



Fig.002 Illustration showing people at sea on board of cans. They managed to uncan themselves from the cans with which the ship cans individuals with and they are actually able to set free in search of a new and more ecological and human autonomy off the ship. They not only recovered their own human nature but they even got prepared to resettle along with other individuals. Very likely, unless the whole ship-civilization withers not only arkists will be even allowed to hop off the ship but also the natural surrounding will anyway be too contaminated and under the stress of the ship exploitation to be able for a new ecological society to be born.

ARKISM 02

What is really the lifeboat the arkist movement advocates for? Lifeboat making is literally the fourth alternative given to a life on top of the modern ship representing any industrial society. If the first option is to comply with the ever tighter and dehumanizing procedures established by the ship, the second option is that of not complying and just keep idle. The third option is that of becoming passive aggressive as animals in a cage who constantly need to be sedated and eventually confined behind bars. This latter option is the option that a traditional anarchist would pursue. Arkism is aware that there is little or nothing one can do against a titanium built ship. In this respect the fourth option, the arkist option, is that of proactively preparing to hop off the ship especially in view of its sinking. Hopping becomes the only hope left to sane people

perceiving the terrible destruction the whole ship civilization is perpetrating onto nature.

Literally speaking, hopping off the ship is not even allowed. Even if one manages to do so there is very little chance to recreate an alternative community outside it as the dominance of the ship intoxicates the whole surrounding and its creatures. As long as there is a ship arkists are relegated to their role of preparing for a more ecological life after the shipwreck. While creating their lifeboats one may ask what are the reasons why the ship boarding the civilized humanity can start sinking? The reasons are multiple and can be already detectable. Around the ship nature is rebelling, she no longer wants to be kept under the yoke of its exploiting industries. She is becoming highly unpredictable and temperamental. The captains on board of the ship have all agreed to go easier on her and yet this going easier might on one hand just be a vague promise and on the other it might weaken the ship and make it more vulnerable to other and younger ships, other second class ships who have been working hard to become first class ships and want to appropriate themselves of the world hegemony.

There is also a second set of reasons while the modern ship is in danger and that is that the very human crew canned within it, or better what remains of their human nature, is also rebelling. The captains advocate for more compliance to the evolving technological apparatus of the ship yet this implies a further detachment from the human nature of each of the crew members. For certain individuals, especially those who are willing to be narcotized to achieve such results, this process is acceptable, for others, for any freedom loving and nature loving person, it is utterly unacceptable.

In this scenario and in the probability of a sinking, arkism turns into a stoic practice of preparation. To come back to the question of what is a lifeboat then, the lifeboat is not the result of a hoarding and maniac collecting, it is simply an analytical observation of what is left of life on board of the ship. It is not a valuable materialistic collection, it is a sampling of meaning which in the event of a sinking might have the possibility to float and be washed ashore for a new beginning a beginning in which ecology and equality will set the keys to constitute a new social reality that would make sure that the autonomous and local well being of communities will never be assassinated for the sake of centralizing forms of governance.

The lifeboat then is the driving allegory of arkism and simply implies the committed preparation of arkists in the act of refurbishing meanings and skills in preparation for a time in which autonomous communities can be born again given that they can no longer be born in the ever more regulated and pervasive and compressed life on board of the ship. At the core of the arkist ideology is the principle that only by actively preparing for a new future off the ship can life restart in harmony with both the natural environment and human nature.

Arkism comes not as a dogmatic piece of theory but merely as an inspiration to stimulate those who already have the feeling to carry on and conceive their life repositories. These writings per se are but the filling up of the compartments of an hypothetical lifeboat. They are made of 36 chapters. Each chapter has been associated with a letter of the English alphabet and the vowels have been repeated three times in the attempt of selecting keywords with which arkism could be put up against. Of the total 36 selected concepts 12 sections explore each concept so as to fully exhaust it. Put together these sections can cover up the perimeter of a traditional lifeboat such as the clinker-built wooden lifeboat of the Titanic, the British liner marking with its sinking the end of the Belle Epoque and the end of the optimism and trust on technological and scientific innovation characterizing the time up to the First World War.

This lifeboat could be fabricated using ferrocement, a technique still in use in poor countries lacking the luxury of steel. This technique is quite in contrast with the yachts and rockets rich industrialists build for themselves in the attempt to escape the planet and the humanity they are so much draining with their capitalistic enterprises. Arkism on the contrary advocates for a return to a natural environment the industrial society is depleting. The lifeboat is thus only a temporary vehicle awaiting for a possibility to reconstitute life on earth. The ferrocement lifeboat symbolizes the arkist movement; it only contains a hard copy of these writings and the arkist flag on top of the mast which is meant to sail wherever nature takes it. It therefore sails the natural catastrophes ahead rather than forcing its way across them and away from them.

Theory aside, arkists of the world are invited to think concretely on their own unique lifeboats scavenging whatever life-content they can scavenge from the industrial overproduction and the information overload of the ship and think of whatever

dimensions as small as a box or as large as an actual lifeboat or whatever other shape befits each individual and his or her natural predisposition. Only with such a variety of approaches can life have a chance of being born again no matter how devastated and compromised the surroundings may be.