

OUTCAST 05

Throughout history many are the examples of outsiders building their out-of-law constructions. There are the towers of Simon Rodia, the palace of Ferdinand Cheval, the cathedral of Justo Gallego. Their works are downgraded to that of visionary artists however there is something more to it, they stand as monuments of a society facing wars and destruction. They are the arks, the lifeboats of an increasingly ship-like civilization. What arkism aims at is to bring the outsider element out of the more sensitive humans. As understood by arkists there are different main currents on board of the ship. The official ones either want the ship to turn into a progressive spaceship, completely lighten up society and uproot any of its connection with nature. The other current wants the ship to keep up its predatory mission of a battleship fighting for survival and conquering new resources and new territories only to fully deprive them and accelerate the death of humans and the planet. Obviously there are unofficial and underground movements that do not side for any of these two mainstream options. These movements could be defined as anarchist in their mission to confront the ship and actively manifest against it. There are of course the more naive movements that only wish for a radical reform to the ship but these movements have a tendency to turn it more into a spaceship or battleship.

Beyond these radical movements that oppose the current ship or oppose the idea of a ship altogether, arkism positions itself as a movement that sees no hope in fighting for reforms nor any hope for fighting for the withering of the ship. The ship and all its power-structure is all set to preserve itself no matter what. For the sake of branding it could consider certain reforms but only so as to make itself more powerful, the almighty authority governing more and more all aspects of life. Arkism sees neither any possibility in uprising against the ship and its system since by now it has become bulletproof. Here revolutionary minded individuals like Theodor Kaczynski would say that the system is like an hydra and that it would be very easy to defeat it by only seriously damaging one of its parts but generally speaking arkists are non-confrontational folk who prefers to fully invest their time and energies in the building of lifeboats to make it off the ship and prepare for a reconnection with their human nature and nature at large.

As a matter of fact even if Kaczynski justified his violent deeds saying that they were also in use in hunter-gatherer societies and that human to human violence was a natural precondition of social living during prehistory, arkists are quite convinced that violence breeds violence and was not the norm among the hunter-gatherers of the past who would rather move to another place in order to avoid conflicts. Of course on the ship it is harder to relocate but Kaczynski did have this option back in his days. Either way already while on board of the ship arkists wish to already become hunter-gatherers and the making of lifeboats is the way they do so, hunting and gathering for life-potential to be included within, recovering their senses not in the form of surrogate activities but in fully reconnecting with their inner and outer environment, engaging with both them alike through the active observations they adhere to in order to hunt and gather for their arks. This is not merely making provisions for a journey out at the sea. Arkism is the necessary initiation into the true human nature, that of being part of the environment not as a dull robot specializing and executing the orders from above but as a fully mindful creature with a great sense of orientation and autonomy.

It is very likely that the whole ship-civilization will collapse. It is also likely that if one ship collapses another will absorb it but the future can nonetheless be envisioned as a series of shipwrecks in which arkists have the opportunity to create their islands of freedom like the libertarian and freedom loving pirates of the past. There is no romanticism however about it. Already the fact that while on board of the ship arkists build their lifeboats is a short circuit to the system. So if not only the most extrovert outcasts would engage in such an enterprise but arkism would become an actual mainstream current within the ships colonizing the planet and kidnapping its people, a powerful and non-violent liberation can be actuated, a necessary transition back to nature which will take generations to process but which will anyway have to deal with all the debris of the ship. Therefore it would be not only suicidal but ridiculous to think in primitivist terms that anyone should literally become a hunter-gatherer. The transition is necessary and anyone ought to rather become an arkist, building his or her ark to a domain that is likely to be without any of the ship centralised system to govern it but it will be nonetheless deeply marked by the debris of civilization.

Arkism in this sense is a movement that more concretely activates a process beginning with individuals reclaiming their

human nature and from there acquiring the skills and the necessity to get altogether back to a nature the ship has uprooted him or her from. Arkism is thus a process of autonomy which can only begin with the self because on the ship the self is kept isolated from the rest of society, it is kept deprived of its nature and only in adhering to a self-made method to reclaim this nature can the self discover the urge that a social ecology is required, it is the normal configuration the very ship is hindering. With the realization that a local society is needed comes also the realization that a space back in nature is vital for it to exist. So not only the social group but also nature ought to be autonomous, in this case starting with the self that is the last element the ship is learning to extract resources from in order to preserve itself. Yes the self is also undergoing desertification and arkism is the process of reforestation.