

MARIA ANCONA ~ ASSOCIAZIONE SUD (ITALY) ~ JUNE, 9<sup>TH</sup> 2023

# **“Autism” as salvation in the era of AI?**

“CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF WORKING WITH AT-RISK YOUTH”

International Conference ~ Radenci (Slovenia) ~ June, 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 2023



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## “Autism” as salvation in the era of AI?

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- Silence as rejection of relationship?
- Dialogue replaced by AI prompts?
- “Autism” as “attitude of revolt”
- Youth Work and “new” challenges
- Roles, competencies, attitudes for the Youth Workers in the AI era

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“The instant of decision, the one in which risk is taken, inaugurates another time, much as trauma does. But a positive trauma.”

A. Dufourmantelle, *In Praise of Risk*, Fordham University Press, 2021

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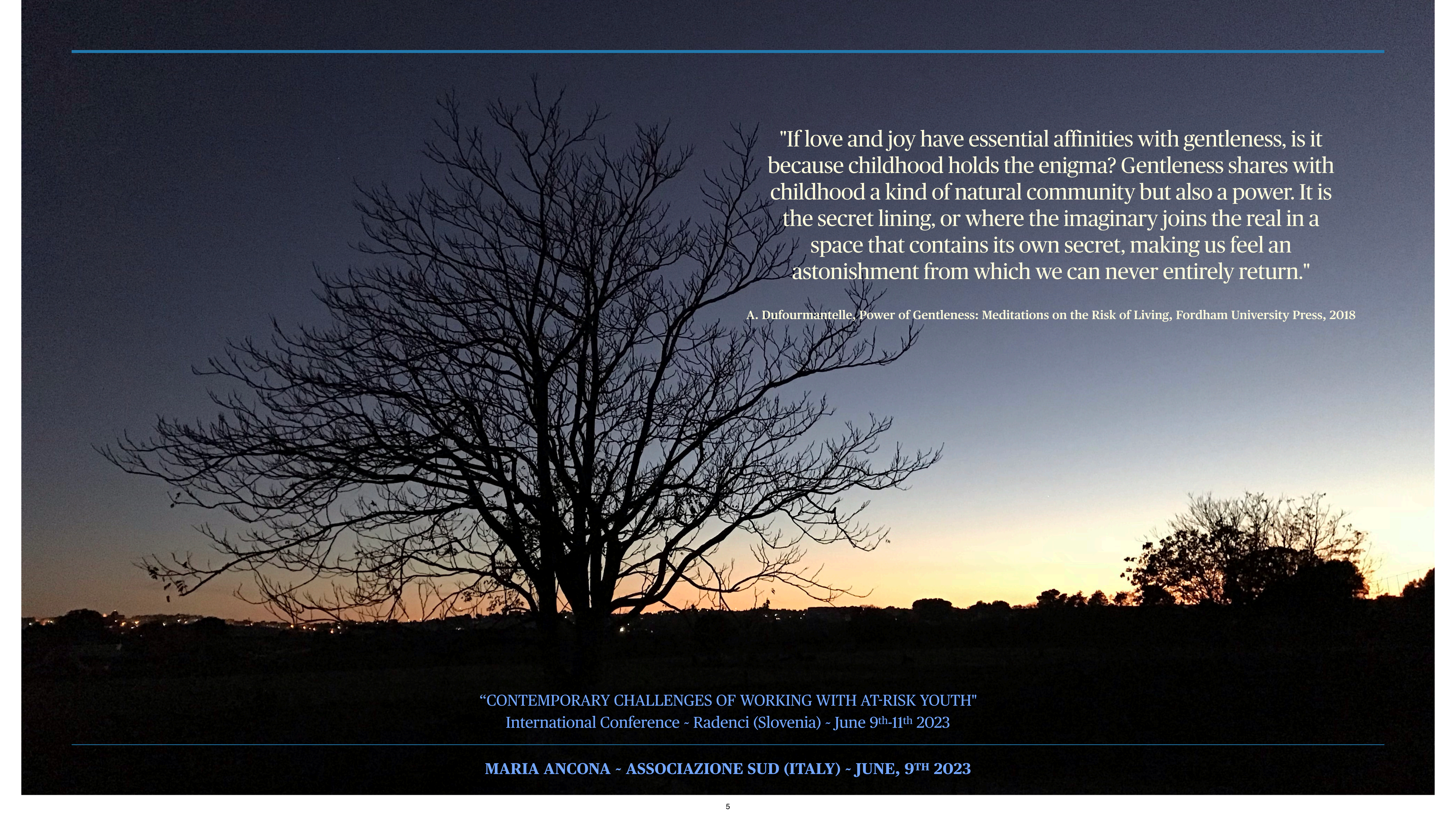
# Strategy for a salvation

Silence as rejection of relationship?

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A large, leafless tree silhouette is the central focus, set against a sunset sky with a gradient from dark blue to orange. The tree's branches are intricate and spread across the upper half of the frame. In the background, a distant town with lights is visible on the horizon.

"If love and joy have essential affinities with gentleness, is it because childhood holds the enigma? Gentleness shares with childhood a kind of natural community but also a power. It is the secret lining, or where the imaginary joins the real in a space that contains its own secret, making us feel an astonishment from which we can never entirely return."

A. Dufourmantelle, *Power of Gentleness: Meditations on the Risk of Living*, Fordham University Press, 2018

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# Strategy for a salvation

Dialogue replaced by AI prompts?

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“The Conspiracy is not a delirium or a lie, it is not a mental cramp or a fallacious argument. Rather it is a political problem. (...) It is no longer a single intrigue. The conspiracy is the form in which citizens who feel condemned to a frustrating impotence, helpless in the face of an unfathomable techno-economic device, manoeuvred by a faceless power, relate to the world.

D. Di Cesare, *Conspiracy and Power*, Polity Press, 2023

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## “Autism” as “attitude of revolt”

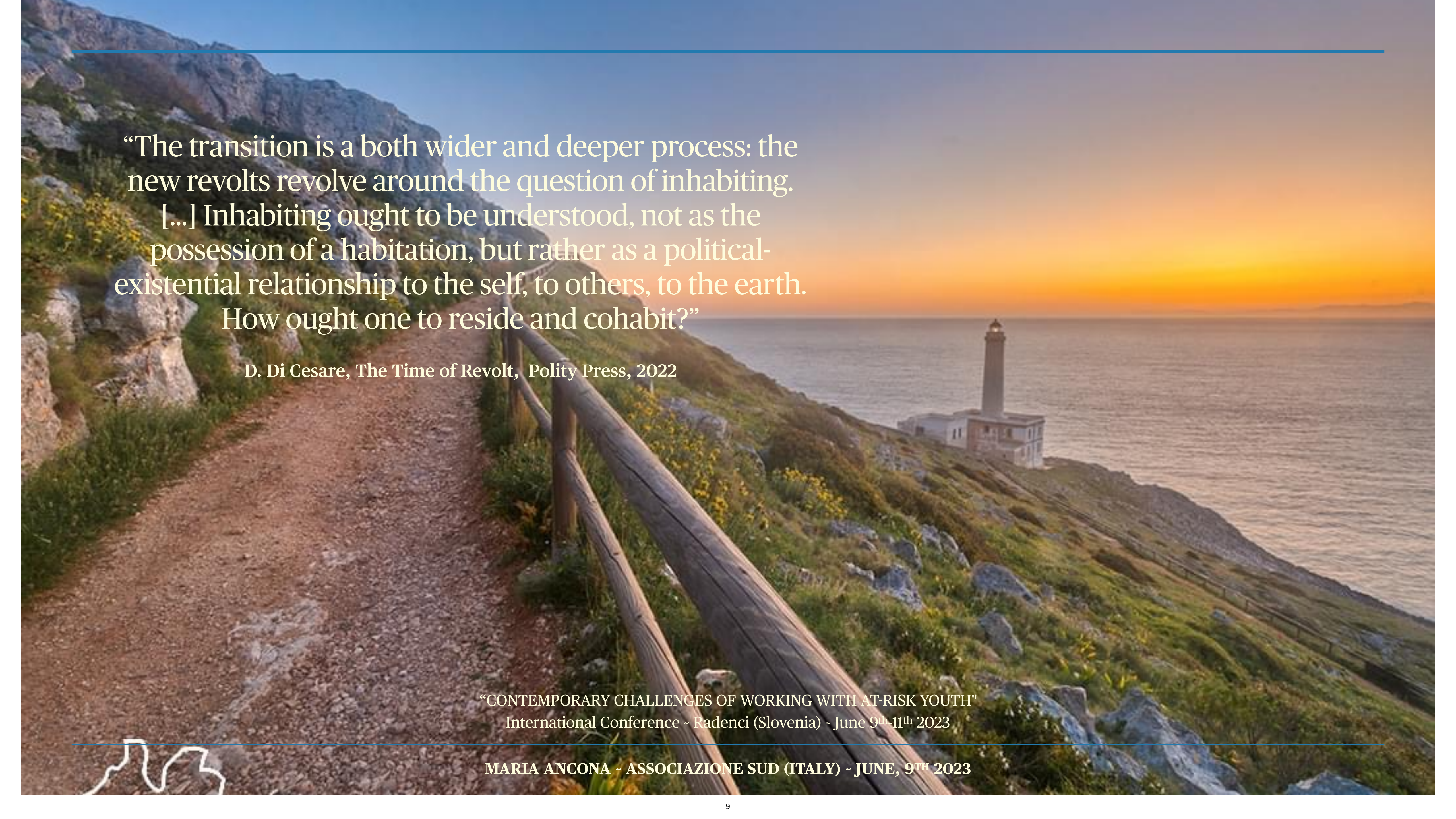
What happens when our young people renounce to:

- Pronounce their own words
- Explore their own conflicts
- Practice their own divergent perspectives?

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“The transition is a both wider and deeper process: the new revolts revolve around the question of inhabiting. [...] Inhabiting ought to be understood, not as the possession of a habitation, but rather as a political-existential relationship to the self, to others, to the earth. How ought one to reside and cohabit?”

D. Di Cesare, *The Time of Revolt*, Polity Press, 2022

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# Youth Work & Youth Workers

- Challenges
- Roles & Functions
- Competencies
- Attitude

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Thank you!

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Pictures:  
Volunteers active during the flood in Emilia Romagna, May 2023  
Landscapes around Valle d'Itria and Salento Puglia/Italy