

RAOUL FOLLEREAU

The Book of Love

Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO)



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Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO)
Via Borselli 4-6, 40135 Bologna, Italy

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INTRODUCTION

During the course of his life Raoul Follereau had written tens of books and pamphlets, and hundreds of articles. His works cover all the different literary genres: poetry, theatre, fiction, travelogues, memorials, non-fiction and denouncements.

As a testimony of his battles, he wanted to bring together in a volume that easy to carry and to read, what he himself had defined as "a synthesis of my life and my work". The *Book of Love* was thought mainly for the youth, and is composed of his most significant citations from his works that, as he had himself wished, carries the name of his first collection of poems published in 1920.

The *Book of Love* was published first in 1970, and it was afterwards revised with additions of some later writings. With the diffusion around the world of the solidarity that is known by the name of Raoul Follereau, the present edition of the *Book of Love* has been enriched with new and more ample citations from his works. This Italian edition, has been revised completely while the sources and biography have been updated.

Follereau wanted that this small volume could reach everyone. Even today, it remains a fundamental guide for all those who believe in his message:

"No one has the right to be happy alone"



I would be nothing but the dust
but I will make the grass grow
and the flowers bloom

I would be nothing but the dust
but I will sing in your hearts

I shall live in your joy
in your divine hope
in your shining enthusiasm
in your thunderous anger

My exhausted heart will live
in the eternity of the worlds

Raoul Follereau

(From: "I shall sing after my death")

RAOUL FOLLEREAU'S LIFE

Raoul Follereau was born at Nevers, a small town in France, on 17 August 1903, in a Catholic family. The pain of losing his father, who had died during the first world war, marked his refusal of war and the misery that it creates. Young Follereau was especially attracted by the literature and poetry. Very early he showed the qualities of being a good speaker. His first public conference, when he was only 15 years old, already had his life-plan: "*God is love*", that was the title of the conference, "*to be happy means to make others happy*", and "*to live is to help others to live*". At the end of the war he met Madeleine, the young woman, who would become the companion of his life and who would accompany him in all his travels.

His poet's soul expressed itself in different ways and, with his marriage and final shifting to Paris, Follereau immersed himself in the atmosphere of those times. In that period, he also started traveling in different parts of the world. During the 1930s, during a journey in Africa, by chance he encountered for the first time, the persons affected with leprosy.

The war and the German occupation of France influenced his conversion to a commitment towards those who suffer, those in need and against the wars. During the war he organized the first solidarity campaigns as he had understood the limits of the battles that focused only on the ideas.

The most important of his campaigns in those years was the "Hour for the Poor", launched in 1943, in an easy to understand mechanism that everyone could follow. Everyone was asked to donate one hour of income for helping the poor persons. Already at that time he understood clearly that it was not just about giving money, but also about getting directly involved with the misery and the exclusion. During the conferences for presenting this initiative, he underlined in his speeches the extraordinary importance of the act of love, without which charity is reduced to giving alms.

In the same year he was involved in an activity for the persons affected with leprosy. It was related to the Adzopé village in Ivory coast, for which he had received a project from the nuns of Our Lady of the Apostles, with whom he was staying to escape from the German occupation of France.

The second world war was not yet over, when he launched his first appeals for peace to the important world leaders. He denounced the scandal of enormous resources absorbed by the accumulation of war-instruments and that with the atom bomb it would be easy to destroy all the life on the earth in a few moments. He asked with insistence that a part, even a minimum part, of the money spent on war should be used for helping the suffering humanity, those who are hungry, who do not have homes, hospitals and schools. The big leaders did not listen to his appeals and this prompted Follereau to reach out directly to the vast public, of all the different cultures and religions, and thus, he identified in the youth the necessary energy to carry on the ambitious objectives he had chosen.

Since 1950s, he concentrated on the battle against leprosy. At that time, persons affected with leprosy were the symbols of exclusion and prejudice by the society. The persons affected with leprosy lived in inhuman conditions, excluded from social life. Follereau acted in two directions. On one hand, ensuring that affected persons had access to the treatment they needed, also because the medicine that could limit the infection was already



available. On the other hand, he worked for the fight against prejudice and ignorance that surrounds the persons affected with leprosy. He did it by going to meet the affected persons, by hugging them, by holding their hands, hundreds of time to change the view that "the disease is dangerous". In this way, people started calling him, the "*Vagabond of the charity*" and "*Apostle of persons affected with leprosy*".

As a result of Follereau's appeals to give continuity and strength to this commitment, in 1954 the *World Leprosy Day* was instituted, to be celebrated on the last Sunday of January. Follereau asked that on this day in all churches, those passages should read where Jesus encounters and cures persons affected with leprosy. Right from the beginning, Follereau linked the campaign against leprosy to other issues such as hunger and poverty. He explained that these injustices had their origins in the wars, in selfishness and in the cult of money. Thus his fight against leprosy immediately became the "*fight against all the leprosy*".

Such ambitious action required involvement of institutions. Follereau wrote to the big of the earth, to United Nations, to the governments and parliaments of different countries. Thanks to the mobilization of international public opinion and the youth (with more than three million signatures) in December 1969, the United Nations instituted the *World Day of Peace*.

By this time the horizons of Raoul Follereau had extended to cover the whole world. He continued to travel tirelessly, multiplied his writings and his appeals. To support his activities, in France and in many other countries, he helped to set up the associations that carry his name. This is how, the **Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO)** started in Bologna (Italy) in 1961 (original name "*Amici dei Lebbrosi*").

Follereau prepared for the time when his witness would pass to others. In those last years of his life, he particularly turned to the youth for finding the new energies that can build the *Civilization of Love* in which he believed firmly. At the time of his passing away in Paris, on 6 December 1977, he was sure that other persons would continue his fight against *all the leprosy*.

Important Note

While reviewing the text of this book, we faced a dilemma - how to deal with the language used by Raoul Follereau? Almost sixty to eighty years ago, when Raoul Follereau wrote many of his speeches, it was common to use words like 'leper' while referring to persons affected with leprosy. Over the past couple of decades, organisations of leprosy affected persons such as IDEA have advocated for not using such words since they denigrate and offend the dignity of persons.

If Raoul Follereau was alive today, he would have surely listened to ideas and desires of persons affected with leprosy and not used words which offend other human beings. Should we then change the words used by him and substitute them with others? After much debate, in the end, we have decided to leave his words as he had written them and to add this explanation.



MESSAGE

OF

RAOUL FOLLERAU

LOVE AND CHARITY

First Poems-1920

- To hope is very little and to live is nothing: we must love.
- For love is to pray: love is a rebirth!

The Book of Love-1920

- My happiness wants only one thing: to see it extended to the whole earth.
- To live is to help others to live.
- In speaking of yourself, don't say "Me" nor in speaking of others "they", say better "We". The only way of procuring happiness for oneself is to think of the happiness of others.

God is Love - 1923

- The heart is the key of Heaven. It is the great force of the Universe, the only invincible one, the only creative one.
- Love one another, that's all. It is the secret of happiness, the only happiness worthy enjoying. Let's pity the wicked and try to convert them. Let us show them they are on the wrong way, that evil is accessory to unhappiness, that only goodness brings joy.
Did not Socrates say: virtue is identical with happiness.

Towards the Ideal-1924

- We must have in our heart an admirable strength, when we are sure of the good we are doing.
- ... Victory
Was always granted to him who never doubted.
- Our ideal will be misunderstood? No matter!
Jibes will pour down. cowardly and insulting?
Courage, my friends! The struggle is never too hard.
The dream is never too great!
For the sweetest and noblest recompense
When we are worn out fighting one against a hundred.,
Is to read in the depths of our broken heart
These words engraved in golden letters by the conscience:
" I have never despised you."

On the Road of Charity-1947

- Why would I not make of my life. every day of my life., a mere act of love?
- Any soul won over to charity is already on the way to God.

Charity Will Save The World – 1948

- Progress? It is only a huge machinery to destroy.
Human reason? It has been scoffed at, debased and degraded.
For five years, man led mankind to suicide; the common grave has been the goal of his activities; he has used his strength to kill, and again to kill, and to learn to dispense with compassion.
Henceforth, how are men united? Lofty ideals have bitterly failed, great dreams have been buried in hatred.
Only charity remains.
- To give without love is an offence.
- If to give alms, it were enough to be charitable, where would be the merit? And the joy?
- Charity is a presence. We must not only give, but give of ourselves.
- Charity is the spring of God's justice.

Atomic Bomb or Charity? - 1949

- Charity, that knows neither class, nor caste, nor race:
Charity, that breaks down frontiers;
Charity, that rejects all warfare;
Charity, stronger than death.

Appeal-1950

- Charity can conquer everything and heal everything.

If Christ, tomorrow... – 1954

- No one has the right to be happy alone.
- Knowledge, without knowing how to love, is nothing.
And sometimes worse than nothing.
- I don't believe in the social era of man, this kind of established brotherhood, with its regulations and police, but in the advent of the free and victorious reign of love.
What is needed, what will determine and settle everything, is to love one another.
- Mind: Charity, not alms. Not that scornful offering you drop disdainfully and which, while it offends the receiver, brings shame on the giver. That kind of alms is but the ghost, the parody of Charity.
- One must have done a lot to realize that he hasn't done enough.
- Happiness is the only thing that one is sure of possessing when one has given it.
- I am convinced Charity one day will get the better of violence, selfishness and money.
I am convinced one day there will be no more starvation, slums, or wars;
no more children lacking love, no more homeless old people;
when all the living will have a right to live...
And as for us, our reward will be to have believed in this Paradise before having seen it.
- Beethoven was deaf, Rembrandt became blind, Damien a leper, Pasteur paralysed!
Dunant died in the Incurable Hospital and Pauline Jaricot had to beg!
After all, what does it matter?
Charity accepts trials, Charity smiles at suffering, Charity remains stronger than death.

A Speech on Charity-September 7th, 1955

- Charity is the projection of Christ's face on the face of the poor, the suffering, the persecuted.
- Men have been living BESIDE EACH OTHER for too long. Today, they know they must live ALL TOGETHER. We must teach them to live ONE FOR ANOTHER.

Men Like Other Men-1956

- Paradise is to love one another.

Related by Elisée SERVIGNE in "The Man who embraces Lepers-1959"

- What's wrong?
First of all: Me. Because I am selfish, suspicious and ill-tempered.
If I would try to understand and help my neighbour, if I would practice real charity, without concern for creed, class or race, that kind of charity which sees in every man a human being to be respected and to be loved, something would soon change in the world.
- Neither power, nor money will prevail. But love. Love without which nothing is possible, through which nothing is impossible.

Thirty Times Round The World-1961

- From the intelligence that betrays. From the machine that enslaves. From the money that corrupts. O Lord, rescue love.
- Paradise is to be able to go to sleep every night thinking that all the others are happy.
- In order to shake off charity, It has been reduced to alms (it is annoying, you know, to be obliged to love everybody!)
To avoid charity. we "give alms".
- Giving alms without love is nothing.
And sometimes worse than nothing. If you mean by it, less to help others than to free yourself.
The misery of the world should be printed in our flesh, burn our blood, haunt our too "quiet" thoughts, disturb our too self-assured heart.
You say "I have my own poor".
No, neither you nor I have "our own poor". The poor are not ours. We belong to them. One must not say "my poor", as little girls say "my dolls".
We must not play with the poor as with the dolls.
- Love one another or perish: there is no other choice.
- Charity is, first of all, in the poor, to discover and respect man.
- Good is as contagious and more radiant than evil.
Let us organise the epidemic of Charity.
... Until giving up saving: Myself, my properties, my chattels. my fortune, men will declare in

their freed hearts: what I possess is what I have given.

A Fight That Is Different-1964

- But above all, above all, do not think that the giving of some of our surplus, be it even a small sacrifice, relieves us of our obligation to love.
- To love is not to give, but to share.
- He who is right, who will always be right, to whom tomorrow belongs, who will be the last victor is he, who is able to love most.
Civilisation is neither numbers, nor strength, nor money.
Civilisation is the patient, eager, stubborn desire that there should be on earth less injustice, less suffering, less unhappiness.
Civilisation is to love one another.

The Only Truth Is To Love-1966

- The first sign of love is justice. The fruit of justice is peace.
Charity is not the condescending pity of the well-fed man. it isn't a pleasure that one satisfies, but a compelling duty binding on us all.
Love, and everything is possible.
- Charity is not the same as pitying people. Pity is a sickly form of love in which we piously revel, it is the pretext for giving oneself a certificate of "kind-heartedness".

A Lecture Delivered At The Sorbonne-October 15th, 1967

- Why so much injustice, absurdity and cruelty?
Why has the century of the atom turned immediately into a century of the atomic bomb?
Because love has deserted the world. Because for all too many subdued or slumbering minds, it is but an empty word, a ridiculous left over from the past., a foolishness, almost an inconvenience...

The Civilisation of Traffic Lights-1969

- I believe the one who is victorious is the one who gives of himself.

What's New? God

- It would mean to turn the back on Charity to refuse someone the right, the pride and the joy to do a good deed.
- Only the miser is irreparably the poor man.
- If equality remains a myth,
then chance, at least, be not tyranny.

To love - To act

- If everyone has the strength to overcome his prejudices, if everyone has the courage of his charity, then a great hope would rise over the world. It is not about crying. The sensitive hearts would cry later when there would be nothing else to do. We have to act.

Immediately and together. Otherwise, we should resign ourselves to become aware of kind of monsters we have become.

- If you go around the world, hundred or thousand times, if nothing moves you, makes you enthusiastic, spell-bounds you, you would not learn anything, nor understand anything.

A civilization without faith is an ant-hill.

A civilization without love is a graveyard.

- This science proud and selfish is vain, that with the excuse of enlarging the world, wastes the earth's resources leaving the man in contempt, loneliness and suffering.
- The illusion is the elms of the providence.
Rancour is the bad memory of the heart.
Hate is worse than slaveries.

I will sing after my death

- Above the dogmas: the faith
Above the rites: the prayer
Above the duties: the love

GOD, CHRISTIANITY AND CHRISTIANS

Sunshine On Roses-1926

- You are not known any more, you, supreme hope
Of all beings who suffer and know to say: I love.
One dreams: "That's the end"- when death is coming.
Love no longer smiles. You, eternity indeed.
You are believed dead here: You are even reviled.
Lord, are you not answering?

The Betrayal Of Intelligence-1936

- Society, by wilfully denying the assistance of God, is unable, except by force, to control the individual.
- Dried up civilisations have transformed religions into brand books on good manners and breeding. Well-thinking people have turned into non-thinking ones. Under pretence of conciliation they have deserted, abjured.

Charity Will Save The World-1948

- I had a dream:
A man came before the judgment seat of God. He said: "Took, my God, I kept your law, I have done nothing dishonest, wicked or impious. Lord, my hands are clean".
-Yes, indeed,- God replied - but they are empty.
 - "Win" heaven?
Let's start by deserving it!

Atomic Bomb Or Charity-1949

- Christianity is the revolution of the world by Charity.

World Trip To The Lepers-1953

- Charity is not justified by the size of its victories. Nothing of it is ever futile or lost. It is the struggle of the Good that continues. And in this "commando of brotherhood" I realise suddenly that it is not the result that counts, but the deed. The kind action, even humanly useless, binds us to God.

If Christ, tomorrow... 1954

- Lord, teach us not to love ourselves any more, not to be content with loving our dear ones. with loving those whom we love.
- Lord, teach us to think only of others, to love those first, who are not loved.
- Lord, hurt us with the suffering of others.
- Lord, do not allow us any more to be happy alone.
- Lord, I would so like to help others to live.
All others, my brothers. who labour and suffer,
without knowing why.
while waiting for death to deliver them.

- To prevent the poor from dying is all right. But if it is to let them starve all their lives long, to make of their lives an endless death, I become party to this murder since I keep as surplus what they need to live.
- To share out in kindness the riches of the world is to partake in Your creation.
- Lord, I would so like to help others live...
Without the insulting alms of sterile compassion.
- God is the Good God.
Who can forgive us endlessly.
He, Who in this world,
will be our last friend...
- I don't know God, but I am known by Him: and that is what hope is.
- Sublime superiority of the heart! On earth we cannot know God. but we can love Him.
- Who can tell if what we want is not worse than what we have?
Then let us make that only prayer:
"Lord. never cease from loving us."
- Happy is he who lives in God; blessed is he who dies in search of Him.
- Holiness is the grace of doing the most humble things under the sign of eternity.
- I like the saints who are not angels.
For two thousand years: the Christian era. But when shall we begin to be Christians?

A Speech On Charity-September 7th, 1955

- Whatever the injustice striking us, the ordeal imposed on us, never shall we come near the Passion of the Great Innocent. Never shall we be denied as much as He-crucified as He.
But since the First Easter, we know that death has no more sting...

Thirty Times Round The World-1961

- If you don't look up any more to the sky to pray, you will scrutinize it but to descry the deadly engines your hatred will have contrived.
- Lord, what have we made of you?
An accountant, a cashier,
giving us back the change for the good actions we have sold.
A magician,
who seeks vengeance and calls down curses.
A grocer,
who hands out little slices of Paradise to hypocrites.
You, whose power bursts forth in its totality in the most humble spark of love!
- To content oneself with denouncing, nay destroying images of the Creator that seem odd to us, instead of giving them the breath of Charity which would animate them; to be satisfied with throwing down idols which, though shocking, are crude testimony of genuine faith; to delight in blaming ways of believing and living because they are not ours; how did these spiritual Saint Bartholomews further the Kingdom of God?
- Human being is my name, and I call myself a Christian.
- There is not enough Christianity in the hearts.

Or there is a Christianity that has missed its revolutionary power on the way.
A mock Christianity.

- This is the truth: To love, To love one another, to love all, not at appointed hours, but all life-long. Love poor people, love fortunate people (who are sometimes also poor devils), love one's neighbour, love the stranger-, love the fellow-creature at the other end of the world, love, love...

Otherwise, genuflections, bells, Lent are worthless: if you don't love, you are no Christian.

Péguy said: "He is no Christian who does not offer his hand."

- I know, some will say: "Christianity has gone bankrupt. It was a fine ideal, but it has not changed anything really deep in the hearts of men. It is over now. Men in these days make other dreams, and the star over the manger shines no longer for them."
Then I'll answer with these true and bitter words of Chesterton:
"Men are not tired of Christianity. they have never had enough of it to be tired. "

The Only Truth Is To Love-1966

- Lord, at the end of my life I bring to you what I have given.

The Civilization of Traffic Lights-1969

- May in His endless kindness
The Good Lord.
In Whom I obstinately believe,
Who died on the cross
Even for those who deny him,
May He grant
That through His mercy,
Hope remains with us...
- I see God in all creation.

What's New? God

- For what is a road that leads nowhere?
So is the life without God.
- Talk to nature: God will answer you.
- Man carries God in him, just as the shining glass
has the light in it.
Man can blow it out.
But it remains.
- If we could perceive time other than under the aspect of unity, then we would be close to approach God.
- If we could perceive presently how at the same moment everything in the universe grows, blossoms, flows, moves or dies, then, then alone could we realize the power and beauty of God.
- Violence at the order of command: that's despotism.

Violence intoxicated by liberty: that's disorder, then riot.

What then?

Christianity then. A Christianity devoid of confounding forms, rites and prohibitions.

A Christianity congenial with that revolution of which it originated but had been lost on its way.

A Christianity. when facing liberty, that blind and deaf harlot, which defends freedom, the pride of man.

- Once, when man was living in filial union., on intimate terms with God, all wonders and miracles were received with open arms.

If they seem to us today impossible, if we are shocked and don't understand, it is because we have lost the ability to see.

- To see in every human being
a man,
and in every man
a brother;
this is the law.
- Priests, if you don't carry hope.
who are you?
- They would make Christ run away, those
right-thinking people., covered with pretence of their virtues, going about to pick out some naive indulgences and thus cheaply paying their insurance policy against the fires of hell.
- If you don't worry about your brother,
go and join Cain.

I will sing after my death (Posthumous)

- Who can say if God's aspect will not take, in the new intelligences, faces such that today seem in our rotting civilizations, as sacrilegious and malediction?
- If you do not believe in anything,
Who will believe in you?
To reflect means
To give an opportunity to God to speak to us.

MISERY, SOCIAL INJUSTICE, THE POOR AND THE RICH

Charity Will Save The World-1948

- A heart that is not aroused by misery is indeed poor.
- The rich give poorly, because they are ashamed of the poor.
Or else they are afraid of them...
- If there is anything worse than poverty for the poor man, it is loneliness.
His misery creates a void around him so that he feels abandoned just when life alone has become too much for him.
Of course there is "public assistance", the assistance he receives through filling out forms in front of unconcerned clerks. But important though this help is, it can only delay the collapse.
What the poor man needs even more than alms is comfort, understanding, friendship. Moreover, there are needs which money doesn't cure, which can't be alleviated by joining the queue at the pay-desk...
- To help is to understand: therefore, to listen.
- To suffer unjustly means to hold God liable...

If Christ, tomorrow... 1954

- Four hundred million children are hungry in the world.
Why not yours?
Why is yours fed, sheltered, protected? Why yours. and not the others?
Madame, have you ever thought of it?
- Hunger in the world? I can't do anything about... That's a typical example of the bad excuse. And a blatant admission of our cowardice.
You can't do anything about? How do you know? What have you tried to do?
Nothing. of course.
You think of yourself and then of yourself and after that, of yourself.
Is that your world? Very well.
But then, don't call yourself a Christian, or even quite candidly, a civilized man.
- How could he be happy?
He loves only himself.

Thirty Times Round The World-1961

- Life is his own life. He knows not, sees not, understands not. In his happiness, he is the unhappiest and most lonely of all men.
- When you have everything you don't make plans; you have only whims.
- They think only of themselves: you don't expect them to be happy on top of it!

- Before sending people to walk on the moon, perhaps it would be advisable to prevent them from dying of misery or starvation on the earth. Because we are not capable to love them, the hungry, the homeless, the forlorn have to be legally protected.
- Because we are only capable "to give alms", our obligations toward our brothers have to be codified.
Our indifference and selfishness sanctioned.
Because we don't love enough we are forced to "give help".

Message To Heads Of State Throughout The -World- 1962

- While the Power Men are defying one another or playing bowls in the stratosphere, the world rushes with the speed of an avalanche toward the greatest disaster of history.
The undernourished in 1938 made up 35 % of the world's population. They account for two thirds of the population today. In ten years they will represent three-quarters of it.
If our human conscience is not stirred by a great wave of love in this century, man's starvation will hasten the end of the world.

A Fight That Is Different-1964

- May God give us all nightmares, If these nightmares will draw us to our brothers.
May he give us the grace to be anguished by the world's misery.
So that we, such terribly happy people, may forgive ourselves our happiness, by learning to love.

The Only Truth Is To Love-1966

- Two thirds of mankind don't eat to their fill. WHY DON'T THEY, WHILE YOU DO?
There are 800 million persons in the world that have never seen a doctor.
Over a billion persons cannot read.
WHY DON'T THEY, WHILE YOU DO?
- It's a base act to rid yourself on to the destitute and their children of belongings you'd otherwise have thrown away. There's nothing for self-congratulation in that.
You intended to be charitable, didn't you? Indeed you meant thus to get rid of the poor.
Is that Charity?
It's the charity of the bone thrown to the dog!
- It's not a matter of giving the poor from our excess, but of making room for them in our lives. We must have the courage to recognize that we can't solve social problems with Christmas trees or hunger with collections.
The poor, the sick, and the downtrodden feel a need, however dimly, to find themselves; to know that they are men like other men, that they have a right to live and a duty to hope. We must procure for them the means of providing for themselves and their families by their own efforts, not to be satisfied by giving them the small change from our purses; we must share their suffering, their anger, their hopes and their joys and let them share ours: for this is to love them.

The Civilisation Of Traffic Lights-1969

- You went to the moon? Yet, you are unable to suppress poverty, illness, starvation, social injustice.
Because you have a clock instead of a heart.
- When for 800 million people the yearly income is smaller than the monthly wage of any common labourer, and I say: I can't do anything about, I AM CAIN.
- When you are told that, if all the hungry, all the poor, and destitute could defile round the world, their procession would be twenty times the circumference of the earth, and you are not appalled,
YOU ARE CAIN.
- When I know-an information from the World Health Organization - that 550 million people could be cured of malaria with 165 million francs - which are impossible to find though they mean only the 132th part of the French Military Expenditure, the 3,000 part of the U.S.A. one, and I won't appeal to universal conscience,
I AM CAIN.

What's New? God

- Assemblies, Congress, Board of Commissions, Committees, you are playing with the woe of the world as you would play with dolls.
Meanwhile the revolution is going on without you.
- A society which leaves its old folks to destitution and loneliness, a society which returns the labours of an honest and true life in wretchedness. that society condemns and dishonours itself.
- The history of heroes ends all too often-alas-in a shopkeeper's place.
First: exploit, then: exploitation.
- It's always the little people who pay.
- Big business men., finance kings, magnates of all sorts, I am almost about to consider them poor characters. Through their power, and fortunes, through their pride they have separated themselves from mankind.
- How, and through what sacrifices., happy man, are you linked to universal suffering, how do you participate in the suffering of the world?
- As for those who live at the margin of your society of egoists and double dealers, those. all those who are not producing anything, the poor and the weak, those, born at the gates of death, who are the most beloved of God, kill them or help them to live.

MAN, HAPPINESS AND CIVILIZATION

The Book of Love-1920

- To be happy means to make others happy.

Redemption-1929

- No hopes are too great:
March forward still, don't stop.
The pride of aiming high is the supreme virtue,
and your only refuge is love.
- Happiness is wherever men can see it;
only evil is blind and deaf.
Be always able to live above life...

Poor Punch-1930

- One is never alone when one has a dream to pursue.

Shall We Pluck Out The Strings From The Lyre? (Lecture delivered at the Sorbonne, on March 6th, 1930)

- Happiness is to live, in one's soul, so high that human baseness cannot reach one.

Smiling France (Lecture delivered at the Sorbonne, on October 2nd, 1930)

- You will no longer hear the voices of your conscience? Take heed they don't become dumb in your children's souls.
- An idea that is not at once energy is but an idle dream.
- You must sometimes be courageous enough to look unjust.

Intellectuals, Stand Aloof - (A Comedy-1932)

- You will need to find the time to die. Why then deny yourself the time to live?

Charity Will Save The world-1948

- The fortune I leave you is the good I have done.

If Christ, Tomorrow...-1954

- Man is as free in his life as a fish in the river:
between the source and the sea.
- It's a wise man who can make a decision without

- bias.
- Penicillin knows of no creed like the hunger has no native-land.
 - We can't speak of civilization, and still less of Christian civilization, as long as each of us accepts to live while others die, for our surplus is what they would need to live. We can't speak of civilization, nor of humanity, as long as we allow that some people get rich-shamefully-on the hunger and death of others.
 - We must choose: learn how to die or not to live at all.
 - Those who most fear death are those who have never lived.
 - If you could go down into the depths of your heart, you would feel sorry for yourself..
 - The reward is to have someone waiting for you.

Men Like Other Men-1956

- Horrible "civilization" which measures nations by the gold they possess., by the bombs they produce and the number of children they can kill.

The Man Who Embraces Lepers - By Elisée Servigne-1959

- Whenever, with an earnest voice, I say:
"It's all going to the bad", all is going from bad to worse, because of me. And I do something at the same time stupid and bad.
- He who has done a good deed never realizes all the good he has done.

Thirty Times Round The World-1961

- First of all, we have to give up our cheap happiness, not to be satisfied any longer with our narrow-minded, standard-price conduct (don't do this, don't say that)...
What we must do is to share the wretchedness of others, share their unjust misfortune. And oblige the Big Ones, the rich, the mighty, to listen to those who are hungry, to have compassion, and even be ashamed.
We must refuse to go on with our self-righteous little rest. We must stop those responsible from sleeping.

A Fight That Is Different-1964

- A man is only really a man when he is free. And he is only free when he works.

The Only Truth Is To Love-1966

- For those who carry a message, courage sometime has to be daily heroism.

What's New? God

- What is science for if not to help mankind?
- Fie on that cruel science which, pretending to explain man, strips him of his hope.
- Fie on that science, conceited and selfish, which, pretending to magnifying the world, wastes the goods of the earth and leaves man, despised, in loneliness and suffering.
- Subduing the instincts of man: yes.
Taming them: no.
- To content oneself in saying the truth, does it mean to be always in the right?
- The important thing is not what one is but what one gives.
- If I would not be like others, how could I help them?
- Through your naive ambitions to offer everybody a standard price happiness and to fix for everybody a standard lot, man may be lost in the crowd, and the human being destroyed by society.

Prayer for the year 2000 (1973)

Year 2000. Time of fear
or the spring of love?

Atom:
triumph of man
or the force of humanity?
Lord help us.

Holders now
of a particle of your power
here we are in front of You,
weak, fragile,
more poor than ever,
ashamed
of our patched consciences
and our hearts in tatters
Lord have pity on us!

We have built the churches,
but our history is a never-ending war;
we have built the hospitals,
but for our brothers, we have accepted the hunger.



Forgive, Lord; for the crushed nature,
for the killed forests,
for the polluted rivers ..

Forgive us for the atom bomb,
for the production chain work,
the machines that devour the man
and the curses against love.
We know that you love us
and to this love we owe our lives.

Wrest us off from asphyxia
of hearts
and bodies.

That our days are no longer stained
by envy
and by thanklessness,
by the terrible slaveries
of power.
Gift us happiness of loving our duties.

The world lacks millions of doctors:
inspire your children to cure:

The world lacks millions of teachers:
inspire your children to teach;

Hunger torments three-fourth of the earth:
inspire your children to sow the seeds;

In hundred years, men have made
More than a hundred wars;
teach your children to love each other.
Because Lord, there is no love
without Your love.
Make so that every day
and for all the life,
in joy,
in pain,
we remain brothers,
brothers without borders.

Then our hospitals will also be your cathedrals
And our laboratories,
Testimonials of your greatness.

In the hearts of those were once proscribed
Your tabernacles will shine again;



then,
no other tyrannies will be accepted
except that of your goodness,
will bloom again,
in peace and in justice,
our civilization battered by the violence and by money.

As the dawn becomes aurora
and then the day,
may Your love make
the children of the year two thousand,
be born in hope,
grow up in peace,
and one day die in your light.

To find you once again, You, who are the life.

MONEY

Charity Will Save The World-1948

- The disease of these days is money. Even less because of the power it exerts than on account of the devotion shown to it. The banknote, even if we have no illusion about its actual value, has become the very fetish of happiness. We don't know any longer other ways to be happy than to try to get rich.

Atomic Bomb Or Charity?-1949

- Money has rotten everything, even the pure concept of Charity.
Charity does not mean "money". It's an act of love, It's a gift of one self, elevating, and rewards your efforts or sacrifice with joy.

If Christ, Tomorrow...-1954

- Lord, defend us against money; Let not our hearts fret With the base desire Of being rich or powerful.

A Speech On Charity-September 7th, 1955

- A civilization of disgust and despair has been created by suppressing God in the human plan.
And man has taken a new master, the most tyrannical, sordid and sad there is: money.

Thirty Times Round The World-1961

- Money has become the vice of this century. The modern appearance of the Devil., and of his curse. It was the means of creating happiness. It is now but an anonymous power intending to supersede it. By making money an aim, man has made himself its slave. In this world so fond of equalitarianism", never was there such an absolute tyrant.
- I do not ask you to pay a ransom, but to commit yourself.
Stop believing that money will do for everything and that the giving of a little of your surplus exempts you to love.

NATION AND HUMANITY

The Betrayal Of Intelligence-1936

- Love of one's country doesn't involve hatred of neighbouring countries any more than love of one's mother involves hatred of other mothers.
Love of one's family doesn't entail robbing, looting, killing one's neighbour. On the contrary, love of one's family not only implies but compels respect for other homes. Who respects a man who has rejected his parents? So it is with regards to one's native land. The true patriot loves the idea of fatherland in each man, and respects everyone's fatherland.
- What matters is to give the world a certain number of principles of order, clarity and justice which can be common; a moral and social language understood by all. Without sacrificing proper aspirations, justified national traditions and sound pride, considering however, social necessities common to all human groups, men must recognize each other and unit.

Charity Will Save The World-1948

- Have you ever seen a frontier?
It's a wooden fence or barrier with a policeman on either side.
You come on it suddenly, lying in wait for you at the turn of the road.
On the other side the trees and the sky are exactly the same.
But not one's fate.
Sometimes the frontier impudently bars your way in the middle of a village. People talk to each other and shake hands across it.
... Until the day comes when the men who govern them (why these rather than others?) dress them up, in blue on one side, in red on the other, and tell them to kill each other.
And they do kill each other. Because they are separated by a wooden fence with policemen on either side.
Here there is food; there-there isn't. Why?

A Lecture Delivered At The Sorbonne on October 15th, 1967

- A country is not a great nation because it is strong;
a country is not a great nation because it is rich;
a country is a great nation only when it is capable of great love

Charity will save the world, 1948

- Add to the school programmes, along with national histories, a history of humanity, of its long and painful, but beneficial conquests (women's liberation, abolition of slavery, decrease in infant mortality, norms for a humane dimension of work).
So that a child can understand that he is part, without any doubts, of the family in which he grew up, of the city where he lives, of the country that he loves, but that he is also part of a human community towards which he has duties.
Develop exchanges between the youth, especially through holiday camps in other countries. In such a way so that the young person quickly understands and experiences, that the world does not stop at the border of his country, but that on "the other side", there are people who live, suffer, fall in love, are honest and can also be happy.

LEPROSY

Thirty Times Round The World-1961

- Lepers? In the XXth century of the Christian era, I have found lepers in jail, in lunatic asylums, shut up in a churchyard out of use, or pent up in the desert surrounded with barbed wire, observation posts and machine-guns. Lepers? I have seen lepers naked, screaming, starving, despairing. I have seen their wounds swarming with flies, their squalid hovels, the medicine chests empty and the wardens with their guns. I have seen an unimaginable world of horror, woe and despair.

Shall it last? Shall we let fifteen million human beings die and rot, while we know that they can be cured, saved, and healed?

- What does it matter to lepers if you give them something, but don't shake hands with them!

Lord, these are the real lepers: the selfish, the impious, that live in foul water. The snug, the fearful that do nothing with their Eves. Lord, these are the real lepers: those that crucified You.

The Only Truth Is To Love-1966

- Oh, people who have three meals every day are in no hurry...

There are 15 million lepers in the world; two or three million are treated. The other 12 million are waiting... waiting, until we vouchsafe to think of curing them.

But leprosy does not wait. Every day hands are mutilated for ever, feet putrefy, eyes close.

Does that stop anyone from sleeping?

- Perhaps the great lesson of "The Fight against Leprosy" will not be so much ill people cured. lives saved, men delivered, than this truth I have often repeated: without love nothing is possible: with love nothing is impossible.

And this testimony: one man, even alone at first, if every day he digs in the same direction, without allowing himself to be dissipated or diverted, if every day he carries on his effort, every day, without omitting one, with his eyes fixed on this one star, if he digs every day, even if the ground is rock or clay, he opens a track at last...

This is what I wish to be remembered for...

An Appeal On The XVth World Leprosy Day-1968

- If you accept, without anger or remorse. that, out of 15 million men suffering from leprosy, a hardly contagious, perfectly curable disease, 12 million should still remain without treatment., assistance and love, YOU are the real leper.

ATOMIC BOMB OR CHARITY

First Appeal-1949

- Today we must choose
immediately, irrevocably.
Either men are going to learn
to love each other,
to understand each other,
either man at long last
is going to live for man,
or else men will disappear,
all of them,
and all together...

- if man wants, it's in his hands
a boundless source
of energy and heat:
Then no one will be cold.

Soon nobody at all will be hungry.

But also if man wants it so,
it's the break-up of the earth,
the end of the human race.

From the Tree of Knowledge
of good and evil,
which fruit is man to pluck?

- A crusade then?
Why not?

Do you think you will save
the world by politicians' speeches
or Parliamentary votes?
For it's a question of saving the world!
From itself,
and from its atomic bomb.

A world which no longer dares to believe in anything,
because it has been taught to deny everything,
a world which no longer expects anything,
because it has been promised everything.

Saving the world.
Teaching it once again
to look at life as a
joyful and vigilant brotherhood.

- The charity against the atom bomb:
Here is the war that begins.

And is an extreme fight.

- Atom bomb or charity? ...
A chain of love or a chain of death?
We need to choose,
Immediately.
- If all, every one of us,
All together and immediately,
Do our best,
I mean, more than possible,
Many human beings can be saved.

So, let yourself be pulled by our example,
others will do as we do,
better than us,
and more others will imitate them.

Others will do like them,
better than them.
Then an immense chain of love
will bind itself around the world.
A chain of love or a chain of death?
We need to choose,
immediately.

And for ever.

I shall sing after my death (Posthumous)

- The money of the poor, for the poor, must be received with respect: I dare say, with fear.
Fear of not being worthy of the sacrifices that it represents.
In this case, wastage will be like stealing it.

Letter to Our Lords Of- War And Peace-1955

- "... Will you really never find, to tend, to feed, to lift up the poor, the thousandth part of what you sacrificed for years to kill, to hate, to destroy? It's mankind that asks you this question, every man of every nation. Whether you answer or not, he will rejoice at your answer, or notice your indifference; anyway you will not escape his judgment."

The Only Truth Is To Love-1966

- With the cost of one aerial torpedo slum children could be offered 16,000 holidays; one tank is worth the cost of 84 tractors; with the cost of an up-to-date bomber, 30 schools of each 20 classrooms could be built; with the cost of one aircraft carrier, 400,000 men could be fed for one year... If soon, very soon, the course of events is not reversed, we will reach a disaster. Weapons of death must be converted into works of life.

Lecture Delivered At The Sorbonne on October 15th, 1967

- To the responsible ones of our fate, let us repeat without ceasing nor tiring: Less tanks, but more ploughs - *for everybody*.
Less bombers, but more hospitals - *for everybody*.
Less bombs, but more bread - *for everybody*.
Disarm in order to love. Share in order to be loved.

MESSAGES TO THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD

Sunshine On Roses-1926

In the smallest hearts, make a bright summer; Be ready to die for brotherhood's sake, Fling up your dream at the world's face, Because to love is to fight!

Message To The Youth Of The World-1961

- When you feel like eating, don't say: 'I am hungry!' But think of the 400 million young people who won't eat at all today. For half the youth of the world is starving.

If you have a cold, don't say: "How sick I am!" But think of all those who are suffering, of the 800 million people who have never seen a doctor.

- It's not a matter of vaguely wiping a tear: it is done too soon.

Nor even of feeling pity for a moment: that's too easy.

It's a matter of being aware, and no longer accepting.

Don't let *Self* be the centre of your universe - or the members of *Self's* family - while waiting for *Self's* little place in paradise.

Refuse to take a self-righteous little rest while others are crying out in despair all around you.

No longer accepting that sort of existence which is a constant resignation of man...

No longer accepting that negative Christianity that the narrow-minded have stifled in a labyrinth of formulas and taboos.

No longer accepting to be happy alone.

Never give up when confronted with poverty, injustice and cowardice. Don't compromise, or draw back. Strive, fight.

Message To The Youth Of The World-1962

Be intransigent about the duty of love. Don't yield or compromise or draw back. Laugh in the face of those who advise caution and waiting for the right moment, "maintaining an even keel", those shabby champions of the "golden mean".

And then, above all, believe in the goodness of the world. In every man's heart there are great reserves of love: it's up to you to make him draw on them.

The worst thing that can happen to you is to be of no use to anyone, for your life to be purposeless.

Be proud and exacting. Knowing that it is your duty to try to secure happiness for all mankind, for your brothers, you will not let yourselves be bogged down in the shifting sands of procrastinators and impotents. Look them straight in the face. Denounce loudly. Don't let people trick you. Be yourselves and you will win.

Message To The Youth Of The World-1965

What do you prefer? The most recent prototype bomber with all its equipment, or 75 hospitals with 1,000 beds each? (In some poor countries medical facilities are only a fiftieth part of what is available in advanced countries.)

What do you prefer? The most recent prototype bomber with all its equipment, or 30 colleges each accommodating a thousand students? or 250,000 teachers for underdeveloped countries, where one out of two children under fifteen can neither read nor write?

What do you prefer? The most recent prototype bomber with all its equipment, or 50,000 tractors, or 15,000 harvesters? What do you prefer, youth of the world?

For a new birth of love in the world, we must fight, fight every day.

Fight unceasingly and not bother about the rest. I mean to say: the chicken-hearted, the calculating, the cowards.

Do what we can is not enough. We must do more.

We must do much more. Much more than we can. Try to do enough.

We must do more, every day, on all days. Love sowed, sooner or later, shall bloom.

Lecture Delivered At The Sorbonne on October 15th, 1967.

In this world which totters on between shocking waste and desperate hunger, between empty stomachs and full ones, you will demonstrate the primacy of love without which all science is empty and profane.

Message To The Youth Of The World-1968

Trying and abolishing old social structures, even if outdated, as a child breaks his toys because they have lasted too long, does not evince a ripe mind or show one is already grown up.

Don't be the prey of intellectual blackguards: They will take you to barren paths leading to nothingness.

Beware of systems and shun parties. Be not impressed by one sided sophists and crazy deniers. They will leave you empty, with betrayed intelligence and your heart in ashes.

Your youth should be creation, elevation, service and joy.

You will not reform the world unless you enrich the heart.

To do that, you will have to muzzle the machine threatening to devour man, control speed whose prisoner he has become, reconquer the time to love.

"Give me a fulcrum", Archimedes said, "and I shall lift the world".

Your fulcrum is love.

Not maudlin love, content with whining about other people's misery, but fighting love rebelling against social injustice and the enslavement of the poor, passively accepted by those good souls that put on dinner-jackets to rebuild the world, and mention great famines as they nibble petits-fours...

Yes revolt! Revolt, when you are informed that an atomic aircraft carrier is worth 3 million tons of corn; that with the cost of a rocket, 100,000 tons of sugar could be distributed to the destitute; that one more submarine means 50,000 tons of meat less for the hungry.

A revolution? Yes, for the benefit of those who this evening will lie down, often on the ground, hungry, those two billions of men, among whom 60% are under twenty years.

It is time to put an end for ever to this inhuman history of mankind.

The wealth of the world belongs to all.

This is the truth you must conquer and impose.

You are looking for a purpose in your life? Three million doctors are wanted in the world: become doctors. More than one billion people are illiterate: become teachers. Two men out of three are underfed: become sowers, and out of waste lands grow crops, that will satiate them. Your brothers need you: in any field become very simply, very nobly, "workers". For any work is noble when clinging to a star. Become somebody to do something.

Refuse to live a useless life. But refuse as well adventures in which price prevails over service. Renounce, but only to exalt. Contest, but only to build. Let your very revolt and anger be love.

Each of you be a fragment, a spark of this love. Make it contagious, radio-active. Organize an epidemic of good. Let it contaminate the world! Those are strong who believe and want to build. Build the happiness of others. The future will wear your face. The world is getting more and more inhuman: be men among men!

Message To The Youth Of The World-1970

In 30 years from now: the year 2000.
What does it mean, the year 2000?

We know very well, that man exists since hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of years. Then, the year 2000 of what?

Of a Word which seems to have been born with the world, and without which the world is lost and rotten.



Of a Word embodied by a Poor, simple and lonely. On the last day: forsaken.

Who died because he wanted all men to live.

Gandhi said: "To teach the people the Sermon on the Mount and have them put it into practice, that is our task."

And you? What are you saying?

Love, which is not a sweet, sugary word and flowery speech. But which means work and tears. Sometimes blood.

Beware of joining the shabby gangs, those who go about blatantly "Let's love each other". And thus pretexting to exalt the most ignoble resignations.

Reject those hideous freedoms which will bind you.

It's a question to build and to sow.

Beware of words which are as sounding as they are empty. It is not enough to write them in capital letters so they may reflect the face of God. You will not heal the world with exclamation marks.

Newton already admitted: "We have built too many walls and not enough bridges."

What would he say today of so many prisons behind these walls?

Build bridges among people. Build bridges for the future.

Cheerfully step over the foul materialism, the stagnant waters of inertia, selfishness and its nauseating mud.

Be the dawn of the year 2000.

Message To The Youth Of The World-1971

Life for what?

To serve. If something is lacking in your life, that is because you have not looked high enough.

What we know for sure on this earth is that others have need of us.

In facing this civilization of ashes, incapable to free itself of its own garbage, keep the gracious gift of awe and wonder.

The God-denying intelligence deceives you. Unable to give meaning to your life, it betrays you, hems you, mutilates and destroys you. Machinery deceives you.

Claiming to be at your service: it exploits and enslaves you.
Money deceives you. Pretending that it will do and free you: it chains and humiliates you.

Turn your back on these gloomy enchanters. Give the world again the knowledge of God and the joy to love.

Message to the youth of the world - 1972

- The World Health Organization has recently revealed that in the so called "civilized countries", every year almost three million persons attempt to commit suicide, every year.
Is it the hunger? The cold? The misery?
No, it is saturation and nausea. And, as they have forgotten God, there is the black hole that they call the future.
Because it is not the poor who wish to die. Poor already have so many problems, trying to survive.
But they are those to whom nothing is refused, but who lack everything.
Full of things, rich, stuffed, no hunger, they have had everything, if they stop to pulsate, it is because they never had to fight.
- Do not waste your time in judging: build. Build a city of human dimensions, that serves people without suffocating them.
Build a Christian life, free, without superstitions, falsifications, cowardice. A life loyal towards the God.
"What we need, one day Pope Pius XII had said to me once, is to teach humans to love themselves once again."

I shall sing after my death (Posthumous)

- The man is someone.
Each of us is a unique being who has his place,
his place in eternity, the God's plan.
For me, the man is someone to love ..

(Written in the clinic, before his death).

APPENDIX

I Nominate My Universal Heir

Youth of the whole world, the war or the peace, the choice is in front of you.

Twenty five years ago I had written: "Either human beings will learn to love each other, or the humans, finally will live for humans or all the human beings will disappear, all together.

Our world has only this and no other alternative: to love each other or to disappear. We need to choose. Immediately. And for ever."

Yesterday was the warning.
Tomorrow, the hell.

The greats - these giants who are no longer human beings - possess, in their shameful collections of death, 20,000 hydrogen bombs, just one of which will be enough to turn a metro-city into an immense graveyard. And they are going to continue their monstrous production of three more bombs every day.

The apocalypse is at the corner of the street.

Girls and boys of the whole world, you will have to say your "no" to the suicide of humanity.

"Lord, I wish so much to help others to live." This was my prayer when I was an adolescent. I believe that during all life, I have remained faithful to it ...

And, here I am at the sunset of an existence that I have spent as best as I could, but that remains incomplete.

The treasure that I leave you is the good that I did not do, that I would have liked to do and that you will do after me.

May at least this testimonial help you to love.

This is the last ambition of my life and the object of this "will".

I nominate the youth of the world as my universal heir .

All the youth of the whole world: those of right, of left, of centre, of extremes: what difference does it make.

All the youth: those that have received the gift of faith, those who pretend to believe, and those who think that they do not believe.

There is just one sky for everyone.



As my life comes closer to its end, the more I feel obliged to repeat it: only through love we shall save the humanity.

And I repeat: the worst disgrace that can happen to you is that of not being useful for any one, that your life does not serve anything.

To love each other or to disappear.

But it is not enough to shout "the peace, the peace, the peace" to stop the peace from leaving this earth.

You need to act. A force of love and shots of love.

The pacifists of the truncheon are the false fighters. Trying to conquer they run away. Christ had refused the violence by accepting the cross.

Stay away from the predators of intelligence, as the smoke sellers: they will take you to flowerless roads without any exits.

Be suspicious of these "divine techniques" that St. Paul had denounced. Learn to distinguish between what is useful from what makes you slaves.

Renounce those words that are as empty as they are grand-sounding.

You will not heal the world by exclamation marks.

What is needed is to free it from certain kind of "progress" and its sicknesses, from money and its curse.

Move away from those who summarize, explain and appreciate everything in terms of bank notes. Even if intelligent, they are the most stupid of all.

You do not make a launching pad from a safe box. You need to dominate money without which, humanely nothing is possible, but that makes everything rot.

It is a corruptor, make it your servant.

Be rich of the happiness of the others.

Remain true to yourself. Do not become others. To be someone else means not be anyone. Run away from the sweet and vile anonymity.

Everyone has his own destiny. Follow your own, with your eyes wide open, demanding and loyal. Nothing can diminish your human dimension. If something is missing from your life, it is because you did not try to reach high enough. Everyone is same? No.

But everyone is equal.



And all together.

Then you will be human, free humans.
But be careful.

Freedom is not a waitress, who will do everything and whom you can exploit without worrying about nothing. It is not an amazing screen behind which you blow your fetid ambitions.

Freedom is a common heritage of all the humanity. Those who cannot claim it from others, do not merit to possess it.

Do not make a storeroom out of your heart; you will soon turn into a garbage box.

Work. One of the curses of our times is to think of work as a curse. Instead it is a redemption.

Become worthy of loving your duties.

And then believe in the goodness, in the modest and sublime goodness.

In the heart of each person, there are treasures of love. You have to discover them.

The only truth is to love each other.

Love one and the other, love all. Not for some fixed time but for all the life. Loving the poor, loving the rich (who are often equally poor), loving those who do not know, loving your neighbour on the other side of the world, loving the outsiders who lives close to you. Loving. You will make the world more peaceful and enrich its heart.

Testimonials too often chained to the worsening of this century (that was in parts so beautiful), afraid of this gigantic race to the death of those who seize our destinies, asphyxiated by a "progress", dazzling, consuming but paralysing, with the hearts broken into pieces by the cry of: "I am hungry!" that rises incessantly from two thirds of the world, remains only the supreme and sublime cure: to be really brothers.

So ... tomorrow?
You are the tomorrow.

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AIFO - Italy

AIFO mission is *"To promote self-development and empowerment through health and social programmes focusing on persons who are marginalized and whose human rights are violated, especially persons affected with leprosy and persons with disabilities."*

The **Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO)** was founded in 1961 by a group of Italian volunteers inspired by the French Journalist Raoul Follereau, who spent his life fighting against leprosy and all the forms of injustice. AIFO is an Italian Non-Governmental Organisation active in international health cooperation, working in 20 Countries all over the world. AIFO is also involved in Italy in activities of development education.

AIFO has three National Coordination Offices, in Brazil, India and Mongolia. AIFO is in official relationship with the World Health Organisation & has a joint action plan with the Disability and Rehabilitation Team (WHO/DAR).

AIFO is recognized by Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by the European Commission. AIFO is a founder member of ILEP (the International Federation of Associations against leprosy), IDDC (the International Disability & Development Consortium) & RIDS (Italian Network Disability & Development).

AIFO'S PRIORITY AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Primary health care and leprosy control: Fight against leprosy continues to remain a priority for AIFO. The last decade has shown impressive gains in reduction of number of cases registered for treatment, however every year there are 230,000 new cases of leprosy. AIFO supports integration of leprosy control into primary health care, supported by advocacy for human rights, and strengthening of organisations of persons affected with leprosy.

Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities: AIFO has expertise in the field of disability, playing a leading role in many international initiatives related to community based rehabilitation (CBR). In recent years, significant collaborations with WHO included the preparation of CBR Guidelines and World Report on Disability. AIFO also participated in preparation of Guidelines for mainstreaming disability in the Italian Cooperation and has organised many international workshops including on themes such as UN Convention on rights of persons with disabilities, leprosy and mental illness.

Vulnerable children: Over the last few years, AIFO has also been supporting small projects promoting development and community - based approaches in favour of vulnerable groups of children.

Humanitarian aid: AIFO has a Framework Partnership Agreement with the Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection department of the European Commission (ECHO). AIFO supports emergency and emergency preparedness programmes focusing on marginalized groups of persons.

AIFO in Italy: AIFO is a network organisation present all over Italy through more than a thousand AIFO members. AIFO's activities in Italy include training courses, awareness



campaigns such as the celebration of the World Leprosy Day and the World Day for Persons with Disabilities.