

## ***CITY: A Universe of Contradictions***

A city is one of the grandest, oldest and longest lasting achievements of human civilisation. Is it also the last? How great is the cities power of attraction if according to the sociological and demographic prognoses they will soon house over 80% of humanity? This tendency is ever increasing. What are these civilisation's creatures, these (monstro)cities? What is the nature of their phenomenon?

A city is an autotelic structure, territorial-urban and social, holding together all the man's virtues and flaws, a sum of individual thoughts, desires and passions, all locked up in a reusable Pandora's box.

A city is an emanation of contradictions: good and evil, freedom and oppression, order and chaos, calculation and passion, power and weakness, beauty and ugliness, rationalism and spontaneity, community and hostility, safety and invigilation, riches and poverty, creativity and consumption, love and hate, radicalism and compromise, comfort and burden, the elites and the anonymous masses, change and stability.

A city is an intellectual concept which lives its own live, but, at the same time, a creation as exact, practical and self-sufficient as any natural ecosystem.

A city is an element of narcotic beauty and effects, the opposite of indolent peace and morbid boredom; a synonymous of haste and superficiality, countless impressions and illusions, a mecca and an El Dorado, or an apocalypse for those flocking in hope of a better life. A city is our HEAVEN and HELL, our universe.