

From Disenlightenment to Selfenlightenment

What we can still read as in for example the writings of Cicero's orations, is that in a time of turmoil ancient populations like in this case the Romans invested their resources rather than saving them up. I mean to say that the attitude in antiquity was quite different from the present attitude. During turmoils Romans, the ancient Romans and not the Romans as they are more easily remembered in their imperialistic set up, Romans would invest in the spiritual and the divine, building new statues, new temples, devoting more resources to offerings and to its oracles so as to alleviate a threat.

Now this behaviour sounds most absurd. This squandering can be found all the way up to the Enlightenment, a period in which also governments started thinking more scientifically keeping all matters under rational control. Ever since the late eighteenth century then, starting with western countries the world has become keener to resolve its issues avoiding any type of superstitious approach, adopting rationality rather than irrationality. There is thus an assumption that with a rigorous method we, the scientific humans can come to the core of the problem and solve it.

This is definitely also an aspect present in antiquity, the use of rationality in order to solve for example calamities yet these rational approaches were always combined with somewhat of a thankfulness and gratitude and humbling towards a divine or better towards natural forces that were only transfigured as gods and had very little to do with what has been later brought forward by monotheistic religions. In this regard I believe it is rather important to point out a distinction between the more polytheistic and open religions of a remote past and the more monotheistic and dogmatic religions of a more recent past.

It is clear that polytheism had a more direct connection with nature, with its forces, with the whole of our existence while monotheism is more of an imposed narrative. No matter how anti-authoritarian this narrative can be interpreted as, it is and it will certainly be used for authoritarian purpose. In its written form thus monotheism goes hand in hand with state authority. As socialists of the past centuries have then pointed out religion is not only numbing like opium but it is mostly an extension or rather a justification of the state apparatus which ought to be replaced by an atheist and more scientific driven approach.

It is important here also to underline that what this socialist way of thinking has caused is not a mere kind of atheism and a total suppression of religion and in general superstitions among the "ignorant" population. It has in fact created other forms of fanaticism which in the twentieth centuries have unleashed themselves in most

devastating manners especially in regards of nature itself, bringing the whole humanity and the whole world in great danger. In this logic I dare to suggest that it would be almost urgent to bring humanity back on track.

Now the new monotheistic priests, all the scholars and academics who have de facto replaced the priests of the old monotheistic churches around the world, would be most enraged by my proposition yet I believe it most necessary to propose a spiritual reconnection to nature and put all of our effort and resources to do so. This is apparently a most irrational approach. Most people would advocate that we, the endangered human species shall keep on with the scientific path despite everything this sort of method has caused to our poor and mauled mother nature.

I have fully embraced the opposite direction and that is that of exalting this nature, that of manifesting it in its full power without the use of written dogmas I may have borrowed from one or another recipes book. Now I retain the strong conviction that each and every human can in a more or less intense manner follow this direction, a direction that is most disenchanted with scientific progress and brings back a sort of gratitude and humbleness towards our life on earth. This is no opium, this is the acknowledgment that only reactivating this sort of repressed sense we can truly not so much understand our universal presence but be part of it and therefore respect it in its full.

I am now not talking about starting a new wave of naive hippies, I am only pointing out a clear fact and that is that as the most primitive of people, in a most raw approach with our existence we can retrieve a whole new dimension, a spiritual dimension that is as part of our human nature as it is our arms and legs. Now yes we can undergo the process of mutilating the spiritual extension in each one of us and become fully modern or we can, as it is the majority of the cases pervert it with other surrogates such as a faith in political ideology, or a consumer based idolatry made worst by some sort of passive nihilism.

Perhaps then we can fill in the void we have left in our spiritual negligence with ideology or nihilism. Now it is clear after these two alternatives have been available since the progress driven enlightenment that both approaches bring in one way or another to a loss of our limited natural resources. In fact any ideology can be very good in for example emancipating one or another group of people oppressed by centuries of societies turned backward by the very feudalism that monotheistic religions have helped establishing.

Ideologies however bring too much focus on one or another case only generating new

state apparatuses, and new dogmas and laws which in a way amplify rather than diminish the whole machinery so much working against our very nature. In ideology there is then no holistic approach and it comes to only constitute a new form of religious like fanaticism as it has clearly emerged in the application of communist ideals and as it will likely emerge with the more contemporary trends focusing on gender, race and merely bodily aspects of our human nature.

To these more contemporary ideologies fully obsessed with appearance, there is too little concern with a full encompassing recovery of our spiritual being. Spiritualism alone can in fact transcend all these issues and can stop this trend of “artificializing” our lives to such degree that they are becoming more and more of an hinder to nature or at least to the spiritual relations that it can develop taking care of it. Right in this care perhaps is the key by which each and every person can elevate him or herself, can become less worldly but still have deep roots into reality eventually starting to grow its fruits.

I am here not suggesting a scheme. I am only encouraging the reader to set forth in a most unpredictable and challenging path outside of any of the given schemes. I encourage the reader to yes have a discipline but this is really the discipline and integrity of a traveler crossing the most sublime of horizons even by not literally taking any steps but by actively set forward to explore their own human nature, to sink into it with an almost ritualistic persistence.

I started this essay mentioning the per-imperialistic Romans. Among them was the conviction that in the sort of stoicism I am proposing we can become like gods ourselves with the only difference that we are of course mortal. There was the conviction that there is no such a thing as a hierarchy under which we are only mere subjects, we ourselves are part of the sun and the divine. Monotheism firth and modern thinking later has obscured quite much this ancient way of thinking. Yet it is vital for our universal belonging to recover it, to work on this perfection of ourselves, of this becoming semi-gods, like sun-rays beaming a constant natural light over our own reality and not mere dark subjects on which artificial light is cast on.

It is a slow process, a process which requires a full commitment and above all is a process which requires us to renounce to all the worldly career and social benefits we can gain complying to whatever establishment. Yet just because we comply to our nature and less or not at all to the establishment we are set to win time not only for our contemplative selves but also for humanity and for the planet as a whole. This is then my humble invitation to self-enlightenment.