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Juventude: abrir os olhos para sonhar um outro mundo possível

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Sabe, Sancho, todas essas tempestades que acontecem conosco são sinais de que em breve o tempo se acalmará e que coisas boas têm de acontecer; porque não é possível que o bem e o mal durem para sempre, e segue-se que, havendo o mal durado muito tempo, o bem deve estar por perto (Miguel de Cervantes em Dom Quixote).

The end of the year almost always refers to reflection and some kind of dream.

Especially when the world finds itself in the perspective of controlling the current pandemic and its serious consequences.

When thinking about this editorial of the magazine *Visa em Debate* (Visa in Debate) at the end of its 4th edition/2021, the word Youth came to mind. I intuitively tried to follow it.

Perhaps it's a good idea to instigate us, and I'll try to put here what inspired me and why we need this word as company.

In the online Michaelis dictionary there is, among others, the following meaning for Youth: quality of what is young, of what has freshness, youth.

We certainly live in a time in which we need freshness, just like our tired state - resistant, indignant, or used to the terrifying and disheartening news that rages in a global world that seems to be hanging by a thread.

Freshness to counteract fatigued and unhealthy lives.

Almost 2022. Time to restore dreams.

The inspiration came from reading two texts¹: one by renowned professor Maria Conceição Tavares² and another by American professor and philosopher Noam Chomsky³.

Texts that are allied to the simplest and everyday inspirations of others. To the spring state of nature this November, to the strength of Brazilian arts. To Eros and its life pulse. To a literary text, a beautiful film, a guitar, a canvas that the macushi Jaider Esbell left us.

Inspiration that adds to the freshness of the young nurse willing to lovingly care in times of plague.

In the joyful youth of dreamy students and teachers. In Greta Thunberg's scream. In the voice of those who joined Black Lives Matter. In the Young people who rebelled in our Latin America. In the Brazilian women and men who make their slams in the square, sing their songs, play their drums, plant their agro-villas.

They question, criticize, claim, fight every morning of drought, fire, or cold.

Each person finds a form of inspiration when the year begins to end, in the hope of good seasonality, pointed out by Don Quixote.

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That's it, we lack the vigor of youth, the drive of desires. Of the struggle of the new against the precarious world. Of the victory of life in the force of another political, economic, social, sanitary, and loving order.

And it is Maria Conceição, Professor Emerita of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, (UFRJ) who says:

No matter how steep the walk, I don't see any way out other than society itself, especially our young people. Not the young people with their heads made, pre-molded, as if they were concrete blocks piled up by someone else's hands. These have barely arrived and are already one step away from old age. I'm referring to a youth without vices, without strings, with an open mind, capable of getting indignant and building a healthy counterpoint to this torrent of reactionism that spreads across the country. The work of raising awareness must begin now but knowing that the time for change will take decades, who knows how many generations.

Along the same lines, an interviewer asks Noam Chomsky, an American philosopher and political activist, where he sees hope. And he answers:

Young people. In September, there was an international climate strike; hundreds of thousands of young people came out to demand an end to environmental destruction. Greta Thunberg recently stood up at the Davos meeting of the great and powerful and gave them a sober talk on what they're doing. "How dare you," she said. "You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words." You have betrayed us. Those are words that should be seared into everyone's consciousness, particularly people of my generation who have betrayed them and continue to betray the youth of the world and the countries of the world.

Yes. These two excerpts highlight the fundamental inspiration to the Youngest and the Youngest, who have inherited a world without freshness. So that they merge other narratives: less dystopia, more poetry. Poetry in the sense of creation, *poiesis*.

Reinvention is an overused word. Citizenship, a word that has not become an attitude. Humanity is a word without judgment. In a world of so many clichés, we seek a counterpoint. A counterpoint to the old age of proposals that have not founded a just world. Counterpoint to climatic, social, educational, scientific, and technological losses. Losses of life as a whole.

We need Youth to recreate the importance of education and research, cordiality and community. Of honesty and justice. Of the love that recalls *Eros*, *philia*, and *agape*.

Youth to understand and act for knowledge beyond the dizzying accumulation of data and information.

Youth to banish poisons from the table and the early death of lives. Youth not to believe in dictators or genocides.

Youth to, in the time of the metaverse, recreate the universal, the public, equity, the support of the world.

Youth to eat rice and beans and reduce the abusive supply of ultra-processed foods. Youth for simple joys, not drugged ones.

Youth to defend the Unified Health System (SUS) that we love. To defend the ideals of Paulo Freire and the native peoples.

Youth to reduce carbon emissions. To look with compassion on the wretched of the world.

To go beyond the abusive logic of productivity, entrepreneurship, goals to be met.

Youth not to die in traffic or slaughtered in slums, in veiled concentration camps.

Youth to have a choice of employment and income. To write articles. To receive scientific scholarships. To dance and love how they want and whoever they want without being killed by militias and police.

Youth without the abusive mark of capitalism, patriarchy, racism.

Youth, because the world cannot belong only to game owners, entrepreneurs, and financiers.

But also belonging to those who rap, to those who get up at dawn, to those who plow fields, to those who get involved in agroecological cooperatives, to those who distribute seeds.

To those who watch series but reflect on Squid Game and Locke & Key as a metaphor for this world.

But also belonging to the one who barely has time to run their fingers through Instagram and barely knows the meaning of the internet of things.

And also belonging to the son of the shaman who ritualizes his faith, the black girl orphaned by COVID-19, to the delivery people of food and merchandise, the Young women who kill themselves working at Walmart, in Amazon warehouses, or in traffic in big cities.

In short, we would like to have, in collective struggles, all Young people together.

Utopia? Yes, the ability to dream makes us capable of acting and thinking other narratives. We arrived in November with only 5 countries in Africa with about 40% of the population vaccinated and Brazil reaching about 60%⁵. The pandemic is not over. Dreams to support other possible worlds must be activated by us who already have more time on the road.

These excerpts presented here, by the two thinkers Conceição and Noam, allied to that of Don Quixote, in the epigraph, are antidotes against hopelessness.

So, I return to the word Youth to greet the coming year. To instigate us to the vitality of transformative proposals.

It is necessary to start the work of sensitization now, says Maria Conceição.

Let us be contaminated by the vigor of Youth to rebuild Science, Education, and Public and Collective Health. The entire country.



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