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(Non)European criteria or short story on one molecule of oxygen

What do you think about while leaving your house? What is important for you while going out for a walk? Do you have some criteria for the assessment of „good, healthy walk“?

Dear readers of this column, you are probably asking yourselves what kind of questions are these. Why I asked questions without answers and why it is important to asses Saturday's walk? I shall answer you. Or, even better, you will find the answers below.

Beautiful June morning in Zenica. It was sunny finally, what all of us had been expecting. Warmth, breeze, well-known streets, well-known people, and... Something completely unknown. Unpleasant smell that was choking while making breathing difficult, and causing nausea and sweating...

I could not think about the level of air pollution in Zenica at the time, that warm day in June, in which all of us, instead of pleasure, battled for the remaining grains of pure oxygen. Grains that have been disappearing every moment and second. Less and less oxygen, more and more patients at oncology department. Unfortunately.

Indeed, what would Europa¹ say if we woke her up and brought to Zenica's streets that morning? Would she find the pleasure in the destruction of nature, in the destruction of a city, in the destruction of life? I do not think so. She would have thought probably that country where such things could happen in the very center, in its heart, had not even deserved to be Her part. And she would have been right.

Regardless of the profits and the size of the wallet, we do not need much to understand (and calculate, if someone has a problem with counting up to two) that in any situation (with money and without money), each of us has only two lungs. The moment when we confront ourselves with that solid biological fact is the one in which we shall realise that we do not need much to destroy it, but all the wealth cannot help us to replace it. There are things you cannot buy just like that, or just „produce“ in a simple way and once „when you pay“.

Europa is right. Land where such things are happening in its heart (and believe me, that kind of pollution is not something that can stay in one narrow place, since it has been moving and cannot be stopped easily) does not deserve to become a part of Her company. It is hard to do anything if we are not aware of it. Maybe now, in this moment, we are not even interested in it, but one day it will become part of us. It is the question of time when it will become impossible to enjoy Saturday's walks, and when it will become life threatening. Or it already is that.

Let this be one small step. To show Europa that we do care. And that people who care still exist and understand. Primarily because of us and those who are coming.

¹ Goddess Europa

As it was written once, we are not alone. Those who find themselves alone in the world, should ask: *How many lungs do I have?*

Through decades, people have been just taking from the nature, and not giving anything. In the last time they have started to return something. Garbage, unpleasant smell, pollution, poison... The majority will understand what is going on in a harder way. „That brave new world“ will one day turn against us. Every child, every human being has the right to life and its oxygen molecules. If we can say so. At the moment in which we shall subtract those molecules from ourselves we shall actually take up our lives. And our childrens' lives. And the lives of those coming after them.

Dear Europa, if you are waking up from your dream just because of this, and if this is the reason you do not want us, I understand you. But if you change your mind, and if you decide to help us, let others read this column. And, if you decide to visit us, bring your extra molecules of oxygen with You. Just in case. Because we all have only two lungs. Still. I hope so.

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