

Of Life, Death & Salvation

Chapter Three and Four: The Visions of all Men of all Times & Hypnotic Trip through the Breadth of the Mind

The next two songs are bound together and I cannot really divide them into total unrelated parts. Therefore I treat them together in one chapter and we start with the quotation of track 3 and continue then later seamlessly with the quotation of track 4:

„Dabei ist die Hauptquelle der ernstlichsten Uebel, die den Menschen treffen, der Mensch selbst: homo homini lupus. [...] in Gestalt eines Eroberers auftretend, der einige Hundert Tausend Menschen einander gegenüberstellt und ihnen zuruft: »Leiden und Sterben ist euere Bestimmung: jetzt schießt mit Flinten und Kanonen auf einander los!« und sie thun es.“

„Thus the main source of serious evil, that mankind encounters, is man himself: homo homini lupus. [...] appearing in the form of a conqueror, who in the face of a few hundred thousand people opposing each other, calls out to them: »Suffering and death is your fate: Now fire your arms and canons at each other« and they do so.“

Here Schopenhauer speaks of a truth which has been veritable in the whole history of mankind: *homo homini lupus (est)*, which means „*man is the enemy of man*“ resp. literally translated „*man is a wolf to man*“, which is in the era of nuclear bombs and weapons of mass destruction more valid than ever before.

Schopenhauer describes this dilemma as follows: the will is divided in endless individual forms and as each individual living thing strives for life resp. strives to continue its existence at all costs, the world becomes a vast field of conflicts. Schopenhauer ruthlessly writes that the will is constantly hungry, but there is nothing else there than itself, so the will is feeding on his own objectifications! This I described in the previous song as one creature's eaten by another, but here I concentrate more on man and his cruel history: it is often terribly surprising how little is needed that people group together resp. follow a leader, who is saying „life and death is your destiny, now grab your weapons and shoot each other dead“ – and the people do it! *Homo homini lupus est...*

But I also portray here in this song another aspect which Schopenhauer describes as *melancholy*: the will may not be free – even our individual will, which we are normally thinking is free, is finally not –, but according to Schopenhauer there is a possibility of an intelligible freedom of the will: when the subject is recognizing the will itself, for example while contemplating on a piece of art, then one can dive by this into a state of timeless enlightenment, which is the only state when we really can get free. The self is just an individual, ephemeral error, and not the true substance, but when one is realizing that we are all one and nothing is dividing us, then you can feel a kind of freedom and peace. In the next quotation of track four Schopenhauer says about this:

„Metaphysisch liesse sich vielleicht antworten: »Ich war immer Ich: nämlich Alle, die jene Zeit hindurch Ich sagten, die waren eben Ich.«“

„Metaphysically you could possibly say: »I was always I, namely everybody in the past to the present, who is saying I, they were simply I.«“

This state is what I explained in track three as the condition when you perceive the visions of all men of all times. Then you *„loose yourself in infinity and touch the borders of insanity“* as I sing in that song. This idea of all visions of all times I have adopted from a German film called *„Das weisse Rauschen“*, which means *„The White Sound“*, a very realistic film dealing about a person who is getting schizophrenic. There is a really considerable text-line where it says: *„The white sound – that are all visions of all men of all times in one moment. Anybody who sees the white sound reaches the highest state of enlightenment. (...) The white sound is the ultimate trip. Anybody who sees the white sound will become immediately insane. Except if you are already insane – then you’ll get normal.“* No comment...