

'VOX CLAMANTIS NEL DESERTO'

Luke iii, 4.

21st April 1996:

Contemplations on Social Power and Prestige. How certain members of the species manage to obtain great material wealth, comfort and enormous social prestige - e.g. fame. What is fame? In one way, it does not necessarily mean that fame is linked to evolutionary peaks of humanity. Women are famous because of their beauty, their bodies, or their big breasts. They may be as empty as the proverbial tin drum. In contrast, other people are famous because of their contributions to culture, science, religion, e.g. Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, the Buddha. In some cases they were infamous during their lifetimes. Recognition in many cases is posthumous.

Power Dressing. Power Breakfasts. Who decides Who Has Power? ¹

We live in a society that is based on the use and abuse of power. Power, as a form, or process of controlled energy, naturally takes many forms.

A shocking indictment of contemporary civilization - and an overwhelming moral bankruptcy that lies at the roots of all our transactions. This is the heritage of capitalism - What is the difference between co-operation and cannibalism? Co-operative cannibalism?

When a bank of resources are opened to public access - what happens? Individuals plunder these resources for their own personal profit instead of collective gain. Hegemony - everyone and everything is up for grabs.

To open Frans Lategang to plunder. Beuys was a Rose-Cross! The Red Cross!

We must respect the individuals in our society who are solitary workers. The desert fathers, anchorites, recluses, lone meditators, contribute to the welfare of humanity in hidden ways.

Likewise, the individualistic trend in culture, is to be honoured. But no human being should hide their light under a bush. DISPLAY is necessary. Exhibitionism is an archetypal function, as one little girl said: 'Mommy, Mommy, look what I drawed.

Mommy must look. Society must see. The critics must have material to rip to pieces...

AND THE LAST WAVE SHALL BE THE FIRST WAVE.

In a culture so dedicated to the repression of the psyche, seeing Peter Weir's film '*The Last Wave*' is like having salt packed on open wounds.

¹ 21st April 1996

26th October 1997

I recently had a visitor in Cape Town who had a twelve year Jesuit education in Spain. He was very interested in things esoteric and spiritual - but the minute I mentioned Jung, he shot back with a very ferocious reaction that "He was not interested in Jung at all". Yet, as time went by, it became very apparent that things were not all well on his various home fronts. In fact, his particular psychological problems became clearly apparent to view - conspiracy theories, ecological destruction, the grief of the suffering of the masses the world over. I did not have the heart to point out to him, that this titanic suffering, as he so graphically described it, was not alleviated by even a single drop, by the sufferings of Jesus Christ on the Cross - an glaring disparity that he was obviously not even slightly conscious of. In fact he was not even slightly conscious at all. In fact, the sufferings on the Cross of his own Unconsciousness, was the site in which these millions were tortured and decimated by the Multinationals of the World. This is not to deny for one second that diabolical plots are afoot on a global scale by the powers of monopoly capitalism. But it is another thing altogether to use the external agony as a screen on which to project flagellated images of one's own inner deficiencies.

In fact, as facts are gathered, and mulled over as empirically as possible - it seems that even more sufferings have been created in history, by individuals of great power who have projected their neurotic tendencies on an external enemy and thus unleashed genocidal wars. Hitler. Pol Pot. Rwanda. Syria.

The Inquisition, from a point of view of Jungian Social Psychology, if such a science exists - could be said to be an institutional paranoia, to extricate the horrors of the unconscious by murdering and burning and banning the exterior enemy. Perhaps this would lead, logically, to the Catholic Church's implication in the nightmare of heroin industry and the Mafia in the 21st Century. Where else could Christianity go - except into the darkest regions of Pluto's Kingdom? And seeing that it has neither the strength nor the will to cleanse the Augean stables - the process will continue, hopefully until complete fossilization occurs, the common lot of religions that refuse to change with the times, and one may add, that of individuals. The social aspects of this process were most brilliantly commented upon by Sir Arnold Toynbee.

From the practical aspect, I would suggest one has to clarify the above discrepancies, and lay bare the fundamental drives of the individual pain as related to the pain of the great whole. Certainly one feels helpless in the face of the enormity of the situation, the titanic qualities of which, emasculate us, from any action whatsoever.

And that is **exactly** the point - in that it seems we fill our days with agonizing over global warming and the destruction of the rain forests, but do nothing about it, because we feel so disempowered. And yet, if you analyze the situation on a micro level - you find that there is still plenty of scope for action which is being completely ignored, of which again, we are completely unconscious. Like the time when I attended a Committee Meeting of a very ego-inflated Ecological Group. To my question as to whether anyone in the group recycled their waste matter into organic and inorganic, there was a stunned silence. And in the density of this silence, we also find the point made by the late Krishnamurti, about how people who protested for World Peace, were not actually speaking to their parents. The Micro and the Macro again.

I am not making any sort of value judgment - but a society that rewards a cow cut in half and preserved in formaldehyde - speaks more about Mad Cow Disease than Art for Art's Sake. Artists ostracized for their political beliefs. Cranach and Luther, The Beham Brothers and the Peasants Revolt. Different to Titian who lived in wealth and moved in Imperial and aristocratic circles - or the Vatican sponsored artists such as Carracci who was painting the Dionysian ecstasies of the Palazzo Farnese at the very moment that Giordano Bruno was being burnt at the stake on Piazza Campo de Fiori - a few blocks away.

Also, we should not put down artists who "do" flowers in vases, still life's or pastoral landscapes. Boucher too - was painting his Arcadian fantasies for French Royalty, on the very edge of the French Revolution. He stands poles part from the textures and context of Daumier or the Oriental lust in the dust of Delacroix.

Wildly divergent creative sites co-exist, co-habitate in fertile social soils. And indeed, this should be encouraged.

THE WALT DISNEY DESTRUCTION OF CULTURE.

I recently read the *Arabian Nights*, (I need to get a copy of the Penguin Classics Edition) and found it a most moving and enriching experience. At about the same time I also saw the Walt Disney animated version - and thought it was vulgar and aggressive in the extreme.

THE VISION OF THE SIXTIES

If we return to the Sixties, I think there was a genuine optimism that arose - now 30 years later, the children of the children of the Sixties, are being born. Many of my friends are grandparents. And yet some of the values have been maintained irrespective of a negative media onslaught.

I know it is totally unfashionable, but I cannot see any way forward for humanity without some form of socialism. I cannot see how we can base a civilization on anti-socialism.

The bottom line - how to create a social structure, an engineered system. So much damage and rupturing.

OLD NOTES

TWO points to be researched from an old note: [Obviously this refers to an even older note.]

The stored up energy/ social transformation. Art? Culture is outside the social form, BUT can be the main transmitter. What did I mean by this? See: Toynbee Vol.9, p. 48.

I have often written of WHAT?

"...the possibility that one of the main seeding grounds of the Vajrayana in the West is through Arts/ Culture - though later, some doubt grew in my mind. "

"But why do you have to see the Vajrayana as solely within the cultural orbit of Tibetan Buddhism in general, and the country Tibet in particular?

"Yes, there has been a shift in emphasis over the years from involvement and dedication to one Transmission Lineage, to a wider awareness that, as the old saying goes, "One never knows when one meets an Angel unawares."

Which is to say...?

"That not all the initiates need necessarily appear on Lotus Thrones or brocade robes, or wearing the ash and mud of the sadhu, or UFO's, or fabulous channeled messages. Now, perhaps, I would say that Art and Culture, though one and the same, are a vehicle through which the Work can proceed, but not necessarily controlled by any one Lineage. "

This was one of the main reasons for founding the Pax Cultura Project - and later Indlovu - beyond reason, the vision was of a seeding ground that is Tantric in its purest form. We have to create new cultural forms, new arts born so to speak, from the glittering jewels of the Divine mother. Or as Tai Situ Rinpoche says:

"Magnificent Images will be Born."

"Our highest duty as human beings is to search out a means whereby beings may be freed from all kinds of unsatisfactory experience and suffering."

H.H. Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama.

"In the beginners mind there are many possibilities...in the experts there are few."

Shunryu Suzuki, Zen Roshi.

A great deal of humility is called for when dealing with the Teachings. In a relative sense one can only speak from experience.

My plan is to introduce the 'grammar' of Tantric Art - to gloss over a generalized tour of the material - and then to take one example - Light it as a Highlight - containing within its microscopic structure, enormous areas of information. This example is the SKULL.

BITCH & MOAN DEPARTMENT

...the background cacophony...chaos of static on the Web. One has to extract the data..

I return again and again to the idea of Soares, that "we" are still in a *sub-human* condition...

Fairly recently, it was illegal to see Sport on a Sunday. Now we see nothing but Sport on all four TV channels, and both main Radio Stations. So much for democracy. The rule of the lowest common denominator.

We are certainly living in extra-ordinary times. With a few clicks of the index finger on a small plastic object called a mouse - we can move across the face of the earth, in cyberspace - and excavate a vast amount of information on a myriad of subjects for as little as R6 per hour. I do not think that the full revolutionary impact of the Internet has been felt by all and sundry, though the speed at which people are getting 'connected' is amazing. Yet I am one of those old fashioned types who still enjoy curling up in winter with a magazine.

When I see the tons of paper wasted on advertising, and the millions, if not billions of Rands poured into the advertising industry - This publication is totally illegal, in that . . . Under the circumstances, with the South African Rand falling to an all-time low - it becomes impossible to import books and magazines from abroad,

When God was a WOMAN. testosterone

There are certain books that have to be read. Merlin Stone's *When God was a Woman*, is one of them. Estrogenic versus testosterone.

The War Lords are still dominating the planet. The statistics of mind-blowing sums of money, titanic bone-crunching numerals, that are spent daily on military hardware. It is the men that are behind these actions, and usually, the old men. It is the young men who died in their millions on the battlefields of the last century. And behind the War Lords, are the Money Lenders, who bankroll all this military expenditure. After all, where does all that vast ocean of cash go - if not into the pockets of the manufacturers of the War Industry? The so-called Military-Industrial Complex!

It is not a pretty story. But the truth must be told. She sketches the genocidal actions against the matriarchal societies - the blood-baths that are described in the Bible. God was pleased with this slaughter. The Old Testament is full of God condoning mass-murder. And yet we have inherited these Scriptures as a "Holy" Book!

It is no wonder that Peace is difficult to attain in the Middle East, for that land has been drenched in human blood for thousands of years.

Basically, a society that lives only by the rules of selfishness, cannot, in fact, be called a society at all. When all our human transactions have been reduced to business transactions, then we cease to be a civilization, to be civil.

We have all seen the relentless breakdown of civil society over the past few decades in the name of Monetarist Policies. Some call this capitalism. I prefer a term that I picked up from a brief survey of South American Liberation Theology - the Total Market Strategy. Today we have such buzz words as "outsourcing" which basically means - sell everything off to private profits. Organic social structures are broken down and sold off - even such natural resources such as water, gas. In the wake of International Monetary Fund and World Bank policies, public programmes, such as health care, education and culture, have been, gutted and plundered.

We see this very process in South Africa from a Government that professes to be socialist.

Again, we know that the most powerful vested interests on the face of the planet, the Corporations, have done everything in their power to obstruct ecological programmes.

On an overview, one can only come to one conclusion, let us say, a conclusion not based in reality, but in fantasy, or science fiction. That whoever has the power is only intent on destroying the earth, in laying waste this beautiful green planet. In fact the destructive mechanisms of unmitigated economic growth at the expense of the planet's resources, and

the self-destruct scenario that this suggests, is parallel to the behavior of the AIDS virus. The virus will kill its host and thus cease to exist itself.

There are two perspectives that need to be explored, or rather two windows, or frames, or lenses, through which these perspectives can be viewed.

1. Optimistic gnosis.
2. Pessimistic gnosis.

This also takes us into the profound complexities of the nature of evil. In this regard, I find Buddhism has a system of great clarity. Certainly, we are justified in saying that it is evil, or wrong, to destroy life.

Tuesday, 05 July 2005

Have been reading your letter which starts: Do you know you are a very special friend?, and it has had the effect of making me very, very glum.

I was thinking to myself the other day, that Cape Town and environs was originally known as The Cape of Good Hope. At the same time, from classical emblems, we know that Faith, Truth and Hope were always associated with a Goddess . . . in Latin, or Italian, Fedes, Verita and Speranza . . . and we do see such a figure on the first triangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope. She is radiant, and leans on an anchor - which in fact looks suspiciously like the Egyptian ANHK - and on closer examination, is the symbol of Venus resting on the crescent moon!

In the Egyptian Tarot, Faith, Truth and Hope are associated with Arcanum 17, The Star, which vibrates to Gemini in astrology. And with Gemini Ascendant, I suppose I always resonate with the Cape of Good Hope, as a home. Another symbol of Arcanum 17, is the butterfly . . . which as we known is very Mercurial, and because of the transformations that take place in its life-cycles, it is also very Protean, and Hermetic as well. Now the butterfly in turn, was always associated with the psyche, so by the Law of Correspondences, we can say that The Cape of Good Hope is very Mercurial site, very psychic, capable like quicksilver/Mercury, of being fragmented into little globlets of silvery liquid, and also of being gathered into One Sphere, by reason of a bit of nudging the goblets together. The fragments, therefore, can be coaxed into the whole.

Unfortunately, as is usual when one conflates the private visions with the public reality, this is not the case. Neither is it my fault, but it is certainly a failing to point it out, publicly, you know, the *vox clamatis nel deserto*, the Voice crying in the wilderness.

One can actually surf the facets, or the fractal realities, and always be reduced to the same conclusion.

From a chemical perspective, we can say that the gross materialism is the result of the patriarchal, testosterone-based modality, while the caring and nurturing, co-operative modality, to which I subscribe with every fibre of my being, is the one that is being trounced into submission at the moment.

And it is amazing to see how everyone buys into it. One minute doing aromatherapy massages, the next moment watching the Jerry Springer Show.

I cannot refrain, for a moment, even though it may not be correct, to observe that the spiritual groups, are just as materialistic as their secular counterparts. After all, they have a product to sell, and marketing arrangements to make.

No one wants to share resources, everyone keeps their cards close to their chest, they certainly do not want to network their contacts, because in the end, these contacts are a matter of life and death . . . the next job, the next client, the next consumer of your services, be they massage, meditation, reiki, astrological charts, sand play therapy, plus a wide spectrum of other therapies available. There are, in some senses, too many Chiefs and not enough Indians.

So we see selfishness entrenched and celebrated, on the one side, and we see more suffering, addictions, and fragmentation on the other.

Is this the Cape of Good Hope that I

I know that my estrogenic vision of collective action is totally out of fashion, and I have been told so in no mean terms. I am a fool, an idiot, a lamb surrounded by wolves, and the clamour to submit myself to the rationality of market forces. One is, in certain eyes, a Hippy Freak stuck in the 1960's! So much for The Bodhisattva Vow, and Contributing Ones Utmost to Universal Welfare, or Serving Sentient Beings, has to be consigned to the trashcan.

The image that emerges from these speculations is a picture of someone dropping a lead anvil on a butterfly. Is this what has happened to us? Have we allowed the leaden, Saturnine gravity of the situation to crush our Inner Butterflies?

Is this the Triumph of Monopoly Capitalism, the Total Market Strategy, where even our dream world will be invaded with Pop-Up-Banners?

It is along these lines of thought that I have had reason to feel glum. I hold to the illusion that like certain insect cultures, like the bees, where the drones feed the Queen Bee, I will be looked after and milked for my knowledge. Instead, I have to join the Dogs Eats Dog food chain. No way! I will rage against the dying of the light. I will rage against dying as well.

Certainly, I admit that I live in Cloud Cuckoo Land. I have no children to support and educate, right up to University Level. And as to the practical aspects, I am deformed and beyond scraping up the necessities to run a functional life. Insurance, Medical Aid, property, all these have slipped by me. And one has to face the insecurities of growing old, and decrepit.

So again, the personal and the public interface. There have been many signals from many quarters suggesting that these are not easy times for people like me to survive. This is not just a private, egocentric observation. Whole layers of creativity are crushed under the hegemony. In fact we cannot call the drive towards Homo Economicus, a civilized development. One can look at the situation from a Gnostic, dualistic model. According to this paradigm, there are those who take the Bodhisattva Vow and plunge into the meat mincer of materialism, to be able to salvage what they can; while others opt for a drop-out strategy - where they sequester themselves in caves, or cut off from human relationships, and settle for emotional frigidity, and psychological rigidity as a *modus vivendi*.

I must admit that I commute, internally between these two poles.

So in these few words, forgive me for exposing my 'self' indecently. The string of thoughts contained in the above are mere seeds to larger speculations, to discourses that need to be opened up and to set into action patterns.

In any event, the coalescence of the fragments is not possible from our individual energies. It is, what I call a meta-programme. We are all part of a Bigger Picture.

So the Cape of Good Hope will always shine brightly, and as is said in the Teachings, never Damage The Flower of Hope...