

Pinocchio the Anti-christ and Lucignolo the Pro-Christ

One of the greatest propaganda fiction of all time can be considered Pinocchio. In poor Tuscany and poor Italy, right after the unification, not only kids but parents were starving to make a sufficient living. The moral of Pinocchio is really that one ought to "work in order to eat" but what kind of "work" is the fiction really trying to promote among its young listeners? Well, leaving aside the much simplified Disney version of the story, we can certainly see that work alone is not sufficient in the Italian province under a dramatic transition. The honest work of the craftsman such as Geppetto, is no longer possible. Notice here the close allegory of Geppetto with that of Joseph, Jesus' terrestrial father. Both Jesus and Pinocchio are miraculously born, and both Joseph and Geppetto are humble craftsman, however, while the Bible may invite such a humble offspring, we could now start perceiving the whole "Adventures of Pinocchio" book as an anti-Christian book, a book which, aside from the humble and Christian facade it puts up, is the promoter of a morality which is keen to obedience towards the very Pharisees, the dogmatic priests of the temple of the establishment which Jesus' message so much abhor. Via Pinocchio, children are told to give up their childhood and join the philistine society, in a rather Confucian way then, work for the worldly establishment with the moral that if they don't they will starve to death. Pinocchio is told to obey to the system and in particular to that of the school, of a teacher who makes him read and almost pray aloud their "credo" to the new social system to come.

While then many version of Pinocchio praises the imaginative elements of the story, the story per se, at the time it came, must have certainly affected many a child mind to give up not their evilness, but right their very innocence, the innocence the Jesus so much praised, saying that the paradise belong to children. "The Adventure of Pinocchio" is thus and overall a invitation to give up that innocence, which is the key of salvation, and rather join the evil mechanism of power, those that have so much often collapsed and will keep on collapsing. Pinocchio's teacher seems then the evil rather than Lucignolo, Pinocchio evil's friend whose name much sounds like Lucifer. And truly, it is the Paese dei Balocchi, an imaginative world which will save the new generation from experiencing yet another collapse, it is the fantastic world, the Paese dei Balocchi which they are able to create within them which will keep them angels as angels are Joseph and Geppetto, an "angelness" which really comes from keeping their hand busy working and creating, being practitioners of their own inner passions and not repressing it and thus turning into evil monsters. In the real teacher then we could see both the humble and nomadic Jesus himself who might in fact be just the result of a man who grew up in a society which did not allow him to keep up the creative profession of his father, or just

a teacher who would facilitate rather than repress creative work.