

## PLATO

### TWO TOO CLOSE WORDS: HUMANITAS & HUMARE

To my view, our "doubts" act as the cement of the constructions that we build since the very first step of getting closer to accept the existence of something is to raise doubt towards it. If we diagnose the concept of "existence" with this perspective, we then start to create something by using what remains as a question mark inside our minds and become "makers". A true maker is someone who creates sufficient things by using his questions as a thinking tool and he seeks for answers that he can replace with that tool. Even after replacing them, "maker" is aware that the process of searching will never be over so that the act of making will have a resemblance to the act of destroying, forever. For that reason, "eternity is a chain of thesis, anti-thesis and synthesis" (Hegel) In this article my aim is to analyse this chain guided by doubts that we raise and put a discussion about how it takes place in our lives.

#### 1. Doubts as The Greatest Source of Activity (Thesis)

In his book *"The Trouble with Being Born"* Emil M. Cioran shares the story of a zoologist whose object was to explain the perception of "activity" in human world by making comparisons to the animal's world. His object was to reveal the secrets of our instincts that makes us do something. Because he believed they were all inherited from our descendants "gorillas" he observed them in their natural habitat. He stated that he was amazed by the uniformity of their lives and their vast idleness. Hours and hours without doing anything... "Was boredom unknown to them?" he asked to himself, indeed this was a question raised by a human being, in other words a "busy ape"! Fleeing monotony, animals crave it yet what they dread most is to see it end. For it ends, to be only replaced with fear: cause of all activity! In this sense, inaction is divine however it is different from the inaction that man has rebelled. Man alone, in nature is incapable of enduring monotony. "Man alone wants to be a reason of a thing that happened for a reason, something, and anything..." says the zoologist. Thereby he shows himself unworthy of his ancestors:

"The act of creating is the only way to get rid of boredom and the need for novelty is the unique characteristic of an alienated gorilla!" As alienated gorillas, our priority in life must be facing with the fears occurred of non-answered questions and paranoia. This will be the thesis of everything that will come next.

#### 2. Seeking For New Doubts To Continue Activity ( Anti- Thesis)

If you decide to take a look at an Ancient Greek dictionary you may notice that the root of the word "humanitas" (which means doing something for humanity under the name of "mutual aid") is "humare" (which might be translated as "burying something underground". Isn't it a quite meaningful coincidence? Didn't we, human beings, continue the act of living by burying what we had done until today? Isn't soil full of our past and the thing called future will be created upon it? Trace of history is a significant responsibility for the one who wants to prepare himself for the upcoming days. Remembering Pyotr Kropotkin who once said "...we have the chance to do what we want to do with our past since it is the only thing we are the guardians of. On the other hand we will never have a single chance to change its consequences." we should accept that, first rule of starting a new set of events is maintaining consequences. "The only thing that remains stable is the fact that everything changes." Nothing remains and in the end, the only thing that stays is this fact, the fact that we are only just humans drunk on the idea that "changing" may heal our brokenness. According to the Ancient Greeks who made a connection between "humanitas" and "humare" years ago, humans were originally created with four arms, for legs and a head separate two parts, condemning them to spend their entire lives looking for their other halves. (Plato, The Republic) While seeking for it, we mustn't forget that one day that half of you and that half of me will be just laying underground. Turn into dust, only dust.

### 3. What Happens When We Arrive To the End of Activity? (Synthesis)

I agree with John Berger who says, "The only thing that reconciles me to my own death is a place: a place where our bones are buried, thrown and uncovered together" One of your ribs leans against my skull. A metacarpal of my left hand lies in your pelvis. (And against my broken ribs, your breast like a flower.) Hundreds bones of our feet scattered as gravel. The idea that it only provides mere phosphate of calcium, somehow in a way it is strange that this idea also bestow the sense of peace: "With you I can imagine being phosphate of calcium is enough." No sooner have we build our lives we know that no one, nothing, the saints, the kings, monarchs or the Pyramids... Nothing lasts forever! But similar to the story of the mystical bird Si-murg, this awareness will always be a sign of hope. Professors that are making genealogy studies suggest us to think about the 4 and a half billion years long existence of our world just like it only lasts one day, if we do this we may understand that our story can only take place at the last second before the midnight. We are not the destiny of this world we are just "a process" about linking separate things. As Plato says there are so

many things to answer in life but only the ones who know that life is a question rather than an answer, will be satisfied of living. The peculiar bent of the genius of each person must be satisfied of his question marks as well as answers. In the book symposium, Plato describes our ending scene, which inspires me a lot, like this:

"In the end people will try to put what they had collected until today inside their pockets. However they are all going to be buried in the soil and die. The souls will be left with us, and they don't have anything to carry with themselves to the next life but their culture and education. At the beginning of this new journey, one's culture and education may provide the greatest assistance or set as the most proper burden who has just died."

So while we are living we have to feed our souls with these two which are the reasons that make us keep "staying alive." "Our reason is only suitable for making everything perplexing and for raising doubts about everything." We may be erased from the universe but reasons will not! They will start the synthesis of the next phosphate of calcium groups.

#### 4. Conclusion

I tried to explain my ideas towards the fact that we destroy what we build, believing that this fact is related with everything I may say "I know". At the time I am thinking about the cruelty of humanity, the war history, violence, sufferings... and also at the time I am thinking about the goodness, kindness, philosophy itself art and science... I realise that all of them and the doctrines created by people who observed them, tell about this fact. Being a human means being a creator and a serial killer at the same time. Is this our nature or is it the nurture? This might be another discussion topic. What I want to say when concluding my article is that we are all like sharks. Sharks spend their entire lives swimming, when they stop they are buried in the sand and die because of the extreme pressure. Just like sharks, we despair when we stop we turn into bomb mechanisms ready to explode. If someone chooses to explode, that is his decision. "A choice is a give-up." (Sartre) For those who choose to continue, I advise to keep raising doubts, keep asking questions and keep being a human. Understand it. "Don't weep, never waste indignant. Only understand it. (Baruch Spinoza)" If you do, you will create *humanitas* from *humare*.