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ELEVEN RULES SEVEN THEOREMS AND SEVEN AXIOMS OF COSMO-ART

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Original title: Teoremi ed Assiomi della Cosmo-Art © Copyright: Sophia University of Rome, 2009 Translated from Italian by Martha S. Bache-Wiig. Translation authorized by the Author. TO MY WIFE with infinite gratitude for all her profound beauty which I have amply drawn from

THE ELEVEN COSMOARTISTIC RULES OF LIFE

Or the Rules for the Ulysseans' Nocturnal Navigation (the Ulysseans are those who see Ulysses as an archetypal role model for their lives)*

Homer narrated that Calypso taught Ulysses the rules on nocturnal navigation while on the high seas.

Odyssey, Book V – from verse 270 to 280

270 And so he sat and skillfully held the tiller steady:

his eyes never drooped with sleep,

he held them steady on the Pleiades, steady on Boötes that sets late,

and on the Ursa, that they also call the Dipper,

and that goes round and round watched fearfully by Orion,

the only one not a part of Ocean's waters;

this is, in fact, what Calypso the shining goddess had told him,

to keep to his left while crossing the sea.

For seventeen days he sailed across the abyss,

on the eighteenth day the shadowy mountains appeared of the land of the Phaeacians: it was very close [...]

Seventeen days without ever sleeping either by day or by night is a very long time, and yet Ulysses, who wants to reach Ithaca at any cost, crosses the sea this way, skillfully holding the tiller.

Sometimes the Ulysseans will also have to cross the abysses of life, and for this reason, they must learn the art of nocturnal navigation on the high seas.

I have prepared some rules to follow while doing so, which I consider of the utmost importance.

RULE I

Choose your destination

It makes no sense to set sail if you do not know where you are going.

Ulysses' destination was Ithaca. We Ulysseans have the same goal, but we call it "secondary beauty", and with it, we want to enter into immortality so we can travel from one universe to another, forever.

We cannot leave Calypso and Ogygia, the island of our daily certainties, and travel towards infinity, unless we are deeply convinced that the goal we have chosen is the right one for us.

It is thus necessary to take all the time we need to choose our destination on both a conscious level and on a deep one, renewing often the decision we have made on a choral group level.

RULE II

Set your course

We cannot see our destination until we have actually arrived there.

Nevertheless, since we know what direction we must take to reach our goal, we can set our course, and use, as Ulysses did, the stars found in the Big Dipper.

Those who learned to navigate in ancient times looked at the sky for a long time while they were still on land, and they discovered the connection between the North Star and the destination they wanted to reach.

We can choose to make our SELF our North Star. But we must learn to listen to it for a long time so we can understand what the connection is between it and our goal, and then know how to confidently establish our route.

Four stars other than the North Star comprise the "cup" of the Big Dipper, and unless we look at them as well, we cannot know where the North Star lies.

Therefore, when we are establishing our destination we need a more complete knowledge of the four stars that make up the "cup" of the Big Dipper.

We can decide that they represent the four fundamental values that guide us along our Cosmoartistic path: Love, Freedom, Truth and Beauty (both the lost beauty of life that we must reacquire and secondary beauty, which does not yet exist and must be created by us). We must also take into account the seven stars found in the Pleiades, which show us the value of choral group work.

RULE III

Correct your route every day.

What is it that makes us stray from the route we have established?

In the sea, the marine currents and winds can take us off our course.

And during our voyage?

The drive to dominate, the drive for power and the homicidal and suicidal drives are some of the main reasons we can get off course.

Prideful arrogant demands and the drive for revenge, which we never overcome completely, sometimes cover our sky with thick clouds, to the point that we can no longer see the North Star, our SELF.

We must thus strip ourselves of our demands, and this is the same thing as the decision to kill the Suitors dwelling in our hearts.

When we do so, the star reappears.

RULE IV

Set your cardinal directions.

We cannot set the route if we do not also set the four cardinal directions.

Our cardinal directions are the values we mentioned earlier, when we were talking about the stars found in the Big Dipper: Love, Freedom, Truth and Beauty. Like stars, they are grouped together, and as cardinal directions they are set in four different areas of space: North, South, East and West.

Truth is like the North, cold and pungent.

Love is like the East, luminous and warm like the sun in the Orient.

Freedom is like the West, that the sun runs towards every day.

Beauty is like the South at midday, which is always radiant and full of splendor.

Love is the result of a decision that we must renew every day to love ourselves and love others.

Freedom is the art of the courage of wanting to become free, at whatever cost.

Truth is the result of a decision to look directly at our masks and our lies, and it is also the result of the knowledge we gain through experience.

Beauty is a unified field of energy, and it is the result of an inner transformation that happens when we go from hatred to love, from slavery to freedom, from knee-jerk reactions to creativity. It is also the result of our ability to make a synthesis between love and freedom, love and hatred, love and truth, pain and creativity, life and death. These are all couples of energies that are completely opposite to each other. The I Person, the Psychological I, the Corporeal I and the SELF are all fields of energy that are opposite to each other, just as the I and the You, the I and the We, the I and the Universe are.

Secondary beauty is the result of artistic action that is able to unify these opposite fields of energy. It is also capable of creating a single unified and unifying energy field out of the many disjointed fields we are made up of. This field goes beyond time and space, beyond every time and every space.

RULE V

Determine your position.

Where are you now? And where does your conscious I want to go?

North, South, East, West, or nowhere?

If we want to travel towards secondary beauty, we cannot travel in a straight line. We travel, instead, following an ascending spiral. There are actually two spirals; one goes towards the depths above, and the other goes towards the depths below.

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