

problema

DIALOGUE SCRIPT

© 2010 mindpirates

TITLES:

one bright day in the early 21st Century

there was a gathering of human beings unlike any before

100 questions

112 participants

11,200 views

One circle

TRANSITION TO:

SEBASTIÃO SALGADO

For me, the most important question today is how to sit together and to discuss, not one or two persons, but to see if it's possible for all of us on this planet...

NASEEM SALAAM

(in translation from Hindi)

My question is...

SEBASTIÃO SALGADO (CONT., O.S.)

...to start to raise the questions about what's important.

HANS PETER-DÜRR (O.S.)

How do you perceive the world around you?

SEBASTIÃO SALGADO (CONT., O.S.)

For me, what's important...

SHANTA CHATTERJI

Are you bending the truth of climate change?

MARA (O.S.)

(in translation from Spanish)

My question is...

ELLIOT CHIKOMA

...why are African states less developed than Western states?

DARYL HANNAH (O.S.)

And what I'd like to know...

ARIK W. ASHERMAN (O.S.)

What *is* the proper balance between Jewish values and other values in a democracy?

ROBERT THURMAN (O.S.)

I have a few questions...

FREDERICK WEDIN

Why do they dislike Americans?

ROBBIE CONAL (O.S.)

My biggest question...

JUANA RODRIGUEZ

(in translation from Spanish)

My question is...

LAURIE ANDERSON

How does an individual relate to the group in the 21st Century?

TRANSITION TO:

RALF SCHMERBERG (O.S.)

This place has a lot of history. In this place, as you know, they used to burn books of people who speak things that other people don't like to know. And maybe that's why we come here to August-Bebelplatz in the middle of Berlin, where... books got burned. Their thoughts got burned. Their freedom of speech got burned here!

TITLE:

The table of free voices, Bebelplatz, Berlin

TRANSITION TO:

HAFSAT ABIOLA

It's wonderful to see all the beautiful faces around this table. We have a long day ahead of us, so we're going to go right into the program. Today, we ask and we begin to discover answers to 100 questions chosen from thousands donated by people from all around the world.

WILLEM DAFOE

We will ask them *all* over the course of the next nine hours...

BIANCA JAGGER
(*to camera operator*)

OK, so turn the camera -- a bit -- straight, rather than that way. Thank you. Not so much. A little bit... There! Thank you. OK.

WILLEM DAFOE

Together we come together, as one, to celebrate our diversity and to gather a multiplicity of viewpoints.

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Thank you for being here with us...

WILLEM DAFOE

...at the Table of Free Voices.

TRANSITION TO:

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Question One...

WILLEM DAFOE

...from Anonymous, USA.

TITLE:

What is today's most important unreported story?

HAFSAT ABIOLA (O.S.)

What is today's most important unreported story?

WILLEM DAFOE

You can start with your answer...

LESEGO RAMPOLOKENG

What ought to be reported today and definitely *does not* is how much life costs, the price of life on this planet.

SIMA WALI

We are going from crisis to crisis and we only report a portion of the story. When the guns of battle are silenced, we then forget about that country, that region that has suffered conflict, and we go to report a different story...

AVI PRIMOR

(in translation from German)

Well, I would begin with Darfur, the annihilation of populations... just because they have another religion or are of another race. And the world is not interested in them because they have no resources. No oil.

KAILASH SATYARTHI

For me, the most unreported story of today is the truth behind the global terrorism. We have no idea -- really no idea -- what is the truth behind it. Who is alive? Who is dead? Who is advancing it? Who is pioneering it? Who is making use of it in his or their favor?

TEGLA LOROUPE

The children who has been *slaved*. Human traffics.

DRITERO KASAPI

The millions and millions of people crossing borders illegally in search for a better life.

JOHN GAGE

I think today's most important unreported story is the story of the young girl who died ten minutes ago of malaria. She died needlessly, because the drugs that would be able to kill the malaria parasite exist and are cheap. But she didn't get those drugs. And she died, and just now another child died, and this story goes unreported.

BIANCA JAGGER

I don't think there is today's one most important unreported story. There are many unreported stories throughout the world.

NEELA MARIKKAR

It's the good things that are happening in the world. We don't hear about the good things

NEELA MARIKKAR (CONT.)

that are happening. There are such wonderful things happening out there. All we ever hear about it is the bad news: the death, the destruction, wars, killing, murders, rapes...

RODRIGO BAGGIO

(in translation from Portuguese)

Problems. If you squeeze a newspaper, it seems like it bleeds.

WILLEM DAFOE

Thank you.

TRANSITION TO:

WILLEM DAFOE

Question Twelve from Judy Twedt, twenty-four, Denver, USA...

TITLE:

Should we have the right
to choose where we live?

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Should we have the right to choose where we live?

WILLEM DAFOE

(to Hafsath Abiola)

Now, that's an interesting question.

HAFSAT ABIOLA

(to Willem Dafoe)

I like it!

ELIANE POTIGUARA

(in translation from Portuguese)

We are just born. We're just born somewhere on planet Earth and if we don't want to stay there we go somewhere else. But then, when we go somewhere else, we're discriminated against.

ALVARO RESTREPO

(in translation from Spanish)

I arrived two days ago and on the 11th I must leave again because my visa lasts for only four

ALVARO RESTREPO (CONT.)

(in translation from Spanish)

days. As a Colombian, as a citizen of the world, I have no right to enter this paradise, the paradise of the First World, except for four days.

ANURADHA MITTAL

Well, I believe, of course, we should have the right to choose where they live. I mean, we live in a world where capital can move, where goods can move, and I don't understand why there is so much hysteria about people moving.

CHINA KEITETSI

For example, one time I wanted to go to Dubai but, because I have a nineteen-fifty-one Geneva Convention passport, I was not allowed. And the reason for this I asked, they told me because I didn't belong anywhere.

LESEGO RAMPOLOKENG

Everybody wishes to live in a place that is free of war. Everybody wishes to live a harmonious existence but some people can buy that and others cannot. Some people can lay claim to that right and others are just not in a position to do so. Yes, we all of us should have the right to live wherever we want, but all of us should be able to *afford* to do so.

THENMOZHI SOUNDARARAJAN

Sometimes, you have to move to be able to support your family. Now, if you're crossing borders and you are not recognized by their state, does that mean you're illegal? By definitions of the state. But I don't think that, as humans, we can really say another human is illegal.

SUSAN GEORGE

And the people who are moving are mostly doing so because they are desperate. They're taking enormous risks. Look at the people who are arriving in the Canary Islands every week in makeshift boats, and they're arriving on the beach by the hundreds. These people are absolutely desperate. Otherwise they would

SUSAN GEORGE (CONT.)

not have left. That's not a fair choice. That's not saying I'm going to *choose* where I'm going to live. You're not going to choose to risk nine chances out of ten of drowning or being killed before you actually arrive. That's not a choice!

GEERT LOVINK

You could also ask the question, should we have... shouldn't we have the right to remain where we are? This is a very urgent question for many, many people on this Earth.

YUNGCHEN LHAMO

Like Tibetan people and like myself as a Tibetan, we don't have this right. Yes, we can live in our country but not necessarily we can do what we want to.

MOHAMMED ARKOUN

(in translation from French)

The day the law has effectively realized the possibility of granting this right without restriction to all people, on that day humanity will have done more than pass over a boundary. It will have attained a degree of evolution fully to be desired by all cultures and nations.

YUNGCHEN LHAMO

It's important we can live where we want to. And everyone, I think, it's important their nests. Even the birds need their nest. The human being need their *homes*.

TRANSITION TO:

WILLEM DAFOE

Question Nineteen from Claire Mackintosh, twenty-five, Brisbane, Australia...

TITLE:

What are the basic dignities
that each human being deserves
and why do we let so many people
go without them?

HAFSAT ABIOLA

What are the basic dignities that each human being deserves and why do we let so many people go without them?

BIBI RUSSELL

The basic dignity is human dignity, their pride, so they can have their head up, not head down. They don't have to be scared of anything! Maybe they are living in a remote village in some part of a developing country. So what? They should be standing straight. They should be...

MAHSA SHEKARLOO

We let so many people go without them so we can let other people do what they do. Take lands. Drop bombs. Take water. Control mines.

SUSAN GEORGE

'All for ourselves and nothing for other people seems to have been, in every age of the world, the vile maxim of the masters of mankind.' *All for ourselves and nothing for other people*. It's Adam Smith who said that. Adam Smith, the father of capitalism. He knew that that was the tendency. All for ourselves and nothing for other people!

BIANCA JAGGER

Indeed, I think that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is what should be available for people throughout the world. We should not accept that anyone is denied those basic human rights, the basic human right to live a decent life, to have access to food, shelter and education. It is unacceptable that in today's world there are children who are dying of hunger. It is unacceptable that in today's world there are children who have no shelter...

WIM WENDERS

To prepare myself for this question, I went into the Internet -- wikipedia -- and I re-read the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it made me cry. I just wept. It is so beautiful. *Let's put it in every passport.*

RAYMOND FEDERMAN

My father was exterminated at the age of thirty-seven, my mother at the same age. My sisters were exterminated at the age of twelve and sixteen. I survived, and life has become very precious for me and I assume that it is also precious for every human being on this planet. And yet, and yet, it is often taken away, for wrong reasons...

STEVE EARLE

We teach our children that our lives are worth more than other people's lives -- outsiders -- people with a different color skin than ours, people that have less than we do, people that don't speak the language that we do. The other. The other people.

STEPHANIE ROBINSON

What happens oftentimes is that those people are really seen as *them and not us*, and there's not much attention paid to or much concern for the basic rights and dignities of those people.

ELIOT WEINBERGER

But I think you have to think about what 'we' means in this question. Who are 'we' and who are 'they'?

GIORA FEIDMAN

A baby, when they cry, you cannot distinguish if it's a boy, a girl, what nationality, what religion is the religion of the mother. It's only one voice. Don't forget this! It's only one sound. We must remember that.

JONATHAN STACK

I guess if people really saw each other as their brother and really could imagine that each person out there was their child or their relative, it would be really different, like, if we could really open our hearts that wide.

BORA ĆOSIĆ

(in translation from Serbo-Croatian)

Everyone can gain human dignity for themselves. Before this, though, one must

BORA ĆOSIĆ (CONT.)

(in translation from Serbo-Croatian)

leave behind the self-imposed oppression of politics, ideology, religion and nationalistic narrow-mindedness.

SYDNEY POSSUELO

(in translation from Portuguese)

I come... I come from the jungle where I lived for the most part of my life with tribes, and where the question of freedom is much more meaningful than it is here. I have never known more free beings than them, the indigenous people... no, I never have.

WIM WENDERS

*(in translation from German,
to offscreen presence)*

I knew it from the moment that this murmur first began, and this babble. It sent a shiver down my spine and I realized that something will come of this, that it's helping. I was reminded a little of 'Wings of Desire'. There are these angels hearing all these voices. There's this similar kind of murmur the whole time. And then this murmur was here, only it was real. All these people really were thinking aloud.

MICHAEL TIGAR

(to his wife)

Oh, hey! Did you see Bianca? I think she's over there. There she is! I think she showed up late.

BIANCA JAGGER

(to camera operator)

If you can do me a big favor? Don't move it when I'm talking because that immediately...

CAMERA OPERATOR (O.S.)

OK. When you're talking, I won't...

BIANCA JAGGER

You know, if you can do it before or after or when I stop talking, because if you do it when I do, then my concentration, which is very hard to have any...

CAMERA OPERATOR (O.S.)

I do it when I get the notes from the others...

BIANCA JAGGER (O.S.)

Sure... Right. Sure...

TRANSITION TO:

WILLEM DAFOE

Question Twenty-Eight from Andrew, twenty-two, Frankfurt, Germany...

TITLE:

What if all Chinese
people want a car?

HAFSAT ABIOLA

What if all Chinese people want a car?

ANTOSCHKA

(in translation from German)

This question is a bit racist.

TEGLA LOROUPE

Why not? Everybody needs a car. Why do you talk only about Chinese and, when you go to America, there every family has more than three cars?

OLIVIERO TOSCANI

Why Chinese? Everybody want a car. Everybody. I mean, there are a lot of Italian, French and German people who don't have a car and they want a car.

ESTHER MWAURA-MUIRU

What if all Indians want a car? What if all Africans want a car?

ROLAND BERGER

(in translation from German)

If all Chinese people want to have a car, assuming that they would want to drive the most powerful, the biggest and the fastest cars, then the skies above us would darken.

SONG KOSAL

Not enough roads, many accidents, not enough car parking space, too much pollutions.

YANG SHAOBIN

(in translation from Chinese)

What if all Chinese people want a car? Then all German people must be turned into automobile workers to produce cars for the Chinese until all the Germans are exhausted. It's an impossible story.

JOHN GAGE

The car of today in the wealthy world utilizes two to three percent of the energy in the gas tank to actually move the driver. The rest is lost in moving the weight of the frame and the weight of the engine, lost in heat and friction. We've devised an enormously sophisticated set of very badly designed vehicles just to move one person from one place to another.

MICHAEL TIGAR

Petroleum prices will continue their sharp upward movement and economic chaos in the West at the most or, at the very least, the grim, inevitable realization that something has to be done about the excess consumption of these fossil fuels in the United States of America and other Western countries is going to be impressed upon people's consciousness.

TU WEIMING

China, for a long time, was a nation of bicycles.

BILL JOY

I'm encouraged that Chinese automakers are looking at the ecological impacts of the cars and working very hard and thinking about electric cars.

BEVERLY SCHWARTZ

China has a huge opportunity and a huge responsibility to industrialize in a way that works for its people and for its environment and for the world.

ASHOK GANGADEAN

It's clear that what is behind the question is not so much the Chinese people but a metaphor for a situation in which it's unsustainable clearly.

BIANCA JAGGER

We cannot ask of them what we're not prepared to do ourselves! And what we need to do is we should learn from our mistakes, from the way we have lived, from the irrational and the irresponsible way in which we have lived our life.

FANG LIJUN

(in translation from Chinese)

The problem is not how many people want a car but that the door to human desires has been opened interminably. How can we close the door again after opening it to our infinite, possessive desires?

MRS. POSSUELO

(to her husband)

Everything OK?

SYDNEY POSSUELO

(to his wife)

It's OK. It's OK...

BENJAMIN FAHRER

(approaching Benson Venegas)

How you doing?

BENSON VENEGAS

Ah good. A little bit exhausted.

(Benjamin Fahrer massages his shoulders)

Hey. Wow! Ow! Ow!

BENJAMIN FAHRER

That's too much?

BENSON VENEGAS

Yeah!

JONATHAN GRANOFF

This is just so cool to be here doing this.

SOHRAB MAHDAVI

(to Jonathan Granoff)

Is it?

JONATHAN GRANOFF

(to Sohrab Mahdavi)

Yeah, this is where the Nazis burned the books.

SOHRAB MAHDAVI

Oh, now I get it...

He gestures to the north end of Bebelplatz, to a giant sculpture of seventeen books built to commemorate those burned in 1933.

SOHRAB MAHDAVI (CONT., O.S.)

Those stack of books are there because of that.

JONATHAN GRANOFF

Yeah.

SOHRAB MAHDAVI

Jesus, I didn't realize that...

HOMERO ARIDJIS

(approaching Willem Dafoe)

Willem...

WILLEM DAFOE

(to Homero Aridjis)

Hey!

HOMERO ARIDJIS

Hey, how many questions do you have now?
After all these!

WILLEM DAFOE

You want to know...?

HOMERO ARIDJIS

So many questions...

ELIANE POTIGUARA

(to Viviana Figueroa,

in translation from Portuguese)

I'm speaking... I'm speaking so much about all
the problems. I'm setting it all on fire!

ANGAANGAQ LYBERTH

(to camera operator)

Am I doing OK?

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Question Thirty-Three is from the New York-
based novelist, Siri Hustvedt, who asks...

SIRI HUSTVEDT

(to camera)

I'm very curious to know, to find out how consumer culture actually influences the personalities, the ways people live, the way they think, inside themselves, in a given culture... how it becomes part of us, and what it means to be able to resist that visual and verbal culture that, it seems to me, is always...

WILLEM DAFOE

(underneath Siri Hustvedt)

...that seems to me is always reducing and simplifying reality into something that can be easily bought and sold?

SIMON RETALLACK

Uh... I think...

JESPER GREEN

Consumer cult... consumer... consumer culture...

GOVINDASWAMY HARIRAMAMURTHI

It functions to keep creating a desire in the society, in the community, that here is something new, here is something better, here is something more...

ANTOSCHKA

The people... The man need nothing. He need only himself. He need love.

KIGGE HVID

(in translation from Danish)

There are enough coffee pots in the world. There are enough gadgets surrounding us. There are enough chairs! Use one of the many hundreds that there already are and then put your extra energy into developing those things that really matter.

FERNANDO SOLANAS

(in translation from Spanish)

All this forms part of a culture of prostitution. Our values have become prostituted and humanity itself just a big prostitution machine.

ANGAANGAQ LYBERTH

We created monsters... monsters of agricultural development. McDonald's cows are killed and there's no ceremony of killing the animal. There's no honoring, thanking the animal for providing the food for us. So when there's no ceremony, the food we eat becomes bad. And guess what? Where McDonald's is eaten, people become sick. What did you expect? There's no ceremony!

LESEGO RAMPOLOKENG

The most powerful people on the face of the planet are the ones who can affect the most minds, who can influence human behavior and social movements, and the way in which societies view themselves, see themselves, the way they walk, the way they talk, things they eat, they drink and such like. And it's all a matter of economics.

ANA LUCY BENGOCHEA

(in translation from Spanish)

It's a model that is destroying us. It's a model that is consuming us.

AUDREY KITAGAWA

What we really need to look at is the free market itself and see how we can really bring in the whole aspect of ethics.

SULAK SIVARAKSA

Wealth in order to share, to care, and to live happily with oneself and others. And the deepest, the best wealth is how to serve others.

TRANSITION TO:

TITLE:

Does our wealth depend on
the Third World being poor?

HAFSAT ABIOLA (O.S.)

Question Thirty-Seven is from Tom Henze,
thirty, Berlin, Germany...

WILLEM DAFOE

Does our wealth depend on the Third World
being poor?

KURT WEIDEMANN

(in translation from German)

The expression 'Third World' is truly an arrogant claim. It is not a Third World but it is also a world that has developed in a different way or that has stood back from development, but it is not the Third World. What then would the First World be?

ROBBIE CONAL

What is that definition of the Third World anyway? Is there a First World, a Second World and a Third World? *Not really*. One world? Not doing so well? Humans fucking it up?

JONATHAN STACK

I mean, if our wealth depends on the Third World being poor, then we're in trouble, we're in trouble...

ELIANE POTIGUARA

(in translation from Portuguese)

They started first by taking the gold away! But gold for indigenous people didn't have the same value as it did for capitalists.

MOHAU PHEKO

Africa has been the cradle of mankind and I stand very clearly and say that Africa is also going to be the deathbed of capitalism.

SYDNEY POSSUELO

Oh plundered Africa... Africa. Terrible Africa. It's impossible to talk about Africa without feeling... without feeling our hearts twinge.

ANDRIES BOTHA

Those who are well fed never understand what it feels like to be hungry.

ANURADHA MITTAL

A Nigerian chief once said, 'If you will not share your wealth with us, we will share our poverty with you.' So if you want global peace we have to talk about equitable distribution.

YASSIN ADNAN

(in translation from Arabic)

We also have to understand that all of the resources are shared by all and they are first of all for those in need. Real property is property by need. It comes about through need. When I need a glass of water, then it is mine by right of need.

ROBBIE CONAL

Fair! 'Fair' is not a word that you hear in economics too much.

AUDREY KITAGAWA

There is a connection that we have to make as to the poverty of the people, the wealth of the land, and be observant as to where this wealth is going.

ELISABET SAHTOURIS

What I believe globalization is really about is forming global family, moving out of what I call a juvenile species mode of hostile competition and into a more mature mode of cooperation. This has happened to many species all through evolution and it's our turn now as humans to do this.

JONATHAN GRANOFF

I make it very simple. One is, joining in the generosity of the divine, which is a power of giving. All life is given to us. And those who do that are 'for giving'. And then, if your life is centered around getting, then you're joining in the culture of 'for getting'. So the choice is to be part of 'for getting' and being forgotten or part of 'for giving' and being forgiven.

NEELA MARIKKAR

(to Jonathan Granoff)

I like that! That's great.

(O.S.)

He said it for me, my neighbor.

SOHRAB MAHDAVI (O.S.)

Repeat. Repeat.

NEELA MARIKKAR
(to Jonathan Granoff)

Yes. Can you come and sit in my seat and say it for me?

JONATHAN GRANOFF

(to Neela Marikkar and Sohrab Mahdavi)

I would like it if we had more interaction in this process.

NEELA MARIKKAR (O.S.)

I know I'm getting tired.

JONATHAN GRANOFF

No, I'm enlivened by sharing with somebody. My brain doesn't, my brain doesn't... I mean, this!

(to camera)

Talking to you... Talking to you!

He holds up a mirror to the camera.

AUDREY KITAGAWA

Hi sweetheart.

ASHOK GANGADEAN (O.S.)

Hi! How are you?

AUDREY KITAGAWA

Are you having fun, baby?

ASHOK GANGADEAN (O.S.)

Uh?

AUDREY KITAGAWA

Are you having fun?

ASHOK GANGADEAN (O.S.)

Yeah.

AUDREY KITAGAWA

'Cause you're so smart. You're such a genius. Y'know, answers just roll off your tongue.

MARK BENECKE

I don't know, I don't know, I don't know! I guess we're part of a big experiment. You know, it's not about the questions. This is about us. They're doing something to us here.

WILLEM DAFOE
(to Hafsata Abiola)

Go ahead.

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Thank you. While you were giving your answers to that last question, I was walking through the circle and I was able to see all your faces, hear your voices, see your expressions. And it was deeply moving for me to see everything that I saw as I walked through the circle. It's such a diverse group that we have here. We're our own United Nations! I saw people from Africa, from Asia, Australia, from, you know, Europe and the Americas. And it's beautiful that we're all together here investing in the future.

TRANSITION TO:

HAFSAT ABIOLA (CONT.)

Question Forty-One from Adrienn Meszaros, thirty, Budapest, Hungary...

TITLE:

Is there a modern version
of colonialism?

WILLEM DAFOE

Is there a modern version of colonialism?

SUSAN GEORGE

Yes. Yes, there is a modern version of colonialism, and it's got a name. It's called debt. It is called debt, followed by the structural adjustment policies imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

ESTHER MWAURA-MUIRU

A lot of this money coming to developing countries is actually used to control the sovereignty of our own governments, of our own people...

SUSAN GEORGE

The Bank and the Fund move in and they say, 'OK, if you're going to pay back your debt, and you must pay back your debt, then you have to

SUSAN GEORGE (CONT.)

put interest rates way, way up.' That makes it harder for businesses to borrow and to employ people. You've got to privatize everything in sight, so that gives big opportunities to foreign companies and local elites to buy up all of the previously public companies.

LESEGO RAMPOLOKENG

The United States of America was itself built on the decimation of an entire people. Europe has been built on sucking out the Congo, on sucking out the gold and diamonds of South Africa.

FERNANDO SOLANAS

(in translation from Spanish)

Slavery was about the exploitation of raw materials. Today it's about oil. Today it's about diamonds. Today it's about all the minerals and primary resources.

ANA LUCY BENGOCHEA

(in translation from Spanish)

The countries... the Latin American countries continue to suffer exploitation, the exploitation of their resources.

SUSAN GEORGE

All of these policies have been very beneficial to a tiny minority of the people in these countries.

ANTOSCHKA

(in translation from Russian)

Just like vampires. They are vampires! They use the energy, the strength and the lives of others for their own economic prosperity.

JERRY MANDER

It's modern economic colonialism based on globalization, but its structure is almost exactly the same as it has been for, y'know, four or five hundred years.

SUSAN GEORGE

It's better than colonialism because it doesn't need an army. It doesn't need an administration. It doesn't cost you anything,

SUSAN GEORGE (CONT.)

as the person intervening, the state, the powers intervening...

SANAR YURDATAPAN

(singing a song by Erich Kästner)

'We are children of a world that has enough for everyone. But so many remain hungry while so few are well fed. One will eat, the other hunger. This is how it's always been. Other nations must be poor so that the rich ones can be rich.'

SUSAN GEORGE

And this is a really ideal system because it isn't even very visible. Colonialism is visible. People think this is rotten. You know, there's pictures taken. But debt is invisible and it works just as well, even more efficiently.

ELISABET SAHTOURIS

I don't like to be sitting here as an American talking about this, but this is the underbelly of the real world that we live in. It's very real. It has caused enormous misery, and we have to know what's going on in our world in order to change it.

CORNEL WEST

There must be some democratic forms of life and forms of organization that can sidestep all imperial and colonial forms of subjugation. That's the great question of the twenty-first century!

TRANSITION TO:

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Question Forty-Five from Katharina, twenty-four, Germany...

TITLE:

Why do we still believe
more in nationality than
in humanity?

WILLEM DAFOE

Why do we still believe more in nationality
than in humanity?

GOVINDASWAMY HARIRAMAMURTHI

It is by the conditioning of mind that we are trained, trained, trained all the time, that we are part of a national identity. That is how we see it. And, within a nation, again it gets down to smaller and smaller and smaller identities...

ESTHER MWAURA-MUIRU

And so we're fearful. We have been put into a framework to protect ourselves. We're so insecure. We do not know who is for us and who is not for us and that has destroyed the humanity.

JWAN M. AZIZ

(in translation from Arabic)

Let me give you an example. In Iraq now, my country Iraq, most people cling to and trust only their own people or their neighbors or others from their city. Before, we did not ask who a person was, where they came from, from which city, from which tribe or family. We would be friendly, that's all.

HELENA NORBERG-HODGE

It is *security*, psychological security, that enables people to feel an expanded sense of self, that enables them to respect difference. It is when people feel frightened, scared, cut off, that intolerance grows, and in the nation states today people are being manipulated through the mass media to learn to hate *the other* whom they have never met.

TAVIS SMILEY

We live in a world where we have been conditioned to be tribal, to be nativist, to be nationalist. Of course, it's important to understand that nationalism is really fanaticism.

RACHID EL DAIF

I believe that within each of us there is a racist dictator. I'm convinced of this.

GALSAN TSCHINAG

Because to us the family is closer than the clan, the clan is closer than the tribe, the tribe is closer than the nation, the nation is closer than humanity.

PICO IYER

I, for one, don't believe in nationality at all and I think more and more of us in the 21st century -- children of the world of possibility, children of the future tense, perhaps -- live in the passageways between nations, between cultures and between categories, outside the traditional definitions, and our affiliations are not to nations or to the traditional order but to something beyond that.

ELIOT WEINBERGER

I believe that, to a certain extent, the concept of nationality is beginning to erode as we turn into a kind of genuinely transnational people.

WIM WENDERS

Sometimes the worst enemy is our own perception.

WILLEM DAFOE (O.S.)

Thank you.

TRANSITION TO:

TITLE:

How do we stop our
governments from
going to war?

WILLEM DAFOE (O.S.)

Question Forty-Eight from Glen, Cape Town,
South Africa...

HAFSAT ABIOLA

How do we stop our governments from going to
war?

ANGAANGAQ LYBERTH

I come from the land where there has never been any war, so I do not know anything about war but I do know the suffering you people have experienced. Me? I come from the land of peace, where nothing but peace has been in existence, where no one is fearing being shot, where no one is aiming at you, where no one fights for the land.

ANDRIES BOTHA

We go to war: you, me, us. Governments don't go to war. Governments send *us* to war. *We* pay the price, and the price that we pay is not only physical. The price that we pay is psychic. We lose our moral groundedness. We love *ourselves*.

BIBI RUSSELL

It's really a shame. The big powers should be ashamed of what they are doing with the civilization. Killing them?

NADJA HALILBEGOVICH

I'm a survivor of war in Bosnia and for three and a half years of my childhood, millions -- *millions* of bombs -- exploded in my city. And to hear a bomb explode is an experience that can't be explained or described because you feel it in your body. I remember, just my whole body reacting to such loudness and to destruction, and my heart would jump every time -- *millions* of times -- and there were times when it felt like my heart could no longer take it and it would just sort of *burst* into millions of pieces.

ANURADHA MITTAL

...where human beings are nothing but collateral damage. We're not talking about numbers. We're not talking about lives destroyed. We're not talking about families destroyed, but we're basically talking about collateral damage. It's just *numbing*. Because we're not seeing a face. It is distant!

PAUL D. MILLER

The political process has lost touch with the reality, the fact that war is only about economics.

MARTIN ALMADA

(in translation from Spanish)

It is incomprehensible how, day after day, the world powers can spend so much money creating death!

JODIE EVANS

We've lost our connection to our responsibility for what our governments do! And we get lost in our powerlessness, and we think we can change it in a few moments. Y'know, people marched against the war and it didn't work and so everyone goes home and starts to live their lives again, while what they were in the streets about originally has become a greater nightmare than they could have ever imagined. But why was it horrible when they first entered the streets and not so horrible now that no one's in the streets?

RAYMOND FEDERMAN

How you stop the government is a very difficult question. The only way, I think, one could do is by overthrowing that government, by a *revolution!* But then, of course, the notion of revolution in our time is so archaic, so dépassé. We don't think in those terms anymore but that is the only way we stop a government.

VALENTINA MELNIKOVA

(in translation from Russian)

The most important step that all the women of the world can take is not to give their children away to be turned into soldiers, to be turned into killers.

VESNA PESIC

(in translation from Serbo-Croatian)

I come from a region where we all started to hate each other and to kill each other savagely, as if the others were no longer human.

JOHN GAGE

We have these disasters in which, in a very short period of time, a massive amount of destructive power can be brought to bear. The governments doing this must be replaced. The leaders individually responsible for these actions must be held to justice. We've seen a wonderful trend in the past twenty years with General Pinochet and a number of others whose actions led to genocide, led to disappearances, led to death, being brought

JOHN GAGE (CONT.)

before world courts of justice. So we must move to a world in which every leader is held accountable in the same way, with the feeling that their actions will be judged.

BIBI RUSSELL

As a human being, I feel that, what is today's war? We are killing each other and it's something that is taking peace away of a lot, a lot of people...

TRANSITION TO:

TITLE:

Why is there no peace
in the Middle East yet?

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Question Fifty-Six from Moise Marabout,
twenty-three, Agadez, Niger...

WILLEM DAFOE

Why is there no peace in the Middle East yet?

DEDI BARON

(in translation from Hebrew)

This question is extremely, extremely, extremely, extremely, extremely close to my heart as an Israeli. I can only say that the way I see it, there's no peace in the Middle East because of the vanity of Israel.

KAMAL BOULLATA

As long as justice is not addressed, we will not have peace. Peace is not a moment between conflicts but a continuous state one lives and strives for.

ABBAS BEYDOUN

(in translation from Arabic)

The only peace now is false peace, peace based upon lack of trust.

SOHRAB MAHDAVI

Oil.

AVI PRIMOR

(in translation from German)

Well, I believe the main reason is because of fanatics on both sides. On both sides.

DEDI BARON

(in translation from Hebrew)

You can't ignore the fact that we are deeply scarred as a people, but instead of trying to heal ourselves by recognizing that we simply must use compassion, love and forgiveness and engage in dialogue eye to eye, we keep hiding behind our supposed righteousness but there is no such thing. And we feel like we're allowed to do anything because of what was done to us.

RAYMOND FEDERMAN

I believe the Palestinian and the Israeli would like to be able to coexist together. The whole argument that we were here first and they were here first is totally irrelevant. We are *all* visitors on this planet. We are all strangers walking on borrowed land.

UDI ALONI

Once the Palestinian and the Israeli will live equally with self-respect, with respect to each other and solidarity, it will echo to the entire world! It will stop these stupid battles that the state decides of the culture between the West and the Muslims. It's such a bullshit thing! In Israel and Palestine we can prove that this together can be the most beautiful culture one can have. I know I sound like a dreamer...

GLADMAN CHIBEMEME

In my country, in my community, we normally say...

*(he recites a proverb in his
Bantu mother tongue)*

...which means 'Where two bulls fight, normally the grass is the one that suffers.'

TRANSITION TO:

TITLE:

Why is an
Iranian nuclear bomb
supposed to be more
dangerous than an
American, Israeli
or French?

WILLEM DAFOE

Question Sixty-One from Wolfgang Jost,
twenty-three, Berlin, Germany...

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Why is an Iranian nuclear bomb supposed to
be more dangerous than an American, Israeli
or French?

SANAR YURDATAPAN

Let us not ask this question in America or
France or in Israel! But let us ask this question
in Algeria or in Iraq or in Lebanon or in
Palestine... or even Japan!

OLIVIERO TOSCANI

August seven, nineteen forty-five: America
drop a bomb on Hiroshima. Some hundred
thousand people been killed -- children in
school, primary school, civilians -- and the
killing went on for years because of the atomic
consequences. Who has been using really those
bombs, practically? Until now, just USA.

RAYMOND FEDERMAN

Iran pledges, promises, to destroy Israel. And
there is no doubt that if Iran were to have a
nuclear bomb, it would keep its promise.

ROBBIE CONAL

Israel? Israel's bombs? Where do they come
from...? We make those. We *sell them* to Israel.

JONATHAN GRANOFF

The American, Israeli, and French bombs
should be eliminated. France and the United
States have a legal obligation to do so under
the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and
Israel has a security interest in really
resolving the conflicts in its region through

JONATHAN GRANOFF (CONT.)

non-violent means. 'Cause eventually, as long as some have nuclear weapons, others will want them. As long as they want them, at some point they will get them. And as long as they exist, it's inevitable that either through accident or design they will be used. Any use is catastrophic. Therefore they must be universally abolished.

CHINA KEITETSI

Why do we have to have a nuclear bomb?

SIMON RETALLACK

We shouldn't be... If we were to start all over again, I think, no one would say that it was a good idea to build nuclear bombs... Insane!

JODIE EVANS

Who would we be if we didn't live in the shadow of the atomic bomb? I think we would be very different people. Would we live in this sense of fear that is manipulated by external powers so easily? Would we still be allowing the level of violence that we allow? I don't think so. I think we could have found some wonderful ways to deal with conflict that wasn't violence. And I do think that who we are in the twenty-first century has deeply been affected by the technological advances in weaponry. And I don't think we fully understand what that's done to our humanity, what it's done even just to American citizens to have used the atomic bomb. I think that contributes to how violent our own inner nature is. It has contributed to the level of depression, the level of addictions, the *disconnect* and denial and... yeah, I think, it would be a very different world, a very different world, certainly one more caring and generous and compassionate and wise.

TRANSITION TO:

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Question Sixty-Two is from the writer and activist Arundhati Roy...

TITLE:

Between non-violent resistance and armed struggle where do we go?

WILLEM DAFOE

Between non-violent resistance and armed struggle where do we go...

TITLE:

What is effective? What is the right thing to do?

ARUNDHATI ROY

(to camera)

What is effective? What is the right thing to do? Or do we need a biodiversity of resistance?

WILLEM DAFOE (CONT., O.S.)

(underneath Arundhati Roy)

What is effective? What is the right thing to do?

TITLE:

Do we need a biodiversity of resistance?

WILLEM DAFOE (CONT., O.S.)

Do we need a biodiversity of resistance?

WIM WENDERS

Arundhati, if you could sit here and hear this *murmur*, and see all these faces...

OLIVIERO TOSCANI

I like the name 'biodiversity of resistance'.

UDI ALONI

This is a great question and I'm not sure that we are the ones to answer. Yeah, I would prefer to say I prefer a non-violence resistance. Yeah, I wish this resistance would make it. But we are not the ones to choose the resistance of the oppressed

CORNEL WEST

We certainly need a variety of forms of resistance. Armed struggle must be the last resort. It must be something that we are very,

CORNEL WEST (CONT.)

very mindful of and oftentimes suspicious of, and yet there are conditions under which armed struggle becomes necessary. For the most part, we must deploy all forms of non-violent resistance and struggle, understanding non-violence as something active, as something that's vital and vibrant, something that requires our sacrifice, our suffering, something that allows us to accent the best in ourselves and the best in *others*.

MICHAEL TIGAR

The struggle for change in every single place where struggle has been successful has employed what you term a biodiversity of tactics, from nonviolent resistance to political organizing to speechmaking to armed struggle: legitimate armed struggle based on the principles laid down by, among others, the African National Congress and Che Guevara to distinguish between mere terrorism -- violence for its own sake with unnecessary casualties -- and armed struggle that is undertaken to mobilize and protect a majority, an oppressed majority.

THENMOZHI SOUNDARARAJAN

As someone who is an organizer, whatever decision I make and whatever movement I am engaged with, I always have to ask myself: can I live with the impact of the tactic that I am going to use?

LIVINGSTONE MALULEKE

It never happens when change is taking place that it does not affect others. Always, there are victims of change.

MARK BENECKE

Ask yourself, how much are you willing to give? How convinced are you of your goal? And then you can choose the weapons. It could be a pen, could be a gun, could be a camera, could be a piece of paper, could be a knife, could be your life.

BIANCA JAGGER

I think that we can accomplish a lot with non-violent resistance, but are there times when armed struggles are justified? Are revolutions justified?

MAE WAN-HO

I think... concentrating on resistance, there's something wrong with that. We're not just concentrating on resistance. We have to create *attractance!* We have to create a new paradigm which is attractive to go to.

ANGAANGAQ LYBERTH

If everyone is blooming in their own beauty, imagine that! Everyone sitting here in the circle at the table blooming their own beauty. Yes, Arundhati, we need a biodiversity on Earth. It's everyone's language, everyone's culture, everyone's spiritual understanding.

BENSON VENEGAS

(in translation from Spanish)

At this very moment, you can see around me a circle that represents a global community where, clearly, there is diversity, diversity of thought, diversity of ideas, diversity of concepts.

SANTIAGO RONCAGLIOLO

(in translation from Spanish)

Is anyone there listening to us? At some other time?

JONATHAN MEESE

*(in translation from German,
to offscreen presence behind camera)*

It might be catapulted into the world like a discus. Super! Yes? Sounds good? That's it? Beautiful.

BENJAMIN FAHRER

Can you take your head off, so you can really feel what's going on around you, you can really sense what's going on around you? Or are you still in your mind... thinking?

VIVIANA FIGUEROA

(in translation from Portuguese)

Our friend the camera.

UDI ALONI

Guys, whatever you hear from me, if there is one smart thing, take it and the rest please erase it...

HAFSAT ABIOLA

(to Willem Dafoe)

You also went to the center. How was the center?

WILLEM DAFOE

(to Hafsath Abiola)

It was really good. It's amazing, because you can click onto the different... any camera you can go.

TRANSITION TO:

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Question Seventy-Five from Sara Francis, thirty-five, Dublin, Ireland...

TITLE:

What does courage mean now?

WILLEM DAFOE

What does courage mean now?

BIBI RUSSELL

I think, courage is something I appreciate of a person so much. I mean, people... I salute the people who has courage! Courage is something to make you continue to live day to day life. Courage is something... Step by step, you go up!

ASHOK GANGADEAN

It takes courage to be a human being. It takes courage to be!

JONATHAN MEESE

(in translation from German)

Solitude is courage. Hermetics. Total neutrality. To be unsure of yourself is courage.

BIANCA JAGGER

Courage is so many things. Courage is the

BLANCA JAGGER (CONT.)

courage of Aung San Suu Kyi, you know, who is being kept incommunicado under house arrest. Courage is the courage of the young students in Tiananmen Square.

SUSAN GEORGE

We risk our lives in different, different ways... well, I've never really risked mine so I can't say. I've never lived in truly dangerous situations the way so many people around this table have done.

RAYMOND FEDERMAN

To put it quite simply, I am willing to die. Yes, I'm willing to die. I have the courage to really take the risk to die to defend who I am and what I'm doing.

JONATHAN GRANOFF

Well, I mean, we're sitting in a square where the adventure of Nazism took over this beautiful country of Germany, and distorted the laws of justice in a most gross and horrific fashion. Imagine the courage of people that broke the laws of the state to honor the higher law of caring for human life.

HARRY WU

(in translation from Chinese)

You don't know that Chinese prison labor camps are similar to Soviet gulags or German concentration camps. About 40 or 50 million people have lost their lives there. I was there for nineteen years before I made it to America. I didn't want to talk about this, but finally I have because we have only one lifetime.

FERNANDO SOLANAS

(in translation from Spanish)

What would Argentina have been without the courage of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo who stood up to the dictatorships and terrorism of the Generals Videla, Massera and Agosti who 'disappeared' thousands of people by throwing them into the sea. What would have become of us without the lesson in courage taught by these mothers who stood before the Casa de Gobierno every Thursday with the portraits of their disappeared sons?

OSCAR OLIVERA

(in translation from Spanish)

Courage means to understand that these powers are not invincible, as is being demonstrated by people in the world who, with courage and indignation, have managed to expel transnationals from their countries, have managed to overthrow and topple governments.

CORNEL WEST

Courage has everything to do with looking the future into the face, always acknowledging an element of the unknown, but believing that if one sacrifices, if one suffers, if one takes a risk and allows oneself to be vulnerable, that one can *still* make a difference.

CATHERINE DAVID

(in translation from French)

We should keep this in mind and it should make us all the more radical and motivated, as we don't risk our lives but just a little boredom sometimes, a little ostracism, a little of our well-being.

ANURADHA MITTAL

Courage is also not just about changing this world. It is really also about ensuring that the present day world does not change me.

TRANSITION TO:

WILLEM DAFOE

Question Seventy-Eight from Nancy Clemons, fifty-seven, Cameron, Missouri, USA...

TITLE:

What can I do,
and tell others to do,
to stop global warming?

HASAT ABIOLA

What can I do, and tell others to do, to stop global warming? What can I do, and tell others to do, to stop global warming? Please begin.

BIBI RUSSELL

This is a big question!

HOMERO ARIDJIS

(in translation from Spanish)

Quite simply, future generations will not be able to understand our grand delirium of destruction.

ANGAANGAQ LYBERTH

There's nothing you and I, we, can do to stop the global warming. The ice is going to carry on melting away. And now the matter is: *who* will live? Who will live with a life worth living? We know that many will perish. We know that many more will barely survive with no life. *Few* will have a life worthy of living. I pray to the Great One and ask him again and pray again that you and me will be able to have a life worthy of living. Because, no matter what you and I do today, there is no way of returning. The ice will carry on melting until it has ceased to exist. And, in fact, they say that my country Greenland -- Kalaallit Nunaat, the land of the people -- will become a rose garden. I've never seen a rose yet but I can hardly wait to see that one.

ELISABET SAHTOURIS

Actually, we can't stop global warming any more. As an evolution biologist I firmly believe that we cannot stop it any more. However, we can slow it down.

BRIAN J. WELLER

Global warming is not about science. It's about experience. Science will give us the facts. It will give us the data and it may move us to act. But, ultimately, how we move each other to act is a question more of the heart than it is the head.

LILLIAN HOLT

Yeah, well, I guess we are all part of the problem, but we all can be part of the solution. I mean, for myself.. I could make a contribution if I stop driving my car.

JERRY MANDER

Transitions to biofuels and even large-scale wind and solar would probably not be able to be sufficient to sustain an industrial system at

JERRY MANDER (CONT.)

the present scale. So the answer is powering down.

HELENA NORBERG-HODGE

Right now, hundreds of communities are starting to take these steps. They are engaged in what is called 'power down'. They are looking at how they as communities can take steps right now to localize their economies. They realize that if oil prices shoot up or if there's scarcity, they may find the supermarket shelves empty. They may find that they won't be able to heat their homes, that they won't be able to travel...

TAKASHI KIUCHI

We must talk about how to control our cheap desire.

SUSAN GEORGE

I think something we can all do worldwide is to shame and ridicule the people who are polluting.

DONATO BAYU BAY BUMACAS sings a votive song from The Philippines' Kalinga Province.

JONATHAN MEESE

(in translation from German)

There won't be any state of emergency. We have, for thousands of years, been living in a state of emergency.

MASAMI SAIONJI

(in translation from Japanese)

We delude ourselves into thinking that these problems are the creation of our nation, government, religion or race, but this is not so. The problem lies within each individual's consciousness.

OLIVIERO TOSCANI

I don't believe in humankind! No, I don't. I tell you I'm embarrassed to belong to that race... And at the same time, I'm fascinated by it. *La belle et la bestia.*

TRANSITION TO:

HAFSAT ABIOLA

Question Eighty-Three is from the photographer Sebastião Salgado of Aimorés, Minas Gerais, Brazil...

TITLE:

Can a person be perceptive enough to see our planet in a way that tells them that they too are part of nature?

WILLEM DAFOE

Can a person be perceptive enough to see our planet in a way that tells them that they too are part of nature?

WIM WENDERS

We all start seeing clearer and clearer the damage done. We see it at our doorsteps! We see and feel the climate changes, the droughts and the flooding, the storms and the heat. We breathe the bad air. We suffer from allergies. We miss the taste in food. We watch the forest die, the animals and plants endangered and disappearing. And more and more of us understand that the planet does not belong to us but that *we* belong to the Earth.

RAYMOND FEDERMAN

Since the 20th century, when man was able to escape gravity and move into space, we've had pictures, beautiful pictures of our planet, that little blueish globe floating through the universe. And, as you look at those pictures, you become almost sentimental and think I *live* on this planet. I am *part* of this planet.

ELISABET SAHTOURIS

Go out in a field and lie down at night and look *down* into the stars. Pretend that gravity has you glued to the bottom of the planet because how do you know which way is up?

HELENA NORBERG-HODGE

The reason why little children love animals is because we have co-evolved with the rest of creation. We have lived close to nature for almost all our evolution. This little blip of modern life *cut off* from the Earth, *cut off* from other animals and *cut off* from one another has only happened because we've also become cut

HELENA NORBERG-HODGE (CONT.)

off from *ourselves*, from our own hearts, from our own bodies...

ELISABET SAHTOURIS

Nature makes the most sophisticated materials on the planet out of carbohydrates. We too can learn how to do that. But we have thought ourselves to be superior to nature. We haven't looked at her four and a half *billion* years of experience in incredible technologies. Take a wasps' nest! It's a building that hangs from a single thread made of material so light that it can hold three hundred times its own weight in inhabitants. Can *we* learn to make buildings like that? Can we grow skyscrapers from the bottom up the way a reed grows by building new cells at the bottom of it and pushing itself upward? We have *so much* to learn from nature.

MICHAEL LAITMAN

(*in translation from Hebrew*)

It is by our own free choice, by our personal efforts, that we will achieve balance with nature and become like all of nature. Then we will feel the eternity, perfection and harmony that is present everywhere in nature except within our own.

HELENA NORBERG-HODGE

Everything we eat, everything we wear, all our houses, all our objects come from the living Earth, so learning how to live from that Earth in a way that is sustainable is not utopian, is not a dream. What stands between us and that possibility is the *idea* that it can't be done, the *idea* that *they* are too powerful, that corporations can't change, the *idea* that people don't want change, the *idea* that all of this comes from innate human greed, that it comes from overpopulation: the planet is too crowded therefore it's not possible to provide for people. All of these are myths that need to be reassessed, assumptions that need to be rethought.

TRANSITION TO:

HAFSAT ABIOLA (O.S.)

So, Question Ninety-Six comes from Miraj
Khaled, thirty, from Dhaka, Bangladesh...

TITLE:

What is God's religion?

HAFSAT ABIOLA

'What is God's religion?', she asks. What is
God's religion? Please begin.

SUSAN GEORGE

I loved that question when I saw it because I
think this is very perceptive!

ALVARO RESTREPO

(in translation from Spanish)

Which God? Which religion?

JODIE EVANS

What God? Whose God?

PAULINE TANGIORA

Whichever way we want to take it, we must
respect how others see this word 'God'.

TANIA BRUGUERA

(in translation from Spanish)

God is a way of defining certain archetypes,
certain expectations and objectives.

FRED MATSER

God is *is*-ness.

LILLIAN HOLT

God is *spirit!* God is not religion. God doesn't
have a religion. He's not...

OSCAR OLIVERA

(in translation from Spanish)

God doesn't exist.

ANURADHA MITTAL

The religion of my Goddess is reflected in
every corner of the world, in every leaf, in
every speck of dirt, in every *flower*.

CORNEL WEST

No, I don't believe that God has a religion. I think that religion is a profoundly human phenomenon. And when we talk about God having a religion, you can rest assured that you're talking about some human construction, some human creation...

TAMAS ST. AUBY

What we project onto *Him*.

ELIANE POTIGUARA

(in translation from Portuguese)

I am of Love. I am of the Universe. I am God in Action.

HANS-PETER DÜRR

There is no God. God is a symbol for something that we can't express in words and that's also why there's no God's religion. God, we have to imagine, is something that is not only unknown to us but is also beyond our knowledge, that has no quality of being known. It's like when we ask the question: what is the color of a circle? Is it red, green or blue? No, it's neither blue nor red nor green. It's also not colorless. The question about the color of the circle is absurd because a circle knows no color. Many people are unwilling to see this. They take a pen out of their pocket, draw a circle on a piece of paper and say: "Look, this circle is blue." Yes, the circle drawn by them is blue but the color comes from a pen and not from the circle. The color of the pen is the religion with which we express the divinity, but we cannot draw the circle ourselves. It is something that has nothing to do with colors and there are as many religions as there are colors with which I can draw a circle.

MAE WAN-HO

I really like that one!

STEVE EARLE

(to Mae Wan-Ho)

I'm someone that believes in God, but all I know about God is, there is a God and it isn't me. That's all I've been able to figure out so far.

MAE WAN-HO

(to Steve Earle)

Don't you think God is in you as well?

STEVE EARLE

Oh absolutely. Absolutely. I'm a, I'm a... Most of my whole thing with spirituality is, like, I'm a recovering heroin addict.

YUNGCHEN LHAMO

I haven't met God yet. If I meet one day, then I will ask Him the questions.

TRANSITION TO:

WILLEM DAFOE (O.S.)

Thank you.

UDI ALONI

Thank you too.

SIMA WALI

Last one!

WILLEM DAFOE

(as if he can't remember)

Question...? One Hundred!

TANIA BRUGUERA

One hundred!

MICHAEL LAITMAN

*(to offscreen presence,
in translation from Hebrew)*

I didn't think we'd make it!

WILLEM DAFOE

...from Keith Dierkx, 48, Piedmont, California,
USA...

TITLE:

What are the myths that we need to create
to change the world for the better?

HAFSAT ABIOLA

What are the myths that we need to create
to change the world for the better?

ELISABET SAHTOURIS

Creation stories are part of every culture in human history and they were usually told by some kind of a priesthood. But now science tells the creation story. It has been elevated to that status of priesthood that gets to tell the big story to the culture. What story is it telling us? That we live in a non-living, purposeless universe running down by entropy. Oh! How cheery is that for a creation story? And then we add in that evolution on this planet is about the survival of the fittest, about an endless competition in scarcity, and that you have to get what you can while you can and beat the other guy to it. Now, this is a totally depressing creation story -- a universe running down meaninglessly -- you're caught in it, you're stuck in an endless struggle in scarcity. This is a terrible story to be telling people and it does not fit the scientific facts! We know that every force in nature has an opposite. If there's entropy, there has to be *syntropy*. We know that in evolution there's a tremendous amount of cooperation. In fact, I'd say there's a great story in the maturation cycle of evolving species where they first are young and grabby and multiply as fast as they can, take all the territory they can, bump off their competitors, act like capitalists! And then they discover, bit by bit, the advantages of cooperation. And, as they do so, they build bigger and bigger cooperative enterprises and find out that their economies are cheaper, more effective, more efficient, work for everybody and you get the evolution of rainforests and human bodies made of a hundred trillion cells, working in complete cooperation even though they're so very diverse. This is a story we need to tell in the world, a great new story of the human species growing up into global family, doing win-win economics and making a better world for all.

TU WEIMING

Human beings are appreciators, not just observers but appreciators, participants, even co-creators of the cosmic process.

MAE WAN-HO

The whole world is deeply entangled, all the living organisms, all the parts of the universe. In fact, the whole universe is living, including the electrons and the protons and everything. They are all organisms! They all have a history and they are all entangled, so deeply, intimately interconnected that you cannot separate them. And, at any moment, this entangled universe is creating and recreating itself anew.

ERVIN LASZLO

That I think is the evolution of the cosmos, the evolution of all things in it from atoms to humans to galaxies. That is the objective. That is the ambition. That is the ultimate aim of divine creativity. That's as far as we can come as human beings to understand it.

CONSTANTIN VON BARLOEWEN

(in translation from German)

I believe in a measure of humility and in a measure of humanity and in an avowal of beauty as an antidote to all the brutality and cruelty of the world. I believe that the sacred lives in nature, not only in the supernatural but also in the beauty of nature. I believe that human beings are metaphysical animals and always will be because of their mortality. The human is the only animal that knows it must die. This is the source of the mystery, of the unending mystery of human existence.

LESEGO RAMPOLOKENG

It would have to do with the *marrying* of the mind, the soul and this corporeal little covering that is supposed to be the body. The marriage of all those, if it indeed be that, can only be powered by positivity. And if the positivity then manages to give birth to that *marriage...?* That all the troubles of the Earth will be done if the human mind has got the space in which to breathe, to live, to pause, to *flow!*

TRANSITION TO:

CREDITS.

WIM WENDERS

Who is gonna ever listen to all of this? Because we're one hundred and twelve, there's a hundred questions. That's eleven thousand two hundred. Let's say... Only two minutes each time. That's twenty-two thousand minutes. You know what that is! That is five hundred... That's three hundred days!

TRANSITION TO:

TITLE:

all of their 'answers' can be discovered at
droppingknowledge.org