

Stoicism as the Anti Imperialistic Ideology

There are plenty of coward ideologists today. It is not only cool to be an ideologist, it is very profitable. From scholars trenching themselves in secure academic position while preaching about Marxism to artists jelling against Neo-liberalism while earning if not money, fame in their revolutionary message, ideology seems just the way to go.

Are these mainstream ideologies ever going to, for the better or the worst, change anything? There are ever larger system of governance pervading our lives. Ironically these systems have very much embedded the ideologies that were once critical to it. In fact, these systems also have learned to make a profit out of ideologies.

The national branding boosted by the Western countries to go in line with the values brought forward by ideology is the biggest example of this. The more you help minorities, the more you tax the rich, the more the image of your country looks good and the more the stock exchange rewards you.

Rather than debating whether this clear tendency is good or evil, I just look around myself. What I see is frustrated folk enslaved by the system. In all their work security and career orientation I see life coming less, I see no originality nor a character. Politics has become a stadium were to shout our frustrations and stadiums are under the govern ace of nations.

While our materiality is free and rich, it is our soul that has become most enslaved. The only possible ideology that I can conceive of when acknowledging this state of lifeless is nothing but Stoicism. I am sure that our mainstream ideologists are already about to click away this page as they conceive Stoicism only a practice to strengthen oneself.

To the contrary, Stoicism, and especially the Stoicism of the Roman empire, is an ideology of, in the first place "disobedience". The teaching of Jesus can be found in a less miraculous and more radical format in Gaius Rufus Masonius, his contemporary. Rufus, as I like to call him, has left no writings and little notes from his teachings have come to us.

In one of these fragments Rufus explains well how, if authorities above us go against nature, we ought to simply disobey them. He explains how one ought to follow nature and remove all the luxury of social life. He talks about becoming self-sustainability, growing one's own food while teaching philosophy to others. He talks about the principle of no-nations. He talks about accepting personal injustice without necessarily revenge. He is said to walk around the Roman soldiers explaining them the futility of war. He was exiled in a small rocky island in Greece, the Alcatraz of the ancient times

and yet kept his positive attitude.

As we see the imminent birth and/or fortifications of new empires, modern ideologies will do no good. Societies may reach a state of civility. A bunch of humans may always be brought to comprehend and accept the importance of certain philanthropic value but ultimately new humans will come.

Injustice and greed for power is always around the corner but it is the self who ought to be strengthened. It is Stoicism that needs to be brought forward in order to establish the cult of virtue, turning potentially humans into god-like creatures, strong enough to stand out from the life exhausting stagnation promoted by large governance.

Ultimately macro elements like large empires may only be defeated by something micro. The Roman empire was defeated by Stoic Jesus together with other Stoic figures. Gandhi, another Stoic figure stood up the British Empire. Thoreau and Tolstoy had their contributions. Mainstream ideologists laugh yet living in accordance with nature is the silent and most effective remedy to an increasing slavery to come.