

New energy needed:  
women's leaderships



The world in which we live  
today obliges us to travel through  
time.

We are all part of a journey  
towards a unknown land. / No  
future studies can tell us what  
~~lies~~ ahead of us. / All provisions  
are unreal. / All forecasts are  
obsolete.

We are making this journey  
together. / Not because of a generous  
solidarity, not because of any  
privileged alliance. / Just because  
the world ~~has~~ become a whole. /  
|| All local problems - of economy,  
of culture, of society, of peace -  
are part of a global reality.

Complexity is the word coined <sup>2</sup> to express the interconnections, the diversified + yet ~~indefe~~ interdependent elements which make up ~~the~~ such global reality.

Complexity speaks of a myriad of sub-systems, ~~in economy, food production, genetic knowledge, human settlements, technological endeavours, cultural activities, which are continuously~~ made up of autonomous and yet interdependent elements, which change continuously their configurations + present every time renew the face of the earth.

Complexity does away with linear thinking, | simple cause/effect relationships, | scapegoat interpretations of failures or difficulties, economic or cultural ~~libera~~ "laissez-faire".



Our journey leads us to (3)  
face new burning issues.

The very first one we cannot ignore anymore is the utter destitution of millions of human beings. They lack food, housing, medical care, education, ... They have become independent from our colonization but have become ever more dependent economically and have interiorized our cultural models of well-being + consumption.

Some years ago we could still look at those problems from a distance and make the subtle distinctions of: we/they, rich/poor, developed/under-developed.



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That period is over. / The same <sup>4</sup>  
fraction of basic <sup>human</sup> needs wherever  
it happens concerns us all.

If we are not able to ~~contribute~~  
manage the satisfaction of  
those needs 4000 or 6000  
Km away from us, we are  
not able to ~~manage~~ at all  
anything at all. Because  
complexity says it exactly:  
"out of sight".



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The spectacular ~~economic~~ <sup>monetary</sup>  
~~trade~~ disorder of the world  
has had, at least, a positive  
effect. The ~~ignorance + inability~~  
to ~~manage credit + debt~~  
is a common problem. As  
the ~~Intervention~~ <sup>Committee</sup> of former heads  
of government ~~said~~ stated

in its '84 meeting;

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"The debt problems was jointly created by the actions of all parties. It is therefore the joint responsibility of all to seek solutions." (...) There is now an urgent need for a comprehensive solution to the debtor/creditor problems." (316)

4 The same is true about trade. Why is it that Africa contributed to 6% of the world trade when it was formed by colonies + today it contributes only to 1, 2% of the world trade? Let us be ~~clear~~ honest in our assessment of the situation: we cannot go on saying that we are part of a free trade system when more



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than half of the trade in the world is not free, but under protectionist measures!

The problems of the hungry, the homeless, the ~~poor~~ illiterate, the poor, are our problems. ~~Because~~ This is a structurally irrational situation.

Once Queen Sophia of Spain, listening to some economic discussion, that had taken place ~~Spain~~ <sup>during</sup> at the height of the famine in Ethiopia asked squarely the question: "but why aren't the states who have a surplus of production and have to pay their farmers for not producing, why are they not channelling, through special transport, those surpluses to those who are starving?"



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Since then, ~~in~~ several meetings<sup>7</sup>  
— including the one called "the other  
summit" — have made theirs this  
suggestion which ~~is~~ speaks the words  
of common sense.

The problems of the hungry, the  
homeless, the illiterate, the poor, are  
our problems. We are all responsible  
for a ~~street~~ what is simply a  
structurally irrational situation.

~~We must~~ Fundação Cuidar o Futuro



We need skill, intelligence, <sup>8</sup>  
imagination, ~~ris~~ sense of risk  
to move into ~~new directions~~.  
The so much needed comprehensive  
solutions.



And yet we detect in Europe  
intellectual paralysis as if  
these new <sup>dimensions of old</sup> problems had met us  
unexpectedly and found us  
deprived of any tools to face  
them.

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This is why our intellectual  
processes have kept us prisoners  
of the easy + ~~comforting~~ terminology  
of meta-industrial society,  
post-secular society, etc.!

We seem to know the land we  
are about to leave but we don't  
know yet what is the land we are  
going to, ~~on which we are already~~



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A fundamental task of perception, ~~and of~~ ~~understanding~~  
of ~~the~~ new references, ~~and of the~~ ~~some~~  
landmarks in <sup>the</sup> global reality  
of the new land,  
are necessary if we want to  
survive spiritually. ~~as people~~  
~~who understood the times we~~  
~~lived + the interwoven basic pro-~~  
~~blems of all human beings on our~~  
~~planet.~~

