

Professor Umberto Veronesi's Speech
for the award of the "Art, Science and Peace Prize"
Town Hall of Viareggio, Italy, August 2, 2012

First thanks, thanks to you for being here, thanks to **Pier Franco (Marcenaro, editor's note)** for having invited me to receive a prize that honors me and that is a great pleasure for me, thanks to the President of the Lion International for his words of appreciation, of esteem for my medical activity and thanks for all that has been said. I have to say that I have little to add because essentially all my life has already been explained to you all.

One thing, however, I would like to underline. It concerns one of the last comments of Pier Franco, that is about my desire to create a movement for Peace. You see, I had some difficulty when I first received this letter from Pier Franco inviting me to come here to Viareggio for this award. I am often abroad, I work a lot in research, I have patients to take care of, I manage a very large scientific hospital and therefore, as a rule, I do not accept invitations so easily. But when I read the title of this award: "**Art, Science and Peace**", "Well, I said, here I can't say no!" I really must accept it, I have to go, because this trinomial represents to me perhaps the essence of all my life, the philosophy of life that I have embraced. I have to say that, among other things, these three are very much linked. There is much Science in the Art: Art must have scientific and technical knowledge. There is a lot of Art also in the Science: Science does not go on unless there is imagination, creativity, pushes that are very typical of the Art world. But neither of these two can live without Peace.

Peace is the supreme value, the universal value that allows Art to live, Science to study and to all of us to be able to be in such an affectionate relation with one another, as loving as the "**Man Center**" intends. The "**Man Center**" has another element that fascinated me when I heard and read Pier Franco's words. I have to say that we have known each other for a long time. It has not been said but we have had many opportunities to meet and therefore, I know Pier Franco's thinking. I know his dedication to this principle he calls *ecumenical*, which refers not only to the several religions, but indeed to the several ethnic groups, the several ways of thinking, the several different philosophies, which, however, have to reconcile just in order to develop a very civil unity.

Peace, Peace has been one of my last passions, because I think Science must work for Peace, something that was never really considered. You may ask, "Why Science for Peace?" Because, first of all, we can say that Science is a universal language, a language that does not know any barriers, neither political, nor ethnic, nor religious...