

Manifesto of a 'Trans-Orientalist Aesthetic'

*Last Friday night I encountered a mob
of wildly milling men all yelling
"Judgement! The Last Hour's upon us!
The return to Allah!
The prophets say a sign of the End shall be
the Sun at Midnight! Here it is!
We tremble! We submit!"*
*I laughed & said, "This is no sun that rises as a star,
but only my friend, young Ahmad, brightening the velvet canopy with his crystal track,
the dogstar on his forehead, venus on his cheek."
(Abu-Nuwas) (1)*

*"The future is that which tomorrow, later, next century—will be.
There is the future that is predictable, programmed, scheduled, foreseeable and there is l'avenir
— to come, which refers to someone how comes, whose arrival is totally unexpected."
(Derrida — Le futur n'est pas l'à-venir)*

A preliminary remark:

The tragedy is not speaking on behalf of the victim.
The tragedy is on the heart of the human.

He is a hybrid monster.
Half human, half animal, half flower, half fire.
An anomaly rather than an abnormality. (2)
His feelings are not well-known, he is constantly excluded.
He is not a person who as such contradicts a rule,
it is his very nature, which embodies the anomalous.
The whole city is an abstract paradigm of his own escape.
He is a phenomenon of border(s).
His name is Faris, Garulphus or even Wargus.
They changes his name, Wearth, Wearg or Friedlhos.

remark 1

Orientalism is an extreme form of realism.

remark 2

Fabulous, dangerous and mythical.

“The east is a career.” (3)

remark 3

Colonial history is an Orientalist story of heteronormative authority.

remark 4

From Napoleon to Lawrence of Arabia,
the Eastern despotism becomes a Western subject.

remark 5

Heroic Orientalist in the front.

Here it generates fear and illusion.

Michel Foucault says: Speaking on behalf of others.

remark 6

Self-Orientalism is the oriental reproduction of the invented Orient.

remark 7

The oriental must approve:

the transmission of fear and a predisposition to translate realism.

remark 8

From the future means, from the genealogy of desire.

remark 9

Queerness is the unpredictable time.

A form of performativity behind future.

remark 10

Trans-orientalist aesthetic is above all an art of deconstruction.

Between Neo-Orientalism and Self-Orientalism.

Mohamedali Ltaief.

“Orientalism” by Edward Said.

(1) Abu Nuwas. (translated by Hakim Bey) Abu Nuwas was the pen name of Hasin ibn Hani al Hakami, born (c. 756-813).

He is one of the most preeminent poets in Arabic literature; he wrote erotic/bisexual poetry in Baghdad.

(2) Giorgio Agamben. Homo Sacer, Sovereign Power and Bare Life. “Homo Sacer” in ancient Roman law, is the one who is excluded from civil society, stripped from juridical rights. He is not worth enough to be sacrificed to the gods but whoever kills him will not be condemned.

(3) Benjamin Disraeli, Tancred or The New Crusade (1847).