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FORMAS





## **Intipunk<sup>1</sup> : A Solarpunk Vision Inspired by Andean Cosmovision**

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### **Abstract**

In the year 2200, the city of Quito, located in the middle of the world, stands as an impressive example of how the fusion of precolonial Andean cosmovision and the principles of the Solarpunk movement can give rise to a cutting-edge society harmonious with nature. In this vision of the future, Quito has transformed into a hub of sustainability and renewable energy, where community participation and connection with the land are paramount. Its streets are adorned with abundant vegetation, and its buildings have become true solar design gems, generating clean and renewable energy. The city as a whole is a living testament to how ancestral tradition and innovation can coexist in perfect harmony, creating a vibrant and hopeful society. We will delve into how the city of Quito in the year 2200 embodies the ideals of Solarpunk and how precolonial Andean cosmovision has left an indelible mark on its vision of the future.

### **Keywords**

Solarpunk, Andean cosmovision, ancestral tradition, community participation, nature, sustainability.

Quito, the capital of Ecuador in South America, stands proudly along the equator in the lush tropics, distinguishing itself from all other cities with its enchanting embrace of 12 hours (average) of sunlight throughout the year. This metropolis, nestled amidst the towering volcanoes that rise from the Andean Cordillera, is a sanctuary of diverse ecosystems. Here, the rich tapestry of ancient traditions flourishes, and even during the Spanish colonial era, sacred monuments emerged, meticulously designed to align with the radiant guidance of the sun.

In the year 2022, in the vibrant city of Quito, unfolds the extraordinary journey of Antonella to the future, merging the realms of dreams and reality. Luna, a unicorn from the future, adopted by humans, becomes the conduit for a deep profound exploration into a world where solarpunk ideals have metamorphosed the urban landscape into a harmonious sanctuary of sustainability and profound connection with nature.

Guided by ancestral wisdom and fueled by their passion for ecological activism and the harmonious coexistence of humans and non-humans, a group of friends embarks on a daring ritual to delve into Luna's dreams. Antonella, with unwavering courage, consumes Ayahuasca, while Titan, the genius tech expert, seamlessly links her consciousness through sensors to a cutting-edge virtual reality interface powered by advanced AI. The goal: to interpret Luna's dreams.

Prior to the journey, the group nourishes Luna with native plants used by the *runas*<sup>2</sup> to communicate with their dogs, triggering a hallucinogenic effect and reinforcing a human ethos within Luna. Meanwhile, Antonella ingests an ancestral drink prepared with *ayahuasca*<sup>3</sup>, which, combined with the crusts from Luna's eyes applied to her own, enhances her vision of the future. Titan connects a series of sensors on Antonella's head to electronic devices to interpret the dreams transmitted by Luna.

As Antonella's consciousness transcends time and space, she finds herself immersed in a breathtaking representation of Quito in the year 2200, a city reborn in an awe-inspiring solarpunk reality. Towering skyscrapers adorned with vibrant vertical gardens stretch towards the sky, their leaves whispering in the gentle breeze, absorbing solar energy to power the metropolis below.

In the year 2200, the magnificent city of Quito, nestled in the heart, has transformed into a radiant stronghold of Solarpunk ideals, where the ancestral wisdom of the Andean cosmovision intertwines with futuristic visions of a sustainable future. A symphony of nature and technology dances through its streets, illuminating a society that embraces the harmonious convergence of tradition and innovation. Solar panels adorn rooftops and walls of buildings, while vibrant vegetation flourishes in every corner of the streets.



**Fig. 1.** Antonella ready with the sensors on her head next to Luna preparing to start her journey to the future through Luna's dreams.

Communities thrive within this solarpunk utopia, embracing the spirit of minga, where collaboration and community participation are the heart of society. Ancient Andean traditions seamlessly blend with futuristic innovations as citizens gather in communal squares, their voices resonating in the air, collectively shaping the destiny of their city.

Guided by the ancestral spirit of communal collaboration, Quiteños engage in modern *mingas*<sup>4</sup>, revitalizing the essence of collective effort and participatory governance. Citizens gather in vibrant plazas, their voices harmonizing like a chorus of wind and water, shaping the destiny of their sustainable metropolis. Decisions are made by consensus, ensuring equitable and inclusive progress for all.

Each dawn is greeted with reverence as the inhabitants of Quito gather in open-air plazas, their faces radiant with gratitude, to honor Inti, the life-giving sun. Ancient rituals seamlessly intertwine with the rhythms of futuristic technology as solar panels bloom like sunflowers, capturing celestial energy

and transforming it into a symphony of power, illuminating the city's path towards a brighter future.

In the colorful streets of Quito, the city of the sun nestled at the middle of the world, the ancestral celebration of *Intiraymi*<sup>5</sup> harmoniously blends with solarpunk ideals, unfurling a spectacle of tradition and sustainability. As the warm rays of the sun illuminate the festivities, locals don resplendent attire adorned with solar panels, harnessing the sun's energy to power the music and lights of the celebration.

The sound of ancestral drums merges with electronic melodies, creating a symphony that honors both the past and the future. Streets fill with dances and sacred rituals in homage to the sun, while food stalls offer vegan delicacies cultivated in vertical gardens that reach towards the sky. In this magical fusion of history and progress, Intiraymi solarpunk becomes an emblem of ancient cultures' ability to inspire and guide the path towards a sustainable future in harmony with nature.



**Fig. 2.** The Inti Raymi celebration takes on a solarpunk style as it unfolds in the square adorned with the Church of San Francisco in Quito, Ecuador.

In this solarpunk haven, Quito embodies the harmonious coexistence of humanity and nature. The cityscape, adorned with verdant vertical gardens and rooftop solar panels, harmoniously blends modernity with ecological wisdom. A symphony of renewable energy sources powers the urban infrastructure, while gleaming electric vehicles glide silently along tree-lined boulevards, leaving only a trace of their gentle footsteps upon the vibrant solar-powered roadways.

Within Quito's thriving neighborhoods, vibrant communities thrive, nurturing a collective spirit of sustainability and inclusivity. The ancestral knowledge of the indigenous peoples intertwines with contemporary practices, forming a resilient cultural tapestry where all voices are heard, respected, and celebrated. Each neighborhood becomes a hub of collaboration, with communal gardens blooming on rooftops and open spaces, fostering a deep connection between residents and the nourishing Earth.

As the sun reaches its zenith, Quito's denizens gather in sprawling sunlit plazas, engaging in lively conversations and sharing their dreams for a brighter future. Inspired by their deep-rooted Andean heritage, where gratitude for the sun, the land, and the water flows through their veins, they embark on bold initiatives to safeguard the planet. Schools echo with the laughter of children as they explore sustainable technologies and innovative ecological practices, preparing to become stew-

ards of the Earth.

Education, the heartbeat of progress, beats with fervor within Quito's innovative institutions. In classrooms impregnated with the spirit of Andean wisdom, young minds embark on a journey of knowledge, delving into the profound teachings of their ancestors. They embrace the transformative potential of solar technologies, harnessing the power of the sun to power their curious explorations, fueling a generation rooted in sustainability and eco-consciousness.

Food, the sacred sustenance of life, flourishes abundantly within Quito's urban oasis. High-rise gardens, verdant with kaleidoscopic crops, cascade down building facades, forming a vertical utopia of nourishment. Aquaponic systems hum with vitality, effortlessly harmonizing fish and flora, while rooftop apiaries buzz with bees diligently pollinating the vibrant tapestry of fruits and vegetables.

The city pulses with the rhythm of eco-friendly transportation, as gleaming electric trams glide silently through the avenues. Pedestrian-friendly boulevards, adorned with flourishing trees, invite a harmonious dance between nature and movement. Bicycles, adorned with vibrant Solarpunk aesthetics, whir through dedicated lanes, weaving a tapestry of sustainable mobility that connects communities and reduces carbon footprints.



**Fig. 3.** Quito cityscape from above at sunset with the Pichincha volcano in the background and with the sun shining brightly casting vibrant beams of light across the skyscrapers.



Through Quito's luminous streets, a living testament to the indomitable spirit of solarpunk, the city radiates its unwavering commitment to sustainable living. The monuments that once stood as testaments to colonial rule now serve as beacons of hope, repurposed to harness solar energy and illuminate the path towards a future where humanity and nature thrive in symbiotic harmony.

Quito, with its vibrant spirit and unwavering connection to the sun's embrace, stands as a shining exemplar of solarpunk aspirations. As the city's solar-powered skyline reaches towards the heavens, it beckons the world to embrace a future where reverence for nature, inclusivity, and sustainable innovation intertwine to create a world where every dawn brings the promise of a brighter and greener tomorrow.

**Fig. 4.** Solar panels adorn the roofs and walls of the buildings, and vegetation grows lush on every corner of the streets. The architectural design of the structures is a perfect combination of the traditional styles of its historical center and the contemporary ones.

In the depths of Luna’s dreamlike landscape, Antonella uncovers the poignant tale of Luna’s past struggles—a story of resilience and survival in a world plagued by environmental degradation. Through her journey, Antonella experiences the transformation of Luna’s life, bearing witness to a collective effort to restore balance and foster a profound connection with the Earth.

As Antonella returns to the present, her mind filled with vivid memories and a newfound purpose, she shares her revelations with her friends. Together, they embark on a mission to bring the dream of Intipunk to life, drawing inspiration from the spirit of Minga and the wisdom of their ancestors. They empower their community, nurturing a collective commitment to sustainability and marking the beginning of a new era of harmony among humanity, nature, and non-human beings.

Quito in the year 2200 stands tall as an embodiment of the Solarpunk spirit, a vibrant testament to the fusion of ancestral wisdom and futuristic aspirations. It is a city where the celestial energies of Inti dance with human ingenuity, cultivating a harmonious coexistence that honors the Earth and embraces the radiant possibilities of a sustainable future—an Intipunk future.☀️

## Notes

1. **Intipunk** is a term that combines the word “Inti” (which means “sun” in pre-Hispanic language) with “punk,” used to represent a Solarpunk vision inspired by precolonial Andean cosmology.

2. **Runa** refers to a person or human being in Quechua, an indigenous language spoken primarily in the Andean region of South America.

3. **Ayahuasca** is a psychoactive brew traditionally used by indigenous communities in the Amazon rainforest for ceremonial and spiritual purposes.

4. **Minga** refers to a communal work or collective effort undertaken by a group of people who come together to accomplish a specific task or project for the benefit of the community. Minga represents the spirit of cooperation, solidarity, and reciprocity, where individuals contribute their time, labor, and resources for the common good, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility among community members.

5. **Intiraymi** comes from Quechua, an indigenous language of the Andes. In Andean cosmology, “Inti” means “sun” and “Raymi” refers to a “festivity” or “celebration.” Therefore, “Intiraymi” translates to “Festival of the Sun” and is a traditional event celebrated in various places in the Andes, particularly in Peru and Ecuador, to honor the sun as a deity and express gratitude for its blessings.

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## Figures

All figures were AI generated and adapted in Photoshop by Titan.



Made with love from Quito, Ecuador.  
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