



Subject: Year 2000 – Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Civic Movement

Dear sir (or madam),

We are a non-profit cultural association of a humanist, philanthropic and universalistic nature, which is sustained by the voluntary work of its members.

All of us feel to some extent an inner desire for a worldwide self renewal that will permit us to see the future in a truly new way, one in which respect for Nature, cooperation between peoples, acceptance and sharing of cultural diversity, the overcoming of the imbalances which affect mankind. This new insight, however, will only come about if the desire for a better world should sprout from the innermost roots of all of us and blossom forth from each of us every day of our lives.

Consequently, it is urgent that we conciliate with ourselves, with our fellow man, with the world, with Life – as though the entire universe depended on every single one of our gestures.

The year 2000 is upon us. This fact carries with it a singular and heavily symbolic burden of change which affects everybody and it would be a shame to limit it to merely transitory euphoria. This letter is a **final appeal** for a different way of living during this change: **a contribution toward giving a relevant impulse to the acquisition of a solid and universalistic awareness through the unity of Mankind around a proposal in which it can be constructively involved.**

This proposal would be translated into global action, on a planetary scale, **centered in the idea of forgiveness and reconciliation** which would free us from the rancor of the past and allow the seeds of a future of peace and joy to germinate. **Truly, there can be no peace as long as there is no forgiveness in the heart, in all hearts!**

Accordingly, **during the last 3 days of December 1999, all who feel touched by this idea will symbolically lay down, in a place specifically prepared for this purpose, in any village, town or city of the Planet (in a public square, for example), a flower, an olive branch, a sheaf of rosemary, of lavender, or even a small plant, in an appropriate holder.** The place should present a minimum standard of dignity and beauty which, implicitly, this action requires. These flowers, branches and plants would, then, be collected on January 1, the World Day of Peace, and cast into the nearest rivers or directly into the sea – the medium of unity among all the peoples.

As a final gesture, we also suggest (or as an alternative) that **a few moments before midnight on December 31** (one minute or a few seconds) **be held in silence and, if possible, in a group. We refer to that silence which touches the deepest part of our being, bringing forth genuine joy and the true proposition of inner change and constructive cooperation.**

The contribution we ask of you can be made through a public endorsement or an article in the press, an interview in one of the media, conversation with other persons, public figures or colleagues of institutions to which you have ties, or any other initiative which will permit the universal diffusion of the idea.

After all, it is little to ask for helping to improve the Earth!

Thank you very much,

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NOTE: This letter is also being sent to all the media, artists, scientists, writers, politicians, dignitaries of various religions, public figures and to the national culture in general: universities, associations, federations, and the widest variety of institutions throughout the world.