
An Inner Experience

thirst for freedom of thought
new type of angry person
new type of intimate revolt
the new rebels are enraged, discovering there is no answer to the current impasse without a radical inner experience to escape the technicians of governance, to escape fundamentalism, to propose alternatives, to pass on a language of revolt
it is a language of questioning
but also of intimacy, of connection
a revolt is to break, remember, redo; it is an infinitesimal emancipation to recommence endlessly
a questioning of the self
“I revolt, therefore we are to come.”

What Revolt Today?

challenge existing norms and values and powers
a counter conscience that rejects what is taken to be true
an alternative: sensible intimacy as an antidote to technical calculation
infinitesimal revolts
revolts as a return, a turning back

Similarities and Differences with the “Retrospective Return”

Socratic questioning of one’s own being; but we have lost that in favor of a stable values
nihilism: for her, is the rejection of old values in favor of a cult of new values that are unquestioned [terrible name for that, but OK]
JK: no new dogmas
stability of values is totalitarian; such stability is the suspension of revolt, of the retrospective return of thought, which for her is the key
we have to relentlessly recommence the retrospective return [i.e. revolt] in order to go to the limits of the representable/thinkable
this is man in revolt; rather than religious man or nihilistic man [in the bizarre sense above]

Psychoanalysis as Revolt

authority of law is under dissolution today [it is?!]
revolt against this authority yields jouissance
the psyche is a site of revolt/rebirth/restructuring
revolt against the old law causes one’s autonomy to emerge as well as one’s links to others
Regaining the Sense of the Negative

the modern age has had too heavy a dose of negative/conflict/contradiction/nothingness/rejection 7
freedom is often located in the absence/negation of power (e.g. Sartre) 7
in this context, revolt as a questioning of the self can lead to psychosis 8
we should expose the psyche to the pulse of being, but we should be careful 8
we should undertake an archeology of the subject’s unity, but it is unsafe to annihilate this unity 9
two negativities: the rejection (of drives) and negativity (of judgment) 8

The Logical Paradoxes of Revolt

the confrontation between the human and law/being/self 9
this confrontation produces jouissance 9
jouissance is a passage through evil, which is a stopping of representation and questioning 9
[to put it in a sentence, our only hope is to keep on questioning and rethinking our lives together; the worst thing is when we stop questioning. It is all very Ranciere.] 9
it is not just in the social/political world that we can revolt, but in the psychic, inner one 10
we also have an inner desire to not know, a desire that urges us to stop the questioning 10
and, we are stopped from questioning from the outside, by the spectacle 10
psychological analysis can reconcile us with timelessness, our drives [it can help keep the questioning (of morality, law, justice) going] 11
it can help keep our intimate selves in revolt [this is a good phrase for what she is calling for: keep oneself constantly in revolt] 11

The Need to Believe and the Desire to Know

The Oceanic Feeling....

the infant does not have borders between herself and her mother; she is asea in the world that contains her 12
belief is this feeling of being connected to the world (?) 12

The Psychoanalytic Approach to Believing and Knowing

I believe therefore I have spoken 12
[perhaps the belief is: there are others out there, and they are like me, enough so that I can speak with them and have them understand me] 13
overcoming the oceanic feeling of being lost in the maternal envelope by connecting to others...the father, and beyond 13
also, the unification with the mother is a unification with an-other in whom I am as well 13
the child knows that all identity is constructed, so that knowing is a creative act, and it requires belief that one can know 14
Adolescence: A Syndrome of Ideality

child can connect to whatever without distinction 14
the adolescent, though, is a believer in the absolute, in the Ideal Object 14
s/he separates from the parental couple (traumatic) by connecting to an Ideal Other, and s/he
expects total satisfaction in this connection [of course this satisfaction cannot come] 14-15
Ideality dominates her unconscious 15
[and so growing up, I assume, means to get past this faith in the Ideal]

Believers and Nihilists

the “malady of ideality” 15
when the Ideal turns out to be not Ideal at all, the adolescent is at risk of responding by descending into nihilism 15
the psychoanalyst listens attentively to the adolescent’s malady, recognizes it, without validating it 16
in time the analyst can point out the negative aspects 16
the adolescent can then metabolize the need to believe in the Ideal by means of the pleasure that comes with thinking, questioning, analyzing [i.e. revolt] 16
hence the analytical process can help treat the malady 16
in general society today manifests this need to believe by trading its former religious faith for the present ideological enthusiasm 16
this is an illness because we believe in an Ideality that can never come 16
it is an ever-present danger in all of us, not just something that actual adolescents suffer from 17

Conclusion

actual adolescents seem to be manifesting this malady all over France, but especially in the banlieus 17
we see an ‘I’ that is not bound to others; the result is a ‘radical evil’ that does not see the life of the other as meaningful 17
this is the result when the need to believe (i.e. the malady of Ideality) is not worked through, but collapses 17
we must listen to one another rather than kill one another [cf. Butler's Precarious Life] 18
the proliferation of antagonism is a real danger 18
we can remedy this disease of soul [Ideality] by caring for this malady with delicacy and attentiveness and generosity 18
an active intelligence that continually renews the process of analysis is our best hope 19