



The Ages: who is older, who is younger

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Keywords: freedom, self, emic, etic, radical anthropology, anthropocene

Argument

The idea of freedom goes hand in hand with the idea of youth, of age, then. But who is more free? Who is younger, older? Does freedom come with age or does one become freer as one is freed from the "yoke" of the flesh? Between spirit and flesh, this is the battle, in a new conception of freedom, more responsible, that takes into account the Other.

Development

1.

Aren't we facing the civilization of many things, among which that of age, of eternal youth, related to freedom and image? When you see time passing, age, you look at yourself and you're almost old, you look at your mother and she's tiny, almost shriveled, here's time passing and you can't do anything or you can do a lot, live in the best way, giving care to the younger ones, helping them grow and also giving care to the older ones, you will pass them by in a while.

2.

Young people are said to be too young, too adult, not caring about anyone, busy with Tic-Toc and Instagram. But there are young people and young people, not all of them are that shallow. There are those who wait, despair inside and hold on, the passing of time, the opportunity to assert themselves, amidst the emptiness of fashion and TV performers, a dream world that crumbles from one moment to the next, even if

Happiness is also this, these moments of pure relaxation before technology, as if we were all remote controlled. In fact, with age you learn to situate yourself in your place in society, in the public sphere, and this is a learning process that you do, you assimilate, wisdom comes to the surface and you no longer occupy yourself with such superficial things, you appreciate the moment, you have a coffee in the late morning after a good night's sleep and you feel that the storm has passed...

3.

So, the only way to stop time, to freeze it, is to live the time of culture, of custom, but also, in your head, philosophical reflection, learning to appreciate time like a good old wine from Alentejo or Minho?

4.

Also the view of animals is fully utilitarian, when I run my hand through my cat's fur he thinks I am washing him, that I am his mother, but he also recognizes affection and affection, that is, (evolutionary) need goes hand in hand with affection and vice versa...

5.

It's not unusual for young people to set themselves up as great champions and think that the old people should be dismissed, that they don't know anything, but it's the fault of those same old people, who think that it's only they who have had it bad, that in another time it was good, great sacrifices. We are facing a generational conflict that happens in most families in the Western world. Far from giving a solution to the case, let's analyze the issue from a philosophical point of view.

6.

The way I deal with my life, my existence and time, has changed a lot since a few years ago. The country is getting older, fewer people and more and more old people. The country is aging. Then the migrants come in to compound the thing. At school this conflict is clearly seen, young people disrespect their elders, maybe, first of all, because the elders pay them a lot of attention recently, because they are told that the future is theirs and they are the ones who have to pay for it, which is a pure lie, everyone has to get involved, old and young. The so-called successful ones leave their parents in nursing homes and while they are known as famous and even known academically, let's say, their parents live abandoned in nursing homes or in their homes, depending on the neighbors, that is, on each other. New networks of solidarity are then generated among those who, in a sense, have been left behind. Young people need to be told that one day they will also be old, if they don't fall by the wayside...

7.

Anyway, there is an aspect of competition and disarray in all of this, that is, no matter how hard the subject tries to do well, it always ends up being a total disaster, because it doesn't fit into social life, this is because societies have changed drastically with technology. From one moment to the next or progressively, every person has the world in their hands, all it takes is an internet connection, here is the dream of the Matrix...

8.

But, say, doesn't age depend on the spirit? That is, many young people look old and there are old people who keep a positive youthful spirit until the end. What does this joy of living depend on? Maybe it depends on the wisdom and experiences we have, life is not predetermined, we

We can change the course of our existence, life is not a fate, a fatality, it is not consigned and restricted to certain conditions from the start. But many people think so, so they just let go and don't worry.

9.

The kitten is in his corner by the window that divides the outer world from the inner world, he too has an inner and an outer world. His outer world is my inner world, the home, the welcome, the well-being. He, in a way, is the best definition of freedom: he respects the rules, obeys his master who takes care of him, and knows that if he does so he will have a restful life, even a relaxed one, he will be free. It is also like this with humans, the formula of *free freedom* does not work, true freedom lies in more or less strict respect for the rules of coexistence, this is what makes us free and happy, this is what concerns the joviality of spirit, the youthfulness of the were of Being...

10.

I too would like to go out, walk the streets, but I have to be here doing this essay and another one, until it's over, until I reach half a hundred, and then I could use my freedom, as I grow old around here, for the time that passes...

11.

Nor is the writer a machine for spitting words, the philosopher is not a thinking machine, and many take advantage of his ideas in their life topics, when he barely has enough to eat and as if he takes a certain oath to humanity, he is in fact, an employee of humanity. And how badly is his salary paid! But many are sophists,

In other words, they want their thoughts to be worth money, when that is not the way, because too much money is addictive, look at certain cases of companies, of pederast millionaires, of guys who were not happy in their childhood?

12.

What happens, on the other hand, to someone who writes a lot? He ends up being famously forgotten, that is, he is a person who has his value, but this value is colloquial, he walks among and through passers-by and in a certain way he is not disturbed, there goes one criticism or another, but well, they leave him alone, as if he had no social life. In fact, he is untouchable, that is, he cannot be touched... How unfortunate that he is among humans and is not!

13.

Certain people look older than another, certain people appear to be older than they really are, biologically. This is what I'm getting at. It was enough for me to have white hair to look old, older than I really am. And when I am actually 52, I look almost seventy, maybe I have to wear myself out a lot. And still they say I don't work...

14.

There are people who never mentally move from what they think, what they are is what they think, and they are truly uninteresting people. But the man of culture can also be boring, have his disinterest. Only a relatively daring *démarche* can change things, a relatively courageous leverage, as they say nowadays.

15.

And the subject walks in this, like the little dog, going around the place where he is going to leave himself, the cat even does something similar, because we are not machines, we all have our fears, our personal idiosyncrasies and, to a certain extent, some are even, as the writer said, ethnologists of themselves...

16.

In fact, as an anthropologist, I have almost always felt alone, that is, I don't have the support of most of the people where I live, as if it were an African village, that is, my heart is not with most everyone, of them all, but I carry on, because I know that Rome and Pavia were not made in a day and that nobody is perfect, as a Christian subject, I have forgiven most of the evil they do to me, one of them is oblivion, which also happened to Mr. Amadeu Ruas, it happened, it's part of it, they are in a different register from me, so let them go and the final heroics are left to me...This is my age...

17.

These days I have been reading Deleuze's work "Spinoza and the Problem of Expression and also, considering *The Problem of Habitation* (a work written by a professor at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon who I do not remember the name of now, anyway, this essay is not some kind of inquisition on my person...) which I take in the terms of habituation, because being at home is above all the reiteration of custom, of that which is added to nature. And the expression boils down to this, to social life, to having and feeling life as soon as you walk out the door of your house, to "ouver" (hearing and seeing, at the same time), however contradictory and masochistic it may seem, the ambulances or the crimes on CM TV...

18.

Habituation, habituation, expression.

When you leave home it's because you need to socialize, even leaving the kitty at home with food for the whole day. So we all need to express ourselves, it's natural to human beings just like food, and this should be considered, reconsidered. On several levels, first of all on the aesthetic level, then on the ethical level, of behavior and attitudes. I do housing because I need to be somewhere, I'm sedentary and not a nomad, I'm not homeless or a pensioner, let alone on disability, I've managed to turn around and be a normal person in the face of the state and this makes me very proud, because I feel I'm back to life. The subject is not me, it's you and me, it's them, those, the young people that need a little touch to walk right, the school kids that still have a lot of time to make it, to walk and it's good that someone tells them not to be in a hurry, because this is the best age of their lives, adolescence, a time when everything is problematized, even time, and what should be and what wants to be in the face of what is to be is put into play, that is, that is when man projects himself philosophically into the world, beyond the cave and the comfortable little box...

19.

To start our equation, we can say that the best definition of happiness would be this: to be young is to be happy, especially not in the body, because aging is inevitable, but in the spirit. This is what we mean, happiness does not depend on having, but on being, and having helps a lot, not all of us are capable of going to a monastery and stripping ourselves of our so-called goods, swearing obedience and chastity...

20.

If man cannot avoid aging, stop in time, and this stop would drag a statuesque movement, that is, also a stoppage of the vital organs, man can postpone the passage of time, in him and around him, by the impressions on himself... Here are **Botox** and the different rejuvenation techniques, in short, this whole process of esthetics in which mainly women are becoming more attractive, and when it comes to breasts, they are becoming more appealing, although they seem quite worn out at the end of their lives by a life of excessive sex and other things, other substances that don't come up here now.

21.

Since time immemorial, man has sought the elixir of life and the attempt to become immortal, this has everything to do with the subject that brings us here. He has always been concerned to equal the gods, when the gods were born within himself. Even the very image of Christ is that of a relatively young man, who gave himself up to death for resurrection, like other martyrs, like the Three Little Shepherds. Is there in Hollywood the idea of dying young, just to make a good impression or out of the actor's stubbornness and mania? Both, obviously.

22.

These anti-aging techniques deny life, are as much a denial of life as euthanasia, that is, the man, usually a Westerner, and the woman, want to hang on to life because they perhaps do not believe in any other than this one, have little faith and little religious attendance, being that in America, for example, there are few believers, but those who are, are of true heart, almost to the limit of sanity, namely African Americans who have mixed their beliefs

archaic animists with Christianity and I don't think this is bad at all.

23.

Enchantment of life, enchantment of seduction, nobody wants to look old, since they will lose their value in terms of an economy of seduction, that is, to be active and recognized you have to look young, otherwise, dedicate yourself to literature and the consolation of philosophy, which seems to be more concerned with an anal register than a phallic one, if we want to use some terms from psychoanalytic jargon. It is the thinking of the slings, coming from the Middle Ages to the present day, for many seem, even in the Catholic Church, to still live in the Middle Ages, despite updates in one certain vector or another of Christian doctrine. IN many celebrations, the priest still seems to have his back...

24.

For example, my neighbor calls me an animal, others call me a monster, and I don't really care about that, because I know that from one moment to the next I can be, from one day to the next, in Hong Kong, in Patagonia (remembering Bruce Chatwin, who recently disappeared), Time today has various forms and various shades, and a reflection on aging, old age, permanent disability, is a reflection on a Time that has stopped, that is stagnant in history, that has taken a sojourn, but on the other hand is a reflection of a time that has passed, that is no more, that is cruel like the doves that no longer exist in Central Park?

25.

Yes, I am no longer an invalid. I am no longer -think I- still locked up at home, with an immense desire to get on the Metro and go downtown, doing I don't know what, maybe just looking for a body, a sprawling body, something worn out and forgotten, like mine, by the hardships of the city, of time, of the city...

26.

Yes, I recovered, I survived. Now, each day is one more day, after another. This has to do with the subject that brings us here, aging, after all, old age, the happiest times according to some, because when you're young you don't think about what you're doing, it's hormones, it's instinct, not every shot can be from the center of the target, so, well...

27.

"Then turn your countenance. Why don't you write about precisely that? ". **That's** what I did, dear friend, I went on using the theory until I reached a point, that point of no return that leads you to go far, farther, further than anyone has ever gone before in all directions, as if you had a weapon that doesn't hurt but converts hearts into a spectacle of ecstasy and blissful harmony...

28.

"Otherwise than being" (Lévinas). American films could be otherwise, it is the emotion of being on the other side of the Atlantic, of Atlantis, the water does not calm their spirits because they live under the sign

of a metallic emotion, which has no limits, while the European thinks, from the *terroir*, of his condition, vinic or stellar?

29.

Behold the aging man (and women and derivatives). Time passes. It is not the man who ages, it is Time that passes...

30.

Time passes you by, in Rossio or stranded on Bethesda Street and you are afflicted by it. Let it be, believe that there is Another Side, because we build it from here, from this redoubt and condition, projecting our Being into a place that doesn't even exist...

Lisbon, October 12, 2022

