

When they poured across the border
I was cautioned to surrender
This I could not do
(Leonard Cohen, *The Partisan*)

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LACANIAN REVIEW ONLINE



My Precious

Gustavo Dessal

Blimunda, the protagonist of José Saramago's "Memorial of the Convent", had the magical property of seeing inside people. Saramago constructs here the metaphor of the 'society of transparency' that will emerge years later and which has become a reality in only one direction. Our intimacy is almost entirely accessible to the Other, but this Other continues to be as opaque as ever, remaining hidden in the eternal shadows in which it knows how to take shelter.

The 'society of transparency' now begins to take on a new meaning that transcends

the fact that we are scrutinised from all sides. At the beginning of November Mr. Akihiko Kondo married Hatsume Miku, a hologram that uses an electronic voice to sing and give concerts. Despite the fact that the wedding cost some 18 000 dollars, Mr. Kondo was not able to convince his mother or any of the members of his family to attend the ceremony. Interviewed by the press, he explained that ever since adolescence he had experienced an aversion to women but had always been in love with Hatsune Miku because she possessed qualities that no real woman could offer him.

His love has been very well received by the OS (“objectum sexuality”) community created by Erika Eiffel, a woman from San Francisco who married the famous tower, subsequently taking on its name. It is worth having a look at the website <http://www.objectum-sexuality.org/> where it is explained with extraordinary simplicity and rigour that any object can be loved, given that love and desire constitute complex dynamics that are not subject to fixed or universal laws. The inaugural essay of the webpage is astonishing, even distinguishing with great subtlety love for inanimate objects from fetishism. Even though it does not make use of the concept of the *object a* or of Winnicott’s transitional object, the anonymous author of this text knows very well what they are talking about and even has no qualms about admitting that many adepts of OS can be psychotic or autistic. This does not situate them in any special category, given that strictly speaking no kind of love answers to a norm but rather all of them have some kind of madness.

Perhaps the most surprising thing is not that Mr. Kondo has married a hologram that sings. There are many more incomprehensible marriages than this in everyday life. What is fascinating is that the drift of contemporary discourse allows us to propose a new conception of the society of transparency, in which we can increasingly see with complete clarity what previously remained hidden in the unconscious. Who knows, it might be that transparency is henceforth the exponential increase of subjects for whom the unconscious is not repressed, making visible to us what previously remained hidden without for all that giving rise to anxiety or spreading panic. At the end of the day, why should we not add OS to soligamy or polyamory? The truth lies in its variety^[1], Lacan reminded us. We now begin to see this clearly...

Translated by Roger Litten



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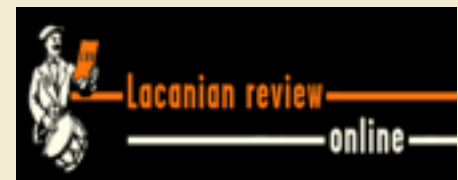
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