



**JOURNAL OF THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR CACTUS DEVELOPMENT**

**REVISTA CIENTÍFICA DE LA ASOCIACIÓN
PROFESIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO DE LAS
CACTÁCEAS**

Dear Enrique Arias Jimenez:



I never wished to have been asked to write your obituary, but I feel I must do it, my friend. I think it is better to try to talk to you as many times we did. Travelling was your choice of life, do not complain, this is just a long journey. Do not tell me you do not know where you are going to, because we all know.

We never talked about religion, why we should do it now? You seem to be and you are the typical Mexican revolutionary, politically leftist. I am the typical Italian, apparently catholic. I wish to go to paradise while it seems that you do not care. It seems

so simple. But you are a believer, Enrique. You always believed, Enrique, and, most important, you made us believers. You have been an apostle in believing in the development of the rural poor. From this point of view, you are, certainly, a man of faith. Your actions, your daily work is the result of your faith. Faith in a fair and peaceful future, faith in the role of the communities, faith in the role of your organization, the United Nations. And your faith is always full of hope. Without hope the faith is a loser.

Your hope is in your capacity of listening and taking actions when needed. Your hope is clear in the responsibility behind any of your decisions. Your hope was our hope and our dream. You made us persons of hope. Otherwise, why writing books and leaflets, participating to seminars? Only for our personal glory, only to travel and meeting friends around? No, we shared faith and hope with you.

I remember you in the middle of nowhere in Tigray, Ethiopia. It was a sunny and hot day, in Wukro, lunch time. We spent the morning planting a cactus field with Giuseppe and some others, it was plenty of kids everywhere, barely dressed. I saw you try talking to them. I saw your charity that is the human feeling that disposes to help those who need our material help, through specific actions, without asking any reward. You never asked for any reward.

Eventually, you always stay behind, not putting yourself in the red carpet. But at the end of this dialogue, dear Enrique, I tell you I do not know where I am going to, but I know you have the three theological virtues that indicate the clear direction of your journey, no matter if you are religious or not and whatever is the religion we believe in. Faith, hope, and charity make your life unique and an example for all of us, Comandante Enrique. Forever.

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