

Brumadinho: The second alert

In February 2016, *Self* published the article “The cry of Maria” of my own. Three years after the Mariana tragedy, another dam collapsed in Minas Gerais and, this time, despite the environmental impact being smaller, human loss is going to be higher.

The dam at Córrego do Feijão Mine, which belongs to Vale a mining company, collapsed in Brumadinho, launching mud and waste over the company’s administrative facilities, and causing death and destruction of homes, lodgings and the rural area of the city.

In December 2018, the State Board of Environmental Policy and the Minas Gerais State Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development granted Vale a license to expand the capacity of both, Jangada Mine and Córrego do Feijão Mine, from the current 10,6 million tons of iron to 17 million tons per year (Carvalho & Vieira, 2019).

Taking this into account, the insanity and irresponsibility of our public institutions become evident, in this case in particular, with respect to safety and environmental and social protection.

A torrent of mud and waste flooded, killed people and caused injuries, bittering and smothering our open mouths, almost preventing us from screaming for help. Difficult help to find bodies buried in the deadly substance, in neglect, in unaccountability, in greed and crime.

It was to be hoped that Mariana’s mud and tragedy would be used to give shape to new projects of transformation of the somber politics and the vision that debases the soul of nature and of men. But all continued without change or reparation.

We have lost lives, environmentally protected and agricultural areas. We have lost shame.

The name of the city reminds us of mist (therefore, of shadow). The shadow of citizens, the shadow of those who declare to wish welfare and progress of Brazil, but are avid to fill their pockets with money, no matter the means.



Once again, the dark side manifested itself under the form of destruction, degradation and deterioration. The mud mixed with debris took lives, hope, debased Mother Earth and chocked us with horror. Screams are being heard in the entire region.

The phase of *nigredo* of Mariana's catastrophe, with the potential to transmute into *albedo*, remains unaltered. We may have the chance of illuminating our conscience and fighting for an ethics worthy of human beings, if we endeavor for it. Because the mud of Mariana, understood as a manifestation of the dark side of the *anima*, conveyed a message to the Brazilian people that they do not seem to have registered.

Many questions remain in the air: will the catastrophe in Brumadinho be used to take serious and effective actions? The recent event is sending us a new warning, are we ready to listen? Will the judiciary and legislative Powers listen? For how long will we be the accomplices of impunity, recklessness and inconsequence?

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References

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