

1

Notes on Eco-Town Alternative and Eco-Community against Capitalistic Urban Perception...¹

¹ In my previous writings, I was using the definition of “Ecology and the City” as the title, not “Eco-City”. This was a title used with the concern of “Can an eco-logical city be an ecological city?” or in other words, when we think of it by limiting it to today's concept of “City”; it was related to the question “Can a city be ecological?”. Although this situation has not disappeared, I preferred to use such a title because the discussion in this direction needs to expand.

□
□
□

“An Indian was lying on the ground
by wreathing herself with newspapers
Under the lies of the world,
The reality of the world is lying, naked...”

Yevgeny Yevtushenko

□

I was talking with a hip-hop band in a “favela” of Campinas which is near to Sao Paulo of Brazil. We, 32 people, were in a one-roomed flat. It was a famous hip-hop band. In their last song, they were telling about the toilet they couldn't finish building yet in this shanty house. It was built with advertising signboards, portage packing cases, needless to say, with battens that could be removed from billboards on which there are smiling politicians and tree trunks which can grow despite everything. They were answering “We are music workers. Some people are pointing us with saying 'they are marginal, they are living in *favelas*, and they are making music in shanties. That's right, we are living in *favelas*. We are marginal. You just came here by passing through a marginal neighborhood. Two third of Sao Paulo is marginal, three fourths of the world is marginal.”²

Capitalistic urban hegemony is starting on this exact point. In fact, how the things which build only one quarter of the world can be perceived ideationally as the *sine qua non*, the ideal one according to almost every political

² Despite the intellectual hegemony of the capitalist structure and all kinds of obstacles, 3/4 of the houses in the world are still houses that people build for themselves. It is the capitalist city that is marginal.

opinion? Actually, the ideational power of this hegemony is more influential than thousands of residential buildings, twin towers, viaducts and crossroads. Besides, even though they are in the minority and that the planned and built cities have no problem at all; this image of “ideal city” can be valid. However, the cities which have been pointing as the best cities of the world are already the cities which have built on an organically developed structure within their own dynamics. Almost every city that is built after drawing on papers will be doomed primarily to fall outside the plans or to planlessness and then to the destiny of all cities after a few years later. The problem and the repetitive fact here are not about the unplanned development of the city but, quite the contrary, the fact that any plan can't limit the city. More precisely, because of that every planned, measured and sketched city is also a “marketable” thing, namely its limits have identified, classified, and then it started to create its own reality, its own city because of that it transformed into a commodity. This urban notion is essentially a natural (!) result of the thought of the concentration of public service. There is no difference between challenging the concentration of capital and challenging capitalist city, in fact the city itself. Therefore, it is needed the radical construction monopolies, radical information and radical specialized knowledge, such that nothing changes when these “monopolies” are owned by the state which calls itself as the “public”. We have to say simply but directly that if you build multi-storey structures, there will always be “those below and those above”.

The greatest handicap of the cities sketched on papers is that they suppose that these streets are self-sustained things. They ignore that the streets have a soul. Even a perfect constituted city have to be swept up every day. The first simple question is about that where these

sweepers will live. Even though the thoughtful planners plan worker housing –because of that every piece of land is very valuable within neoliberal urban building, one moves as these people do not exist– these houses will absolutely be either very limited or outside of the city. This will then deepen the transportation problem which we will analyze in a broad sense. In the simplest term, it has to be provided public transportation vehicles that they can use. And this means new bus stops and a traffic which is getting heavier. Because of that these people have to take the road at early morning and eat something like all people, some stalls or peddlers start to emerge right next to the bus stops. “Those below” who are here for carrying out every service of this planned city; the sweepers, gardeners, housekeepers, babysitters, their families, those who want to get a job like them, namely the reserve labor force; the bus drivers who carry all of them, police who secure (!) the city, guards, similar security forces, other peddlers who feed them, cigarette and newspaper sellers and of course the robbers who want to rob, teachers, decision maker judges, hookers and pimps; all of these can not be calculated on the paper of the urban planner and they all exist certainly in every city. This situation is quite creative: It brings into new slums, large and small shops, and new municipal police officers for prohibiting these and new slums for these new municipal police officers. An urban chain which triggers and feeds each other emerges.

In almost everywhere in the world and also in the Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking parts of Latin America, the name of the site-neighborhoods of new urban building was “Country”. These “Countries” which were built all over the world are the real slum-eaters. Even the basic idea which is reflected outside of these is that they are “privileged” and “secure”, namely that they are based on

anti-slum. However the truth of the matter that there is a slum neighborhood stuck on every Country is that there will always be a Country raised from every slum. Namely, we can not talk about “pop up slums” next to every Country; on the contrary, Countries are parasites which stick to the back of the slum.



Villa 31 is a slum neighborhood in Buenos Aires. It got stuck in the highway and the railroad. Every point of it was utilized wisely. All slums were built single-storey at first; then they climbed to second, third and fourth, fifth storey... The neighborhood is not expanding only upward, but also it is expanding laterally from its top. It was quite an organic neighborhood which was overlaying the highway crossing under. Sometimes the municipality was distributing paint buckets for the embellishment of the neighborhood – it was such a bourgeois attitude; perfume was also for not smelling their stinks. The slums were playing camel wrestling by humping each other. The roofs are some slums were the base of the viaduct. They were raised up the viaduct and they were fallen right next to the highway and they were built a room on three-and-half square meter area. They were hanging their clothes at the roadside. One can say that “I saw your pants while coming from work.” The skyscrapers can be seen between the abutments of the viaduct and you can see sky in the middle of it. There were full of skyscrapers behind Villa 31. There was a Chinese restaurant right below the viaduct. It was smelling chicken with soy while passing across the viaduct with car. You were longing for it while travelling. It was an ideal spot for a Chinese restaurant. In a word, viaducts also have benefits.

Why the municipalities build roads and why don't they build houses? Are they our municipalities or of the cars? Are the cars paying their wages, air-conditioned office expenses, letterhead stationery expenses? I would like to pay my municipality tax not for this road that I want to pass as soon as possible, but for a house in which I can sleep. Not to mention parking lots. Whose city is this? 60% of New York belongs to automobiles. Namely, it belongs to those who mostly white, male and young. Let the municipalities build houses and let us build the roads. Also we don't have enough money for highways. We would build beautiful bicycle roads. Besides the road don't build for going somewhere far away. You go somewhere far away because there is a road outgoing. My vote in the next elections will go to the municipalities which will build houses upon the highway.

□

It was a meeting for “struggle against World Cup urban renewal”. The residents of three areas will be evicted from their houses by the World Cup. This will affect 23.000 people in total. This meeting had an interesting mixture. There were people ranging from the poorest land squatters to middle class people whose houses will be demolished on them and even to the people from upper middle classes. These differences were showing themselves while everybody was introducing oneself. They were introducing themselves as “I am a delegate of MLNM-National Housing Right Movement” or “I am a spokesperson of middle class residents of Cristal region.” It was a struggle in which people from different classes hardly act together but also, if one can overcome this difficulty, it can become an advantaged situation thanks to its broader scope. Middle class was rather siding with negotiation but they were forgetting that if it

would not be resisted the dominant ones would not come to the negotiation table. They didn't attend the first rally at all. They preferred to go out to their balconies and applaud. Well, it is a little better that the struggles with e-mailing.

It has to be mentioned about some basic delusions. The biggest and common delusion is the persuasion about that unless there are high buildings; we would run short of houses. When we think of Turkey, if we build single-storey houses within gardens across the country, namely approximately over a 1.700 kms and over a line with a width of just 27 kms., everybody, yes you heard correct, everybody in Turkey would have a house without a need for any high apartment. From another perspective, if we continue to build high buildings, the housing problem would never end and the poor would never have a house.

Consequently, the concern about “building houses on agricultural areas” which have been propounding in Turkey will go away. When this happens, it would not only produce an area in which everywhere outside of the mentioned line with a width of just 27 kms would be quite balanced, and a people who are not alienated to the land can be engaged in permaculture, but also would resolve the mistake of the children about supposing that the apple is brought by the stork by seeing the apple only on the supermarket shelves.³

³ Another misconception is that plastic windows, which shamelessly market themselves as environmentally friendly, lie that if we use wooden windows, the trees will die. On the contrary, if we use wooden windows, wood will increase in value and become more protected and produced. The best example of this is Finland, a country that sells the most wood products, yet its forests have increased by 40%.

The advertisements of the Countries, Eco-Cities, all aside, expose the very fact that the capitalist city has already admitted its own failure. Needless to say that this situation can't hide the reality about that the capitalist can never build an Eco-City. Radical construction monopolies may build structures with organic materials. These structures may be built according to conditions of lower energy consumption which is one of the benchmarks of eco-structure as a result but they are not ecological structures. The key feature of the ecological structures is not only building with organic construction materials but also building freely, together and with an equal will without any need to radical construction monopolies; and this also involves the right to access to this structure form of everybody. Therefore, for example, when you think of that a holiday resort which is built with “traditional native methods” but by a construction monopoly, this would never be an ecological structure. These structures which are built –and I underline this “built” word– with organic materials will only be a caricature that have been trying to market for capitalistic counter urbanization. In fact, the “traditional native method” is already a construction form which performs with togetherness and solidarity without needing any radical expertness. It would definitely never be the same. Any capitalistic commodity production can't be realise without feeding and inciting a new selling ground. Namely, the condition of being ecological would disappear even with a construction form in which there is a calculation about how many shanties can be built at most in a field.

The biggest ecological city (!) named “Masdar City” which have been building in Abu Dhabi desert nowadays is a quite good example for this. This city in which only solar energy will be used and wind towers and water vapor will chill the streets is defined as an ecological city.

As it can be understood at first glance, there is a Faust hiding inside again. The idea about turning the desert into a heaven is the humanity seduced by the devil one more time. This urban construction worth billions of dollars is continuing with an intense exploitation especially of Indian and Pakistani worker as it is about all magnificent construction. The materials using during the construction, the monopoly to owe them and finally, the privilege of living here; all of these reflect an exemplary situation that exposes the fact we have been trying to tell. Moreover the most important thing is that even if everything they say will be real, namely, this city produces the energy it spent, this would not change the situation. It is because the amount of energy which is spent to build this city is horrible. When we add the energy that is spent for producing the equipment which built this city to this amount, the situation becomes worse. If one uses the energy that is spent only for building this city for building Bedouin settlements in which ten times more people than the number of privileged people who will live in this city can live, this energy would keep them alive for 300 years without doing anything. Comparing that so-called ecological city with the housing form which have been using by Bedouins for centuries is enough to shut the ecological Faust up.⁴

Also, this city will not be ecological anymore with the existence of a capital accumulation that have a power to realise this construction. Capital can only build things which are similar to it. Capital that is the concentration

⁴ For Masdar City-Ecological city (!) See: “Planned to cover an area of 6 square kilometers (2.3 sq mi), the city will be home to 45,000 to 50,000 people and 1,500 businesses, mainly commercial and manufacturing facilities specializing in environmentally friendly products, with more than 60,000 workers expected to commute to the city every day.” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masdar_City

of force establishes its power on architecture. One can see the power which symbolizing by the tower in the myth of falling of Babel Tower which exists in almost every culture. In other words, the God doesn't want any other power but him and devastates the tower. In this myth, believe it or not, the God is right. Babel Tower and all towers are always power one each and they have to be devastated.⁵

The city itself, the concentration of land and the central authority are also energy consumption centers. A need for a giant energy mill will be created by reaching to downtown whatever you do for work, then returning back to the local, doing this within an expanding circle everyday and creating a bureaucratic operations total.

Concentration or centralization of urban land is not an energy saving as to the popular belief, on the contrary, it is a huge energy consumption. The multiple needs, unconditionally, is the thing which breeds, improves and feeds the radical monopolies. Concentration of the urban or in other words, authority building means the control of the energy and the concentration of the distribution. In a sense, the force of the power based on urban construction and energy need, energy monopolies, energy wars and energy domination shows itself in a quite key

⁵ The 9th century Islamic historian al-Tabari's "History of Prophets and Kings" gives more detailed information. According to the story, Nimrod built a tower in Babylon. God destroyed this tower and divided the language of the people who had spoken the same language until then into 72 languages. Abu al-Fida, a 13th century Islamic historian, mentions the same story and adds that Hud, Abraham's ancestor, was allowed to keep his language (Hebrew). Hud did not participate in the construction of the tower. (http://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babil_Kulesi) Another interesting fact is that the 90-meter-high Tower of Babel was made of mudbrick, according to the Quran.

point of the problem we are discussing. Namely, a skyscraper is not only the thing that rises on the urban land, which seizes the land, the water and the air of the city and that pollutes it. It is also an energy-eater within its all steps ranging from energy of high amounts that is spent in building it to warming and cooling it every day, to its elevators and even to the process to keep its total defecate away from itself. This shows that there is the same incest relationship between energy and the power like is between speed and the power. High energy consumption and need means more monopolized power, more intense authority, more control and less freedom.

In other words, every new dam construction, every produced Watt electricity is driving our freedom to further away. Even though it is quite important from where the energy is producing, it is not enough to clarify everything. Even a completely renewal energy production do not exclude authority of the power when accessing to and distribution of it are at stake. A ecological city have to be a less energy consuming city and a city which creates its own energy. In my opinion, it is not a coincidence that the disappearing process of the emancipatory utopia of Soviet revolution is synchronic with the slogan of electrification.

A common misleading situation of capitalistic construction form is at stake about time and energy. We were facing with this situation frequently while we were building the adobe houses in Viranşehir. Adobe-*Alker* production is cheap and fast but it is a labor-intensive process and it requires a decent team work. Even if only one person in your working team is slow, the building process would continue in the speed of that person in time – I think of a motto of Mao Zedung saying that “An army moves with the speed of the slowest person.” In such circumstances, anybody could say that “it would be

faster if we lay up it with bricks.” That was not the case and also, nobody was considering the other side of the coin. When our participants work outside, in a job, they could earn 20-30 liras in a day. And a brick was nearly 1 lira. namely, when they work in a job, they can earn a money with which they can buy 20-30 bricks. Adobe-Alker in the same size was 10 *kuruş* at most. If it can be laid up it with bricks faster –well, a good team can lay up the Adobe faster– when we add the working time to buy those bricks to the price of the bricks, Adobe building is ten times faster than brick building. Since the capitalistic production form shows its face as divided time frames and because of that every production is in an abstract relationship with its own result, this situation could not be told integrally and clearly. In the very same period, while the terminal building which was building by the municipality with every kind of modern equipments, we were building in a 1.500 m² area in total with merely with the families –and we were using the digger only for infrastructure– and despite we were building in a larger area, we finished our houses before the terminal building. However while the unfinished of the terminal building were not attracting any attention, it has always been asking to us that “Isn't there any other way?”

What keeps capitalism alive are the lies and its radical mythic power. One of these could be seen very conspicuously on the streets of Peru-Lima which can be regarded as the poorest neighborhoods of the world. On one hand, there were spliced together, pounds each other and stacked up houses (!) made up of only cardboards, package boxes, tinsplate parts if they can be found, billboards if they can be stolen and certainly of human breath, ropes and wires, plastic forks and spoons which wed out from garbage.

There was an archeological site right next to there. Thousands year-old structures of Inkas were extracting under this city. We have to say again that these structures which were extracted from soil and made up of adobe were still solid after thousands of years. While these adobe-soil structures which are built by the skillful hands of Inkas with elaboration have been extracting among our bewildered glances, how can we express the terrible poverty of the places in which the grandchildren of Inkas are living with the words other than “bullshit”? While there is an essential and simple solution for building the healthiest houses of that region without needing any radical construction monopoly on the very same land as it was before thousands years ago, how else we say about the existence of this kind of archeological site view cardboard houses aside from a capitalism myth which made us blind?⁶

“Will we live in tree hollows, in the caves?” The block-lovers are supposing that they have everything settled with this glib question. I want to enter into a discussion about housing with this question: What is a house? Is that the F-type mass housing in which you live without seeing each other? The kindness of only saying has a nice day to each other while you were getting off the mostly out of order elevators? Kitchen cabinets and bathroom porcelains? The guest rooms which are only open in feasts and bring for women nothing but more dusting and carpet washing? – and do we still have house guests anymore? Namely, a couple of people who aren't our relatives can come and stay at our homes and what are we doing but that sitting with silence and not share anything

⁶ This was something Özgür emphasized and reminded me of when we were talking about this in Argentina.

in front of a television⁷ when they come? Finally, what is a house?⁸

We realized while we were working for *Ax u Av* in Viranşehir; we are foreseeing a democratic architecture. Men and women were gathering separately and deciding how their houses should be. The children over six years old were also gathering separately and deciding how their houses should be. Whereas the children are arresting because of throwing stones to the panzers, then they should decide how their houses will be. We recommended 3 house type in 225 m² gardens. They were 80, 90 and 110 m² and improvable architectures. In other words, a person who chose a 80 m² house can improve her/his house when necessary. She/he can add one or more rooms to the house. The plan designed on these purposes. So, the sizes of the gardens of everybody were equal. We thought this for that nobody choose the bigger house types only for “big is better”. Since we already went to the houses of the participants many times, we know well that nobody's house is big except one family. Also the people who choose smaller houses will have smaller expense. Namely, in the smaller houses, it will

⁷ Television has recently been replaced by the computer and the telephone, which serves the same function. People standing next to each other without speaking, which Walter Benjamin said started with public transportation, has moved to people who come home to “visit” each other. A humanity that sits side by side and each “communicates” with a cell phone...

⁸ In Ankara, which is experiencing an Urban Transformation-Looting that should be investigated on its own, the first thing that caught the eye in the apartments of those who were forced to move from their slums to TOKİs was the elevators that did not work because they could not pay the 60 lira elevator fee. This was the reminder of a woman friend whose name I could not make out during a panel at METU.

be used fewer wood for doors and window; and the number of the roof boards will be less because of the size of these houses. Again, when the houses get bigger, the overall the effort spent will increase and the construction period will be longer because of that we are all working together. However we couldn't convince our friends. All friends demanded the biggest houses. Moreover the size of some houses reached to 140 m². So the construction period and the expenses increased. Not in a linear way but in a curvy way. Because, for example, when the length of the wooden poles for roof exceeded 3.60 cm and became 4.50 cm, despite it was getting only 90 cm longer, the expense of the pole was doubled. The reason why everybody was choosing the biggest houses despite all is that a house is not just a house. It was a matter of prestige and one of the most important criterions is about how many square meters is the house.⁹

They showed me a house in one of the villages of Viranşehir. It was 450 m². It was a single storey house made up of briquette. It had a tiled roof. It is built a arbor in front of the house. For sleeping in summers. It was 4 meters to 5 meters. In other words, there was a 450 m² house but the people couldn't sleep inside because of the

⁹ The question of what kind of city we want is inseparable from the question of what kind of social ties, relationship with nature, ways of life, technologies and values of the senses we desire. The right to the city is much more than the individual freedom to access urban resources: It is the right to change ourselves by changing the city. It is also a collective rather than an individual right because this transformation inevitably relies on the exercise of collective power to reshape processes of urbanization. I would like to argue that the freedom to make and remake our cities and ourselves is one of our most precious but also one of our most neglected human rights. See Harvey, D. (2008). "The Right to the City," *New Left Review* 53, Trans: Meriç Kırmızı -Sendika.Org-

how weather. Well, what did this house even do all but flaunting to someone? What is a house?

Democracy can not be come true with F-type houses. The precondition of democracy is to actualize a housing right in which everybody can participate to the decision about building of the future houses.

Can you see any article that discusses the city itself among the discussions which emerge after every earthquake? There is hardly any article except the ones about the dysfunction of the control mechanism under the title of “crooked housing” and with making reference to the greed of the building contractors. However an “ecological city” minimizes and even dispels the damage of an earthquake.

First of all, you can not interpret the city by leaving the capitalist rent aside. Capitalist rent is not only about the ingredients stealing of the rapacious building contractors and in fact, this rent is a mere flea when compared to the real rent. Capitalist rent is the result of the commoditization of the housing right. If we say with the words of the talentless commercial actor Ağaoğlu, it is a “capital investment on the land.” The housing right which commoditize and transforms into the capital investment leads to the concentration of interest and therefore to the concentration of the land. The value within the capitalist city, even in its most well-organized development, is measured according to the distance to the chateau of the feudal landlord. On other words, the public service has been systematically integrated into the concentrated land; it strengthened by periphery's feeding the center; and then it is resulted with center's absorption of the periphery. This concentration of the center extends over metropolitan cities with the center's creation of a

new environment for itself and its takeover this new environment.¹⁰

As we mentioned above, “when we build single-storey houses within gardens across the country, namely approximately over a 1.700 kms and over a line with a width of just 27 kms from one side of Turkey to the other” the damage of an earthquake will mostly be dispelled. This attempt will mean that the land will never be a means of rent as well as that the single storey houses are stronger against earthquakes and will make the construction of 7-10 storey weirdo buildings under which we gather our people as meaningless. Otherwise, the lie about that the land is not enough and we have to go upward will continue to kill people.

The loss by earthquakes alone is a valid reason for creating an “ecological city”. We can say here that “solid high buildings can be constructed” but why do we have to do this? Solid high buildings lead to the concentration of the value of the land, to more expensive house construction, namely to production only for the rich and to more commoditization of the housing right. More importantly, these high buildings, from its construction to the life inside and I have to say again, even to the process to keep its total defecate away from itself, lead not to a saving of land but to a consistent energy and natural resource consumption. And for obtaining these energy and natural resources, it is needed that the radical construction monopolies, new hydroelectric power plants, the

¹⁰ The leading actor of this advertisement was later put on trial in a bribery investigation that led to the arrest of ministers, the prime minister, and the arrest of ministerial children in order to get permission for more floors in their buildings. This was literally not just corruption, but the inevitable end of the transformation of urban land into rent. In other words, “capital investment on land”...

disappearing Hasankeyfs and lakes and see to which the total defecate can be sent.

The high buildings, the big skyscrapers are also male-power (patriarchal) urban designs as they show well enough. Capitalist city is masculine. A possible “ecological city”, on the other hand, will be feminine.

For now, the very first precaution that can be taken is expropriation of urban land. The expropriation of urban land means to limit the commoditization of the housing right. You can not set this commoditization back as long as every added storey creates a rent – Please don't regard these word as the known radical, communistic anarchistic offer of this man. I am saying that let's overthrow the entire urban system of the dominants. This is rather a reformist offer.¹¹

This is an offer which is valid in Amsterdam, Holland. Namely, it is valid in one of the motherland of capitalism. By the way I have to write a lie which the dominants convince us. This lie is the “Crowded population creates poverty” lie. Crowded population is not the reason of the poverty. It is the result of the poverty. Otherwise one of the most overpopulated countries is not, for example, Brazil in which the streets are full of poor people and which have a population of 185 millions but is Holland. While the population per square kilometer is 22 in Brazil, it is 397 in Holland. For that the expropriation of the urban land precludes at least the entire land in the urban center from becoming a means of unjust enrichment for the people, the greed for rent is limited by the

¹¹ In many countries in Europe, the city center is public land.

governments. This is a solution when you think the necessity of associating the “Public” with the “social control”.¹²

The expression about that the old and loadbearing houses are instable to earthquake is another prime minister and building contractor lie. This part of the book is written in such a centennial house in the capital city of Chile, Santiago de Chile. In other words, this house survived from 5 earthquakes measuring higher than 8.0 on the Richter scale including the second destructive earthquake with 9.1 in this century and from tens of earthquakes measuring higher than 7.0 on the Richter scale. And this house is not an exception. Also the wooden houses in another city of Chile, Valparasio survive from many major earthquakes until 140 years contrary to many more ferroconcrete houses. These houses with their wooden girders and multicolored galvanized walls are extraordinarily beautiful with regard to their substantiality and aesthetic.

It is also a lie that the adobe buildings are not earthquake resistant. The adobe cities which survive for hundreds of years are the examples for this. The Adobe-*Alker* building in Maslak Campus of Istanbul Technical University is an example for this. After the '99 İstanbul Earthquake, while all the other “controlled, non-contraband, non-crooked housing” ferroconcrete buildings had to receive uninhabitable reports, this Adobe-*Alker* building stood up. Adobe-*Alker* buildings (the houses we built in Viranşehir, Diyarbakır with adobe-*aliker*) acquitted themselves well from the earthquake table in Ankara and

¹² I first came across this proposal in TMMOB's journals in the early 1970s. I do not understand why TMMOB does not embrace this proposal today.

I should say for who science lovers that this is a Tubitak project.¹³

≡

We were building a school with adobe. It was one of the poorest places of Buenos Aires. It was the neighborhood of garbage collectors. We were building it one size longer without demolishing the old wooden classrooms. I have convinced a Piqueteros movement; namely, a barricader movement. They were blocking the roads and demanding rights. Our construction which is made up of Adobe-*Alker*, lime and working together was very beautiful. Very beautiful not only for a garbage collector neighborhood but also for almost three fourths of Buenos Aires and Porto Alegre and Rio de Janerio and Istanbul...

It was a garbage neighborhood. Burning smell was always in the air. There were everything in the fire including plastics wrapped with wires full of carriages, something with a copper-stem and a hole which I couldn't understand what for it is, a table lamp and a car steering wheel which appears anew maybe for only it was blue. When the fire set, only the ones that sellable were remaining inside. I was talking with a gold digger woman in Venezuela. They were extracting gold from the well she dig with her husband in their garden. She said that "Gold can be jewelry for everybody but for me, it is bread and butter." – The bread was in the garbage. The dustcart has been pulling by horses of all sizes. And there were ponies. I don't know why but I supposed that the ponies are the horses only for rich children. That's how

¹³ Witnessing the 1999 earthquake from the Kandilli observatory, seismologist Miktad Kadioğlu observed this situation directly and therefore recommended adobe houses for Van to the local authorities. (Mentioned by Bilge Işık.)