

# THE LITTLE ECOLOGIST

*Children acting and giving examples for the preservation of nature and the environment.*

João José da Costa

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Children's story that integrates with the natural fantasy and creativity of children and young people, entertaining, educating and adding to the development of character, moral values, citizenship, ecological awareness, family values, culture, knowledge, spirituality, respect for educators, encouragement to study, order and discipline. This book is for children and young people who enjoy intelligent, sensitive, cultural, educational readings and themes of social reality. It is a book with largest literary content, a better reading exercise.

*Synopsis:*

*The book tells an educational story of a child and his friends who are aware of the need to play an active role in preserving nature and the environment, giving simple examples of how this mission can be accomplished. They mobilized in a joint effort to improve the environmental conditions of their own neighborhoods. The book addresses the main current themes about environmental and ecological issues embedded in a story that stimulates reading. It conveys precious knowledge of ecology and preservation of the environment.*

## Dedication

I dedicate this work to all those who reserve part of their lives to educate children in some way, as a mission and a belief that in them is the hope of a better world.

In special to parents, teachers and grandparents, the basic triangle of early childhood education.

I thank God for the child that He still allows to exist in me.

João José da Costa

It was normal at Paul's house for the family to meet at night in the small living room, where everyone would get busy with some activity.

His mother Mary rested watching her favorite soap operas, his father Raphael read the newspaper of the day, his grandfather Joseph took naps most of the time.

Paul, oblivious to this scene, played on the living room carpet, with his trolleys, train and, especially, with his miniatures of farm animals.

In fact, Paul did not know what a farm or a natural forest was, but he was strongly drawn to everything that reminded him of nature.

In the humble neighborhood where he lived, there were no more trees, woods, clean water streams, fresh air and no wild animals. Everything had been replaced by dry land, dust, sewage that flows in the open ground, air pollution. The green was limited to some points of abandoned bush or some trees planted in the backyards of houses or sidewalks.

Garbage decorated this whole scene with colorful objects that remained there forever - cans and bottles of soda, plastic bags, packaging of a thousand other products.

The only representatives of the fauna were the scorpions, rats, cockroaches and even some vultures, who fought over the remains of food in the rubbish thrown along the streets.

This was the reality of Paul's life.

Television was the only window that opened for Paul to see and know the world beyond his neighborhood.

Playing quietly, Paul only focused on television when he heard news of wild animals seizure, burning, forest tree felling, river and sea pollution, air pollution, wildlife extinction, and he was very sad about this news.

Something that terrified Paul was when he heard of such a hole in the ozone layer that could destroy humanity.

He imagined a hole in the sky that would swallow every human being one day. Turning to what he liked to do - to play - Paul kept his ears on the television news and listened to an interview from a scientist to the reporter.

Paul, of course, understood almost nothing of what the interviewed scientist said and, as he always did, turned to his grandfather Joseph.

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He was the only one who, at this time, was willing to give him some explanation, and he did it very softly so as not to disturb his father and mother who watched television.

“Grandfather! What does the man mean?”

“Paul, he means that for hundreds of millions of years nature has recycled, was absorbed and returned the materials produced and consumed in the world. However, with the expansion of cities and civilizations this process of nature is disorganized. Thus, the seas, the lands, the air are undergoing profound changes. This could have disastrous and serious consequences, not yet well understood by scientists, and may even make it impossible to maintain the life of man, animals and plants on our planet. He is saying that everyone needs to be aware of these problems and take some steps now to solve them. He says that we need to implement a new behavior in people, a new way of thinking so that everyone can take better care of ecology and help to conserve the world better”.

“Grandfather! I always hear the word ecologist, ecology. What is ecology?”

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“Silence! Stop talking you two! This is the time to see my soap operas!”. Mary spoke, ending the lively conversation between Joseph and Paul.

So, the explanations about ecology were on hold until the morning of the following day, when Paul returned to this subject with his grandfather, back from school.

“Grandpa so, what is ecology?”.

“Ecology? Let's look at the simplest way I can explain the meaning of this beautiful word. If you, Paul, look closely at the life of any organism - animal or plant - you will find that this life never occurs in isolation. In addition to the location, which can be a forest, a river, a sea, a land, and in addition to food and water for these organisms to grow and multiply, there is also a need for a variable number of other species, such as which this organism lives with. This set of physical, chemical and biological elements and factors necessary for the survival of any organism, plant and animal, we call the environment, or simply the natural environment. Ecology is the study of the relationships between living beings and the environment where they live”.

In the days that followed, Paul began to think a lot about what the scientist said on television and what his grandfather said.

As he walked the streets of his outskirts he began to look around and notice that this environment was unnatural and did not seem to fit into an environment in accordance with the concept of ecology. Or did it fit?

Paul noticed some relations between the local living beings, animals and plants. He could see that the plants closest to the trash were prettier than those on the driest ground. He saw that the rat ate the leftover food in the trash and that the cat ate the rat. I watched scorpions eat cockroaches and chickens eat scorpions.

“Is this environment and object of study of ecology?”. He wondered with doubts, pledging himself to ask his teacher one day.

“Grandpa, I realize that only a few children are concerned about protecting the environment and other ecology issues. They don't even know what this means. It seems that they are pleased and happy with the environment in which they live. They play with their toys, play ball, take the garbage to the streets, throw stones at the vultures, laugh, make dams to put boats in the sewage water that flows through the streets. I feel that this happens to almost everyone who lives here. If ecology is so good for people, how can they live well without it?”.

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“Paul, most people act and raise their children like mole!”. My grandfather said retiring to his room when the clock struck 9 pm. This time was late for him. It was time to go to bed.

“Mole? What do you mean, grandpa?”. Insisted Paul.

“Mole are small animals, very similar to rats, but with very large and sharp teeth that live all their life underground, digging tunnels and more tunnels. It's skin is thin and clear from the sun and they know nothing about what happens around them on Earth. They search and dig tunnels for roots of plants that eat to satisfy hunger and thirst. Nothing else, they know nothing more, not even the plants from which they eat their roots. Today's children are being raised inside their homes and apartments, living indoors in man-made environments such as malls, movie theaters, with little or no contact with nature. Thus, they are unaware of the importance of protecting nature, its fauna and flora. They don't know what this is, they don't live, they don't depend, they have no idea how nature influences their lives. It's a pity, it's a pity!”.

“Wow, grandpa! It's a truth. That's why it's so important to study ecology in schools before it's too late, isn't it?”.

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For a few days Paul forgot the subject of ecology for a moment and indulged in jokes with his friends on the streets of the neighborhood.

He was flying a kite, playing soccer, walking barefoot through the sewers, throwing stones at the vultures. The boys said that vultures make them unlucky.

However, at night Paul could see on television that there were other, more beautiful and well-kept places, with paved streets, parks and gardens with many trees and flowers, squares, well-built houses, play areas for children.

Anyway, when television opened windows to the world, he wondered if the world he lived in was really good or if it could be improved. And of course, it could be improved.

"Mommy, but why don't people improve where they live?". He wondered.

"Paul, this is not only the fault of the city government. It even tries to take care of poor neighborhoods. But, look what happens. When the city government tidies up a square and plants trees, in a few months everything is destroyed. We do not do our part. We think everything

the government has to do. We are a very rude people". Mary clarified and lamented.

"One day, when daddy have better job, we'll move from here to a better place!". Promised Raphael.

Both answers did not seem to satisfy Paul's curiosity and perseverance.

Blaming only the government didn't seem right, moving to a better place and leaving his friends didn't seem fair.

These feelings began to arouse in Paul's mind that something needed to be done. And why not by him?

Paul remembered the scientist's report on television:

*We need to become aware of these problems and take some steps now to solve them. It is necessary to implant an ecological and conservationist mentality in a world of solidarity...*

His grandfather Joseph, when younger, used to walk in lakes and rivers hidden in the forests. He had a good memory of those times when the advance of civilization had not yet registered its mark of destruction. Therefore, his grandfather was the right companion for

Paul to clarify his doubts and talk about his willingness to do something.

“Grandpa, what is an ecologist? Television always talks about them and the struggles they face to defend nature! One day I saw a boat of environmentalists stopping in front of a fishing boat to protect the whales and they were severely attacked. Almost drowned!”.

“Paul, we can say that there are ecologists on many levels, from the ordinary citizen, like us, to the most radical and fanatical. There are rich ecologists, as there are poor ecologists. There are those who contribute only with money, others with actions. Some set up nature protection organizations, some buy large areas to protect the remaining nature reserves for future generations. Finally, the important thing would be that all people, absolutely all people, think and behave better about ecology. And, more importantly, for these people to do something, even small effort, in favor of ecology. Remember what the scientist said? If we fail to protect our environment, we could have a critical situation on our planet, making it impossible to maintain the lives of men, animals and plants!”.

“Sorry Grandpa, but what is an ecologist?”. Paul insisted.

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“OK, how could we define an ecologist? I once read a beautiful article in the paper defining what it is to be a heart-hearted ecologist. Let me see if I remember. It was something like this: It is the true lover of the nature. It is one who cares about what is happening in the environment for the environment, not just for itself and its survival. It is those who are touched by a waterfall, who see poetry in flowers, life in the song of birds. It is who wants to embrace the world in order to protect it! A dreamer? It may be... but it may also be a realist outraged by what he sees happening in the world... A poet? Maybe... maybe someone who barely knows how to write, but who knows how to value a life's worth. There is no profile of the true heart-hearted ecologist. There is a feeling... there is a certainty... there is a willingness to do something, however a small effort that is, to save what has not yet been destroyed, polluted, devastated, extinguished... by greed, ambition and selfishness, which unfortunately are today qualities of most human beings. If you don't fit in with these last ones human type, courage, you can help this planet, you can build a better future... just goodwill and attitude!”.

“Great, how beautiful and how easy it is to understand. Even a child can understand what the author of these sentences meant. He was very happy when he wrote this!”. Paul exclaimed.

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“Paul, fortunately, more and more people are coming to protect nature in all its manifestations!”.

“Grandpa, I already know what I'll be when I grow up! I will be an ecologist!”.

What seemed only a manifestation without major consequences, in fact, was proving, over time, as a very firm and definitive decision of Paul. Paul would focus his life on defending ecology, although his grandfather thought it was too early for him to define himself about his future.

“Paul, it is too early for you to say what will be when you grow up. Children start by wanting to be firemen, truck drivers, soccer players, doctors, and so on. Only time will show you the way of your destiny!”.

“Grandpa, I'll be an ecologist and that's it! But, grandpa. Where should I start? What should I do?”.

“Paul, this you should try to find out by yourself first, looking at things as they are and how you would like them to be. If you work alone, you will achieve something. If you can bring several friends to your cause, you will achieve much more and more quickly! One thing you can be sure of - you can count on me!”.

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Paul returned to his routine of school classes, games, television at night with his family, but in no time forgot his commitment to be an ecologist. He wondered what to do first. His grandfather's words hammered his head:

*Paul, this you should try to find out for yourself first, looking at things as they are and how you would like them to be.*

He felt he would need help: *If you can bring several friends to your cause, you will get much more results and faster!*

Paul knew that he could count on some close friends and that, in a way, were not satisfied with the conditions of the environment in which they lived - Carol, Louis, Thiago and Beth.

Everyone studied in the same school class and could count on the guidance of teacher Char, who always draws the class's attention to the problems of destruction of the environment, nature reserves, extinction of animals, finally, about ecology.

She often says that Brazil still has the largest reserve of continuous tropical forest in the world - the Amazon - and that it should be preserved as the greatest wealth the country can have and offer to the world.

In one of the classes with teacher Char, Paul decided to ask about what he noticed in some relations between the living beings of the place, animals and plants, where he lived.

He commented that he saw that the plants closest to the trash were prettier than those on the driest grounds. He saw that the rat ate the leftover food in the trash and that the cat ate the rat. He watched scorpions eat cockroaches and chickens eat scorpions.

“Is this environment and object of study of ecology?”. He asked teacher Char with doubts.

The teacher Char found the question funny and thinking a little about the question formulated by Paul, clarified:

“Paul, yes, that would be an example of ecological imbalance. This situation you have described really shows relationships between living things in the place where you live. However, it is a relationship altered and deformed by the action of men. And this is harmful to the environment and to men themselves. In this resident-created environment, rats and scorpions are proliferating, threatening the health and safety of residents”.

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“This is what happens when man destroys a part of the forest to grow a certain product, such as corn, soybeans or cotton. Almost always, a predatory insect will grow in such a large number, because it no longer has the natural predators, which will force the farmer to use a large amount of insecticides, contaminating the product itself, the soil, the waters, killing other wild animals”.

“This is the case of the grasshopper plague. In the normal environment, grasshoppers are eaten by frogs, bats, spiders, birds, snakes and even monkeys, keeping track of their numbers. When they no longer have these predators, they grow by the millions, destroying everything that lies ahead”.

“Ah, now I understand teacher Char. Thank you!”. Paul concluded satisfied with the explanation.

After the end of the class, Paul, enthusiastic about the ecological ideas, proposed to his friend Thiago:

"Thiago, we are going for a walk in our neighborhood this afternoon and try to find out what's not good and what could get better!".

“What do you mean, Paul? Isn't everything good?”.

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“No, it's not good! Look around our homes. It's rubbish scattered everywhere, no flowers for hummingbirds and butterflies, no fruit trees so birds can feed and nest. We don't have a beautiful, healthy place to play. No, it's not all good!”.

“Paul is right!”. Beth and Carol agreed.

“Look! I have an idea. Let's try to get other kids together and discuss how we can improve our environment and what can be done!”.

Mary and the mothers of Thiago, Beth, Carol and Louis, found this initiative of the children funny and decided to help by popping popcorn, making lemon juice and some sandwiches.

They spread a towel on the little field, where the children played, organizing a picnic. From afar they followed the group's lively discussion. The five friends, accompanied by one of the other children in the neighborhood, started the picnic devouring all that had been served and taking all the juice. In the end, Paul started a conversation about his plans.

“My friends, this picnic has a very important goal for all of us! Look around you. What are you seeing?”.

In response to Paul's question, his friends took turns taking turns answering:

“The little field where we play football. It's cool!”.

“The street above, where Peter and Marcel live, just after the dirt ladder at the end of the field, and the street below, where there is the Mr. George shop. There is ice cream and soda to buy”.

“These bushes, where we play hide and seek”.

"Our wooden school far away, behind the gas station".

"I see there are still things left to eat from our picnic!".

The answers were all to this end, to Paul's frustration, who for a moment remembered his grandfather's story about moles.

"You are right, but I mean what you see around you that you think is not good!".

After Paul's new orientation, the answers began to emerge in the direction expected by him:

“I think there is a lot of garbage scattered on the streets and in the bushes!”.

“I think these tossed cans and glass can hurt people!”.

“These food scraps attract a lot of mice; besides the stench that exhales”.

“This sewage that runs through the streets is very stinky!”.

“There are no trees so we can protect ourselves from the sun!”.

"Very well, guys, this is what I was wanting to hear!". Paul vented in joy, continuing the conversation:

“This is the purpose of our meeting. What do you think we can do to improve this situation? But you don't have to give an answer today. Think about this and talk to your parents. Next Sunday, after football, we will talk about this again. Is it okay like that for you all?”.

And everyone went home with this mission in mind and wondered: “What can we do to improve this situation?”.

At night Paul looked for his grandfather Joseph and asked him the same question:

“Grandpa, what do you think we can do to improve the situation in our neighborhood?”

“Paul, a lot can be done, a lot. I kept in my notebook a list of simple attitudes that can mean a lot in terms of ecology, which I once read in a magazine. It is a list of what to do and what not to do. I'll look for it! But before you see this list, I think you and your friends should discuss what should be done and what should not be done before comparing your ideas with the list. This will be much more valid!”.

“OK, grandpa, we shall do this tomorrow!”.

The next day, Paul met with his group to resume the discussion about what should be done to improve the conditions of the place, especially the camp where they played all day.

"I think we should pick up all the plastic bags that have been blown away and make our places ugly".

"We could sort out all iron, tin and plastic to sell. With the money, we can buy tree seedlings to plant”.

“Let's bury the leftover trash!”.

“Let's make a deeper ditch for the sewage to run and not spread through the streets!”.

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“Let's plant flowers to attract butterflies and hummingbirds!”.

Many ideas were born from the observation of Paul's friends.

He took note of everything so as not to forget any details.

When the list was complete, he rushed to show it to his grandfather.

“Grandpa see how many ideas my friends gave to improve the conditions of the neighborhood!”.

Joseph read the suggestions and, being a first list, thought it was very good. He then gave Paul a list of recommendations on what to do and what not to do to improve the environment and protect the ecology he had copied from a long-read magazine article.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

1 - Teach nature love and preservation awareness. Teach other children and their families love and respect for everything that comes from nature. Children must grow up learning to love and respect animals and plants, so that feeling will grow with them and they will be a

future heart-hearted ecologist. Teach by acting!  
Example is the best way to teach.

2 - Separate paper, glass, cans and plastics for recycling. This will help to reduce accumulated waste and obtain raw materials without having to extract from the environment.

3 - When buying a product, prefer those with returnable or recyclable packaging. Prefer glass to plastic packaging, for ease of recycling. Try to avoid Styrofoam packaging.

4 - Prefer rechargeable batteries. The batteries, once discarded, release metals into the environment, such as zinc, mercury, cadmium, among others, which have harmful effects on the ecosystem and the health of people and animals.

5 - Plant a tree. If you have the opportunity, plant it! And take care as it grows! In addition to helping to produce oxygen, they attract small animals with their flowers and fruits, their roots hold the earth from letting rain carry it (erosion), help maintain soil moisture and much more!

6 - Plant flowers. They attract hummingbirds, honey-producing bees, beautify and brighten the environment,

and the contact and care with them help the learning to love nature.

7 - Use biodegradable products. These products degrade in contact with air, water, heat and do not pollute the environment.

8 - If you enjoy hiking, bush walking, eco-tourism and camping, always remember this motto: Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time, take nothing beyond of memories.

10 - Clean up the planet whenever possible, help clean up the green areas, beaches and rivers you are on. If you go bushwalking or go to the beach, bring plastic bags for cans, bottles and other packaging. Pass this information on. “One swallow does not make summer” but your unique behavior can serve as an example.

11 - If you find an abandoned or injured animal, take it to an entity that can treat it. If possible, adopt him!

12 - Say it whenever you encounter something wrong that may harm the environment. Make your voice heard, your message read. Write, send e-mails to magazines, newspapers, entities, authorities. Your opinion surely has strength and can help raise awareness!



13 - Give preference to products whose manufacturers do not test it in animals. Preserve the riparian forests. Riparian forests are those that border the rivers, protect their banks from erosion and prevent sedimentation.

## WHAT NOT TO DO?

1 - Do not buy wild animals. Wild animals that are sold in some places across the world have been illegally removed from their habitat. Sometimes even criminally. This habit will eventually lead to such an imbalance that threatens the continuation of these species. Not buying such an animal discourages hunting. Buying to protect the animal or handing it over to a zoo or other protective entity may seem right at first glance, but make no mistake, these attitudes stimulate their trade. There is no illegal sale if no one buys.

2 - Do not remove flowers or foliage from the woods. Often, even with good intent, some types of plants are removed from their natural habitat that, with this practice, may become extinct.

3 - Do not buy or use products made out of animals or any other cruel or illegal means. When you do not purchase one of these products, you discourage these practices. Without a buyer, there is no market.

4 - Do not contribute with the market that grows at the expense of animal abuse. Examples: animals that are used to be photographed with tourists in the forests, mistreated and kept tied. Or in other places, where sloths are kept in captivity (to attract tourists and at the same time market them) and inadequately fed, which can lead to their death.

5 - Do not throw trash out of the trash basket. Garbage thrown anywhere pollutes. It pollutes water, pollutes the land, pollutes rivers and eventually the sea. Waste thrown into green areas harms the ecosystem. The garbage thrown in the cities clogs manholes, providing floods, attracts rats and the diseases they cause. Garbage thrown on the beaches pollutes the sand, attracts insects that can bring disease, and when it is carried by the tide, pollutes the sea, damaging all marine fauna and flora.

6 - Do not mistreat animals or plants. Do not mistreat and do not let people mistreat them. Every living being has a function. An ecosystem is made up of thousands of little pieces, by protecting one of them you'll be helping to protect the whole. Think about it!

7 - Never buy, use or give slingshots gift. They are not toys, they are weapons! When they don't kill, they maim! An unaccustomed child from an early age will

not be able to preserve any life as an adult, perhaps not even his own.

8 - Don't waste it! Water, electricity and food demand an expense in its production, treatment, distribution. These expenses are not only economic, they are also raw material, fuel, which contribute to the increase of the temperature of the atmosphere (greenhouse effect), the greater extraction of minerals (with the consequent devastation in the areas of the deposits), the increase of deforestation, and so on. The gifts of nature are precious, you need to be aware of that.

9 - Do not drop balloons. They are beautiful on the way up. A disgrace when they fall. They can cause burning in the woods, kill animals, people, destroy houses. A few minutes of your fun can create a tragedy. Would you like this responsibility in your hands?

10 - Do not participate in or bet on cockfights or canaries. These animals are forced to fight, usually blades are placed on their paws, which hurts them a lot if they do not mutilate or kill them. Report it when you know of any.

11 - Do not light a match or leave the campfire badly lit or any flammable material in the woods. The consequences can be catastrophic, like a big fire that

destroys many acres of green, killing animals and even people.

12 - Even though it is fashionable, do not use natural skin. Do you think it's fair that some animals die just to satisfy a vanity? Did you know that puppy skin is preferred because it is softer and that capturing the puppy often ends up killing the mother?

13 - Don't buy stuffed animals that look real. They are made of the animal's own fur! Dogs and cats die so that their fur can be used to make stuffed animals.

14 - Avoid drinkers with sweetened water. To attract hummingbirds, it is common to use special drinkers with water with sugar, honey or brown sugar, but these mixtures ferment, generate proliferation of fungi and pathogenic bacteria, and can cause diseases such as tongue ringworm, and even the death of birds.

Paul, enthusiastic about the complete and wonderful list of what to do and what not to do in terms of ecology, said excitedly to his grandfather:

“Grandpa, this one was really worth it. This list will be our ecological bible. I will copy and distribute to all my friends!

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All Paul's friends began to develop an extraordinary pleasure for ecology. They compared the list provided by Paul's grandfather to the list they made and vibrated when the items coincided, shouting: Bingo!

At night, in the routine of his home, Paul focused on the interview that a scientist was giving about the greenhouse effect.

At the end of the interview, Paul asked his grandfather:

“Grandpa, I didn't quite understand this greenhouse effect!”.

“Paul, tomorrow we will visit the plantation of vegetables that Akira has, using a greenhouse. There you will understand well what the scientist meant!”.

The next day, Joseph accompanied by Paul sought the farm where Akira grew vegetables, especially lettuce.

Joseph already knew Akira, and this facilitated the contact. Inside the farm, Paul could observe the large greenhouses that covered the plantations. They were large growing areas sheds built of white plastic on the roof and supported by wooden or iron columns.

“See, Paul. This is a greenhouse!”.

“Ok, I see! But what does this have to do with the greenhouse effect that television talks about so much?”.

“Paul let's get a little inside Akira's greenhouse”.

Thus, Paul could feel that the temperature inside the greenhouse, where Akira grew lettuce, was much higher than the outside temperature.

“The temperature in here is higher because the heat of the sun comes in but is held back by the plastic. Thus, Akira can grow lettuces at any time, even in the cold seasons”.

“But, grandpa, how does Akira's greenhouse relate to Earth's greenhouse effect?”.

“Calm down, Paul. Patience is not your strong point! Paul, Grandpa is not an expert on this subject. I just try to read to satisfy my curiosity. But as I understand it, the Earth is covered by a layer of various gases and this layer protects it from the sun's and determines the temperature that we, animals and plants, have been used to for thousands of years. This layer has always been formed by gases produced by nature. But now human civilizations are producing much more gas, with industries, with the millions of cars driving on the streets, with the burning of woods and forests. These

gases are blending into the natural gas layer, making these layers thicker. Thus, the greenhouse effect is forming”.

“But, Grandpa. How Akira's greenhouse can explain this? I still do not understand!”.

“Look, Paul, the greenhouse covered by white plastic. This white plastic would be the normal, natural ozone layer we know that protects us from the sun's rays and maintains a life temperature on Earth. But think about covering the entire greenhouse, including the sides with thick black plastic. In this case, it would be like the Earth being covered by a giant plastic, like in the greenhouses of Mr. Akira. Thus, temperatures are rising beyond normal and already causing great damage to the Earth and all plants and animals, including men. This black plastic would be compared to the pollution we throw into the normal ozone layer”.

“And, grandpa, what do you mean? What damage are these?”.

“Paul, scientists point at least four major impacts on planet Earth with the greenhouse effect. Rising temperatures will cause more evaporation of the oceans, further increasing the greenhouse effect. Winds are influenced by temperatures. Thus, there should be a

change in the direction of certain currents, which will alter the rhythm and distribution of rainfall and soil moisture, bringing negative consequences for agriculture and livestock across the planet. Most scientists believe that the process of defrosting the polar ice caps has already begun due to temperature increases. This defrost could raise sea levels causing flooding in coastal areas. With all these and many other changes that increase in the greenhouse effect may cause, it is expected that major ecological changes will occur through the increase of pests and the disappearance of various plant, animal and microorganism species, with the consequent loss of biological diversity”.

Paul was imagining all the damage that the greenhouse effect could cause...

*So, he saw the temperature of the Earth rise and everyone felt very hot. The rivers and springs dried up and no one had any more water to drink. Many were already dying of thirst. Cities near the sea were being overrun by the waters, including the city near a beach where his cousin lived. Great gusts broke down the houses and drove the clouds away, killing all the crops and livestock. Small insects grew large, such as ants and spiders, and began to eat the people who still lived.*



When Paul told his grandfather these thoughts, saying that he was terrified, his grandpa laughed and reassured him:

“Paul calm down! Things don't happen that fast. To get to this situation you are imagining, tens and tens of years will pass. What is important is that men begin to discuss this important subject, as indeed they are already doing, and begin to come up with measures and solutions to alleviate the evils of the greenhouse effect! But this is too big problem for a small ecologist like you. This is a fight for big people. For now, keep making your contribution as you are doing with your friends. It is already too good!”.

“Well, Grandpa, I feel better now. Anyway, it was nice to have known a bit of the greenhouse effect. Let's avoid making too many bonfires to not increase the atmosphere's gases! But, Grandpa, just one more thing. What is this terrible hole in the ozone layer that everyone talks about?”.

“Paul, ozone is a thin gas that concentrates in the upper layers of the atmosphere, forming a kind of shield, about 30 km thick, that protects planet Earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays. This protective shield has been losing thickness and features a hole over Antarctica. Reducing the ozone layer increases exposure to the

sun's ultraviolet rays. This causes the growth of skin cancer and eye diseases such as cataracts. For scientists, the Antarctic hole delays the arrival of spring in the region and causes breaks in the food chain of the local fauna. The hole in the ozone layer can help to increase the temperature and accelerate the thawing of the polar ice caps. And the main responsible for this reduction of the ozone layer is the chlorine present in compounds with the name difficult to pronounce - chlorofluorocarbon or abbreviated CFC. This CFC is used as a propellant in various types of products such as: sprays, airplane engines, refrigeration circuits, plastic foam, porous plastic shapes and trays, computer chips and solvents used by the electronics industry. Humankind's challenge is to find other products that can replace CFC that is so harmful to the ozone layer. But, Paul, look at that Akira greenhouse, that older one from the back!”.

“I see, Grandpa. The one that has a hole?”.

“That's right, Paul! See it has a big hole in the plastic. Notice how the sun goes farther through the plastic hole and hits the lettuce plants harder”.

“I see, Grandpa. Even the lettuce plants have the most burnt leaves on this side!”.

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“Exactly, Paul. Exactly! This hole in the plastic can be said to be equivalent to the hole in the ozone layer. It is as if the Earth's natural greenhouse had a hole through which the most damaging rays of the sun penetrate, bringing harm to plants and disease to animals and humans”.

“Grandpa, you're the greatest teacher in the world!”.

Paul forgot for a while about the greenhouse effect and the hole in the ozone layer.

They were very big problems. They are problems the size of the world. They are too big problem to fit in a child's head.

Children have this divine gift of not worrying about big problems. Paul thus decided to turn to his little problems. Small but of great importance. Small enough that he could do something. That same afternoon, he returned to the subject of improving neighborhood conditions with his friends

My friends, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get down to business! Who would like to lead the group that will pick up the wind-blown plastic bags that make our places so ugly?

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Carol volunteered for this task and, gathering about seven friends, started the work. They all brought home large empty trash bags and started to pick the garbage.

“Let's see who fills the garbage bag first!”. Carol spoke, trying to encourage and challenge her collaborators.

It was a rush just looking for the hundreds of plastic bags that were scattered everywhere. After hours and hours of hard work, the friends had all the trash bags full of small, multicolored plastic bags.

Around them, especially the little camp where they played, there was not a single scattered plastic bag.

The full garbage bags were taken to the garbage collection site by the city hall. This first task is done and very well done! Paul knew the Portuguese Junkyard, where Fernando buys pieces of iron, cans, glass and plastic. He paid little, but in large amounts could earn extra money.

“Guys, it's time for the boys! What do we do?”. Asked Paul.

“Let's pick up all iron, tin, plastic and glass bottles. Look around! It is full everywhere!”. Thiago replied.

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“Good idea. Let's pick up and sell to Fernando of the junkyard!”. Paul concluded.

Paul, Thiago and Louis managed to gather eight friends for this task and launched themselves into the fight with great enthusiasm. Mark and Joe borrowed their parents' railway cars. They formed two groups.

In each group, one drove the cart and three collected what they found from metal, tin, plastic, and glass bottles. This task took at least three afternoons. Several trips with the railroad cars were made to Fernando's junkyard, the Portugal born man.

Hundreds of pieces of irons, many cans, dozens of plastic containers and bottles were collected. The campground and adjoining streets were clean and already starting to look good. In the end, this work yielded the importance of dozen dollars.

“With the money, we can buy tree seedlings to plant!”. Beth proposed and her proposal was accepted by all.

Akira had a fruit tree seedling to sell and Paul and his group rushed there, taking the dollars they had made.

“Akira, we want to buy all the fruit tree seedlings that can be bought with these dollars!”. Paul said.

Akira was surprised. It was the first time a group of boys and girls had come to his farm to buy tree seedlings.

“Where are you thinking to plant these seedlings?”

“Around the soccer field. Then we'll plant elsewhere when we get more money!”. Carol answered excited.

“Tree saplings are like children. They need to be taken care of. It's not just to dig a hole in the ground and plant them. They need compost, wet and good soil, they need to be staked. Need attention every day. Otherwise if you do not do this they do not go forward! Are you willing to do this?”

“Yes!”. They all answered with one voice.

“Well, let's see what we have here in my seedlings nursery. We have blueberry, avocado, mango, khaki, jackfruit, plum, orange, acerola, cherry, peach, and a few banana and papaya seedlings next to it”. Akira said.

“Can we buy how many with these dollars?”. Paul asked.

“You can buy about 20 seedlings; it depends on which you choose”. Akira answered.

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“Well, let's take 2 of each!”. Paul decided.

“But 2 of each sum 40 seedlings!”. Akira confirmed and then completed:

“But it's alright. As your movement is fair, I'll sell the 40 seedlings, 2 each, for the dollars you got!”.

“So, let's take them all now!”. Beth replied impatiently to run and plant the small seedlings.

“But you can't take it now! You must first prepare the pits to plant them!”. Akira answered.

“But how can we do this?”

Akira saw that he was facing a group of well-meaning children, but inexperienced in plant cultivation, especially fruit trees. He spent more time explaining to the children the techniques for planting a fruit tree.

“You will dig holes about 40 cm wide by 60 cm deep. Use this digger. I have others here. After opening the hole, you have to throw compost and farmyard manure. You can find this manure mixed with earth near the places where people throw rubbish, or you can use cow or ox dung that grazes around here! Leave a space of at

least three meters between one tree seedling and another”.

Paul and his group left, borrowing the digger from Akira. Quietly, they felt that this mission would not be as easy as the others. Digging 40 holes in the land, as Akira commanded, and filling it with compost and farmyard manure to make a good soil would require a lot of effort from everyone. But no one gave up.

On the other hand, the girls thought they should look for some more plastic bags scattered around, running away from this job! Paul and the boys threw themselves into the fight. The order was to dig at least 8 holes a day. This would take all week. Taking turns, the boys were digging the holes with great difficulty. Some parents, to their delight, volunteered to help, and that was very good.

With everyone's help, by the end of the week, 40 holes were opened along the little field, with compost and farmyard manure, watered, ready to receive the seedlings. And so, it was done. The soccer field, the area with the highest concentration of children in the neighborhood, was getting better and better. In the distance could be seen the seedlings of fruit trees, protected with a piece of bamboo.

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There were no plastic bags, no irons, no plastic containers, no scattered bottles. Ecological work increasingly excited children and now even their parents, who at first did not give much credit to the children's movement.

All the trash, with food scraps, fruit peels, vegetable scraps, was buried by the children.

After a few weeks, a rich land was available to plant flowers to attract birds and butterflies. And that would be the next goal, a mission that would be entrusted to the girls.

"But what kind of flowers should we plant? I don't understand any of this!". Beth asked.

"Let's ask Akira. He sure knows!". Carol assured.

Akira once again made his contribution:

"You can plant several types. I have almost all of them in my seedlings nurseries!".

Beth soon realized that these flowers could not be planted anywhere. They would have to make a fenced garden so that no one would disturb the hummingbirds and butterflies that came in search of flower nectar.

With wood remains of construction made a large fenced area with approximately 150 square meters. Inside, they would begin to prepare the soil, following Akira's guidelines, digging holes and placing compost and farmyard manure. The boys held a competition for those who brought more cow dung. It was just laughing!

Before long, the large garden was ready to receive the seedlings of flowers. Now they must choose the type with the help of Akira.

Akira set out to offer the seedlings free of charge, as long as they could put a sign in the garden: **SPONSORSHIP MONTE FUJI OF AKIRA ANDO.** No one objected, of course.

Akira, encouraged by the work the children did in planting the fruit tree seedlings, was enthusiastic about helping in the flower garden.

With his guidance and their work, the girls dug holes, planted the flower seedlings, made arbor for the plants to support as they grew, scattered compost and farmyard manure over the seedlings. Then they watered everything so that the soil would get very wet. It was all set! Now, just wait for the flower plants to grow and the hummingbirds and butterflies to appear!

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As for the sewage, which was spreading through the streets, the children's parents helped to make a deep channel so that it would run without presenting the danger to their children.

They also made a movement in the neighborhood, with posters and marching through the streets, so that the government of the city could channel the sewage. And they even got a promise that it would be done next year!

The girls tended the flower garden and the boys the fruit trees planted along the soccer field.

The children organized a selective waste collection system whereby housewives separated what was plastic, paper, cardboard, glass and organic material. The sale of recyclable materials to Fernando's junkyard yielded a monthly sum that paid for the purchase of new seedlings, dung, and quality earth.

Time went by, passing by...

The flowers grow, spreading colors around the arbor and distributing nectar to dozens of butterflies, bees, beetles, hummingbirds who visited them every day.

The fruit trees were beginning to bloom for the first time.

The first fruits would be generated for the food of many birds and also for the people. On their branches, not infrequently, several types of nests could be seen.

In its shadows, benches were installed to sit where another generation of children came to rest and shelter from the intense sun.

Excited by this experience, Paul thought he could take it to other places in the neighborhood. Friendly and well-spoken, Paul decided to prepare, together with his faithful friends, posters about the importance of ecology represented mainly by the importance of a tree.

He talked to teacher Char about his plans - to take to all the neighborhood classrooms the idea that every child in the neighborhood should plant at least one tree in the backyard of their houses. He would give presentations on the ecological importance of a tree, how to plant it, how to care for it using posters.

This project would definitely have a great multiplier effect.

Teacher Char gave her full support for this important initiative by Paul, giving him some important advice:

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“Paul, in addition to the posters that you will put up on the classroom walls, try to summarize the most important items of your presentation about trees. Also, prepare a quiz for all students to take home, show their parents, and confirm if there is room and interest in planting a tree and what kind of tree!”.

Paul, listening carefully to his teacher and with a loving look of thanks, nodded his agreement.

Well, now it was time to launch the project with a lot of dedication and work. Cardboards, paint brushes, and other necessary materials were provided by teacher Char.

Thus, the posters began to emerge:

**Trees are important elements for maintaining and balancing life on Earth. Photosynthesis happens in all plants, a process that consumes carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere and returns oxygen to it. Photosynthesis ensures fresh air to breathe.**

**Its roots stabilize the soil, preventing it from being carried by rainwater. Its leaves exude huge amounts of water vapor. Thus, the soil is preserved, preventing erosion, and water vapor helps in forming new rain clouds and in balancing the ambient temperature.**

There are about 40 million km<sup>2</sup> of forests on Earth. Its trees provide food for millions of people and animals. There are trees that can remove 50 liters of water from the soil a day, sending them into the atmosphere.

The trees give us shade, fruits, shelter bird nests, and provide refuge for many wild animals. It is from your wood that we make our furniture and homes.

No man should pass through the Earth without planting a tree, having a child, or writing a book.

Plant a tree. If you have the opportunity, plant it! And take care that it grows! In addition to helping to produce oxygen, they attract small animals with their flowers and fruits, their roots hold the earth from letting rain carry it (erosion), help maintain soil moisture and much more!

Trees help lower the room temperature on hot days by up to 5 degrees!

Paul's presentations were a real success. The thrill and conviction in which he addressed the students in the classes thrilled everyone. Everyone saw in the little presenter a great defender of nature and an ecologist at heart.

Students were enthusiastic about having one or more trees planted in their backyards and many forms came back signed by their parents agreeing to the planting.

Paul demonstrated how to dig a pit, how to use the leftover leafy vegetables and eggshells to fertilize the pits. Finally, as far as possible, he taught the children to plant and care for their tree.

"You will be the godfather of the trees you plant! Life and nature will be eternally grateful to you! I'm counting on you!". Paul said.

Paul also suggested for school children to use long-life milk containers to plant tree seedlings that could be found in the hundreds under the mother trees, whether fruit trees, as well as flowers or shade trees. Another alternative would be planting stones of mango, avocado, plum fruits, among others, directly in the dug hole.

Many students dedicated themselves to making this seedling nursery from the empty milk packages. And it was very interesting to follow the growth of the small transplanted seedlings or the birth of small trees from the seeds and fruits stones.

Thus, these nurseries started to provide seedlings of various types for their own homes and the excess was

donated to those who had interest and space, or the seedlings were planted in the empty land of the neighborhood. This experience was a real success.

(If you, dear reader, want to go through the magical experience of giving life to a tree, grab a package of long-life milk, make a few holes in the sides, put a good earth and plant an avocado or mango stone you can have when your mother buy these fruits, water every 2 days. After a few weeks you will live this fantastic experience, you will feel like the father of the little tree that will come to life through your hands, no matter if you live in an apartment. When you have a small, well-grown tree that is about 20 cm tall, look for a friend's yard, a relative's place, or even empty land in front of your house and plant it. Do not forget to water it on dry days. If you do this, you have already accomplished one of the three great missions of our life. You just have to have a child and write a book!).

And so, time went by. Paul, Beth, Carol, Thiago, Louis, Joe, Mark and many other boys, who helped change the neighborhood environment and create a new mindset among the generations that followed, also followed their paths and their destinies.

As their trees grew and spread throughout the neighborhood, and this was already felt and could be



seen in every little yard, in every yard of the houses, Paul, too, grew and matured.

At the age of 18, Paul became interested in national nature parks and this aroused in him the desire to pursue a profession - he started working in parks. He visited or worked in several of them.

He was a guide for eco-tour groups and brought to ecotourists the most beautiful messages and a fine knowledge of ecology, which delighted everyone. His father Raphael and his mother Mary did not see him often, but they received many letters and cards from him, which they collected and showed to relatives, friends and neighbors.

“See! This is our Paul! A made man, a good man. Your time is all devoted to protecting nature, the environment. We are very proud of him!”

He continued his studies following his career as a child when he made a commitment to his grandfather to be an ecologist. Studied and graduated in Ecology and Environment and went to work in national preservation parks.

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He became an activist of the preservation of wild animals through the conservation of their habitat and environment.

It is a hard, inglorious struggle, since human ambition and greed have no limit. But it is a fight that justifies one's life and his presence on Earth. Nothing else could complete and satisfy one's true values and desires to serve humanity by serving nature.

Today, if anyone wants to talk to Mr. Paulo, Paul from the football camp of olden days, will meet him at the encounter of the Juruá River with the Amazon River, where he takes care of a Sustainable Development Reserve.

Thus, he began to nurture dreams and set goals for working at a government environment protection organization.

Thus, in these new plans, he could have bigger dreams, think about the creation of more parks and preservation nature reserves, more sustainable development reserve areas, more awareness campaigns and collective education, advocate more stringent legislation, more rigorous supervision, especially against wildlife trafficking.

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In his mind a thousand plans were beginning to anticipate the accomplish of this new career step. But who knows Paul knows what he is capable of. To the pride of his parents and his beloved grandfather Joseph, Paul was rising higher and higher in his career. He was already 25 years old and got a great job at a large natural products company that maintained vast areas of preservation of forests and nature parks.

One afternoon, Mary and Raphael received a telegram from Paul, which said:

*Hi Mom! Hi Dad! I miss that "feijoada"! Any day, I'll show up for a visit. I have something new: tomorrow, at 7:30 am, I am going to participate in a tv show about ecology on the Green Channel. Try to watch it! Kisses and I miss you. Paul.*

(Note: Feijoada is a typical Brazilian meal. It is made with white rice, black beans, various types of pork and beef pieces, accompanied by flour and cabbage).

Not surprisingly, Mary and Raphael could barely sleep in that night. It would be the first time they would see their son Paul appear on a television channel and talk about the reason of his life - ecology.

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At 7 am, the television was already on Green Channel, Mary and Raphael didn't lose a bid until, finally, the program began, when they could see Paul sitting in an armchair, next to the reporter, ready to be interviewed.

On the air, Eco Reporter, who specializes in ecology, began the program:

*Ladies and gentlemen, good morning!*

*Another Green Channel hit show it's on the air!*

THE ECOLOGY - OUR GREATEST  
COMMITMENT, OUR GREATEST SOLUTION.

*Today we are going to have the pleasure of interviewing Paul, as he likes to be called, one of world's leading experts on ecological and environmental issues. Paul, your initial words!*

*“Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure and honor for me to be able to participate in this program, which I consider one of the most important in terms of ecological issues. Special greetings to my mother and father, Mary and Raphael. A special greeting to my grandfather Joseph, wherever he is!”*

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*Reporter Eco: How do we go about protecting and preserving the environment in today's world?*

*"We have much to celebrate, but we have much to regret. We have lost more animal and plant species in this century than in the last 65 million years. Human populations continue to grow each year. We are more than 7 billion human beings. We depend on food and goods, all taken directly or indirectly from nature. Thus, the natural environment is violently assaulted every day to make way for pastures and fields. This for ecology is a real disaster".*

*Reporter Eco: But we only have to regret? What do we have to celebrate?*

*"Well, we are talking more and more about ecology and environmental protection. There is widespread concern with the preservation of wild plants and animals. But, unfortunately, I think we are still making more progress in destruction than in preservation. It is a pity. Humanity will deeply regret this at a time when, perhaps, there is no return. If you destroy an animal's habitat and it is extinguished, this situation has no return".*

*Reporter Eco: Paul, what is your main fight flag?*

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*“I strongly advocate, as so many other scholars and scientists argue, an environmentally sustainable economy. That is, the transformation of the current global economic system, which uses the devastation of natural resources to promote economic and social growth, into one based on renewable energy, such as wind and sun energy, and a system that reuses and recycles materials”.*

*Reporter Eco: And with respect to ecology. How do you see the prospects for ecology?*

*“The future for ecology will depend essentially on our ability to protect our enormous biodiversity. World has not yet realized how much it is losing from its biological wealth, even before it can consciously and productively use it”.*

*Reporter Eco: How could we develop a sustainable economy from the point of view of the environment and ecology, in a world of constant population growth and growing consumer demand?*

*“One of the things that becomes clear to me when I look back on the so-called economic and technological progress of this century is that the fate of today's economy has no greater prospect of progress. This economy is sustained by deforestation, species*

*extinction and water pollution, which causes terrible damage such as rising temperatures and desertification of the soil. It is necessary to rethink the entire economic system so that progress can continue in a more rational manner. What is encouraging is that we can already see some results of it in today's world. We see, for example, that the technology used in solar and wind generation has advanced greatly throughout our world. Society as a whole is blind to the real value some products should have. For example, the cigarette. This product should have included in the price all the spending that the government has to treat the diseases resulting from smoking. We need to tell the truth more. Another example: When you buy a liter of gasoline, you are not paying for the health treatment of the harm caused by inhaling the pollutant gases produced by it. The idea, therefore, is to tax these disease-causing products to cover the costs of people's health care”.*

*Reporter Eco: What role would you give to the world in this context?*<sup>9</sup>

*“We have in the world several environmental superpowers. Due to their infinite natural resources, these superpowers have alternatives, as no other countries, to develop an environmentally sustainable economy. But the richness and health of this biodiversity is being destroyed. And that is an*

*unfortunate mistake. In their forests may be the cure for many diseases that exist and will still exist. These superpowers therefore have everything to position themselves as leaders in this change. This means that these superpowers have a chance not to go through certain stages of destruction and degradation that other countries are going through. It can go straight to technologies that develop the use of renewable energy sources. In the future, biological resources will be more important than other current resources, such as oil. It is therefore necessary for these countries to preserve and protect its enormous biodiversity”.*

*Reporter Eco: Do you think we are moving in this direction?*

*“To be honest, I think we're walking, but very, very slowly. In fact, I think these superpowers have not yet realized their importance in this context”.*

*Reporter Eco: Paul, do you think we are making progress in terms of ecological awareness in the world?*

*“The world still has a lot to evolve. All countries societies have much to evolve in this sense, from children to adults. But we are starting to make some progress in this regard. Otherwise, you wouldn't be giving this interview right now, would you?”.*



*Reporter Eco: What analysis do you make of preserving the environment in today's world?*

*"I don't think we have much to celebrate. On the opposite, as I said before, I think we have a lot to regret. We have lost more species in this century than in the last 65 million years. This could get even worse in the next century if we do not make major changes. The main one is to preserve natural resources in order to stabilize the climate, because if it does not stabilize, the ecosystem will not either".*

*Reporter Eco: In your view, what has led the world to such devastation in this century?*

*"What happened of devastation we could not say that it was purposeful, that is, that the devastation was promoted by the devastation simply. All the people wanted was to expand the economy and promote social improvements in view of population growth. The result is that in the last 50 years the world economy has increased six-fold. The economy has no structure to support this growth. This is the main reason for deforestation, pollution and other ecological problems affecting the world. We need to think about stabilizing population growth. We need to find ways to consume without destroying what we have left".*

*Reporter Eco: Paul, we are coming to the end of this beautiful interview. What are your final words?*

*“We need to make humanity aware of environmental and ecological problems. We need each person to make a daily contribution according to their social, economic and knowledge conditions. But, make any kind of contribution. We need to teach ecology and the environment as a compulsory subject in schools. We do not need to enter the new millennium to find that we are facing a serious problem with the devastation of our natural resources. We need to fix it now, right now. Finally, we need to follow the path of sustainable economy. This is the biggest challenge of our generation. If we don’t fix this problem, future generations will blame us and have almost impossible challenges to solve, no matter how technology advances”.*

*Reporter Eco: Paul, one last question before we close, that our time is running out - how are we preserving freshwater in the world?*

*“Drinking water will be humanity's greatest challenge going forward. With world population growth and clean water supplies and sources running out, we will eventually collapse. Some countries are the most blessed by nature in crystal clear, pure, mineral water*

*sources. And what are we seeing? The unbridled pollution of the rivers with domestic and industrial sewage. Deforestation is wiping out springs and water sources. The use of underground water for industrial purposes is depleting underground wells that nature took thousands of years to form. In many countries a liter of mineral water is sold more expensive than a liter of oil. We are blind to this great wealth we have. The authorities and the population need to be aware as urgently as possible of the need not to pollute the rivers and to preserve the water sources. It's like we're throwing liquid gold down the drain. A real disaster in every way. It is ignorance and collective blindness”.*

*Eco Reporter Ladies and gentlemen, we have reached the end of yet another ecological moment on your Green Channel.*

*Reporter Eco: We thank Mr. Paul for the excellent interview and for the knowledge he has given us all!*

The TV show was over. In the living room, in the same room where many years ago Paul played with his cars, little train and his little farm, Mary and Raphael hugged each other, crying silently, proud of the struggle and example of life of their only son Paul.

God had given him this noble mission, perhaps the noblest of all missions - to protect and preserve the gardens of Eden with which He presented to the men of the Earth.

Paul was born with this destiny and followed him for life. From an early age, he identified the true essence of life through living with nature. When he entered a forest, feeling the coolness of the air, listening to the singing of birds and the singing of water on the rocks, Paul felt that he belonged to this environment, somehow feeling that this was his most remote origin. He used to say that nature was engraved in his DNA, could not live without it.

Nature is like that for him:

*It is sometimes carried by the wind, the crystal-clear waters and the falling leaves of the trees. It is in many places of our planet. It lives in the song of the birds, the flowers, the dew of the night that moistens the leaves of the trees, the breeze of the wind, the morning sun, the freshness of the woods, the fresh mountain air, the cold of the glaciers, the softness of the snow. It lives on beaches caressed by the sea, in a flower of a small vase or in large gardens. It lives in the waterfalls and rapids of the rivers, lives under the dead and damp leaves of the forests, lives in the dry sands of the deserts. It lives in*

*many places, especially at the birth of a lifetime. It dies to the sound of a chainsaw or an ax, dies burning in the fire of the fields and woods, dies suffocated by pollution and the destruction of the places where it lives. It's very common for people to fall in love with Nature when they meet it! Such is NATURE.*

The true truth of life lies in the reunion and conviviality with it. Paul proved that a passion for a life goal and a dedication to education can make anyone a winner, regardless of their humble or rich background. His grandfather Joseph shared this joy of Paul from the largest and most beautiful of the ecological parks, in a very high place, in the sky, in the true paradise created by God.

But, of course, from there he could contemplate the work of his grandson ecologist, a work that began at the age of 11 and never stopped.

The end