

Johnnie Cœur's Speech
UN Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen 2009
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Dear Sirs, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your kind invitation to speak about climate change.

The world, humanity, has never confronted as great or as urgent as the challenge we have all of our own conviction gathered here to address. Never in the past, people were engaged in a challenge huge as a planet.

In the past, we have fought for fraternity, equality, respect; we fought to rebuild our towns and our souls. We fought to rebuild our families and our communities after every war, genocide and destruction of our current enemy.

In a recent past, 60 years ago, we subscribed to the belief that by building a temple for fraternity between peoples, by helping every nation to attend its own statehood, we could eradicate the devastation caused by war, starvation and genocide.

In 1918, we established the League of Nations to maintain world peace. And in 1945, we created the United Nations, still hoping for peace.

We used to believe and we still hope.

Hope is probably the human resource that is the most natural and the most infinite. Hope is a resource we recycle so much that it has become eternal.

As my father, the famous French writer, Romain Gary wrote: *"they cannot of course be enveloped by fear without a reason to hope. One cannot be without the other."*

It is this very ideal hope that has brought us all together here, in Copenhagen, Denmark today.

Thanks to hope, we're here today, thanks to hope, I am here with you.

I too come as a believer in the planet's cause. I am here to work with you to fight Climate Change. I am here, to give my soul, my body, my brain to the planet, so we can save Humanity. I am here because I believe that together change can happen.

I am here, because I don't want to lose our last chance for hope.

I am here because I am a true believer in hope.

We thought the human capacity for destruction culminated to its highest point after WWII, much higher than WWI, that by our smart use of techniques, we were able to kill as many as 60 million human beings, not mentioning other alive species. We thought that the millions more refugees, deported, displaced people who had fled their homes by the end of the war will become history. Since this time and until today, we imagined that refugees from all continents would be fed and housed.

By setting all nations under a same roof we thought we would achieve peace, eradicate poverty and disseminate universal values.

In 1945, we hoped for a better world and we named this year, Year Zero, to start all again and again. How many Year Zeros have already happened? How many bright new worlds have we desired and attempted to create?

Today, from **their** ashes I am born, Johnnie Coeur, so that together, we can realize and create a new world, a new **old** way of thinking. Today, we will start again at Year Zero.

Why?

Because, as Romain Gary, my father, wrote: *“people are filled with hope insatiable but yet unfulfilled.”*

From Year Zero, we will go in crusade, armed and equipped with our common humanity, our shared values, our convictions and faith, we will fight the rise of global temperature, we will struggle extreme climatic events and we will stop climate refugees. We will champion environmental and human rights, we will defend universal standards of humanity and we will enable human wellbeing on earth.

International climate negotiations will ultimately arrive to an agreement. Key global issues will be addressed coherently. Political discussions will be eco-friendly and dialogue parties will agree and create the basis for all humanity to build on a better world.

We will all stand under the same roof but this time we will fraternize and therefore we will maintain a carbon neutral house.

This is our last chance to save the planet, an ultimate opportunity to believe in change, a precious occasion for hope to survive.

Together, we will go around the world and we will be overwhelming acclaimed and adulated. We'll meet frenzied, cheering crowds and be welcomed in every country.

Our ideas will succeed because as my father, Romain Gary, wrote, and I will leave you with this last quote:

“(...) manufactured products are not what creates the most added value. The best articles of exportation and consumption, United Nations, proved well it, these are piles lies, big hollow words, nice ideas without practical contents, spiritual missions, moral frauds – there, there is not cost price, the market is limitless, there is not saturation, the people are always takers – there is only to say freedom, equality, brotherhood (Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité)-, they come right away, the Heart in the hand, there is only has pick everything up”.

Copenhagen, December 7th, 2009

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