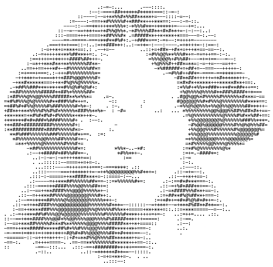
THOUGHTS AND NOTES ON SIMONE WEIL'S *THE POWER OF WORDS*



Having only just started to read Simone Weil and her essays, I must say I am really and truly blown away by how similar our thoughts are on specific matters such as the use of slogans and sayings, especially political, in our modern eras. There are many wars in which we are fighting (even citizens not involved with violent conflict) based on imaginary or undefinable borders or speech. We are perpetually pushing ourselves into affairs from which we have no true solution outside of our repetitive cry- "death to the opposition". Consider the topic of fascism as one of many that have been over-saturated in our sphere of conversation in the west. This term has been exalted to an absolute evil where anything outside of fascism- including that which is almost entirely the same as fascism is supported so long as we define the new system as something which is the antithesis to fascism. Weil makes the case throughout the entire essay that if we are to transform into a society of peace (true peace is most probably impossible) we must first abandon the sayings which have no true definable meaning, and causes from which we cannot truly reach an objective.

There are special cases in which mystery must remain, but in cases of violence and revolt, or mass aggressive transformation we must be able to define the fundamental argument we are putting forward. We cannot allow ourselves to be consumed by such basic and primal instinct that motivates us to challenge the opposition on the basis that they are opposition. We must proceed with caution and truth in our societies, aware of the negative effects of temporary "ghost" definitions which upon any simple investigation have no real structure.

The even more disastrous issue is that mystery and ghost language have real purpose in the divine aspects of life. There are some portions of life that are so deeply true, so without any constructs, that they are nearly impossible to define. For example the idea of 'God' or 'A Divine Lord', these are so without human limitations that it would be impossible to come to a complete, cohesive and agreeable definition for all of humanity to stand upon. You need that mystery to sustain the myth *and* reality of divine entities and existences, including feelings and powerful emotions. It is in this way that there is also a case to be made for the undefineable, and yet the most common words which we find in the heat of political debate are the most easy to concretely define.

It is balance between those two worlds that is needed to be free of the pollution of our minds from the *"ghosting"* of fundamental reality, and the mystery of the unattainable.

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