

TIME TO STOP

César Manrique *circa* 1985

Attaining utopia is tantamount to achieving the impossible. Utopia can become a reality when the soul asserts itself, straining with the enthusiasm of a record-breaking leap to reach the signal achievement of creation. The fulfilment that comes with the ability to reach harmony of union, attainable only with the power of intuitive instinct that not even man, and the establishment of apparent logic, can control, is what constitutes the full satisfaction deriving from the capacity to create.

It was fate that prophesied and willed the working of a utopian miracle on the island of Lanzarote.

For the first time in their history, the people of Lanzarote have acquired a general feeling for aesthetic values through the exemplary works on the island. The singular nature of such works derives from a new aesthetic sense in response to a new concept of Art with a profoundly educational significance. With the anthropological understanding that comes with a general vision, they have fully grasped the need to care for the beauty of their architecture and their surroundings.

In another vein, the people of Lanzarote have discovered an energy they had never before dared to use: the power of selfdetermination and solidarity, as they have begun to awaken to the destruction of their harmony, their environment and identity.

Unbelievably, that miraculous and harmonious unity, the conscious implementation of the new concept of Nature-Art on Lanzarote, has co-existed with an absolute lack of understanding, of any forward-looking vision, of how brilliant the island's future could have been.

Had we only understood, we could have proudly set an example for the whole world from a perspective of enduring wealth, instead of tolerating the suicide we are instigating with our clumsy and unlimited selfishness.

The real drama in all this, after all the effort deployed and work done to raise our vulcanology to the highest summits, with the overwhelming enthusiasm that springs from a love for and an understanding of its enormous hidden and noncategorised beauty, is the emergence of a series of "interests" whose sole purpose is to exploit the prestige earned by our people, with complete disregard for the island's ruin and the extermination, in a few short years, of a legacy of hundreds of millennia of vulcanological and geological evolution.

The question is:

Who is responsible?

We believe that any government is under the obligation to protect the space that serves as the medium for life, education, culture, wealth and, above all, the "endurance of that wealth".

And yet all we hear are excuses, impediments, references to previous authorisations or outdated laws and an endless list of apparent obstacles that seem impossible to remedy, to justify the failure to halt the barbarity that is inexorably closing in on us. There is a remedy for everything.

But it takes enthusiasm, having the truth on one's side and the courage and honesty of conviction. Everyone knows that the only real obstacle is all about buying and selling.

May we still hope?

Can we save what we still have left?

Is it a matter of intelligent vision?

I truly believe that it could hardly be more obvious, blatant and elementary that the time has definitely come to STOP.

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