



EDITORIAL

PRESERVATION

Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Hesiod's Prometheus myth highlight the dangers of unbridled advancement. For the sake of progress, something must be sacrificed. In *Frankenstein*, the tithe was Frankenstein's humanity. For Prometheus' gift of fire to humanity, he was condemned to have his liver eaten daily by an eagle. There is always a price that must be paid for our advancement.

Modernity has turned these stories into reality: virgin land sacrificed for economic growth, quality of life spent to boost GDP. But while trying to build a better society, we need to decide what is worth preserving and what can be axed for the sake of progress.

When we choose to preserve something, we are drawing an imaginary line around it to protect it from destruction. We are collectively saying that this particular object is a critical part of our identity. It is something not worth losing. Preserving it roots us.

Whether it's our artistic heritage or our cultural traditions, local researchers share how they are trying to preserve that which makes us who we are. Meanwhile, others develop new techniques to protect the environment from unsustainable practices.

Rather than viewing preservation as a hindrance to progress, preservation tempers it. It pulls back at the reigns of unbridled progress and reminds us that the past is equally as important as the future. It stops progress from turning us into monsters.

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