People Decide. We are now in such dire straits as a planet that letting the people of the world decide our course is the only sensible option, “leaders” of various stripes having failed us completely; and who actually seem to enjoy making us feel afraid. Living as we do under surveillance, police terrorism, and the sweeping of our children into prison, if, in fact, they survive the perils of walking while black on any city street.

Nicholas Heyward

Father of Nicholas Heyward, Jr.—murdered by New York Police Dept. in 1994; October 22 Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation; Host Committee for the Cornel West/Bob Avakian Dialogue

Anyone with deep concern about the future of this world needs to be there.

I admire and respect both Cornel West and Bob Avakian. Both are fearless fighters for the poor and oppressed throughout the world. One, Bob Avakian, is a revolutionary fighter; the other, Cornel West, is a Christian. Anyone with deep concern about the future of this world needs to be there, and needs to hear this very important dialogue between two champion crusaders.

Jed Stone

Criminal Defense Attorney

I Recognize the Power and Perils of Belief

I have struggled for years with issues of faith. As an agnostic I recognize the power and perils of belief. Bob Avakian and Cornel West are to be lauded for their efforts to bring struggle and faith together to defeat oppression and foster freedom and dignity.

“Revolution and Religion” a dialogue between West and Avakian at the historic Riverside Church, New York City, on November 15, 2014, demands our support.

71-year-old Black man from South Central Los Angeles

Cornel West Opened My Eyes ... Bob Avakian Has Gotten My Attention

I would like to go to New York. First, because I have a lot of respect for Cornel West. I’ve heard one of his talks, at one of the big churches down on Wilshire; he was talking with Tavis Smiley. And I like what he had to say about poor people and about Obama’s non-action. I know everybody thinks he’s a messiah for Black people; and I did too when I voted for him.

Cornel opened my eyes... he brings it to reality. I’m not no great Christian, but he brings it down factual; the dirt, and the tricks, and the things this system does in America. And gives you a little humor with it.

Avakian I’ve never heard personally. I’ve gotten some of his videos. From his videos, and what I’ve read of him, he’s a... I’m not communist—but I’m not anti-communist.... He’s gotten my attention because he talks about the welfare of the people. All the people.

REVOLUTION AND RELIGION

The Fight for Emancipation and the Role of Religion

A Dialogue Between

& CORNEL WEST & BOB AVAKIAN

NOVEMBER 15, 2014
3-7 PM

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH,
490 Riverside Drive,
New York City

A historic dialogue on a question of great importance in today’s world between the Revolutionary Christian Dr. Cornel West and the Revolutionary Communist leader Bob Avakian

revcom.us

I am as leery as anyone of every single political system that has appeared on the scene, going back thousands of years. All male dominated and penis/power driven. But that does not prevent my understanding that if we cannot at the very least sit down like human grown-ups and talk to each other face to face, we’ll soon be reduced, as our politicians have been, to bombing people, in strange lands, we will never know. Before we are all covered completely in the blood of other people’s children, let us find other ways to be and do. This conversation with brothers West and Avakian will be an opportunity to explore other realms of thought, leading, hopefully, to other possibilities of Direction Change. For instance: the inclusion at the deepest and highest levels of consideration the voices of leadership that have been most thoroughly suppressed, that of Indigenous women and men; especially the wisdom and vision of Indigenous women.