

## **The Crisis of Crises**

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Crisis is an island in the middle of the ocean. In the B.C.<sup>1</sup> Era, Crisis did not exist, since it was a part of the continent of Prosperity, where the countries of Economy and Morality are located today.

The current area of Crisis used to be the most developed and the most privileged region of the continent. With its fertile body covered with a variegated dress of rich crop fibers, the dense forests and the rushing rivers falling on its back, Crisis stood proudly in front of the sea gazing at the distant horizon.

The Prosperity's inhabitants were called "All" and they were all equal to each other. Their official language was the "public interest" and their life was organized in communal groups. The country's economy was based on the employment of all people, whose wages depended on their abilities and noone was entitled to a permanent job in any employment sector. Prosperity's political system was "social democracy". The political parties had been replaced by exclamation marks and the most capable of All were in power. Furthermore, All were obligated to participate in public affairs in whatever way they could. Everyone obeyed every letter of the law, since the punishment was certain for any offender. All used to pay taxes commensurate with their income, contributing this way to the completion of projects for the common interest. Prosperity's agriculture was mainly based on the

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<sup>1</sup> B.C: Before Croesuses

cultivation of meritocracy, which everyone used to devour every morning with milk and cereals in a transparent soup plate. Technology was not particularly developed, the Media were limited, the needs were very few and consequently people were wealthy.

At around 5 B.C., the expansionist tribes of Croesuses began to descend from the continent of Greed and gradually conquered the land of Prosperity. The Croesuses invaded by land, air and sea in shiny luxury yachts, armored vehicles and private jets. A few years later, the region started to sink and deviate from Prosperity, Economy and Morality. It shortly transformed into an island named "Croesis". However, a typographical error in Civil Registry documents turned the "oe" into "i" and so, it is ever since known as "Crisis".

The Croesuses were an ambitious and greedy tribe and it didn't take them long to alter the life of the island's inhabitants. All turned into "Others". "Money" became the island's official language and everyone who still spoke the "common interest" language was marginalized. The country's economy was now based on others' employment, while the wages did not correspond directly to each one's competences and efficiency. The island's political system was the "lawlessly guided democracy" and the political parties returned to power.

After each party's governing period, the island kept on sinking even deeper, but the ones to blame were always the Others. The laws were no more applicable to all, but only to the others who, consequently, were punished. Anyone with respect to oneself used to keep an annual tax evasion card in his purse, next to his credit cards,. The island's agriculture was based on the interplay's cultivation. The interplay is a tree with deep roots and long branches that tangle with each other; its fruit is poisonous and full of "conservatives".

The communal groups were demolished and the island's inhabitants now lived into some huge arbitrary TVs, which they bought on credit at exorbitant prices. Every morning, they turned on the TV to watch the Croesuses and other officials arguing in split screens. The supermarket shelves were filled with individual interest, hyper-misinformation and news filtered by the State Laboratory, in order for people to buy them in a daily basis. Technology was developing in an uncontrolled way, in order to create the best disorientation conditions for people. Needs were multiplied and people became poor. A few years later, during the 8th A.C.<sup>2</sup> Period, the island's economy began to collapse; the former "All", unable as they were to acknowledge their responsibility, began to blame the others. The island, which was totally detached from Morality and Economy, was sinking more and more. In attempt to stop it from sinking any further, the Croesuses asked Others to help them, instead of getting rid of the excess weight.

The time of Crisis had arrived. The island's temperature fell sharply and everything froze. Salaries, pensions, tax refunds, services, constructions, trading, the cars on the roads, the speed, the feelings, morality and the minds – all went into the freezer until further notice. The people, since they did not fit within the freezer, transformed into frugal bears in order to withstand the cold and not to slip on the ice.

The frugal bears are docile creatures that are satisfied with little food and water, consume little oil to keep warm and don't need money to survive. They are obedient creatures, which adapt very well to the environment and do not react to the others' austere economic measures. They are tireless workers and of exceptional interest for the Croesuses' country, as they live for a few years and don't manage to retire. Nowadays, the frugal bears are in danger of extinction due to climate change. A change that is possible to make the temperature rise in some years causing the melting of ice across the entire Crisis. Then,

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<sup>2</sup> A.C: after Croesuses

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when the minds and the consciences get out of the freezer, they may realise that before becoming Others they used to be All.