

Today, October 31, 2007, is a very special date for me; although I am not here with you physically, because I am in Switzerland as you should know, fighting for the 2014 World Cup bid in Brazil, thank God we have, but my thoughts are focused on this moment.

When I was little, I had a dream: Be a writer! Not just any writer, but a world-renowned writer.

My parents thought this was silly, that no one could survive as a writer, the young people of my day should be engineers, doctors, lawyers.

Despite all the setbacks and even embarking on other paths like music, I never gave up on my dream.

Today I express my gratitude to the leaders, teachers, employees and students of the Solar Boys of Light, for this tribute and your affection. The construction of the Paulo Coelho Community Library, a project idealized by Yolanda and Isabella, was also one of my dreams that I now see realized as well as being a writer.

The glory of the world is fleeting, and it is not it that gives us the dimension of our life - but the choice we make, to follow our personal legend, to believe in our utopias, and to fight for them. We are all protagonists of our lives, and it is often the anonymous heroes who leave the most lasting marks.

A Japanese legend tells that a certain monk, enthusiastic for the beauty of the Chinese book Tao Te King, decided to raise funds to translate and publish those verses in his mother tongue. It took ten years to get enough.

However, a plague afflicted his country, and the monk decided to use the money to relieve the suffering of the sick. But as soon as the situation had normalized, he again set out to raise the sum necessary for the publication of the Tao; another ten years have passed, and when he was preparing to print the book, a tsunami left hundreds of people homeless.

The monk again spent the money on rebuilding houses for those who had lost everything. Another ten years ran, he raised the money again, and finally the Japanese people could read the Tao Te King.

The sages say that, in fact, this monk made three editions of the Tao: two invisible, and one printed. He believed in his utopia, fought the good

fight, kept faith in his goal, but paid no attention to his fellow man. May it be so with all of us: sometimes the invisible books, born of generosity toward others, are as important as those who occupy our libraries.

The importance of the book is fundamental, but deep down the message of any book is to be generous with your fellow men. Learn from the books plus turn the message of these books into values for your lives.