

## TOWARDS THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS

I had a dream and in the dream a voice asked me: what, in your opinion, is the best of all possible worlds?  
And I said this: the best possible world is where the environment is respected, where the earth, the water of rivers, lakes and seas and the air we breathe are not polluted.

Where the waste we produce in large quantities is not a problem, but a resource.

Where farming is organic and toxic and harmful substances are not spread on the fields.

It is where biodiversity is defended and GMOs are banned.

Where everything is done to save the ecosystem which allows bees to live and pollinate flowers.

Where the landscapes of our territories are respected.

Where there is no violence to the architecture of our towns and villages.

It is there where our historical memory is preserved, where we are fully aware of our roots.

The best possible world is where the energy we need is produced from renewable sources, from the sun, from water, from wind.

Where our heating does not come from fossil fuels.

Where cars, if possible, remain outside the historic town centres.

Where you use bicycles, where you walk, where you use public transport.

Where you try to save neighbourhood shops and natural shopping centres.

Where you still eat things cooked like we used to.

Where you do everything you can to eat products that come from the local territory.

Where food education is taught in schools, where food is not wasted.

The best possible world is where tourists are not customers, but guests.

Where we go into the future knowing where we come from.

Where no one is left behind.

Where everyone is an active part of a community.

Where every day we perform so many small actions that help us live better.

Where we are committed to improving the quality of life of each and everyone.

Where everything is done to save the traditions that belong to our towns and our local territories.

Where work, development and economies are created by focusing on the intelligent use of the immense natural, historical, artistic, cultural, environmental and landscape resources that are present in our towns and local territories.

Where we are not overwhelmed by the relentless consumerism of the globalised economy.

The best of all possible worlds is that in which man lives in peace and harmony with the land he lives in, without asking the earth for more than the earth can give.

But the voice in the dream asked me, does this world really exist?

And I said to it: I don't know if this world that I have described to you really exists, but I can tell you one thing.

What?

I know that for 20 years now in more than 200 towns in this world of ours that is becoming smaller and smaller, thanks to the commitment of generations of well-informed, public-spirited mayors, administrators and officials, we are working every day to bring these towns and the people who live there closer to the best of all possible worlds.

These mayors and administrators and public officials, together with countless enthusiastic citizens, have adopted and continue to adopt and implement best practices inspired by Cittaslow's ideas and philosophy.

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