

Dear Witnesses of Avenir! Avenir!

In Latin there are two words for “witness.”

The first word, *testis*, from which our word “testimony” derives, etymologically signifies the person who, in a trial or lawsuit between two rival parties, is in the position of a third party.

The second word, *superstes*, designates a person who has lived through something, who has experienced an event from beginning to end and can therefore bear witness to it.

From this standpoint, every fragment of “Avenir! Avenir!” was an *unbearable* event to cross *testis* and *superstes*.

What is at issue here is the discrepancy that concerns the very structure of “Avenir! Avenir!” Who was *testis*? Who was *superstes*? How can we bear witness? How can we use *language* in order to bear witness? What is the *testimony* of the person who is in the position of a third party or a person who has experienced an event from beginning to end?

I am trying to collect all testimonies of witnesses (spectators of “Avenir! Avenir!): your physical and psychological traits, your circumstances, your behavior with respect to the behavior of actors, your chance to survive and etc.

This is also a way – perhaps the only way – *to listen to what is unsaid*.

Just use language (every language you want) or non-language, write

I, who speak, was a....

And send it to me.

Sincerely yours

Hamed Taheri

Director of “Avenir! Avenir!”