

ARKISM 07

In their persistence to build and stow a lifeboat arkists revive the skills of manual workers, skills that the increasingly automation of the ship have turned obsolete. The skills they recover however are not those of pedant carpenters attempting to achieve a perfect creation; the latter are very much the product of the ship. Rather the arkists' skills as well as the results of these skills are most rudimentary as rudimentary were and always have been the creations related to communities living free from the joke of hegemonic powers.

The arkists genius is not so much in the mastering of particular crafts but in their ability to assemble whatever it is at their disposal. They are thus not dependent to very specific materials and tools but retains a more primitive intuition to make use whatever they can make use of. In the arkists case then they are not puritans trying to only go for the particular material the dogma of a craftsmanship imposes. arkists are more prone to improvisation with whatever they can scavenge even and more likely so from the overproduction and waste of the industry, given that their goal is that of setting up a vehicle which is in itself only a medium of transportation onto another and more natural reality, unlike the ship that from being a medium as become the final reality itself.

The improvising arkists are thus more resembling favela dwellers at the periphery of a fancy metropolis, the ship in which the technological advances have fully automated human labor, in which most humans are turning into a mere technical supervisors overlooking the functioning and the improving of the ship without ever getting their hands dirty with its ever more sophisticated mechanics. The tinkering arkists come to represent the rare figures of whom are still capable to use their hands to accomplish whatever work, the ones who can survive and use their genius to also consider human survival at large.

Under the premise that arkists recover their manual abilities so as to be able to accomplish a wide range of tasks the making of the lifeboat necessitates, they become the new and perhaps only proletarians on board of a ship of middle class and brainy bourgeois. Following up to one of the fathers of anarchism Mikhail Bakunin, by reacquiring manual craftsmanship arkists also recovers the right common sense which enables them to self-govern themselves without the misleading aid of a ruler or a ruling class ruled in its turn by the technological progress.

Beside claiming that in their developing of survival skills arkists gain the right sense for self-governance, arkism claims that they also acquire the right common sense and knowledge to lead the crew out of danger when danger will finally bring it to its senses. In short arkists recover the skills to lead a ship that is more human-scaled and striped of all the dangerous automatism which more or less shape the captains and the crew of modern industrial society. This ship may be not *per se* the very lifeboat they have dedicated their existence to create but a certain level of salvation can be in fact retained within the very building itself, within the process of its making and stowing, arkists then becoming in a way the lifeboat themselves.

There is no paranoia driving arkists nor a belief that they retain some sort of super powers to rescue life from the sinking ship. There is only a very objective preparation for a time that the more it is postponed the more catastrophic it will get and the more will find the human crew on board of the ship unprepared to face and the more the natural surroundings will be tried of their resources. The arkists objective is not that of accelerate this time; they know it simply ought to happen as it has always been happening when too large power structures have been created with the only difference that the power structure of the ship is one that relies on a high level of automation. It does not rely on slavery which in a way could be a renewable source but it relies on a fully unsustainable and mechanized system of exploitation which does not consent to any regeneration but voraciously looks outward to more and more resources to exploit leaving a desert behind.

Arkists stand no chance against such an apparatus. They are skeptical about all the political moralizing of the captains on board of the ship advocating for more sustainable ways to power the ship while in fact making the ship even bigger and armed *de facto* even more sealing human life away from nature and putting an even heavier burden onto the environment. In this scenario, no matter how dreadful, arkists pursue their mission, the mission of preparing for a sinking to come and a time in which a more down to earth and human-scaled reorganization of life can occur.

In reality then the master skill of arkists are that of being able to mature their own autonomy, the autonomy of those whom, unlike others who are fully dependent from the ship, struggle and succeed in keeping independent from it. Thus while the environment arkists will have to face in the aftermath of the

sinking may be very different from the artificial one they are experiencing on board of the ship they are in fact already training to survive, already revoking the intuition and genius they will need to face a very tough life ahead, a life of initial privations and a life in which the debris of civilization will in fact be a key to resume a life in the very landscape civilization itself has repetitively raped with its more and more uncontrollable and automated machine with an artificially intelligent brain but truly no heart and only a vague understanding of the fragility of life on earth and beyond, the very sensibility initiating arkists.