

Ouroboros: Of life, time, sedatives and philosophy, the generic cycle of life

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Abstract:

Why do we live? Why do we eat? Why do we mate?

When we take the typical purpose of a microorganism's life, say a bacterial cell. It Eats to survive the harsh environment that surrounds it. and if it succeeded in that race for food and survival, it reproduces(becomes two) and does the same generic cycle of life again and again until it gets no food to eat. It creates a race by dividing itself, first into two then four and so on. And in the end when all of these bacterial cells finish the food material some of them die of starvation some goes under hibernation or transform themselves into smaller reduced selves to survive. In one way or another the life cycle of every living being in this planet is the same. Eat to live, live to eat and reproduce. Us humans we have reached a higher level of intelligence where we believe that we have broken this primatal law of nature. The basic law cannot be broken by any technological advancements, yet. It's unavailable. Which makes all these deeds that we do meaningless at times. The civilization that we have built made us slaves to the time. And time was sold, purchased and spent.

Keywords: Hibernation, transform, higher, intelligence

Time

Time exists without having any boundaries or limits. Nothing started it and nothing can stop it. In other sense time exists in a metaphorical sense rather than what do we usually expect/a literal sense. All these electrical, geometrical clocks meant to calculate the time are merely objects that we created to tell us to do appropriate deeds or works at an appropriate period of earth's movement. Doing certain things at certain fixed time doesn't takes much sense when viewed it from a different perspective. For example, attending to work space at sharp eight o'clock. When we view it from the perspective of sun and moons rotation. At what time you woke up, brushed your teeth, got ready and be in time. Doesn't mean much. The sun and the

moon are just rotating in a distance space because they are just mere partials of dust and inorganic junk trying to attain some stability like all the other atoms in the periodic table. While we on earth created a systematically arranged a set of numbers based on the calculations we did according to the sun, moon and earth's rotation. To differentiate and decide our daily life into two halves, the day and the night. In this whole hustle to capture time we ended up running behind the clock working throughout the days and trying to rest when the day is done. And woke up again to do the same thing all over again, till the sweet release of death.

"Not far away there's a colony of farmers who grow potatoes to feed themselves so that they will have the strength needed for growing potatoes. Others have started to build houses, after which they've had to invent mechanical men to live in them, textile mills to make clothes for the robots, more robots to work the textile mills, more houses for the robots to live in, so that everybody loves at a feverish pitch of activity, so enthused by working are they, that you'd have the greatest difficulty in having a few words with the least busy of them."

(ourbourous 37)

In this particular part of the text we can clearly see the lives of typical human beings apart from the high class of any society of any country. The same life to be followed by the people. The narrator is not just saying that they've had to invent mechanical men. The narrator meant that these are not robots but humans who no longer have any human qualities or characteristics or nature or humanity to be called as humans. By this the narrator is predicting the future of the world. The human conscious is going to change and people are going to be mechanized. The human conscious is the only means by which human vary from an animal and a machine.

Considering this as a post-world war II written and published book. The author has witnessed the industrial Revolution. And also knows the causes of world war I. Hence for he is trying to illustrate the possible out-come in his dream realm. The following is the stream of consciousness going through the (considering) unconscious mind of the narrator in the David David Katzman's novel "A Greater Monster".

"I can neither experience the moment nor a wider span, neither is comprehensible~so~how small a moment~when I oscillate a tentacle in front of my eyes I see it in several places at the same time~if my eyesight can so easily be fooled, our consciousness may similarly be unable to note the discontinuity of time itself, the flow is fabrication~a cup shapes emptiness; time is both discontinuous and experience is continuous~but if the present is not limitlessly small (to nothingness) then how either could it be in bubble (dropping into the past) a thinking of the moment as if the past could be nudged aside to make way for experience~no thinking has cracked the nut of time~there are no answers (life is chaos trapped) can you conceive life without time? I am unable~what is the experience of an experience like outside of time~we inseminate ourselves with the idea of a subconscious because none can channel the present moment~but physics reverses when you concentrate and the moment enters you like a soul, you remember you are alive~or (shall I contradict myself) let time be { (easier) a concept <a word [meaningless (mathematical fallacy)]> : what we experience is change not time [if mature is timeless, then how do things (the problem is with the word) happen?] and dying occur(s)ed due to entropy (all degenerates, our bodies become more chaotic, not older)} a metaphor for change,"

(Katzman 37)

The quote itself is self-explanatory about life, time and existence.

Philosophy of time

"All animals except humans live in a continual present, with no sense of the temporal distinctions of past,

present and future. Our consciousness of time is therefore one of the most important distinguishing features of humankind, and one of the things that truly separates us from the lower animals."(Katzman 38)

There's not much difference between humans and animals biologically, however it's the conscience of the homo sapiens that made them evolve into humans. The consciousness of time made us different from the other animals. It's how we spent our time throughout this leap of evolution. The time which we humans spent on inventing various things which made our survival easier and safer. We did succeeded in protecting ourselves from all the dangerous predators and natural disasters. That's the reason why human are occupying nighty percent of land on earth. We even decided time into three categories naming them past, present and future.

The past - some are stuck in the past. The happy life they have had once. Which they can never bring back. While wasting the present.

The future- some are living the present thinking about the future. All the good and bad things that they're going to have in the future. Like a student writing an article while worrying whether he could submit it in time or not. The present - each and every moment of our life just slips off our hands. Every second we think and live is corrupted by our past and future selves which no longer exists, yet haunts us our present self to be new and unique.

The movement you reading this text. You can never bring it back. You are reading it now. But not now. You just jumped into the future few seconds. While the past seconds are passed. While we're struggling with the delusionary past present future dilemma. Animals on the other hands live their lives on the continual present. They doesn't have much conscious about what's going to happen and what happened in the past. They just live for the present as far as they are alive breathing. The time is an arithmetically calculated system that we all human brains are trained for generations to follow. This system is well built to run machines. But not so well for humans that's one of the reasons why we are and will always be addicted to certain things that keeps us, humans free from all the cramped-up time limits.

If we consider the reality as a horizontal line. the sedatives (drugs, drink, etc.) are like psychological aids which sometimes help people go above or below this horizontal line called reality. As per the society's sanity-police or the norms of none of contemporary cultures does not encourage any kind of substance abuse. But, depending on the substances and the usage of it in a positive way, one could accomplish greater positive results. The surrealists used substances to awake the unconscious and to walk away from reality. The additives like alcohol, drugs, cannabis, etc., breaks our thought process. It relaxes the communication among the cells which makes the human body a little accurate than the normal self. The time cycle gets slower and slower. Takes the human who is drunk out of the reality, just for a while. The authors of both selected novels were using the effect of uncertainty while throughout the narration. And they've created miraculous works in these sluggish hours of their lives.

Sedatives and philosophy

Sedatives like these acts like a gateway to get away from the mundane life, both in reality and in the line of art. The surrealists in the selected works of art intakes large quantities of these substances, which ends up causing extreme halusinary effects on the narrators. The reason behind why they did such horrendous decisions were not mentioned in both novels. Yet the extremity of substance abuse can be seen in these texts. When it comes to reality, we humans give ourselves reasons to certain deeds which we shouldn't do be a sane, ethically and morally right human being. These deeds most probably are addictions. Too much of something in regular intervals of times or in a continuous manner. Something which started as a habit can turn into an addiction in matter of days. Once we get addicted, even though we know it's bad for us or for someone around us. We still insist on doing it. By giving ourselves some reasons to get that temporary gratification. After several failed attempts one becomes passive about even trying to stop such addictions. Both of the novels don't give the reason behind this mania for these psychedelic substances. Yet they justify themselves in one way or another. This brings out the philosophical ideologies of absurdism and nihilism have a bit of influence on surrealist literature.

2.3.1. Philosophies behind surreal

"Existentialism is the belief that through a combination of awareness, free will, and personal responsibility, one can construct their own meaning within a world that intrinsically has none of its own. Nihilism is the belief that not only is there no intrinsic meaning in the universe, but that it's pointless to try to construct our own as a substitute. Absurdism is the belief that a search for meaning is inherently in conflict with the actual lack of meaning, but that one should both accept this and simultaneously rebel against it by embracing what life has to offer."

The black thoughts

The narrator in the novel "A Night of Serious Drinking" considers some of his thoughts as black thoughts. As black we refers to as evil. He don't want himself to go insane and do something bad. He's afraid that if he even cling to these black thoughts for long. He would do something which is irreversible and unacceptable. So he sings a song for his black thoughts (because he considers them as his children) to make them fall asleep.

"Yer knows, there's times yer jus'don't know
Nuffink's wot yet know, nix, not a fing.
But comes the dawn, yer start to crow
As how yer knows 'bout everyfing.
But yer don' know nuffink,
Nuffink's wot yer know,
The whole fing's on the blink!"

(Daumal 18).

This is as absurd as thoughts coming to life And Clinging to his hair. But does this poem means something.

The following is a quote from David David Katzman's novel

"ye can only love th'aines that dinnae exist. Aw-ways just oot a' reach. The proablem w' peace is ail the peeps whah need Tae kick ye in the beak. If ye tak' a few, ye can fancy a bettair perspective than the bitchhole ah me, aye? Fuck. Diane tak' much brain the came up wi' a baitter creation 'n this, like. Me? Ah cannae move. Y'see?"

(David 70)

These two shows the similarity in pronouncing the words. The writers are trying to make the reader understand the way they're talking. The lazy tired drunken man singing to his thoughts. And a philosophical ratman talking about life in unknown accent. From a literary critic's perspective, One shall search for a deeper meaning in the text. But according to the surrealists the act of searching for a meaning itself is meaningless. Even though the surrealists believe in not having a meaning to anything and life. They still lingers to the morality of mundane life (something no one can avoid).

Failed Criticism

There is a limit for everything. Even Criticizing a text has a limit. One can never cross this limit. With all these rationalist thoughts of drawing conclusions and narrowing it down to one simple or possible argument is not what surrealism is about. It is about breaking the boundaries and bring the unknown to the forefront.

Logical conclusion: Labeling

The Criticism always looks for a possible reasonable or obvious out comes of a literary piece of work. Most of the times it ends up drawing conclusions to bring out the underlying meaning in the text. And once that meaning arrives the labelisation happens. The texts will be divided according to these labels. These labels could be genres, ideologies, philosophies and political perspectives. Which makes it easier for the reader to choose and read the art which eases them.

Conclusion:

Surrealism is not the one to be labelled, because it comes out of the unconscious and it doesn't have any reason or purpose apart from being an art. But it can be labelled or criticized according to literary theories or it can be left alone, as the bases of this art form is automation. The thoughts from the unconscious are bizarre and sometimes hard to find

meaning. According to new criticism one should look for a deeper meaning. But, conscious search itself is meaningless in an art which came out unconscious. But we can't ignore the fact that

"Art for art's sake, with no purpose, for any purpose
prevents art. But art achieves a purpose which is not
it's own." (Benjamin 1804)

Like an ouroboros this conflict of questioning goes on and on. And could never come to a conclusion which is satisfying enough to keep the thinkers at ease.

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