

Kon tik tak tiki Drafting Away from the Wild Civilization

If on one hand we have a general predominance of Kafka-like characters, stuck in the bureaucratic castles, completely hopeless in their scientific pursuits directed behind their desk, on the other we have a little but great hope coming for instance by characters such as Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian man who, prior the Second World War had the intuition that they were in fact Peruvian who colonized Polynesian islands and not Asians this while experiencing Polynesia, being actually there. Having faced right after the Second World War, the Kafka-like, hopeless experience of academia, ironically of the most progressive United States, and having being refused by all academic circles, he sets off to demonstrate his theory through practice, now conducting an almost "suicidal" experiment, trying himself with a crew of few revived vikings to let the stream take them from Peru to one of the Polynesian islands.

The experiment, successful, is remarkable. It shows not that a theory predominates over another, it just shows that also another theory is possible or that, in reality theory is just a state of mind to which we can connect whatever proof to prove it right as many as we can claim to prove it wrong. The issue here is the hopelessness and the meaningless of all the fighting staged in intellectual environments to make one theory predominant over another. It equals the wars of clans over other clans conducted by one or few generals who have been socially made in charge of this fictional battles. Theory is relative and nothing else, what is not relative however is the conducting of an experiment to prove one theory plausible among others. Thor has proved it, risking his own life as well Rem Koolhaas has proved his, both abandoning the official intellectual environment, academia and placing their intellect to practice, the latter as an architect.

As Thor might in fact evoke in us the revived image of a viking, we shall not diminish the importance of this irrational revivals, that connects certain individuals to follow "intuitively" a certain path. Intuition, or simply, in Taoist terms, the "going with the flow" like Thor following the natural stream of the Ocean or Koolhaas that of the market, is at the key of reviving humanity. We might point at the much of the now-a-days stagnation of civilized societies over to an educational regime going in principle against the flow of their time, not seconding but hindering, attempting to build dugs that will anyway fall rather than seconding the actual natural tendency of such a current which would, to conclude, eliminate any Kafka feeling of hopelessness. As for those few who attempts in solitude to navigate such flows, their job is not either way easy having to maneuver around these dugs yet eventually setting free to a fantasy which like a bird allows them to oversee humanity like a large river now dissolving into several small

streams of a delta about to dissolve in an ocean where integrity and rivers and currents have to be made up.

We shall thus in fact regard the Enlightenment as the real Medieval, not bringing light but obscurity, as a betrayal of our precarious yet generous nature for a comfortable yet miserable artificial living. The apple of knowledge has been picked and the counter examples of those utilizing their intuition as their pre-enlightenment ancestors can be thus seen as a remonstrations of how much further one can go without the artificial apparatus (modern academia included)... where a passion can drive, following the already existing drives, is certainly multiplied. Yet one should distinguish between the examples giving above of a Thor getting out of Academia to follow the natural stream and a Koolhaas getting out of academia to follow the artificial stream, the former providing, via his example a certain hope to reconnect to an idyllic nature while the latter desperately taking humans much afar from it.

Trying now not to make any black and white judgments, the question is whether one can simultaneously explore all the three flows, that pushing towards a seconding of nature, the non-flow of the official environment and that of the technical progress... Or simply we should ask the level of disobedience that we shall enact or simply we shall think about complying like monkeys within the loose clans, and just pay homage to these societies in the various forests while contemplating our departure, this time not back to an old nature using traditional material like Thor, nor using the artificial for social advantages like Koolhaas, but swapping the tool and purposes to build a technical draft, an ark made out of a technical being to finally leave the artificial jungle (that really boasted by Koolhaas with his radical urbanism), crossing a desert of solitude (the digital pixels?) and reach new faraway lands with our new fire, a technology burning from within rather than outward. In this respect, only inner passion alone will low enough wind to cross the ocean of sand we ought to cross we are constructions and with the meanings we consider ringing with us.