



CRITICISM AND CONVICTION: Absorb or Replicate?

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Argument

We defend the following thesis: the subject needs a social reflector, that is, a waterproofing of criticism by Others, at least while it has no ballast to absorb and replicate. And, as for criticism, it is avoidable to replicate?

Development

1.

The subject that runs away sometimes stands out sometimes appears, like the chameleon, *O Desgosto do Camaleão*, by Francisco Rebelo about the adventures and misadventures of a writer in Africa... While you are at war with some people, subjects, social actors, you are at peace with yourself, with your warrior nature that keeps you and makes you feel more alive than the modern everyday routine (Raymond Carver, "Call if You Need Me").

2.

Sometimes we are afraid to admit the truth and we are there, stuck, outside ourselves, inside ourselves, with a knot in our throat and stomach, not knowing what to do, neither moving forward nor backward, maybe we should have stayed in the past, at least there would be no misunderstandings or problems, with ourselves and with others...

3.

Is the saint holy because he does the will of God and Others? They laugh, "how stupid this guy is", because they are not focused on eternity, on the Pure and Holy God, but on temporality, on the immediate, on immanence, on *manducare*... But the prophet persists, just like Locke in "Lost", because there is a Lost Man out there in Lisbon and the twisting of the world, the whirlwind of the days, continues to operate in the consciousness, some who go too far ahead, using drugs or not, and fall further into the wall, and others who go so slowly that they stay on the path, perhaps waiting for an ambulance with a fireman's hose badly in place to help them?

4.

The purpose of writing, therefore, is not to be seen or noticed, it is to work secretly for the world, and of course for oneself, according to one's vision of the world, to open the way so that others, one's own and one's friends, can travel one's own path, to give directions, to favor, to suggest, to prepare the ground... Because someone has to go ahead. On this path, he finds many unsatisfied needs, but it is this, this pain, this lack, that gives him courage, because he saves his energies, including his sexual and social energies, in order to be redeemed one day. In all this there is a calculation, and criticism even works as an incentive, *ab contrario*, that wounds his Ego and from that blood it takes him further, to another life, like Christ on the Cross.

5.

Therefore, in the face of criticism, mere impermeability, under the ghosts of falling asleep, of rising at dawn, when daylight is rising in the window, does not serve, you have to find another way, which is to neutralize, in another way (*autrement*), criticism, criticism.

6.

One day it will happen, it is under this sign that the author lives, he makes and executes his sculptural work, so that something will happen, and he doesn't want only the promotion of his name, the fame, the success, the success, whatever we want to call it, but only the continuation, under better conditions, of his work, as an artist and author because it gives him more pleasure to do it than to reap the laurels, without much cheating?

7.

In an open market, where there are many opportunities, it is hard to concede defeat, but that is the democratic game, from defeat to defeat until the final victory. Think about it this way: you might as well be in Afghanistan, where you can't even satisfy your senses, because the women are covered up. Would that be better for you? Don't be a fool, don't be too thirsty, as the people say...

8.

It is by giving that one receives, says Catholic doctrine. And if I have nothing to give? Hence I turn to Nietzsche who, even he, says that there is always something to give, hence the extremes come together, the spirit of atheism and the Catholic soul. You prefer to suffer and go on, until nothing disturbs you and you turn your back on the mob, because you are in a regime of writing, of authorship, concentrated on your task as an anthropologist...

9.

Then, a reflection that is still to be done on the cinema, and it's not only the American one, it's the Portuguese and the French, the German, the new series that are out there that give a lot of profit to Netflix...But we are not officially connected to any university, so we don't have to answer for that, in a way it's, for us, someone else's field, and they keep on drooling on the screen...

10.

All in the name of freedom of expression, does the subject in social life, in the phenomenological development of routine days, need to have a reflector to criticism? So, having one, one doesn't hear what others think, because not everything is criticism, sometimes it is, sometimes it isn't, it's praise, one just has to be attentive.

11.

Thus, we all have to learn from the actors, perhaps more than from the authors, in a register that refers to the seminality of the issue of creativity, while the register of life is increasingly sparse, more difficult to understand to the old, more challenging to put into words to kids who want to understand...

12.

Nomadism has everything to do with that, with feeling, much more than theory, or even the rebuttal and approval of theory by other terms, another way...

13.

So, as Tiago, a PhD student in Portuguese studies, would say, it all boils down to the void, the void that is filled occasionally, depending on the more or less official, contractual union of the two beings, be they equal or identical

The female body needs and longs to be filled, and even though she has touched herself, she waits for the right male, who will fulfill her, in an erotic spirituality that will make her feel all the warmth of what it is to be human?

14.

So, here is the question again: absorb or reflect? It depends on the task you have, on your condition, on your orientation, more or less religious or even metaphysical, like Bach in "The Well Tempered Clavier".

15.

The expression "we were happy and we didn't know it" better explains what I mean, that is, happiness is always ahead of us, we walk towards it and it is also behind us, on this path, this more or less narrow road that is individual existence. If the subject is a social scientist, the debts and doubts matter little, moreover, he is an employee of humanity, not so much a professor, but he could be, like Comané or Nuno Bragança...

16.

Therefore, for the common subject, a mere reflector cannot be used, because it would abstract us from the charms and miseries of the world as we perceive it and make our way, which is always forward, like on a pilgrimage to Fatima or Compostela. Should we then absorb everything? Who protects us? God? These are the questions that I raise and to which I try to give answers...

17.

Sometimes this task can seem demoralizing, because the more alone the subject is, the more distressed he feels, but that's ok, between social and domestic life we walk, someday it will happen and I believe that Portugal is a country where something happens, sooner or later?

18.

Absorb, reflect, fight back. Is this a war, where then are the Constables, those who believe in the Other and do not want their annihilation, who believe in them as much as in themselves? Meanwhile, the war goes on, continuous, incessant, not looking at any targets, be they women, the elderly, children, I speak of the Ukrainian War and others, is there a secret and exclusive formula to put an end to such conflicts? Or is war intrinsic, because it has to do with power, territory, economy?

19.

Riposting with flowers, here's the solution. Like Queen St. Elizabeth, the people are right. Prayerfully, perhaps, being that the narrow way doesn't always bring the same results as the wide way, in the realm of (temporal) power, the big door, nobody wants to be a scapegoat, even if they are snitched on more than once, in various circumstances...where then is the ethics in all this, in the norm that prevents the teacher from teaching; delaying his work, for which he has invested his life and which is his life?

20.

After the movie *À Espera de um Milagre* (Waiting for a Miracle), I realized a lot of things, even with slaps of pride from some people who just want to climb the ladder of power, sometimes to win over certain women who want a good catch, sex for sex's sake is not OK, everyone thinks they own a certain truth and the worst of them is precisely not so much religious as philosophical, although there is a lot of pretentiousness in religion, which has nothing to do with the glasses and bodies of the Festa do Avante!

21.

Then, the notion of use, that haunts and stuns you, while some make it a telecommunication business, side by side with others, in the transition from being more or less well disposed, resembling oneself and the same, in the face of the reiteration of the adoration of the big other, the small other through a solidarity that works in disadvantaged social strata, who knows what plans the rich make to maintain themselves in their conditions, being that not everyone who is educated is good, Many are uneducated and are, while others are not afraid of death, they don't care about their condition of finitude, with this they deceive us in most Hollywood movies, that hardness that is proper of those who have capital, at various levels, and first of all symbolic and who don't want to lose it at all costs, because they will enjoy themselves while they are here, eating and fornicating until they burst with pleasure and idleness, this is how you catch many rats, not everyone can have consideration (for each other). Hence the notion and feeling of vain that many feel, of emptiness, because they don't want to stop and those that do stop never get into the industrial mechanics of desire, the articulation of libido with the way forward. So they are standing still praying in a niche that has appeared the longest along the way....

22.

So, you progress socially with an irrepressible desire to explain everything, it is the temptation of proof, and you go along with this, with this almost seraphic ardor that the world, in its manifestation and phenomenology is, more than positive, holy, if only for a day, based on effort, effort and inspiration. So here is your itinerary, and it is not up to you to reply, even if your Ego says so, because if you do good to the world, it will do good to you, that is, here is the old saying, "as you do, so shall you find"...

23.

To reflect you need to have a reflector, like those used by pilgrims going to Fatima on National Road 1. Otherwise, you are a sponge that needs to be squeezed and, normally, that is just your task, not to capitalize, in the name of a God who will give you something pure one day. And you keep waiting, always active, always doing something, getting up every day, in a good or bad mood, for more days of work, because as St. Benedict said, "ora et labora" and, at the entrance to the Auschwitz camp, the philosopher's quote, "Work dignifies man," I don't know why I think that's true.

This quote occurs, but maybe it's because of the value I give to those who work, being that writing, many times, is really a disguise for doing nothing, for doing nothing, which is not so bad, since the Unconditional Basic Income is being discussed in the north of Europe, which certainly Vale e Azevedo will apply for, even if he lives somewhere in London?

24.

Yes, it takes a recess for you to ever win anything, and there are those who win something and others who go on to win, because you can't always win and you can't always lose, let's put it this way, just look at soccer, when a club is always losing, it might as well become extinct, so dead is it, poor dying man.

25.

Maybe because you have your spirit too attached to the past, like walking forward with your head turned backwards, it still comes along that just for the impression it gives you, it still breaks your neck (as the song by Paulo de Carvalho's son says) trying to turn your face forward. Ants!

26.

Sometimes, the only thing left for you to do is to put a pacifier in your mouth and change your diaper, that is, a lot of theory has already reached the light of day, a lot more will come with the subsequent days, all you have to do is know how to dive properly protected, in the social magma of concretion, of the real squirreled away by the thin thread of theory, as if it were a fishing line with which you catch fish in the Ribeira do Cabrunca, when, in times gone by, Jeshua helped Pedro and his companions to catch by the boat a certain amount of fish that never arrived?

27.

And you walk, the humble way, you don't need a reflector or to be a sponge, because you know that everyone has two arms and two legs (well...almost everyone) and if justice is blind, God is not, and you give yourself to it with passion and even a certain nervousness, because the thing comes properly out of your heart and is your source of inspiration, of breath.

28.

And then you remember the following point, if you were married you wouldn't have as much time for everyone as you do, like you are a priest who spreads charm and good will to everyone's brothers and sisters and maybe that's why he is considered, by some, a fool and basic, to others a genius and crazy (we all have a little, people say). And that point is in you, behind you, on the surface of your skin that they do plastic surgery with, but you don't have it, even though you need it and cut your toenails, like The Girls of Sado and Whistle the Train, yes, further down, where you don't want anyone to get to, nor do you need to, because you could leak it and it's your choice not to, because you don't understand the point (of the question) and yet you tolerate it, for the past one particular year, being that even if it disappears, it's still there, you don't really know why, so you have to carry it, because it's the Other's point of view....

29.

To turn the other cheek or replicate, to reflect, not in terms of reflection, but in terms of response, reactivity, that is, to have pride in oneself, self-love and a sense of survival, because we all have to feed ourselves, being more or less dependent on each other.

30. You don't find the command because the spirit of command is inside you, so you keep silent and go on suffering for the sake of suffering, just to bear witness to an ideal, be it the homeland, solidarity, family, the ministry that you were instilled and imbued with. First of all because many have suffered more, in the flesh and in the spirit, than you have, and many continue to suffer, having no one to help them and you don't just want to cultivate the image of a perfect country, you want to give an impression, a good impression of yourself, because this good impression may not only be external,

in terms of the most diverse typefaces, but it may well be much more, inner, from deep within yourself and your cultural background of origin and adoption...

31.

Because there, where hope is lacking, you are there to help the Other, crushed by his pain, his sin and ignominy, by his pain and guilt, which goes around, we all feel one day. But... do we all feel it? Don't others feel it more than some? In other words, the Good and Evil of American and European society, of world civilization, may well have the most diverse mediations, measurements, and colors, so that we wouldn't have to walk all our lives between eight and eighty... here, then, as a corollary to our essay, is the primordial role of philosophical reflection...

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