

## METALOGO

### OF HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Daughter: Daddy, can we change the world?

Father: We live in an environment that's constantly changing.

D: Yes, ok... But can we have an effect on what's happening around us through our own actions?

F: I suppose so... remember when we talked about how the beat of a butterfly's wing can cause a hurricane in another part of the world?

D: But I don't understand, I was asking you something else. We're not talking about how every little action can have a huge effect, but simply how can we make the world we live in better.

F: Wait a second, tell me something first. Now you're saying 'better, not 'change', but who decides what's better?

D: Well... we do... me and you, society. People that want to change, I suppose. Don't confuse me...

F: But what me and you think is *better* for us, today, is that final?

D: I don't think so, tomorrow we'll have new problems and new solutions. That's why I want to understand what we can do today. But how?

F: We have to agree.

D: But who?

F: The people who want to change. Before, you said that we are the agents of change. So it's necessary that *we* agree not only about our intention to change, but also on how to accomplish it. Only then can we act, each according to their ability and capacity.

D: That's too abstract, I don't understand. You, daddy, are you doing something to change the world?

F: Listen. Every day I work to encourage dialogue between people by involving them in creative things.

D: What do you mean?

F: My colleagues and I create moments in which people work together creatively, getting to know each other and getting to know themselves a little better.

D: What's that got to do with what we're talking about? I don't understand: you talk about knowing ourselves better along with other single people. How can that change the world?

F: Each of us grows in relation to a context. I would be different if I hadn't met mommy. And you would have grown up different if you hadn't met your friends. Understanding yourself better also means knowing others better, and the relations they have with us. And if you want to make the world better, it's from there that you have to start out.

D: Maybe you're right. So that means, if my friends knew themselves better, things would get better between us, right?

F: Could be.

D: And creativity? Before you said you worked with creativity...

F: Yes, we research and study creative processes for the common good.

D: What do you mean?

F: Creativity is the capacity to invent and a fundamental resource for projects. Anyone who uses their creativity can design new things working with others.

Isn't that the answer to what you asked me in the first place?

D: Hmm.

F: Through our work we've found lots of people in the world who use art and creativity primarily to create occasions to meet and talk, communicate and *do things* together to find new solutions to shared needs.

D: And what do you do?

F: We make it possible for these people to meet so they can get to know each other and share and compare their experiences.

We also tell everyone who doesn't know them what they do.

We show how to use creativity to create innovative environments for relationships through seminars, workshops and even new things like gastronomic workshops about dialogue between different cultures.

D: What's gastronomy got to do with it?

F: Gastronomy is like music, don't you think? It's made up of cultural mixtures. Every dish is a product of relationships between cultures.

D: .... and then everyone loves eating. Everyone agrees about good food. And dialogue always starts around food.

F: Precisely.

D: But the way you put it seems like there's some kind of method, a practice for working with people through creativity. But how can it work?

They're individuals, each one different to the other, with completely different habits and customs.

You can't think that there's a method for relating with each of them. Even less a single way of involving people in shared actions.

F: Good point.

But what you're saying isn't a limit, it's a resource.

Understanding that we're dealing with so many individuals linked by a *complex* relational bond is the first step toward fielding a great capacity to listen, to appreciate the skills and resources of a community

D: So, more than a method, you're talking about a way of thinking and developing projects with others, always within specific situations, generated each time by different needs.

F: ...and by different desires.

D: Desires?

F: Yes, *dreams*, desires.

D: Is that why the things written in the following pages look more like scribbled notes than the agenda of a Parliament?

F: I reckon so.

A good listener is an explorer of possible worlds. Creating change means exploring new worlds, opening dialogue with others, giving space to individual expression in the collective.

D: But, daddy, why didn't you say that in the first place? That I would have understood straight away.

F: Yes, I believe you would have. Anyway, now it's time for bed.

D: Daddy, why are the grown-ups making war in Gaza, instead of just pretending like children do?

F: No... bedtime. That's enough. We can talk some other time about Gaza

The conversation you've just read, part of an upcoming publication about the Mediterranean Cultural Parliament, curated by Apollonia European Art Exchanges, is a presentation of the fundamental concept of the activities of Love Difference, and of the spirit with which we prepare to collaborate in the realization of the Mediterranean Cultural Parliament.

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