

**Envoy: KlioLeguinu**

**Timeline: EK/73317**

**Report: AU/EK733**

**Practice: Ritual of Elvelangs**

In this report, I shall briefly recount my immersive participation in a public and community-centered event known as the “Ritual of Elvelangs”. The event takes place once a year in the city of Oslo within the temporal timeline EK/73317 with a maximum divergence in one wild fact: the sudden and, as some envoys argue, “hilariously brutal” death of Richard Nixon, a human animal, moments before he could assume the presidency of a country known as the United States of America.

The ritual of Elvelangs is regarded by the locals as a “feral synthetic ritual”. This might be due to the themes and social performances articulated around it that involve multi-species entanglements and technological deployments.

The event is orchestrated by the local government but facilitated or conducted by Akerselva. Akerselva is a local river born in the lake of Maridalsvannet (which takes its name from Maridalen or “border valley” in English) and ending in the Oslo Fjord. In EK/73317, Akerselva is intensely alive. A fact that, as is well known, is common to all timelines. However, in EK/73317 human animals not only acknowledge but have incorporated this fact in an embodied and experiential way. Akerselva is addressed with the pronouns They/them in English language.

In practical terms, the Ritual of Elvelangs begins with the public reading of Akerselva’s overture. This is followed by drinking the tea of a herb known as Avreselka (a thorough description of which can be found in Psyl7/EK) and a series of breathing exercises. These activities take place at the birthplace of Akerselva, in an area around Maridalsvannet lake. Participants then proceed to walk with the river until they reach Akerselva’s end in Sukkerbitten at the Oslo Fjord.

The local government allocates funding to the event with the acknowledgment that **“The ritual serves as a reminder that we are not individual beings but rather relational bodies in an intricate and interconnected whole.”**

The ritual of Elvelangs is structured around an open invitation by Akerselva. In this overture and in their own words, they offer themselves as the facilitators of a creative/reflective process that will assist human animals in reckoning with the mechanisms of change inherent in any multi-species ecosystem. In particular, Akerselva addresses issues like the formation and dissolution of boundaries or patterns and concepts such as emergence and transition. Akerselva’s words in the overture are part of participatory design effort involving multiple creatures and technologies. Other human-animals have revealed Akerselva’s wisdom in different ways other than words. **Especially fascinating are the light sculptures and paintings located around the local school of design AHO. These**

**interactive creations never fail to amaze the locals practicing the Ritual of Elvelangs as they seem to reveal with crystalline clarity that Akerselva is intensely alive and their wisdom is extremely meaningful.**

### **Autoethnographic brief**

As the sun casts its golden rays upon the city of Oslo, a festive atmosphere envelopes the landscape, promising a day of enchantment and joy. With a sense of anticipation after learning about Akerselva's overture and drinking Avreselka in the company of others, I embark on a leisurely walk along the edge of Akerselva, where the very pulse of life resonates within my gut. After all, i understand, Akerselva's water is what I have been drinking for days.

With each step, I become intricately entangled in the delicate dance of multi-species pattern-making. The patterns I form, Akerselva teaches me, are not confined to the physical or social world alone but extend to the thick narrative material tissues weaved by organic and inorganic critters. I venture into the realm of diffractive ways of seeing, where the past, present, and future converge in a kaleidoscope of possibilities. Boundaries blur, allowing me to glimpse the threads that inter and intra connect all beings.

At times, the path along the river's edge is alive with the vibrant energy of the city. Families and friends meander leisurely, hand in hand, their laughter intermingling with the cheerful chatter of passersby. Akerselva directs me to a human animal resting their feet in Akerselva's water and I inquire about the meaning behind the ritual. They reply:

"it is about inspiring present and future generations to embrace the risks, dance upon the boundaries, and emerge as stewards of a world where patterns converge, transitions unfold, and the boundless emergence of new possibilities permeates our collective consciousness."

As the sun begins its descent, casting a warm orange glow upon the river's surface, I am filled with a sense of gratitude for this experience. And also sadness. Its been 4 hours of walking with and learning through Akerselva and I cannot but feel melancholic as I watch them dissolve into the fjord.