The Truman Show

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“All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players”- the one of the most frequently quoted passages of `Shakespeare affects very essential issues of human life, that have been talked about since the emergence of philosophy, namely human’s place in cosmos. “The Truman Show” continues this tradition in attempt to answer the eternal question asked by Pilatus: “What is truth?”. Peter Weir demonstrates a life of an ordinary fellow Truman Burbank, broadcasted across the world and gone on the special scenario. The atmosphere of horror and alienation fills this anti-utopic world balancing between reality and madness, created by some evil mind, since it causes existential crisis as if it blurs boundaries between being and nothingness. The themes, which are represented in this film, are: problems of being and nothingness (reality and virtuality), solipsism, relations between creation and creature (fathers and sons).

According to the views of solipsists a particular individual consciousness is the only true source of reality, in other words it describes cosmos an illusory substance revolving around individual. While solipsists acknowledge the absence of objective reality, our protagonist is “caged” in such type of world, which does not lack objective reality in film’s begging for Truman. However with the fall of the “star” his whole perception starts to alter: humans become more like NPCs, acting according to their specific algorithm that cannot be influenced by Truman- the dream of Brahman that must be overcome through reaching nirvana. Prosperous town by the sea suffocates the main character, people who were regarded as close now deject. Lovely Sylvia’s attempt to tell him about fake world is the only bright orienteer indicating him the road to reality, to freedom. In order to reach Fiji, that is an absolute contrast to his town, Truman needs to overcome his hydrophobia- water is symbol of life and death, furious element and necessary resource. After defeating his constraint as though reborn in waters and ready to receive the long-awaited freedom. Another related topic, which we can observe in this film, is the relations between creator (Christof) and creation (Truman). Despite the fact that Christof created all favourable conditions for safe and happy life Truman looks forward to escape from “father’s” iron gloves. This is very relatable to Gnostics perception on cosmos: they thought that material world is a cage, the creation of mad Demiurge, and humans tend to find true freedom outside the walls of this material world devoid of soul. Christof’s love of Truman transfigured into total control of his life makes him the very same mad Demiurge who does not ensure his children a free will.

In conclusion I would argue that “ The Truman Show” appeals to the very essence of human nature- the feeling of freedom, what would never disappear unless human looks toward this great virtue of freedom.