

for both men and women, as it brings with it a relatedness, a connection to Eros which is so miserably lacking in the Western world today. Our soul demands this renewal for its and perhaps for our own survival.

Finally an image of the Feminine from the poet Lao Tzu, the source of my title:

*The Spirit of the Fountain never dies.  
It is called the mysterious feminine.  
The entrance to the mysterious feminine  
is the root of all heaven and earth.  
Frail, frail it is, hardly existing.  
But touch it, it will never run dry.*

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### *Further reading*

Thomas Carlyle, *Past and Present*, Chapman and Hall, 1906

N. Micklem, *The Nature of Hysteria*, Routledge, 1966

Sylvia Perera, *Descent to the Goddess*, Inner City Books, 1981

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## **Humanistic Practice in Action**

*David Boadella*

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A high point of the First International Congress of Biosynthesis, held in Palma de Mallorca in April 1998, was a workshop by a Brazilian biosynthesis therapist in the fishing community off the coast of Joa Pessoa, which changed the self-esteem of a group of fishermen who were in near slavery conditions, and was coupled with a social project based on 'capacitation', which made it possible for the first time in their lives to own their own boats. This was a wonderful combination of therapeutic group work in a community, with social objectives, plans, and political realisation. Two of the fishermen had had their attendance at the

Congress paid by the whole community. The video of the project, and a talk by both fishermen, and the therapist, featured at the insistence of Silvia Boadella, in the closing ceremony of the Congress, over a wonderful Mallorcan meal, held at Finca la Sena, a farmhouse in the foothills of the mountains. At this point four generations of biosynthesis transmission were present, myself as founder, the Brazilian national trainer in Joa Pessoa, the therapist, and the fishermen whose life she had transformed.

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