If we could practice our already present capacity of seeing the world through the eyes of others, perhaps we could array entire new ways of living together, ordered by the recognition of a joined need and desire. Imagine being a fish, what would the world be like?

There are many different possible and sensible ways of knowing, being and doing. The question is, how we incorporate this diversity in the collective choices we make regarding our common. If we are to share this one world, we need to find the means and ways of doing so, such as each of us having space and place, and equal rights for life.

Why a fish? As a metaphor of the other, symbolizing the different, the voiceless. I don’t aim to pose the philosophical, and arguably not answerable, question of what is the world through the eyes of a fish, since we could contend that we could never know it because we are not and never will be a fish, but as an exercise to recognize ¨the other¨, even though it is different to us it will always remain equally entitled to life.

A fish is not an isolated individual, a fish is always a member of a community. Fish are capable of living with others, and functioning as a collective. They know they are interdependent and interconnected, and as a group they are resilient and able to adapt to changing situations. Fish never swim alone, they always do so in togetherness.

Perhaps, if we could ask ourselves what it would feel like to be a fish, to see how a fish would see, to listen like a fish would listen, to sense like a fish would sense, to swim like a fish, the world we could construct could be a better place.

If we allow the possibility, present in all of us, of seeing like fish, listening like fish, swimming in community like fish, the world we could construct would be a better place. MB

*What climate change is telling us, is that we need to change. We need to change our behaviours, our thoughts and the stories we tell regarding our environment. As such, it is an opportunity for reflection and transformation: for a collective redefinition of our “common” and a creation of more democratic and just ways and means of governing it. And this, I believe, cannot be done based on science alone, but requires the engagement of all of us, together with our ability to cope with the unknown, the ambiguous and the different.*

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„A diverse community is a resilient community, capable of adapting to changing situations. However, diversity is a strategic advantage only if there is a truly vibrant community, sustained by a web of relationships. If the community is fragmented into isolated groups and individuals, diversity can easily become a source of prejudice and friction. But if the community is aware of the interdependence of all its members, diversity will enrich all the relationships and thus enrich the community as a whole, as well as each individual member. In such a community information and ideas flow freely through the entire network, and the diversity of interpretations and learning styles-even the diversity of mistakes-will enrich the entire community.“

Fuente: <https://citas.in/autores/francisco-varela/>

Perhaps we could reimagine the world as

Entire new ways of living together in the world

opened up a way to re-imagine our world as if it were ordered by a collective desire for radical equality, a world in which we came together to insist that the materials that are required for life, including medical care, would be equally available no matter who we are or whether we have financial means.

“Peace is present right here and now, in ourselves and in everything we do and see. The question is whether or not we are in touch with it.” - Thich Nhat Hanh