

poem, that the unsuspected manias of fate only conduct language to the drooling truth, that the dreaming heads bleat in their cocoons, that nonsense causes the nervous rays of lightening to stand on end, that voices without membrane copulate in an anticipated adultery, that the absurd hours ignite sulfatases in the mind, that the impressions of a palpitating beauty dulls visions and make the futures quiver.

We let you know that the sphynx pregnant with worms is about to explode.

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When they asked the presidential candidate which books he liked to read, he answered that he liked to read the works of Socrates. While reading them he perhaps ran across the famous paradox known as “the paradox of the liar,” attributed to Epimenides, a Cretian who said, “all Cretians are liars,” which at the time perplexed the Greeks. A paradox of the liar exists today, which also perplexes some Argentines. But first of all, the paradox must be translated differently to conserve its meaning. A local approximation might be: The Liar says, “Follow me, I won’t defraud you,” after which he defrauds them again and then says, “Follow me, I won’t defraud you.” The utterance is not of course paradoxical but the result is: the Liar defrauds once again and once again the defraudees follow him.

Political deception is not a novelty, neither are liars: there were, there are, and there will be millions. The question is why the hundreds of thousands repeatedly victimized by the Liar continue supporting him. In a famous story, a lying little boy deceived the villagers crying “wolf, wolf!” so they would save him but, after several consecutive lies, when the wolf actually came, no one helped him. Curiously, the villagers of a certain country in America’s Southern Cone are fooled each time they respond to the call and continue responding each time they are called. A people that believes in a Liar knowing what he is: it is difficult to imagine a stranger political phenomenon. A congenital defect in the social intellect? An inexplicable phenomenon of collective auto-flagelation? The explanation proposed here is of another order: many people respond each time the Liar demands it knowing they will be defrauded, not because they truly want to be but because they suffer from blackmail and, in this situation, they have no choice. A good number of the voters are trapped in a situation similar to

that imposed by the mafia: it threatens them with a future harm, and, in exchange for avoiding it, demands they pay a price, “collaborate.” The “bad” with which it threatens them is that, if they do not support the government, the abyss opens up, Argentina falls into hyperinflation, social chaos, hunger and distaster. An extortion of a fearful and hypersensitive people by means of a future terror. Many humble and average homes - in addition to being in debt with loans in foreign money - fear that if the actual policy changes, their families will suffer an irreversible economic harm. They prefer to “collaborate,” although they detest the Liar and his political deceptions, rather than run the risk of having the threat carried out.

Even the political opposition falls victim to blackmail. For political reasons, it believes that it is convenient to go on affirming that this is a democracy, maintaining the fiction in defense of continuity, the possibility of a future representative democracy. To shut up or speak up with euphisms in fear of destabilizing the future democratic system is also to be blackmailed.

A people which follows a politician who they don't want and criticize out of fear. This is the best indication of the political situation in which they are living: a situation typically undemocratic. The constitution says that the government should be a republic and the sine qua non condition of a republic is the division of power. In Argentina, the legislative branch does not legislate but mainly limits itself to voting on the executive branches orders. The judicial branch, with its subordinate supreme court, does not ultimately judge but sentences at the executive branches' indication. In order to win a legislative vote, the government party does not hesitate to put a false deputy on the bench. It has even “made” an unfavorable supreme court judgement “disappear” and then replaced it. It fixed various elections - including the one for governor (Santiago del Estero) - twisting the popular will. It intervened in the provinces. It annulled their administrative powers or suppressed them with additional personnel. The press, when it didn't humble itself, suffered from different kinds of political and economic pressure and, if this didn't work, was threatened, even journalists and instalations were physically assaulted. In this political situation, the Liar refers to this state of affairs as a true democracy and adds that the country “never enjoyed such liberty,” which are the Liardiagnostician's words to the effect that reality is precisely the opposite. There is in force an autocratic governmental regime under which the executive branch stealthily wants to retain the sum of the political power and under which the democratic institutions are maintained,

according to the Liar's policy, as decoration to conceal the function of a government that desires the absolute concentration of power and the absence of oppositions and regulations.

Once the Liar, now in power, affirmed that he will be the governor remembered, before all else, for the inauguration of the National Library and then ordered it to be inaugurated. By decree, and on a certain date, he declared finished a building that was not finished and inaugurated an empty library without books. To top it off, he closed the old National Library, where there were books, so that the readers were without books or their rights as readers. Seventeen months later, the transfer complete, the old building's (approximately) two million volumes were reduced to eight hundred thousand. Did they ruin and lose a million two hundred thousand books? Or were they made to disappear to speed up the transfer? In the 16th century, a muslim caliph had the Library of Alexandria burned with its 300.000 volumes, some of which could be found in no other library and could now never be read. Will this other caliph be remembered for having inaugurated a building which was unfinished and could not function or, for a new monstrous record, having liquidated the equivalent of four Libraries of Alexandria? It is said that the Caliph Omar burned the books in homage to the truth, to his dubious truth according to which these books, whether they corresponded or contradicted the Koran, were useless and should be burned: the homage to the Liar's truth can only be a lie.

These are the cretarian methods of the Lying being. Spectral changes, scene changes, disguised apparitions and verbal threats behind which distinct occurrences take place. The spectacle is the veil of the spectral, which is apparition without life. They arm themselves with decorations that have nothing to do with reality or, better yet, have something to do with it inasmuch as they veil reality for those who do not stop trying to perceive it.

The affirmation that the state cannot create a culture is partially true and partially false. It cannot write the movement of a symphony or paint a picture or imagine a poem but culture neither begins nor ends with art. Education, for example, creates culture. And the actual government carries out educational functions: it offers a successful model, that of the corrupt, which it does not shamefully hide: it displays it, defends it, gives it elementary responsibilities and, what is even more terrible, guarantees its impunity. This is its pedagogical attitude. Teach the population, above all the youngest, that corruption is socially acceptable: many strive for it, they

chose the corrupt life. The harm that produces and reproduces in society the multiplication of the corrupted cannot be healed from one day to another. It leaves a mark which is difficult to erase, which the Liar's presents as his success.

If in truth a writer's homeland is her or his language and that the writer conscientiously collaborates in its construction, she or he has the responsibility to avoid, whatever it may be, yet another scam. General corruption, like governmental policy, embraces this typically cretian act: for example, it assumes that, like the little boy, truth or falsehood are equivalent, that in matters of language anything goes if it serves the Liar's interests. We say at least, in this humble defense of language, that truth and falsehood are not equivalent. Language has its own rules and its own effects that the autocrat can take advantage of but which he does not control. And no autocrat devoted to the lie as linguistic style can cause this exploitation to last infinitely: in the end, it will last as long as the autocrat, a portion of time that if remembered is because of its disastrous effects. No doubt, they shall precede him in the fall.

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