

Greetings

There are commitments, ideologies "per se", implicit agreements, that in certain moments permit the human world to function and whose rational explanation and limits are indefinable, confused, or which at best, we would have serious difficulties to establish.

So, for example, we all agree that we have to be supportive. We even know in many ways, what it is not to be supportive, but it would be impossible to establish the exact solidarity limits. Something similar occurs with our ancestral bequeathment, our heritage that proceeding from history and silent witness of our deprivation, permits us to recognize ourselves.

Heritage is also what man did not do and despises, or with which he speculates: ozone, air, water, endangered species, deforestation, the bags of gold sleeping in the millenary dream and sheared from the depths of the earth.

Heritage is what man does or permits, the hunger of children, the lack of education, contagious diseases, violence.

Heritage is what man did, and forgets: centenary stones destroyed and violated, thought on parchment, art and light.

Heritage is also what man did and cherished: privileged minorities, chosen stones, selected intellects, choice feelings.

There is an implicit agreement to talk only about what man accomplished, perhaps because it is thought that this already is a gigantic impossible task. I sincerely hope that what man did not do, and destroyed, and what man does wrong, will soon be the subject of debate.

This International Seminar relates to heritage, university, and institutions, involved, and therefore co-responsible.

Heritage is not only artistic, architectural, archaeological.

University, with its projects, students, professors, institutional teams, training, cultural, political, non governmental, transnational and local, institutions.

It is also the presentation of Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage, showing its possibilities, its capacities to respond, its vocation to join purposes, interests, projects and illusions.

We hope that this starting point, this meeting, will allow us to involve ourselves actively in many places, and with many possibilities and responsibilities, of our historical bequeathment.

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