

## «AIR, EARTH, WATER, FIRE : ETERNAL ELEMENTS»

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2º GYMNASIUM OF KALYVIA, ATTICA

## **KOSTIS PALAMAS**

Homes! Air, Earth, Water, Fire! Eternal elements, the beginning and the end of creatures, as I will pass to the serenity of graves, I'll meet you again; first and last happiness!

Inside me, the people's dreams will go into the airit'll go in eternal fire like the fire in my mind. My passions spree will be driven away by the rage of the waves.

The soilmade body, soil itself -Air, Earth, Water, Fire I shall become again. And from the air of dreams, from the fire

of thought, from the melted flesh, and from the sea of passions, there will always emerge the sound of breath, a grievance, like the sound of a lyre.

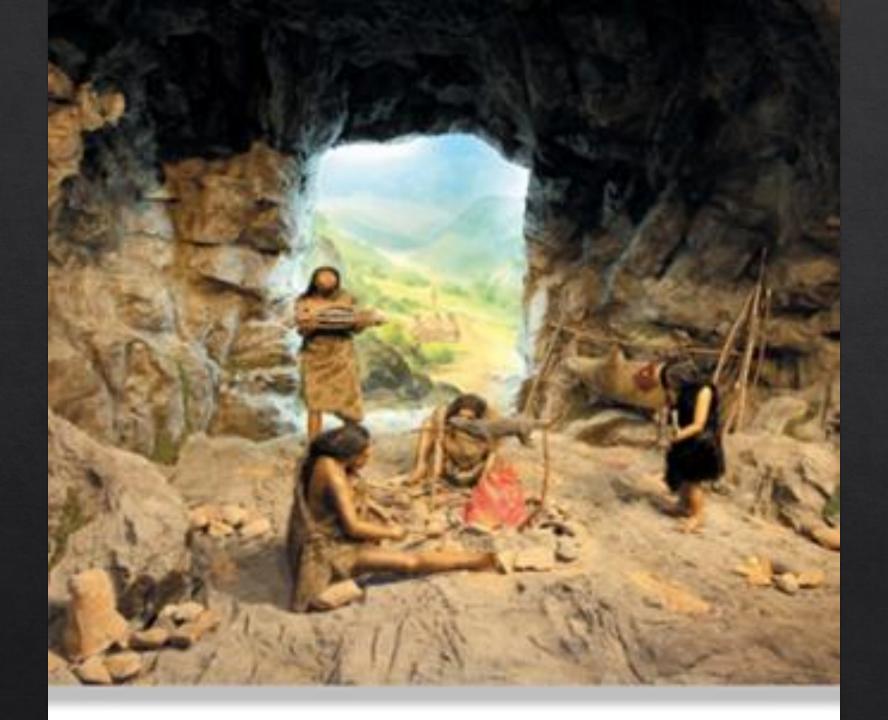


From Kostis Palama's Soneto till back to the time of Alchemists and **Empedocles' Acragantus'** ontological theory, the world is basically structured of four basic elements the air, the earth, the water and the fire. It is philosophers' strong belief that through interaction and mixing, all substantial and insubstantial visible or invisible objects of the universe are structured.

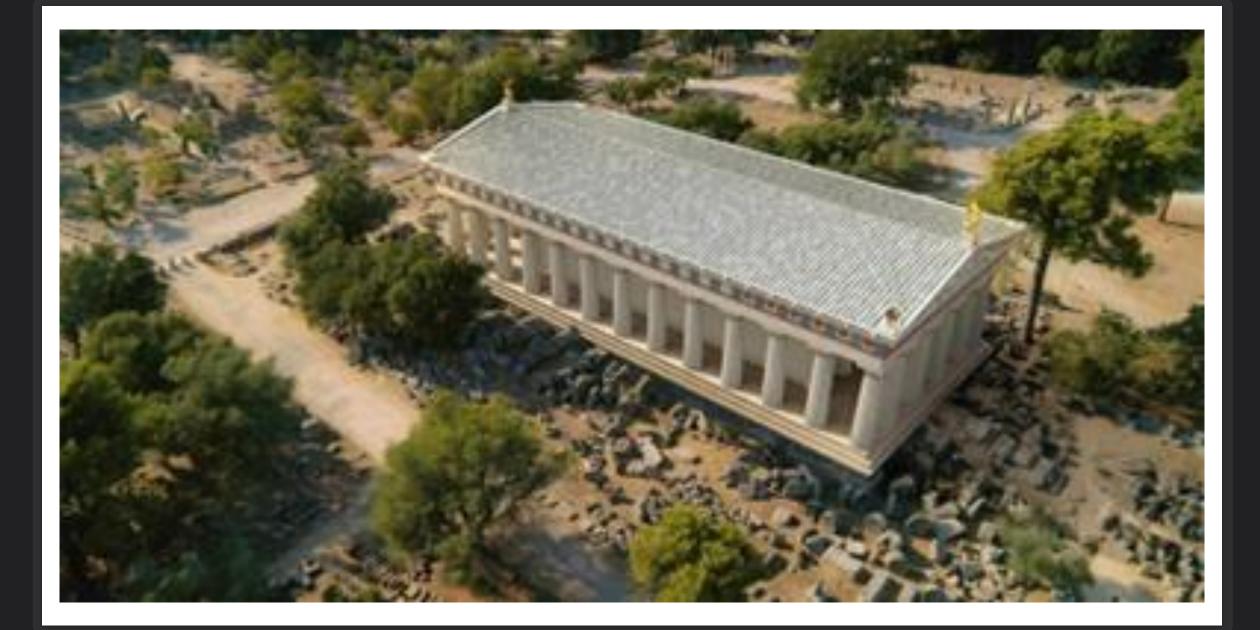


Throughout the centuries, the man, driven by the power of knowledge and the will to survive and perpetuate, took advantage of the properties of these elements.

## He constructed homes, villages, communities, cities.



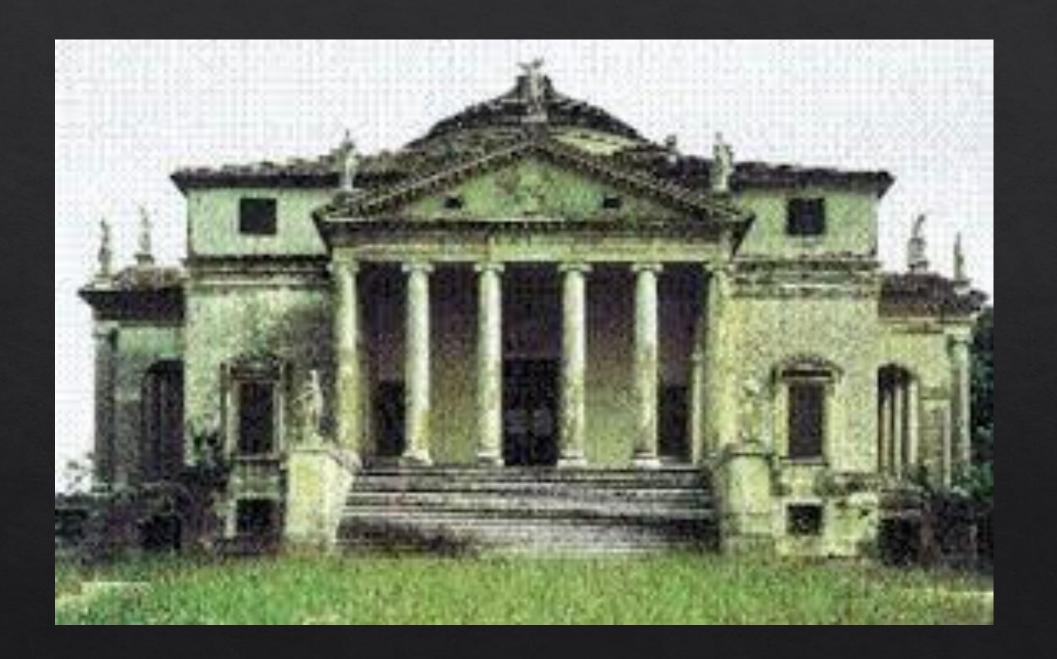




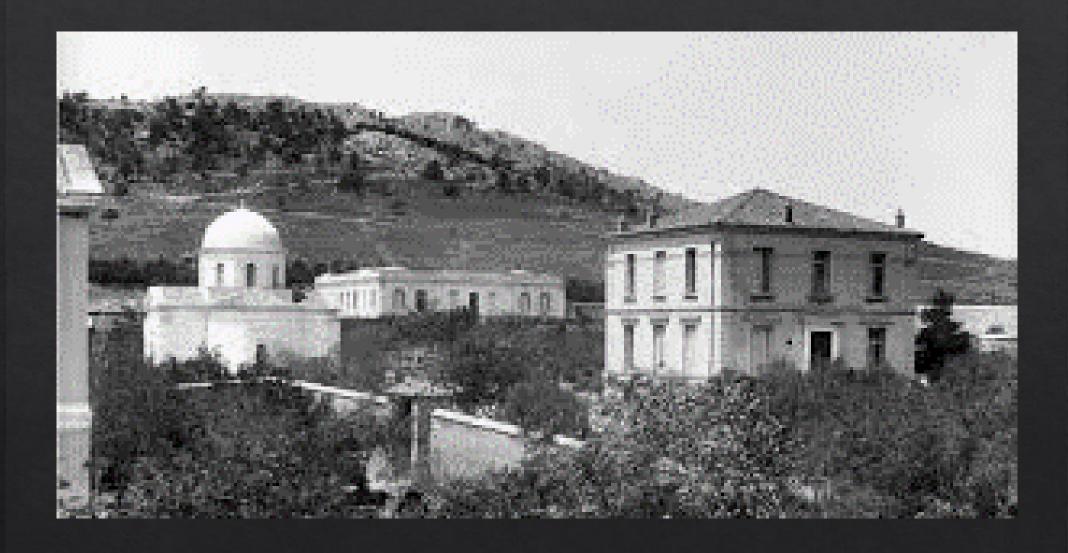


















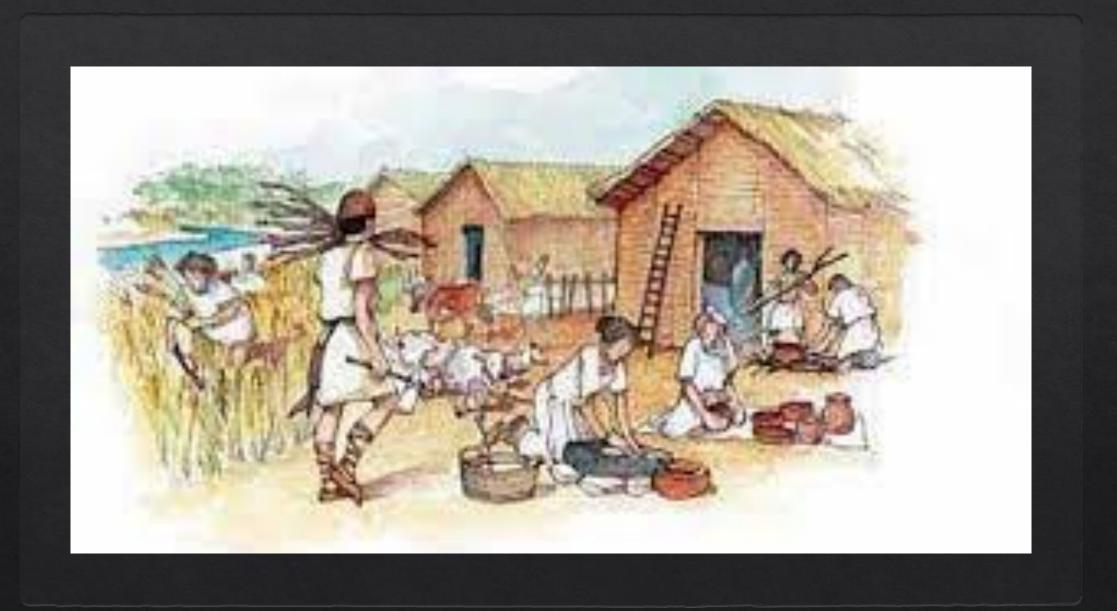




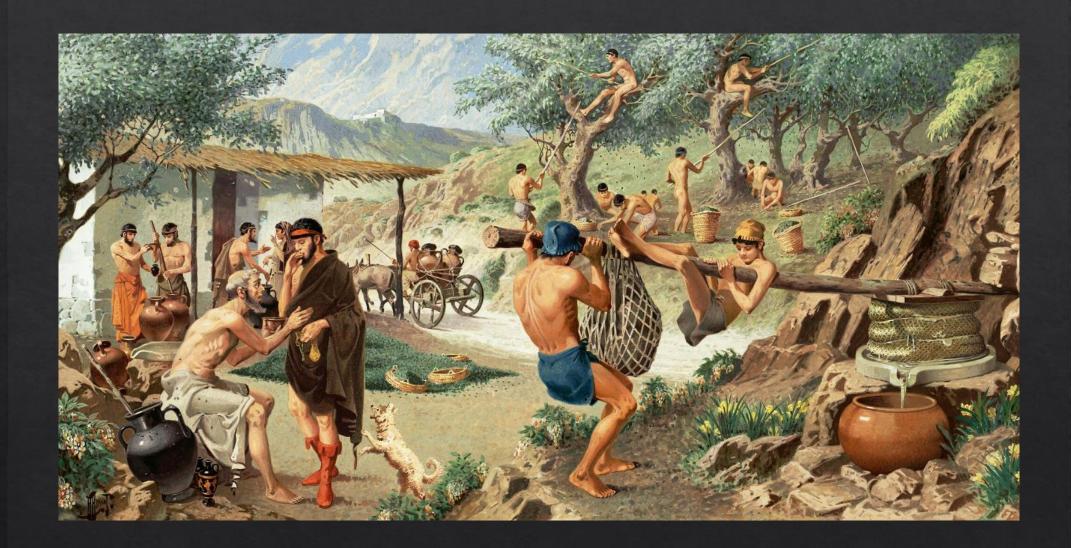


## He tamed the land and the animals.





































## He developed arts and culture.





















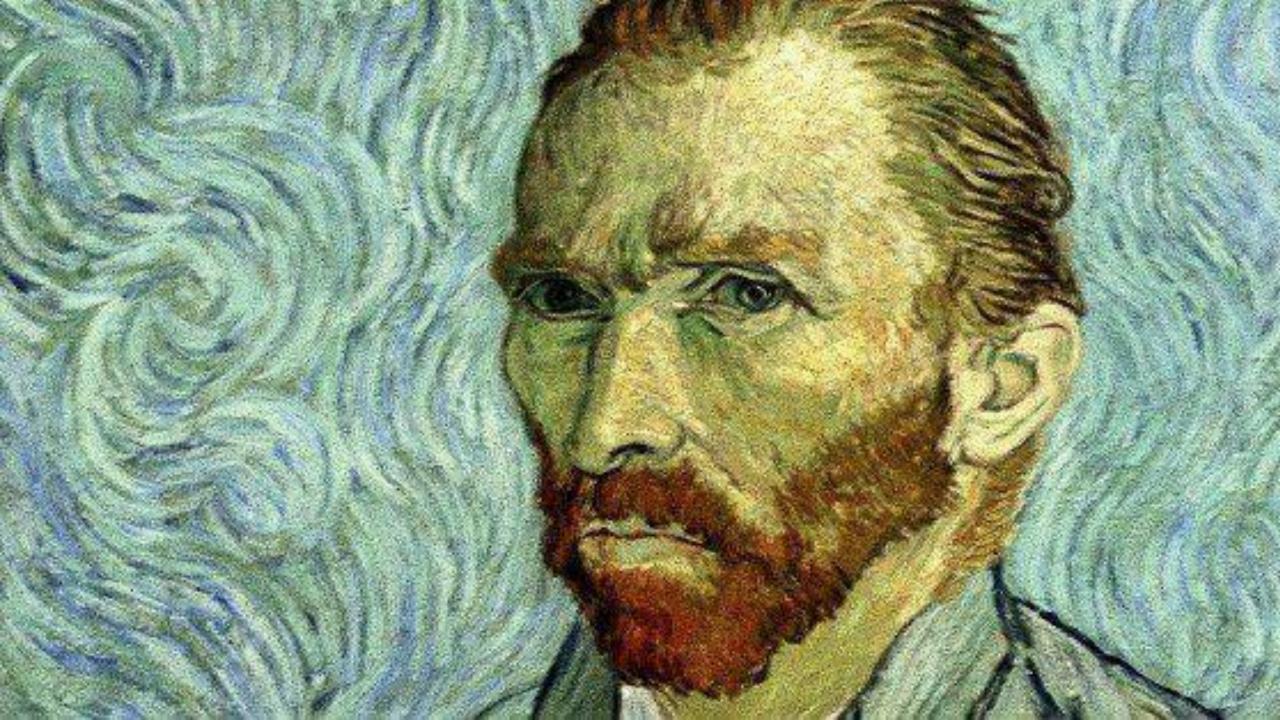










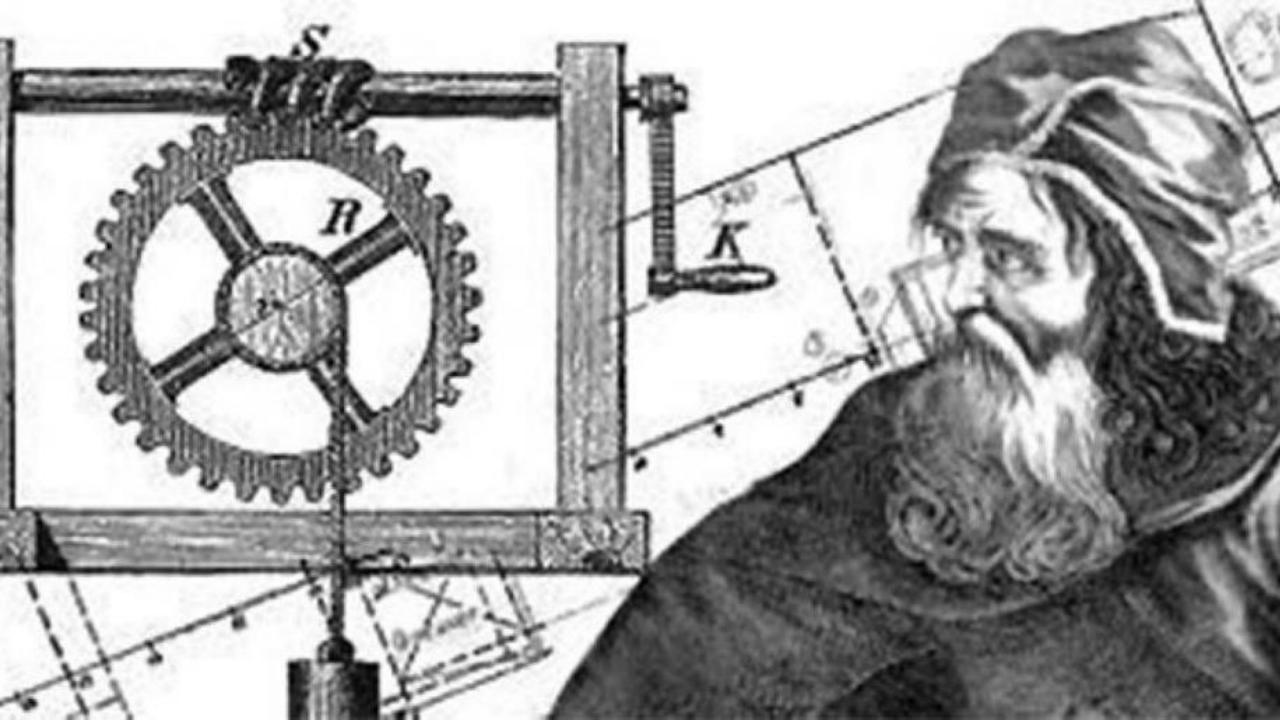




## He designed the machine.





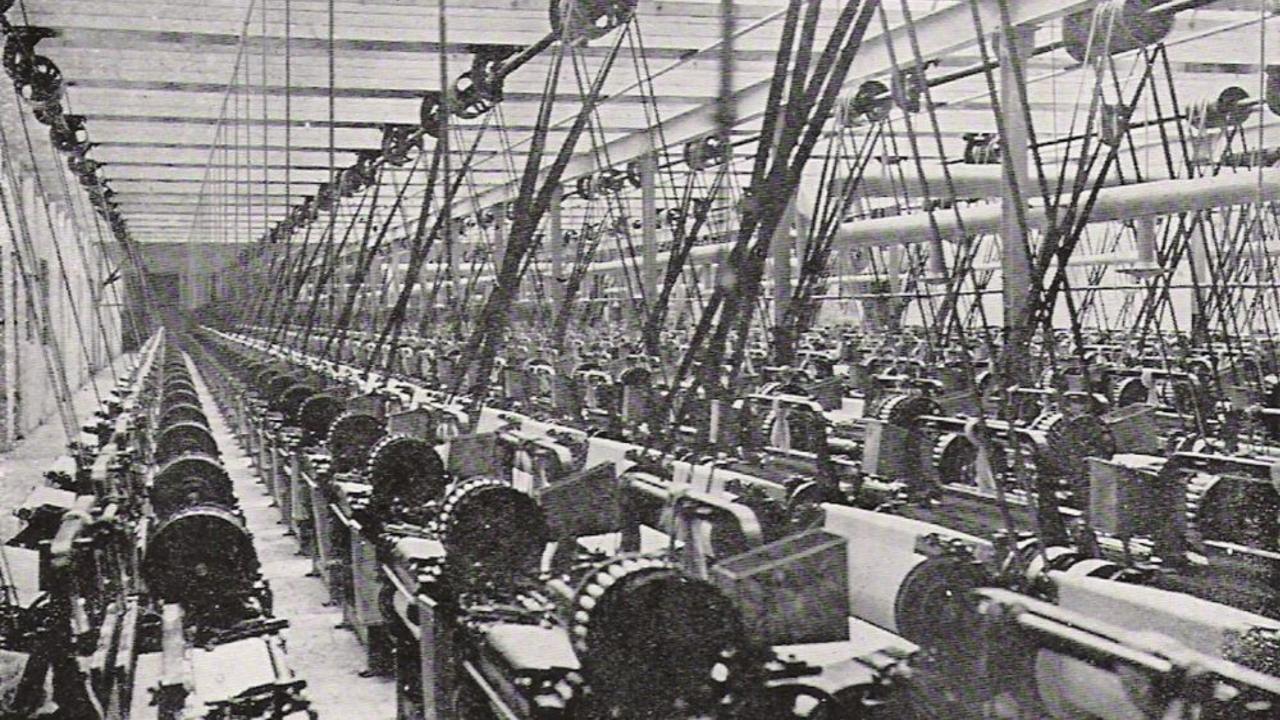


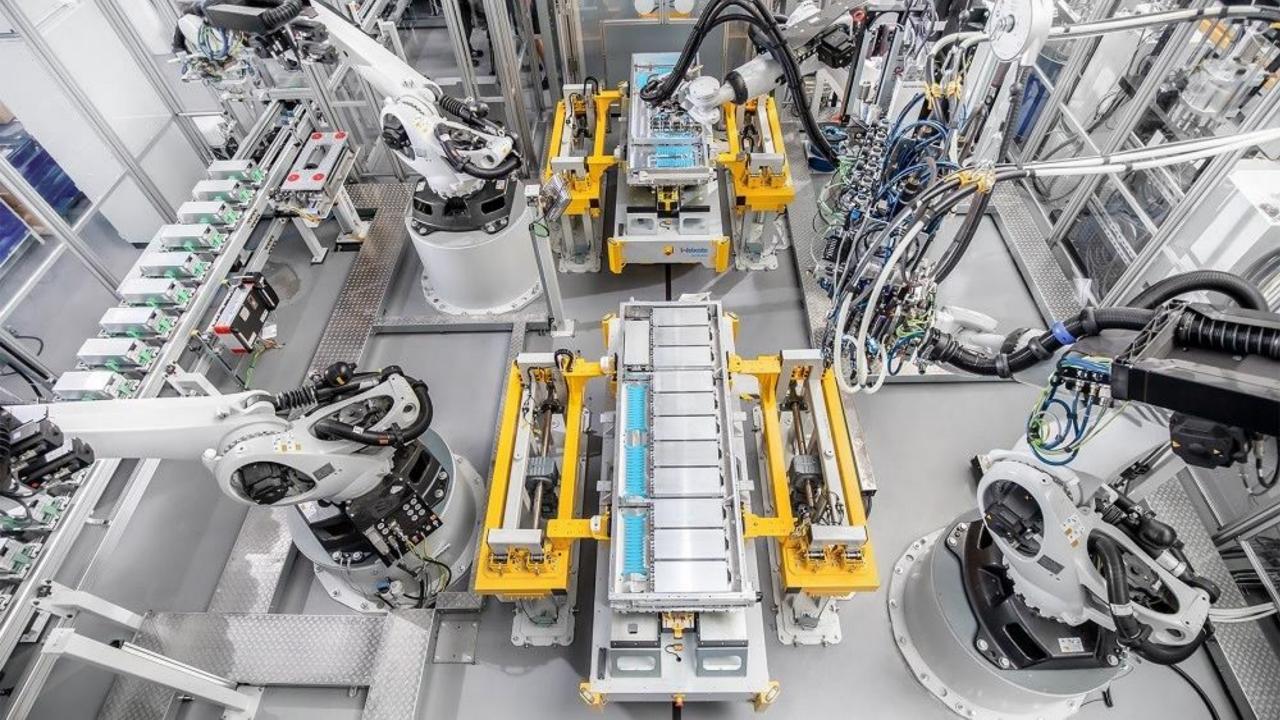






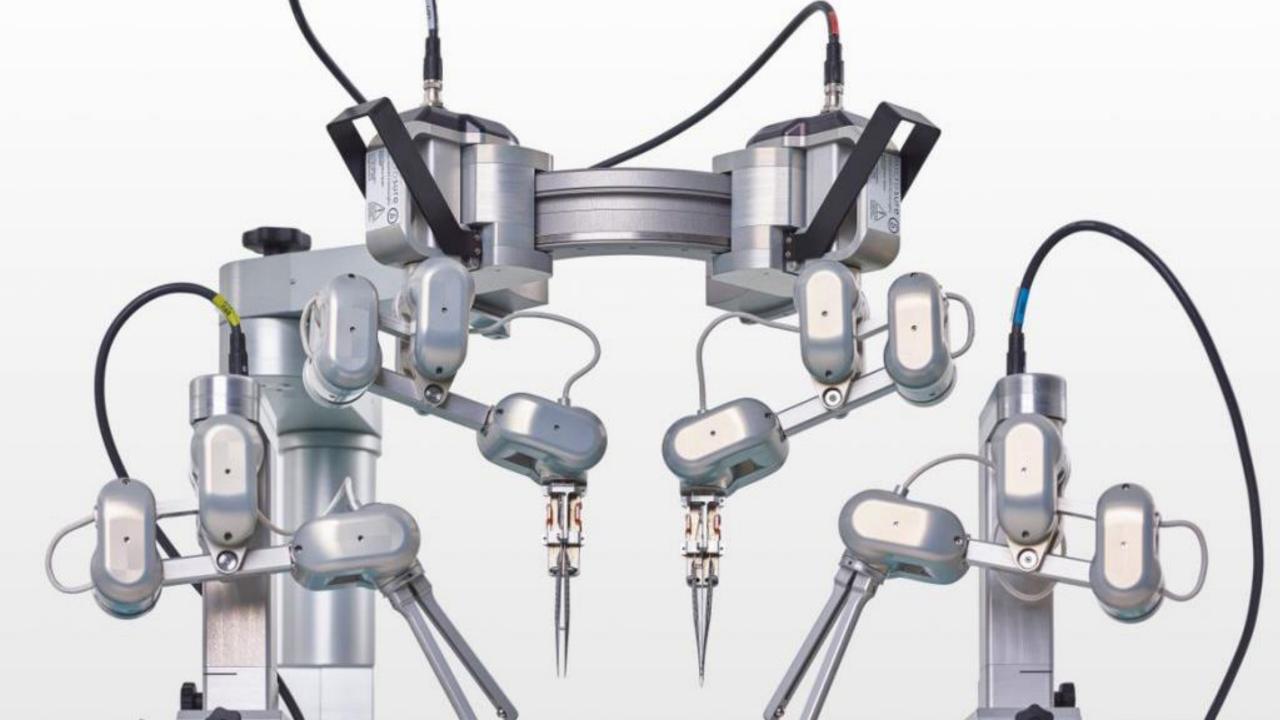


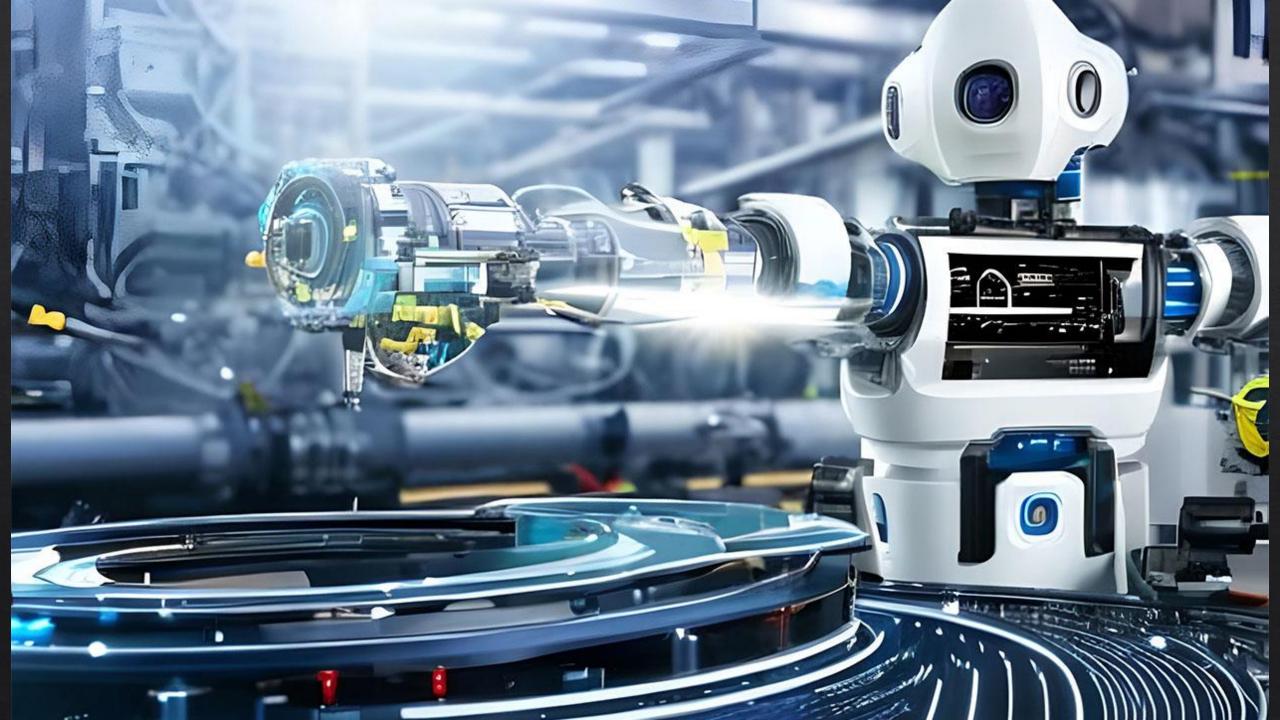




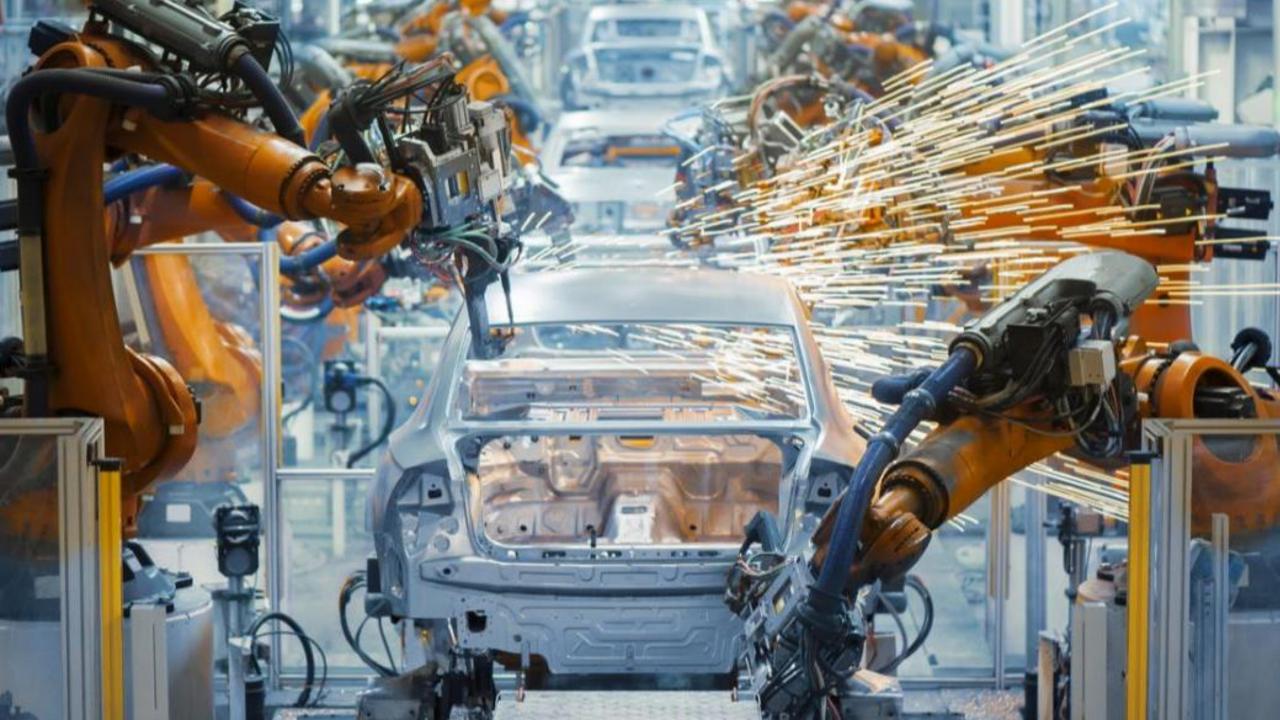












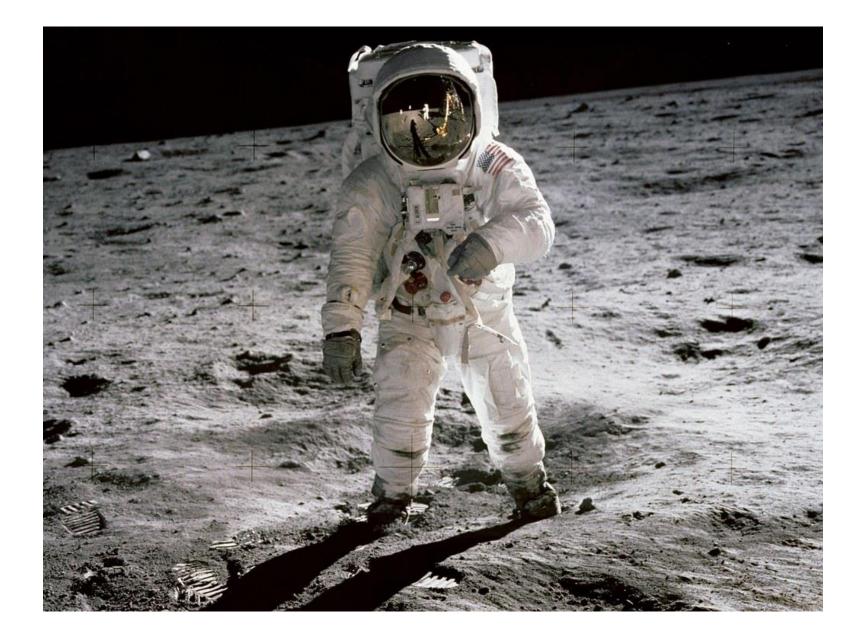


## He stepped on the moon.

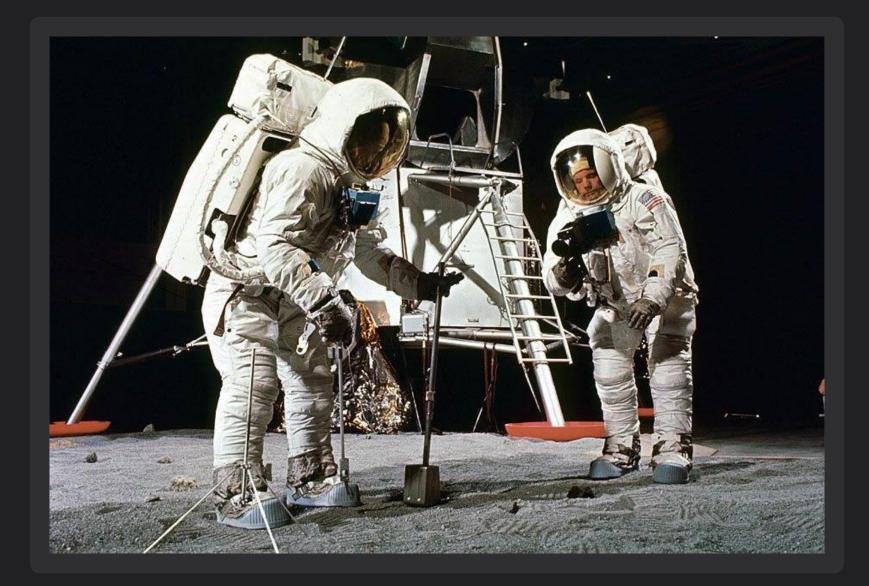








































However... The man's activities and careless interference on earth, the overconsumption of products and of natural non-renewable resources caused great damage to the environment that could not be predicted. All these factors, combined with global warming, lead to climate change, the disastrous consequences of which everyone on our planet is experiencing.

## **AIR POLLUTION**

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# FLOODS

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### In Brasil...



### In France...



# In Germany...



#### In New York...



## In Mozambique...



# In Malaysia...



#### In New Zealand...



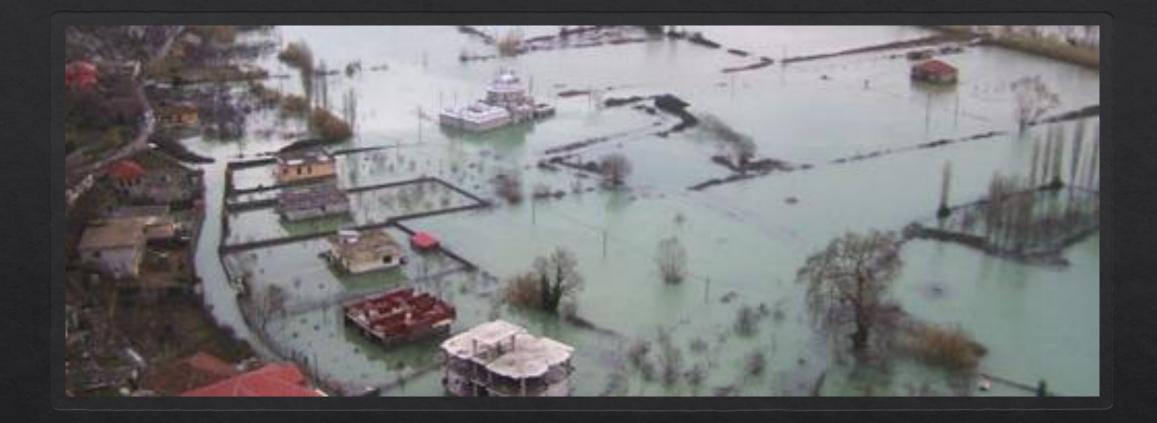
# In Nigeria...



# In Norway...



#### In Somalia...



### In Albania...



# In Argentina...



### In Austria...



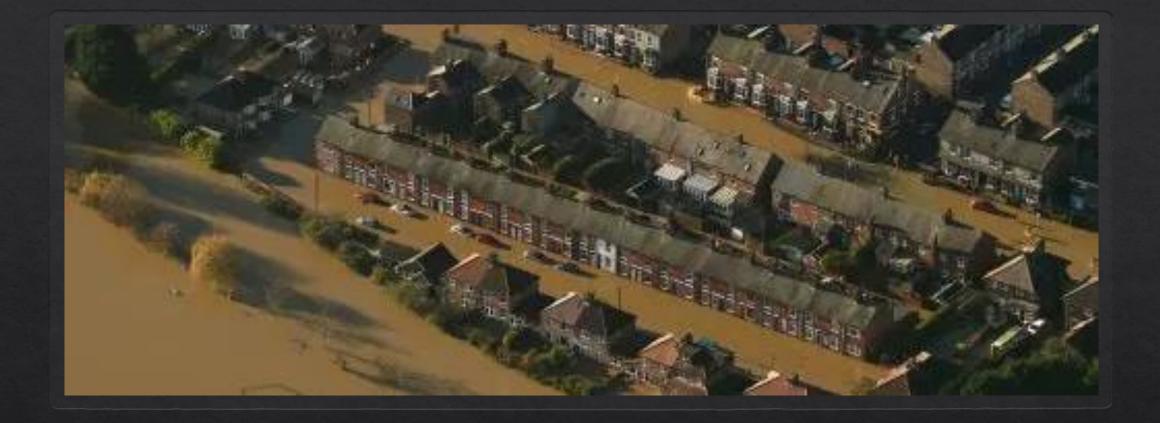
## In Japan...



In Italy...



### In Oklahoma...



## In Holland



# In Turkey...



## In Pakistan...



In Libya...



## In Greece...

### In Greece...





# In Greece...

#### "

# DROUGHT AND SOIL POLLUTION

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## In Britain...



# In Bulgaria...



# In Germany...







# In Austria...



## In California...





## In Canada...





## In Russia

In Greece...





## In Chios...





## In Ilia...





## In Alexandroupoli...





#### In Xilokastro...





## In Pallini...









## In Attica, Mati...























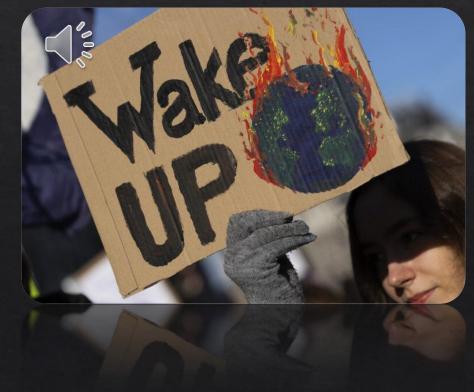






### The change...

In rapidly changing world, it is our duty to tackle climate change and the environmental crisis posing a threat to not only human activities and our health, but also to ecosystems globally, from the Siberian forests and the arctic circle to the coral reefs, Australian Forests, the Mediterranean and Greece.



#### Prague : 1 of the 10 livable cities

We can take a look at cities that have managed to become known as sustainable or green cities through well thought planning. Prague is one of those cities and we ought to follow the paradigm they set.





#### Transport

- A rich network of public transportation, consisting of tram, trains and buses. "embraces" the city of Prague; its historical center as well as its outskirts.
- At the same time, the bicycling lane and a bikesharing system make city residents and tourists forget about their cars.
- ♦ That way, air pollution is significantly reduced!



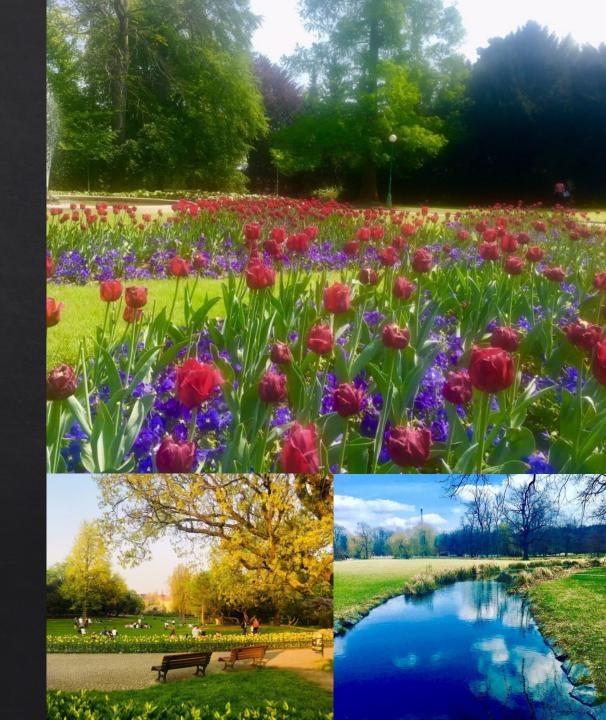


#### Sustainable tourism

- Prague has been proven to be pioneer in the aspect of sustainable tourism as it encourages sightseeing, while many hotels and restaurants offer local and sustainable foods.
- At the center of the city's interest is also the protection and preservation of monuments and historical buildings that attract countless tourists.

### Green spaces and water conservation

- The parks and the green spaces that beautify Prague and give its citizens opportunities for exercise and amusement, serve as a true breath of fresh air in the city.
- Simultaneously, significant efforts are made for the conservation and protection of waters, especially their rivers, such as the Moldau (Vltava) river.





After the largest recorded flood in the history of 2002, Prague was driven to protective measures. A system of mobile aluminum dams (ECO-SYSTEM) tested in Austria and Germany was chosen and gradually implemented along the entire length of the inner city route of the river. The full system was completed in 2013. Nevertheless, since 2008 the protection of the largest part of the city had begun. In addition, there were works to protect the drainage networks and the underground railway (dams and drainage systems).

# Floods in Prague and solution



#### "Smart city"

Prague is one of the 100 cities in the European Union participating in the "Horizon Europe" program for climate-neutral and smart cities. The aim of this initiative is to support these cities so that they are considered climate-neutral by 2030, and so that they become a model that all countries of the European Union will be able to follow by 2050.

In this context Prague:

- Utilizes technology in order to conserve resources and reduce pollution.
- Aims to provide more accessible services that better meet the needs of citizens.
- Seeks to make public places safer and make improvements on transportation, water and waste management, street lighting and building heating.

The Municipality of Prague, as part of the "Smart Prague 2020" campaign, established an organization with the aim of utilizing digital technologies.

- Placed smart waste bins.
- Created an app for smartphones which provides all the information for the city of Prague needed by a citizen or visitor.
- Located the first ten "smart" benches offering device charging capabilities.
- Additionally, it promotes a range of projects such as the development of an application for the citizens to share the car usage (carsharing), information systems concerning free parking spaces, electric houses for airport transportation, citywide free Internet accessibility, smart lighting bulbs etc.

### **Greek perspective**

♦ As teenagers who reside in a suburb of Attica, in the coastal town of Lagonissi, we hope that our own area, will have a similar outlook, as well. We know that there are 5 Greek cities participating in the 'Horizon Europe' program. Alexandroupolis, Ioannina, Kifissia, Kozani and Ptolemaida. We really hope that it will not be long since all cities follow the program.

♦ As young individuals, we strongly express our belief that it is essential to commit to sound environmental practices and work together side by side, so as to ensure a sustainable future!



- ♦ We deserve a future that respects both people and the limits of the Earth.
- ♦ We deserve a future where economic gains don't take precedence over life.
- ♦ A future focusing on nature and humanity.
- ♦ A future with quality of life equality, solidarity and co-operation.
- ♦ A future filled with hope!

#### Nikiforos Vrettakos "Do not kill the poem of the earth for me"

Do not kill the water for me Do not kill the trees for me Do not tear apart those divine pages written by the inconceivable light and the inconceivable time and wherever I stand they surround me. Do not kill the poem of the Earth for me! Muster eternity by lightning the star "Love" Mobilize eternity, by raising higher than all above the ready abyss, the star "human front". We are begging you: Leave the things to us. Do not burn them. Let the insects find their flowers.

#### Thank you all for your attention!!

#### Our team!!

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