

MANIFESTO_THE SPIRIT OF THE TREE

The first home, a tree; the first temple, a grove; the first city, a forest.

The Cosmic Tree, the Tree of Life or Knowledge, the one that has its roots in Heaven and its fruits on Earth, it is the ancestral arcane that the classics transmit to us, the fetish linking Creator Nature and Humanized City. In a myth-poetic sense, the Universe is Tree.

Why is this belief about the primordial sacred tree so deeply rooted in the old cultures of the world and why, even now, is it so necessary? Even Darwin uses this archetype in the concept of the evolutionary context as the basis of a common ancestor in *the Origin of the evolution of species*.

It is possible that the horror to the immensity of the telluric forces of the cosmos, the fear to death, made the human being seek refuge in an entity capable of identifying and encompassing everything. And perhaps it is the same consciousness of survival that moves us today to fight that terror with the best guardian that is available: the tree.

It was in the twentieth century when Andrew Ellicott Douglass, the botanist lover and famous astronomer –someone used to interpreting the sky- who scientifically demonstrated the relationship between solar cycles and plant growth rings. The discipline he inspired, Dendrology, studies the radial development of woody plants, whose circles treasure the traces of climate and their history, and are the living archives of the “oscillation of the pendulum of time”, in the words of Douglass himself. A living memory.

It is surprising and, in some way, touching because of its connection with the beliefs of the past, the affirmation of the Nobel Prize in Physics, Richard Feynman, who in *The uncertainty of knowledge* resolves that the substance of the tree comes from the air: “People look at a tree and believe that it comes out of the earth, but if you ask where its substance comes from... the trees come out of the air! The substance of the tree is carbon, which comes from the air; carbon moves away oxygen and combines with the water that comes from the earth that has absorbed the rain (...)”

Nothing has changed. How premonitory the old prediction of the Tree! The greatest and oldest being that exists alive, that is oracle, that migrates generously with culture, that is food, air... That represents the Cosmos, the totality... and will result that to save us we should all be like Daphne, the nymph: we should transform ourselves into trees when being besieged by the dark gods. *We are of the same blood you and me!*

“The tree is born from the soul of the World”, Pythagoras said. The tree is at the origin. It is in us, in that poetic space in which its shadow is the germ of a burrow, of a room; and it is beyond, on the roof of the house, on its staircase, or on the door, on the bed and the wardrobe, even in the word, the word transmitted by the paper and the book...; the tree always as essence that joins our same immemorial essence, as nature and as life.

The Age of the Anthropocene, ours, that of the greatest transformation of the environment for human causes, is in the negative sense as well as in the positive one. Here is the challenge. Hence this manifesto on the first matter: not only to save the rainforests, not only to preserve the forests, not only for the care of the trees, but as a principle, as a defence, as a regeneration, as a present and as a future, "*plant, plant, plant!*"