

On Frugality

I have never got to read Jean Jacques Rousseau. Among all the theoretical essays I had to read in university there was not a single mention about him nor about anyone thinking in his terms. His terms are rather simple I suppose and that is that humans would be better off leaving a life like beasts and thus avoiding a lot of the self-inflicted calamities caused by our artificial and societal being.

Now I agree this is a bit of an extreme view. Leo Tolstoy himself realized that one ought to take shelter in a familiar nature rather than in a wild one. Stoics, and I am now here referring mostly to Marco Aurelio, thought that the nature is to be found within and that one doesn't need the mountains or the sea to find relief. I also personally agree that one can find such relief simply within oneself.

What we are talking about here however is not finding nature but rather living according to our nature. In this respect city life cannot be of much help. Yes, we do have Socrates pointing out that only in the city one can exchange ideas and in some respect philosophically grow. We also have a Lucius Anneus Seneca much disgusted about his experience of the city and the diminishing crowd so much corrupted by imperial forms of entertainment.

In this respect yes Rousseau did not talk about anything so new and revolutionary. He was simply connecting to a philosophical tradition that is not in any way being taught at school with perhaps a few exceptions. The philosophical tradition is that of, generally speaking, the transcendentalist philosophers presents in any culture, from the very east to the very west, from the north to the south. It is a philosophy scorning what we now think of philosophy.

Transcendentalist philosophy as I now generally call it is the one inviting for an ascetic life yet without the need to be too extreme, to find some moderate way of living without corrupting our body and soul. It is perhaps the best form of education we could ever wish for our children and their procreation. The problem however is and still remains that ignorant as we are, we certainly do not wish our children to grow as bumps living a simple life. We glorify prophets like Jesus and Siddhartha and yet ourselves seek richness for us and our offspring to come, we wish fame and all the soul diminishing attributes real philosophers have been always preaching against.

The rush for personal gold have quickly brought us all to our knees and yet this is much hard to admit and yet all natural resources has been squandered and now the industry has figured out the way to also to squander our very persona. I believe that from our very persona their is a way to counter react this decadence. All these mainstream

positions about saving the planet and so forth are but contributing to its destruction. It is as I said in previous essays, among each one of us that the transcendental philosophy of frugality ought to be adopted. I guess in this respect prior venturing to read any Rousseau I will in fact read some Michel de Montaigne, trying to size the right ethic for our time after having carefully read Seneca and Plutarch among his and my favorites.

I believe that however, what mainly differentiate me from the rightful philosophers is my plain disbelief for a progress based civilization. I guess the real starting point here to learn how to live a frugal life in modern time is truly Henry David Thoreau who first foresaw the absurdity of a technological living to come and who first experimented with civil disobedience. Now again God protects me from all the feminists eager to jump on my neck but truly we ought to take the white dead man seriously.

So serious we are in our profession yet seen from the stand point of the frugal philosopher it cannot but be scorned. A new revival of cynicism should take place, not the cheap irony the mainstream entertainment cheaply diffuse among our dead souls, our laughing skeletons. What is needed is some sharp scolding on an absurd life which in the first place as I said, breaks any connection with the understanding our own nature and how to live in accordance with it and as a consequence, and this is my opinion, angers mother nature. We do not need to hear a Jesus like voice or rather a voice turned severe by institutions. We need sharpness to awake as many humans we can, to bring them out of what are now called filter bubbles, the dangerous filter bubbles not only Internet is creating but also all the establishment now acting like Internet.

Any civilization off course can try to moderate and hinder from above the destructive behaviours of their citizens nonetheless, and this is my personal guts feeling telling me this, it is our very blind and ignorant dependence to the social apparatus that is the very failure hindering us to live according to our nature and thus to live a simple life which does not take and consume without giving back and regenerate. I do not need here to list out to you reader what should or should not the principles for a frugal life. There is no dogma to my philosophy to you. I am simply telling you to start a path and this path to keep your human senses open. While you do this search for the actual truth, the one surrounding you and not the one debated by scholars going astray with their nature, once you do so you will automatically come to have a modest life hungry you will be to discover the world.

The one way I did so is using the very raw media that later created a more obstinate and sealed human society, the very media that have created a new establishment, new form of power and vanity. These bullet proof bubble believe me cannot but sooner or later if not crash at least clash as it is already happening as we speak. Our struggle is to keep

our humanity outside of them and this can only happen having no worldly ambitions nor social expectations. It is totally feasible as it is feasible to be children without obligations. We just ought to accept our bump condition and yet keep up the dignity of a wondering, transcendentalist and frugal philosopher.