

Troubled Meeting

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Tonight meeting will probably be troubled. According to what Pestanya said when THEY stopped watching us for a moment, it seems that something new and important has been discovered. Everybody started to talk and there are all sorts of opinions. From Clue who believe that a way to follow Skoda's example has been found to Mag who, with his habitual scepticism, think that Pestanya simply heard about a change in the kind of work at the factory. He does not feel concerned about that. He saw so many changes... (THEY call that "Schedule" or something similar. But nobody here knows exactly what it means). We are a little bit suspicious about Mag: he worked in many kind of different things when usually after one or two THEY terminate us.

As usual the youngs are the more nervous. Having no experience they think that the new discovery might be decisive. Like Cluc they didn't loose the hope of some day imitating Skoda. Nobody among us really knew her, not even Boabi the oldest. Nobody knows for sure from what generation she was nor how much time went by since that. Our parents told us like their told then. When Siull, -highest in charge of our situation- came one day to fetch Skoda in order to bring her to the factory, she bite his hand with such force that he had to let her go. Skoda fell on the ground. The first contestation had been made, but what to do next? She hid in a corner but was immediately found. For sure THEY were now a little bit afraid of her because of the blood in Siull's hand; but there were many of them. It is told that Llepac, Floda and Anairda immediately came to help Siull. The first two put on gloves so that it was now impossible to bite them anew. She only had one way out: run from one corner to the other and hide underneath difficult to reach places. She went like that around all the room, then found a door, then another, then another and then a staircase from which she fell and then another door... She never came back. Nobody could do it again because now when THEY come to take us THEY always wear gloves.

In fact some of us dont believe in that story. Many things remain unclear. What is there beyond the staircase and the last door? Aren't there other cages beyond that last door or could it really be the limit of the world? Some of us, like Mag, believe that THEY just made that story and put it in the head of the first generation with one of their method so that it would serve as a solace for all the miseries we have to go through. If this is the case THEY really succeeded, THEY really know what THEY are doing. According to Mag, we, in spite of the cages, the injections, the factories, the murders, are still hoping to be able one day to do like Skoda. This would be taking us away from more important task like the one Brot tried. But personaly, I believe Brot did this in order to find a new way out because he was believing in the possibility of escape that Shoda showed. He had a lot of courage but few remember.

It happened just after the discoveries of Boabi about the factories. She was the eldest in the factory works, in those for food as much as in those for electricity. She had discovered the end results of our work.

It had always been seen as a fact that as we reached a certain age we were to be brought to the factory first to learn and then to do our job. But it seems absurd, to receive food or water for pressing on a lever. "What could THEY earn from our lever pressing. And we had to press more and more to get our pay. THEY had built a better and better exploitation system. To gain time instead of giving us a small amount of food or water after each pressure THEY just put a light on and we have to go on and on just to light it as many times as we can. Stupid! All that for the meager ration THEY give us at the end. From time to time THEY changed the system (I think I already said that

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THEY call that "Schedule") so that if we worked to fast THEY stopped paying us. We had to rest, no matter that we wanted it or not, between two lever presses. If we did not do it we didn't get anything. Absurd, isn't? Well, even if it does not seem absurd I swear it is like that! We understood all that immediately. During the night meetings we shared our experience so that the young ones already knew about all that when they were brought to the factory for the first time. They just made believe that they were ignorants. Why make the work of our tormentors easy! Looking like ignorants, the apprentices were receiving a bigger pay. Everybody knows that in the beginning in order to teach us how to do it THEY have to reward us more often. So why not take it.

The worst is the electric box. When you dont think about it... Whops! a big shock, and you have to work like a slave to avoid it. In that case you are not even paid. THEY consider it enough that you could avoid the shock. I call that Sadism. THEY are all a bunch of sadists. All of them. Aniram as much as Not, Adnesile and the two Airuns... that without talking about Siull and even Floda. It was him who killed Cluc's children. He drowned them. THEY have all sorts of way of killing us when THEY are true with expliting us. Crushing us against the floor, breaking our neck (like we are mere rabbits, Us!) injecting us some poison and now drowing us. Anyway better all that than what happened to Tall when THEY forgot to feed her for two days just after she gave birth. How she suffered! The poor little one. Yes, when THEY remembered about it THEY stocked her cage full of foods and Floda reprimanded somebody but the harm was done.

Boabi has discovered what we were producing for them in those cages, just a little bit bigger than our home cage and that we call factory. You always have to call things by their name and not let them fool you with more polite name like "e;perimental cages" or "Skinner box (that one is probably the owner of the factories because we never see him. If not, why would THEY say: Skinner's box?).

We are producing responses. Yes, that's what I said: Res-pon-ses. And THEY record them on graph paper with small "bip" here and there. THEY then measure, compute, do statistical analysis using machines that are kept in worst conditions than us. They do all their work but never receive any salary. And they never make an error. We dont even know if they are aware of their condition. In any case they never tried to get away. It is sad to see them in that state of alienation. I remember when one of them became sick from overwork (and it still is) the other one just went on without even a glance, even the sick one tried to go on as best as it could. At least when Brot tried his things we were all with him. But who still remember? Sometimes I wonder if we wont simply end up like the machines who seem to think all is normal and accept everything without any protestation. How many among us are still interested in knowing what is there behind the last door? How many are still fighting like Brot did to try to find it?

I am a little bit suspicious about Mag. I think that he is the one who has been conditioned by them to tell us what he does and make us forget our longing for freedom. I wouldn't be surprise if he was a G.I.A. agent. They are everywhere. I didn't really like what he did when after having eaten his own, he just grabbed a part of his neighbor food. He did that from his own cage. Nevertheless it is true that when Brot told us about what he intended to do Mag didn't say anything. Like everyone of us he seemed surprise to discover that our work in the factory wasn't producing any consumable goods but only graphs, data, numbers. (Perhaps G.I.A. agent are'nt told everything!)

But even if we know the purpose of our lever pressing, the enigma is still there; what are THEY doing with the graphs? It sure seems very important to them. What strange rewards THEY get! At least we earn food and drink but them...graphs. Strange, isn't it?

It was the reason for Brot strike. He wanted to see the real value it have for them.

One day after having been put in the factory he just went in the corner and stayed there. THEY started to act like madmen. Aniram called Llepac, Llepac called Floda, Floda called Siull. THEY were talking about "freezing", "satiation" etc. THEY asked Aniram if Brot had been weighed, if he was still at 80% of his normal weight. THEY were also talking of neurosis, phobic behavior, but it didn't seem to be the case because Brot aware of this, didn't defecate or urinate. THEY were

coming and going without being able to understand.

Brot did it for the whole week. When THEY started to make "correlations" between the data nothing was positive, no result was like it should have been, nothing was statistically significant (?). (We dont know if the machines tried to help us falsificating the data, but, personnsly, I would be very surprised.) Of course, the demagogues among us asserted that it was the beginning of the glorious union of all the oppressed against the oppressors.

Siull was desperate. He was walking in circle like he was in a cage. That was jeopardizing his Ph.D. thesis. Brot's sacrifice was nullifying hundreds and hundreds of hours of work. But Brot was so weak that he died the next day.

That relieved them very much because now THEY were having a satisfactory explanation for the facts. Brot was evidently sick so that his behavior couldn't be considered. THEY made again all the analysis without Brot's data and everything went well. Ouf!

We were very impressed by Brot's death. Nobody tried anything like that since and it is possible that in a few generations even the existence of Brot and his action will be doubted.

What bothers me more is to think that THEY remained convinced that Brot was sick and that THEY never saw or wanted to see the purposiveness of his action. THEY have the most insulting way of denying us our rights to go on strike: THEY dont even believe that we are able to think about it. THEY never thought that we can even have the concept of "strike". Perhaps THEY believe that we dont even think. THEY were never interested in anything about us except in our capacity to press on a lever (typical of all exploiters). I am sure that THEY haven't got the least suspicion about our night meetings. What a way to despise us I

To tell the truth I am also curious about what Pestanya might have discovered. Sometimes I began to doubt and I tell myself that perhaps Mag is right and that Skoda is but just a myth that gives meaning to our life of oppressed. But if Brot tried what he did wasn't that because he believed in the possibility of imitating Skoda? I dont know. Anyway I am eager to know what Pestanya want to tell us. Will it be decisive? I didn't forget what he told me several days ago when everybody was sleeping. He didn't want to tell me how he had done it but he believe he had discover about what THEY were doing, THEM, with the graphs, the data and all those things. THEY are studying the laws of behavior in order to control it. Personnaly I doubt that, because THEY are already in total control of us (in spite of what Brot did). But Pestanya told me that THEY dont do that in order to control us. THEY dont care about us. (That goes with what I was saying about the "contempt" THEY have for us.) According to him it is to have control between themselves. In other words, some "THEY" would be controlling other "THEY". THEY say that it is called "Psychology".

So, beyond the last door, the other side that is for us liberty, their world, would be for them a kind of big cage where certain "THEY" makes other "THEY" press on a lever? But for what purpose? To get new graphs? That's what I dont understand. What would THEY do with those graphs? In fact the more we know, the more there is to know.

But if what Pestanya says is true that means that THEY themselves are controlled by other "THEY" like them. And even these other THEY must be subject to the laws of behavior if there is something like that as Pestanya says.

So THEY are prisonners like us and THEY seem so powerful! It is even worse than for us because THEY are controlled by their own kind. So, it is useless for them to be able to go through the last door to the "other side"? Is there another "other side"? Do THEY have a liberty to conquer, a Skoda, a Brot?

Pestanya will certainly talk about all that tonight. He probably tested his hypothesis. (Hell! I am beginning to sound like them!)

Yes, tonight meetings will be "troubled".