



Fig.081 Illustration showing the predatory nature of the ship-establishment symbolized by an animal made of two parts. In the back there is a lion still biting on the remains of the earth planet it had fully consumed on the other there is the imperialism eagle flying out into space after the lion had left nothing of the earth. In space however this eagle will find total emptiness and will eventually resort to the very human that has conceived it to feed itself. Now this feeding doesn't necessarily need to be a sudden aggression but can be rather a structural one; as the eagle gains an intelligence of its own it will find ways to nourish the humanity it has on board without killing it a bit as if in a prometheus myth. Nonetheless the more sensible people like arkists will try to conceive a vehicle to make it off this system and reroot to the planet.

### **EDIFICATION 09**

Generally speaking modernity brought great promises and hopes for the whole of humanity and the whole of humanity pretty much subjected itself to it. Rather than a present to be opened however was a present to be locked in, it was the ultimate toy, it was the ship the state authorities have conceived to a full control on the population allowing them all forms of liberal behaviors but not the freedom to grow fully autonomous off the ship and back in the natural world. As the American anthropologist and social theorist David Greaber rightly pointed out all the poetry and imagination that was typical of a first phase of progress has been

disregarded and in a second phase all that has been invented is a giant bureaucratic machine, a ship that certainly has not freed humans but have certainly imprisoned them in not only a physical architecture, no matter how polished and gentrified, but in a series of bureaucratic procedures that dictate and oppress their lives.

Certainly society on the ship is far more constrained than stateless societies have been. Of course people belonging to stateless societies were also compelled to respect certain norms that ensured the harmonious living of the community they belonged to but these norms were not just arbitrary legislations made up especially to ensure the incredible power of a distant and far away ruling class, of a financial elite and its capitalist set up and the hierarchy built to ensure its existence. Organic societies lived their lives in the natural world and were highly sophisticated and highly exalting their local environments up until they were pretty much forced into mainstream religions and comply to a centralized bureaucracy whether colonial or postcolonial. Locked in the giant ship then there is only one hope and that is that of challenging its bureaucratic apparatus with poetic imagination. It is rather clear in fact that any counter-movement confronting the ship even in a non-violent fashion is enforcing the ship rather than weakening it. For every successful protest an even more powerful and pervasive type of authority is enforced.

It seems that the only form of direct action left is that of reclaiming the natural environment, of just directly and without any mediation getting back to forming an organic society and with it, with time recreate the natural fabric which enables it to co-exist with itself and the environment. Now this is utterly impossible on board of the ship. The ship has removed any possibility for society to grow back in nature. There may be nature on board of the ship but she had to undergo a process of gentrification and sterilization. Humans too have been gentrified and sterilized to such an extent that they are discouraged and even prohibited to interact with the environment. If they have the privilege to do so they can only do it in very isolated allotments and without spilling any dirt outside them and infect other people with their partially recovered organic self.

Yet nature ought to be boundaryless as that crossed by nomad tribes in the infinite horizon of immense plateaus. The ship by now has compressed these horizons to itself. The

technology it offers is capable of simulating but in fact no one is anymore allowed to be an integer part of it. If some do manage they are immediately poisoned facing the immense lobby of exploitation of the natural environment. The foreign policy of the ship is in fact and can only be predatory. The ship needs to sustain itself and it needs to fight other predators when resources are scarce. It can brag to have certain principles and stand up for certain ideals when its belly is full but sooner or later it gets hungry again and it is out hunting for more resources and fighting with other predatory ships. Now yes of course also the little nomads trespassing a giant plateau scavenge for food but their scavenging is far more frugal and overall far more sustainable and certainly not as systematic and greedy as that of a ship. The problem then is not what the human individual or the sum of human individuals and the pollution and waste they can generate together. The problem is the giant machine in which they are all compressed into.

If humans for thousands of years managed to live a very ecological life in quite egalitarian societies, it implies that humans can get back to living like that. Instead of prohibiting this natural inclination, the ship authorities should simply enable such a gradual reconnection. Those who are not too afraid of losing their power may be afraid of just the anarchy that can result from such a procedure but anarchy really as envisioned by them is a state of chaos in which society falls into once the government suddenly ceases and they did not have the time to recover their relation with the natural world. Arkism in this sense is a movement that encourages individuals to make an effort and take this step by themselves. Since there is no natural world to relate to on board of the ship and since all his fellow humans are caught up in their careers, this process can only occur to begin with by lonely individuals. This loneliness however is soon replaced by a strong need to form communities and get back to the natural world. In this respect arkism presents itself as the non-existing bridge between an increasingly artificial and sterilized reality and a free and organic life back in nature. If the ship progressively moves forward to detach itself from the natural world and may one day simply take off into space and find a way to sustain itself by eating the only natural resource it has left to eat, humanity, arkists are those conceiving the ark, the ship to escape the ship and get back to nature and hold on to it and regenerate it.

Unlike most environmentalists then arkists do believe that humans can not only be part of nature but can actually elevate it and enrich it. The lifeboats they build to escape the ship is already an example of this, they are the product of their adherence to their own nature and the reactivation of their organic selves. Even if the ship is transporting humanity further and further away from the natural world, nature is still residing within each human and it is this nature, this last grain of soil that each of them ought to appeal to to create enough gravity to become such a burden for the ship it will have to eventually be defecated. Once this defecation will reach land again, with the ship now lost in space life can slowly resume and the social interrelation with nature re-established with the awareness however that no ship, and in general no centralized bureaucracy and big industry should ever be allowed anymore.