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ANNOUNCING SIGNALS

GOSPEL OF TECHNIQUE

AND SYMBOLIC KEYS OF IT

V

Excerpt from
Señales Anunciadoras — *Claves simbólicas*
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ANNOUNCING SIGNALS GOSPEL OF TECHNIQUE AND SYMBOLIC KEYS OF IT

Our century comes to an end. And we wonder: New sign of the time? We have no time any more. We have travelled through a long way, carrying the heavy burden of history: too much information, too many teachers, too many philosophies, too many interpretations of the world and life; too many messages: messages of science, metaphysics, social revolutions, technique, horror of war, extermination camps, cry of children, sadness of devastated earth; too many messengers...

We have gone too far,
and arrived nowhere.

As early as in the twenties, the great Ortega y Gasset dealt with certain characteristics of his time, announced the “Twilight of revolutions” and humanity coming to a time of “disillusioned soul”, a time marked by the “spirit of servitude”:

“Over and above, man wants to serve:
other man, an emperor,
a sorcerer, an idol. Whatever,
not to experience the terror of confronting by himself,
with his own chest, the attacks of the existence.”

José Ortega y Gasset, *Subject of Our Time*

When Ortega y Gasset was writing these words, we had no atomic bomb, we had not trodden on the Moon, no had no genetic engineering, electronic mass communication media, global market, planetary society. Today we travel to the stars, and we are able to reproduce by cloning other human beings like us, but

our house stays with no support
and we live a state of “disillusioned soul”.
Another state of matter?
Too many messengers, and no message at all.

Where to go?, a journey to the stars?, to become an astronaut?, to explore atomic chambers of matter? Or to stay home, waiting for our cosmic brother coming and rescuing us from captivity?

Amid these questions with no reply at all, again I found the fiery word of Saint John of the Cross in his “*Spiritual Song*”:

“Alas, may somebody heal me?
Truly, I have surrendered,
please do not send me today
a messenger any more,
for they do not know to tell me what I want”.

Song VI

How many times I have read this poem! I had read it, but I did not listen to it! During all that time “reading it” I had too much time available: too many messengers came to me with many news of the time. But things are different now: I had no time any more. And I did not look for the word of “others” either, because, like this mystic-poet, I felt

“they do not know to tell me what I want”.

I was not looking for the message of the “*nuncio*” any more: I wanted to listen to the Announcing breath.. But this *pro-phetic* word (“word *before* the word) was not available in me at the information supermarket: *my* time (time of man) was not yet a time of resonance of the Word (*resonantia-Verbum*); in other words, in that time I was a “soundless vessel”.

Still we do not know those laws which prepare the advent of the Lord in the time of man; I can only say that human efforts are not enough: it is insufficient “to confront by oneself, with one’s chest, the attacks of the existence” so that the veil finding the deep sense of things may drop; I cannot say either that is only “grace” (in theological terms) and that human efforts are useless. Heidegger calls *Ereignis* this Advent, which not only makes us come to our more proper being, but also “heals” us of our improper way of being; for Heidegger, “healing” is the sudden irruption of an “original truth” reuniting in One and Same unity of sense various significances of being, but this “healing”, in hands of philosophers, is just a “philosophical healing” (if I may use these terms), a “healing” that cannot respond to the cry for “health” of a deadly hurt humanity in the roots of the tree of life.

Alas, who can heal me!

Still we had not realised that certain irreparable damages have already occurred in the organic tissue of life, not only of social, political, economic and ecological type, but also of genetic kind, to such an extent that some modern biologists-philosophers (Erwin Schrödinger, among them) start detecting signals of exhaustion in the human evolution potential: and they wonder whether we did not come to a “biological blind alley”. It is not easy to answer this question, but certainly one can observe a weakened immune system, and a “fall” in the biological moral, –a break in the system which hastens the collapse of the man within; today millions of human beings die “before time”: they die of death of the soul, of adaptation diseases, and of technical death.

Neither universities, nor churches, nor multinational companies, nor labour unions, nor the State, nor the United Nations...none of these “corporate states” (Charles Reich) has taken (“wholeheartedly”) the cause for the destiny of man, or has taken (“in his hands”) technical tools to bring into motion the evolution wheel of life; they only fight for power, for “ruling over Earth”, for sustaining the “reality” of an “unreal” world.

“But, who says that everything is lost?”

(I recall Mercedes Sosa’s song.)

As yesterday, as ever in danger times, there is an avant-garde retiring to the “sorrowful city”, and “going to the wild in search of the truth” (Martín Fierro). It is the avant-garde choosing the sacrifice and coming back transfigured like

“yeast” in dough.

Here we do not speak any more of political philosophy or moral theology: we speak of

Social Chemistry.

Pro-phetic wave. Molecules-messengers transcribing on destabilised matter of man the rhythm, functions of a new Gen-*ethical* Code of life. It is not easy to discover the generative (healing) power of these Announcing signals. And again this question: “Alas, *who* can heal me?”.

We had the great book of Nature

where we would listen to God speaking a mathematical language,
and we have lost it (“The ancient pact with nature is broken.” - Monod.).

We had holy Books of great religions,
written with sacred languages,

and we have lost them: we do not understand any more the symbolic
code of the Mother-Tongue.

But not everything is lost!

When we felt that we have lost the guiding signals of the ancient Pact and sought refuge in stone castles of the ancient time, a strong breath from the Desert broke the wall in the city of man and left our house with no support: still we are not recovered from this cosmic exposure. Existential catastrophe: first Announcing signal of the new sign of the time.

How did humanity receive this *Pro-phetic* signal shaking the waters of life?

Contemplative mystics received them as a “primeval Child-birth”: spiritual Light leaving its Mother imprint on sands of the time. Sages-mystics received it as an “intellectual intuition” breaking the theoretical frame of the ancient science: “A shining light came up in myself” (Einstein). Scientists and technicians received it as a “sign of power”: technical key for releasing atomic energy and deciphering the genetic code. And how did poets-philosophers receive it?

As a “novel breath curling the waters of life”
(by way of Ortega’s paraphrase).

In some way (we cannot tell exactly “how”), the symmetry in the ancient image of the world was broken. Furthermore, that primeval Child-birth submerged us into a Dark Night: we were razing the wave of a new *Mysterium*. Of course, there were interpreters of this Revelation which Hides its face behind the luminous veil of the stars. As C. G. Jung properly says, the Christian aeon found in the “archetype of the man-God” a symbol connecting the human soul with the divine mystery. But what happened now, in time of “gods who fled” (Hölderlin) and “disillusioned soul” (Ortega y Gasset)? Here I stop because I refuse to “put new wine into old wine-bags”.

We stop, and one’s thought stops; the world is other world. Before seeing the light, the thunderbolt struck us: the time of technique was sounding as an opening signal of the coming world. When the first notes sounded, we were unable to notice that a “more than human” power was going to change the direction of history. Maxwell had reunited by means of his classic equations the laws of electricity and magnetism, and light was conceived as an electromagnetic phenomenon; a mathematical formulation of the said “electromagnetic body” was not one more discovery in the history of physics: it was the first synthesis “note” that was ahead of the wave of a prophetic/scientific revelation. Hertz may

have grasped something like that when, in front of those simple, beautiful and perfect equations of Maxwell, wrote this testimony: “This mathematical formulae impress as if they lived by themselves, as if they were more intelligent than us, and even more intelligent than the author of them”. An operative power of the symbol came into action in the liturgy of technique. And other messengers of the new aeon would come soon: Einstein, Planck, Heisenberg, Dirac, Pauli... carrying other signs of power to change the face of the world. Not strangely Thomas Berry, by the impression caused in the world of man by the irruption of the power of technique, felt proper to warn:

“modern man has received the message of technique as a **salvation message**.”

In fact, the said Announcing signal, read its technical key as will-to-power, implies a “salvation message”: we can control diseases by means of new more powerful vaccines and antibiotics, we can replace one heart and one state for another (by transplantation, even from animals); we can make work for our advantage other kingdoms: not only bacteria, but also transgenic animals... and if Earth becomes uninhabitable (by an ecological disaster) we can colonise other planets. The said new faith in the glorious destiny of man could be, in fact, like a “salvation message through technique”, which would replace (and certainly does) certain “spiritually transcendent message” based on the holy tradition of humanity. If we were unable to go beyond a technologic and historic reading of the new human phenomenon, we would keep only a “half of the formula”: we would conquest again the new-new world, losing the soul for the second time.

But,
may one unveil the “other half” of the keys to power?;
may one go beyond (or perhaps closer) the
“technical face” of Technique?

We forebode a Reality hidden behind a thick veil; we start “hearing” words *unuttered* by the informatics language; we start “seeing” *unseen* waves of sense in screens of new technical instruments; we start experiencing strange transformations in our bodies: “magnetic resonance” talking to us about “other physiology”. Beyond facts, we start hearing the soul of facts.

We start to *co-respond*
to a Teaching-energy
surreptitiously installed
in the heart of the man.

Teaching-Energy! Rhythm of a forgotten Language: a language speaking from the heart of molecules of life, building a bridge between both human physiology and moral, spiritual and social laws of the just open world. This “rhythm” of “Teaching-energy” allows us not only to read differently those Gospels already coined by tradition, but also to decipher the symbolic language coded in the new gospel of Technique. We live in a technical world, moreover our own central nervous system is connected with the technological medium (McLuhan) –second biotechnical nature–, but still we do not know how to interpret (and much less, *in-corporate*) the energ-*ethical* teaching which vibrates in the gospel of Technique.

Fritjof Capra took a very important step in this direction with his “*Tao of Physics*”, but an intellectual dialogue (“*via cognitions*”) between modern science and Eastern traditions is insufficient: the key step to a synthesis of the new cosmogonical cycle is not dependent upon science, but upon man. In other words, the point is not to repair a sword broken in two pieces, but to “forge” a new sword in the heart of the new man. And here a question arises. Did not ancient theological gospels tell everything? –I rather say they did not, or at least, not entirely accessible to the mind of a contemporary man. The Language-Word beating from the heart wants to tell us something “new” in relation to the technical world in which we live, move and have our being, but this “new” that it wants to tell us can only be Told by the symbolic language of Technique.

We are in front of a Word Transfigured
in “technical garment”
which *in-volves* us in a gigantic movement
of “social transfiguration of the Word”.

So, what is the “message” of this Word transfigured as a “technical medium”? –And we feel obliged to repeat again, with Marshall McLuhan:

“Medium is message”