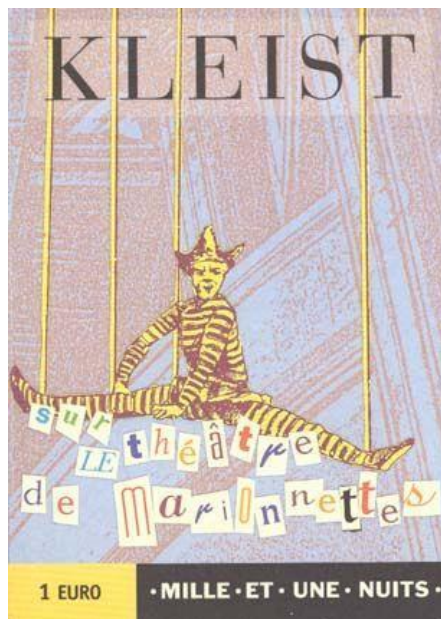




On a Theatre of Marionettes

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On a Theatre of Marionettes Details

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Author : Heinrich von Kleist , Gerti Wilford (Translator)

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MeltemSultan says

"How was it possible to direct the small limbs in the intricate rhythms of the dance? How did the puppeteer manage without having his hands tied in a confusion of strings?"

but I did not as yet have any concept of the consequences of his ideas

It is actually the course that the soul of the dancer takes when the dancer moves, and I doubt whether this course can be traced if the puppeteer does not enter the center of gravity of his marionette; in other words, the puppeteer himself must dance

"I will even dare to maintain that if an artisan would follow the directions that I want to give and build a marionette for me, I could have that marionette perform a dance which neither I nor any other capable dancer of this era could duplicate."

ease of manipulation;

We have eaten from the tree of knowledge; the paradise of Eden is locked up; and the Cherubim is behind us. We must wander about the world and see if, perhaps, we can find an unguarded back door.

I laughed. Certainly, I thought, the spirit cannot err when it is non-existent. But I saw that he had more on his mind and I asked him to continue.

"It would seem," he said, "that you have not read the third chapter of Genesis with sufficient attention; and if one does not understand the first period of human culture, it is difficult enough to talk about the periods that follow but almost impossible to discuss the very last period."

I said: "I know all too well the disorder that self-consciousness imposes on the natural grace of the human being. Before my very eyes, a young acquaintance of mine 'lost his innocence,' and he has never recovered his lost paradise despite his efforts. But what consequences can you draw from that?"

His passion had added to his confusion;

For a moment, confronted by this strange rival, I thought I was dreaming

"you have in your possession every means of understanding me. We see that in the natural world, as the power of reflection darkens and weakens, grace comes forward, more radiant, more dominating . . . But that is not all; two lines intersect, separate and pass through infinity and beyond, only to suddenly reappear at the same point of intersection. As we look in a concave mirror, the image vanishes into infinity and appears again close before us. Just in this way, after self-consciousness has, so to speak, passed through infinity, the quality of grace will reappear; and this reborn quality will appear in the greatest purity, a purity that has either no consciousness or consciousness without limit: either the jointed doll or the god."

"Therefore," I said, a little distracted, "we must eat from the tree of knowledge again and fall back into a state of innocence."

"By all means," he replied, "that is the last chapter in the history of the world."

? " I think, therefore I am aware of myself, and if I am aware of myself I must know that I am a separate entity, aware of and therefore apart from my surroundings; but true knowledge must be complete, connected, indivisible; so separation into subject and object, self and surroundings means distance from knowledge, consequently uncertainty and doubt.

According to Kleist there is no way back. Humans are now thinking animals, and the material of thought is knowledge. But knowledge, although the source of uncertainty when fragmentary.. is also the vital substance of harmony when complete. So Kleist asserts that our only hope is to go forward to total knowledge." ? - (some blog)

Wow. These are some of the lines that I found were thought provoking; Kleist is and always will be the man. Jokes aside, beautifully translated.

Yani says

Qué bonito y qué cortito :'(

Lo voy a reseñar en algún momento.

Maria Thomarey says

Απολαυστικ?τατο....?πως ?λος ο Κλαιστ

Tracy says

Kleist's essay about dolls/puppets/marionette theatre (depends on what translation you're looking at) is one of my favorite writings EVER. it's short and crisp. though i did like the translation in the "Kleist Collected Works" more. here's an online translation, the one cited above is better:

<http://www.southerncrossreview.org/9/...>

oh yeah, Kleist died in a suicide pact with his ladyfriend who had cancer. They had a nice picnic and then shot each other. those german romantics and their bipolar 18th century love affairs.

Madalin Boboc says

Surprised to discover the source of some of the more philosophical dialogue from the anime SF movie Ghost in the Shell: Innocence in here. The scene was heavy handed and clumsy (great movie otherwise) but it's interesting how an essay from 1810 is relevant to the question of AI.

Manik Sukoco says

Quite funny, quite silly, and quite freak. These essays are wonderful for anyone interested in toys, and fetishism in the sense of a metaphysical meaning of objects, like idolatory, rather than the sexual interpretation that many consider as the meaning of fetishism. I did not as have any concept of the consequences of his ideas. According to Kleist there is no way back. Humans are now thinking animals, and the material of thought is knowledge.

Dennis says

Wenn man sich auf Kleists Gedankengänge zum Thema Grazie und Anmut einlässt, wird man mit einem anregenden Leseerlebnis belohnt.

Ih8booksmischa says

Baudelaire just cracks me up laughing, i cant explain why really. These essays are wonderful for anyone interested in toys, and fetishism in the sense of a metaphysical meaning of objects, like idolatory, rather than the sexual interpretation that many consider as the meaning of fetishism. I love these essays ...

Liz says

Original sin - Lost of innocence. Consciousness as a burden, and innocence as a blessing. Similar ideas to Rousseau, Nietzsche, etc.

Onur Öztemir says

Tfw you understand Duino Elegies are not about profound, personal experiences but weird late-romantic german metaphysics :(
