

OCCULTATION and HIDING

Transcript of a conversation between Federico Campagna and z99zzd

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extract from 'UNBOXING the world'

The next bit is the problem of OCCULTATION, so the problem of HIDING.

When we talk about unveiling, if we would have to say it in Greek we would use the word Alétheia, it means truth, literally, so the truth is that which is unveiled, so UNBOXING. UNBOXING something, the Alétheia, is the moment of revelation, so for example when you say apocalypse, in Greek that means revelation. Revelation means, re-velation, so taking the veils off. So literally, once again, means unveiling, UNBOXING. Apocalypse, Aletheia, both these words being UNBOXING. One refers to truth, in a logical sense, Alétheia. One refers to truth in a scatological sense, Apocalypse, so the general revelation of the truth of the world. As you imagine, Apocalypse is something that is not for us to do, so we cannot UNBOX the world. There is another force that does it for us, in religion. And in philosophy, Alétheia, also is not within our abilities, so there is an impossibility of UNBOXING the world.

When we look at the notion of Alétheia as revealing, we, first of all, think of the work of Martin Heidegger, a German philosopher of the 20th century, and much of his work is about this, how we unveil the truth of objects. And he suggests that we usually unveil the truth of objects through particular frames. So we never unveil them fully, but we unveil them within a particular point of view, within a particular frame literally. For example, we usually unveil the essence of

objects, in terms of their instrumentality, the extent to which they become tools, and he says that this basically allows us to interact with the world in a certain way, but it also adds another veil, adds another BOX, so that we are further separated from the true essence of things. And he says, sometimes it is when the instrument is broken that we get a glimpse of the reality of things. So somehow when our UNBOXING goes wrong, to a certain extent. So we have a project of UNBOXING, UNBOXING things in the way that we UNBOX a tool and object, an instrument, and when this UNBOXING goes wrong, because the object is broken, or we fail to see its instrumentality, then somehow we get a glimpse of the true UNBOXING, but just a glimpse. So in this perspective, the way in which we appropriate the power of the thing is through UNBOXING, through unveiling.

But there is another perspective on BOXING, and keeping things hidden and not unveiling them, and this belongs well to the Iranian Shia tradition, in particular to the Twelver tradition. In Shia Islam, in the Twelve declination, there is a series of Imams, that is considered a series of spiritual masters. And the last of these Imams, the twelve, at some point, historically, was persecuted by its opponents, and had to hide. He hid somewhere, probably in a cave. And he started communicating from the cave. He communicated for a few years until he sent the last message saying “I will now go into complete occultation”, ultimate occultation. This total occultation doesn't mean that he dies, it means that he goes into complete hiding. His BOXING is complete, and it will be revealed only at the moment of the apocalypse, the final UNBOXING of all the truth of the world. In the period of time in between, which is now, basically. When he is BOXED, he is BOXED, yes, but that means that he is immortal, in the sense that he resides in occultation, in the world, all the time, and he has been occult, hidden. His place is within the soul of each person. So the Twelve Imam, still lives, hidden within the soul of the faithful.

This concept is also taken in Sufism, in the way that there is always the notion of the spiritual pole. So like the North Pole and the South Pole, the spiritual pole of the world, is the hidden master that always exists in every time, in every age, even during catastrophes. Most often nobody knows where they are, this hidden master is the one that is like the king of the world, Rene Guenon wrote about this. The King of the World that holds the world together. And once again, the pole is within the soul of the faithful, that is how you can find it, so the process of Unveiling where this pole really is, it is the process of self-examination, and mystical journey.