

On Micro Despotism

It is becoming more so that in recent years the health of an individual is strictly related to his or her wealth. This is particularly the case of the new medical technologies, expensive prosthesis to make the human old body much stronger and faster than any younger bodies, sophisticated medicines to keep the human organs always monitored and in good shape.

This new trend of the rich humans then can be associated to a willing of immortality, an immortality at the expenses of the poor humans, the ones that will just have to accept to die younger. Within this simplistic distinction which is in fact becoming radicalized even in the most fair societies were some reminiscence of welfare still exist, I believe that Stoicism as I wrote many times before, is the good opportunity to allow people of any class to accept their mortality.

Beside accepting our mortality I believe Stoicism can bring humans to understand the need to die in order for a new life to begin. It is particularly important today to think in these terms; ideologies of any sort have shown their terrible side effects and the whole of humanity seems to close up back into some sort of feudal based micro nations.

Nationalistic ideas are waved at people yet what we can see is that the wealth of each individual is indeed based on the type of feud that he or she comes to belong to. In times of an accelerated human progress we have in my opinion also experienced an accelerated historical cycle which have seen a too rapid economic growth giving space to a total burst into nothingness.

Within the recession hit nations what we have left is to enter one or another gated community eventually part-taking to their wealth or just wander like stray dogs. In the latter case we either are the maverick lonely dogs searching for a meaning or simply we join in packs raging at the completely sealed compounds.

Eventually any raging pack will get its share of leftovers to feed on. Yet eventually these very packs will be used to fight against other compounds. So while us, stray dogs are dangerously kept outside the golden gated communities barking at one another and eventually even siding for them, all we aim at it is to at last kill one another yet simply improving the immortality and wealth and Epicurean lifestyle of the gated micro emperors.

Is the in between land too radioactive to create our autonomy? Are all the water springs taken by these micro-emperors? Are they in fact beholding a life capital that also belongs to us? Indeed they also behold the very technology to exterminate all of us

outsiders. It is perhaps here that an ingenious kind of art is most necessary, an art which at last, as a Troy horse allows us to filtrate some of us within the gated walls by playing on the very vanity and pride of the micro-emperors, their Achilles heel. So rather than keeping up the fight against one another it is time to silently act against the great thieves of our life resources, the very ones orchestrating all our fuss.

I am not sure whether we can act collectively for this purpose. There is definitively the need of an Ulysses to allow this “deus ex machina” intervention upon an increasingly tragic and suffocating situation, a situation in which these very gated community are becoming more and more like Kafkian castles and yet also more and more intangible and invisible and hard to grasp. Our very effort ought to emulate such intangibility to bring the tangible natural wealth back on earth. Obviously there will be always attempts to seize in one way or another wealth for the few but obviously once again today we are going too far.

In my own experience I might conclude this essay written in rather precarious circumstances by saying that all it is sufficient to do in order to challenge such a new feudal micro despotism is in fact to pursue with our own autonomous projects. The more we pursue in a establishing our contemplative lifestyle the more irritation the power oriented gated communities will experience. If we are then able to mask the outcome of our contemplation in a shape desirable enough for the gated communities, I think we can create the actual cultural as well as spiritual detonators to bring humanity back to senses, to free life of all the constructed artificial curtains we have so rigidly come to constitute.