The Will

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1. INTRODUCTION

The opinion in this text is totally mine. It in no way presumes what other people at Community Alchemy think about reality. Also, it is intentionally chaotic, just like the reality it describes. I suppose that community alchemy thing is about pushing and pulling or nudging reality from something to something else. If you think this text can contribute to that goal (just a little bit), maybe it can. If you think this text can't contribute to that goal (even a little bit), maybe it can't.

2. TWO PARALLEL STORIES

Cause (Aristotle)	material	efficient	formal	final
Pcychological function (Jung)	senses	thought	emotion	intuition
Physical principle (Jung and Pauli)	conservation of energy	causality	space-time	synchronicity
Physical interaction	electromagnetic	strong	weak	gravitation
Explication	**billiard balls**	**contragrade**	**orthograde**	**teleology**

"What is that table?" you ask. It's a pattern in nature, figured out by me, Aleksandar Malecic. It looks like a hologram, Ouroboros (four rows and four columns referring to themselves in a strange loop – the first column and the last row are an attempt to explain what is going on within the table; the first and the last row are actually two ways to say the same thing), tetragrammaton, four alchemical elements... It seems that it is real. This is not the right place for me to try to explain it, but its sudden appearance

(the first story) in front of me has prepared me for strangeness in my life. That's the second parallel story. Perhaps there might be something mythical and alchemical in my situation as I'm being weird on two parallel tracks (the second one wouldn't have happened without the first one). What kinds of ideas are lurking in our minds, waiting to be encouraged and materialized? When a bee finds flowers full of nectar, she shakes her toosh in order to send a signal to other bees in the hive. This text is an invitation for you to either consider or ignore my call to the journey.

Pi trailer (the first film directed by Darren Aronofsky) – It's about a supposed code hidden in everything that exists with 216 letters/numbers, the real name of God. Some claim that it has 4 letters (tetragrammaton).

Noah trailer (the latest film directed by Darren Aronofsky)

3. TOOLS

This text is about tools, about means to achieve a goal. These tools and methods can be psychological and technical.

3.1. MIND TOOLS

Why mythology and alchemy? What are they good for in the 21st century? Why do we need that medieval and antiquarian mumbo-jumbo? After we had left behind dreams, visions, and wonder, we had two world wars and the world became overall a very messed-up and dangerous place. You might disagree, but I think that we shall be forced to question what we understand as organized society and look for different values and goals. In order to do that, there is a need for some myths in order to draw our attention, to change our focus from what is going away to what is coming.

The goals I'm talking about here are sustainability and a societal realm that makes sense. It's not like we are on an unsustainable path and somehow need to figure out how to set once and for all humanity to a sustainable, humane lifestyle. Sustainability isn't a fixed state somewhere in the future, it's a process. Perhaps you don't like something in your nation's politics. Perhaps you even think that politics is for failed individuals who wouldn't have a chance to make careers any other way, maybe they even have some unresolved childhood issues and just wait for their opportunity to oppress other people. On the other hand…

We've all heard the story about the Trojan horse. When did that horse become a threat and cause damage to the status quo? After it was allowed by the institutions of Troy to enter the city. Being disgusted with politics is not the answer, especially if you are more competent than someone else. The transition needs more intelligent people with conscience and integrity, not less. Would you be prepared if a serious economic crisis or peak oil hit out of nowhere and irreversibly? May you figure out what is urgent and important just by watching the news or reading the newspapers? The journalists and politicians from an outdating system can only indoctrinate and prepare you for more of the same, they are a closed circle of like-minded individuals totally unprepared to anticipate and understand relatively slow processes and long chains between causes and effects. There is a hypothesis that you (and I and

everyone else) are separated from any other human being by six degrees of separation or less. Who is from your network of colleagues and acquaintances likely to be involved (with his/her network of colleagues and acquaintances) in some interesting or relevant events and communities, either globally or locally? Minding one's own business (being stuck in your profession, working place, and nation) and having no time is not the answer.

There are many reasons why I am writing this text. Some of them are that through my active imagination (if I had correctly understood Carl Jung how to apply it) I concluded that there might be enough material and stubbornness in me in order to participate in societal change, to combine Jungian approach to psychology, internet, and sustainability, and be quite good at it. Call it megalomania if you will, but it's totally up to the reader to decide whether there is some quality in this. It wouldn't make sense to describe here the details of my active imagination process, but I am willing to go as far as I need and deserve to go. I am a politically active (as much as they let me) electrical engineer concerned about the future and observing what is going on. Are you ready to rumble? Where are you at the moment, society-wise?

Birds of Tokyo – This Fire

3.2. TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

Permaculture as an approach to societal design is an interesting idea to think about. How and when exactly to start working on it is a chicken and egg situation. A lot of it will depend on trials and errors and improvisation. Permaculture and local resilience are very important ideas to think about, but this text is more about tools and artifacts than about permaculture principles.

Some neat ideas can be found in Sustainia, a compilation that in this year will have the third edition (each edition with new beautiful people and ideas from all around the world). It's a highly recommended read. If the ideas mentioned there fail, it should be either because they aren't good enough or because their approach to sustainability is somehow flawed. Our lack of capacity to collectively imagine a different future just mustn't be the reason.

"A sustainable future is Mission POSSIBLE. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise." – Arnold Schwarzenegger, Honorary Chair of Sustainia & Founding Chair of the R20 Regions of Climate Action, Sustainia 2012

Predator trailer

PowerMatcher is mentioned in the first edition (2012) of Sustainia in chapters on EcoGrid (Half a Grid of Wind) and PowerMatching City (Demanding Control in the Grid). I shall not tell the whole story (there are some hints in my comments in Depth Psychology Alliance and in New Global Mythology Group), but there are reasons (not just my profession) why I am talking in more details about it. PowerMatcher is just one technological attempt to make the power grid smarter. Since the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine, there is a need for a more flexible interaction between energy (electricity) generation and production where so called prosumers can both produce electricity locally and buy and sell it depending on bids and variable prices introduced by PowerMatcher or a similar technology. There is a close collaboration between PowerMatcher and Flexiblepower Alliance Network. The idea behind

Flexiblepower is to define the standard (interface) where different technologies such as PowerMatcher could interact regardless of differences in technology and programming (different companies). Electrical devices are divided into four categories: time-shifters, buffers, storage, and uncontrollable devices. There are more details and free downloads (both Flexiblepower and PowerMatcher) on the website www.flexiblepower.org. Last but not least: PowerMatcher is made of agents that make computation (spread across the network instead at one location) within the grid much easier even if we don't take into account variable energy sources such as wind and sun.

  PowerMatcher and Flexiblepower and similar technologies deal with similar challenges as any other technology or idea focused on "community alchemy". For instance, politicians don't need a lot of effort and brain cells in order to push and pull their nations in all kinds of sane and insane directions. On the other hand, to imagine the transition, to build a resilient infrastructure and community, to develop the right network capable to be the winner and bring the change, to anticipate rather than react, these are all challenges that our collective consciousness has to somehow deal with. Building of a network and doing it fast enough is a serious transpersonal challenge. It goes beyond the development and implementation of the best technology or idea and includes the whole system, how much a new idea aligns or deviates from engineers' and laypersons' daily routine and from other ideas (how much they are willing to welcome your Trojan horse). My active imagination (greetings to Jungians out there), dreams, and visions and other strange events have convinced me that I could at least try to somehow contribute to the change and join the winning side. Actually (this sentence will be perceived differently by different people), there is a prophecy that I or someone I'll meet sooner or later will be a very, very important part of community alchemy. Perhaps my direct influence to this cause (if there will be any) will never go much beyond this PDF document. It's up to you, dear reader, as I tried to write about these confusing times, to respond somehow.

  Conviviality is a concept used by Ivan Illich. It's difficult to explain what it has to do with sustainability, but I can try. As we create an institution, it has two watersheds in its lifecycle. The first watershed is when an institution serves the people. The second watershed is when institutions are big enough to become their own purpose (schools for children to go to school rather than to learn something, medical institutions looking for new diseases in order to sell their therapies and pills, army for killing people rather than defending anyone, banks robbing from the people…). The problem with the idea of "eternal" economic growth isn't just a limited planet, but also what will happen when economy starts going down and it's designed to always go up (for those on the top). Every gadget or part of infrastructure has started as an option. As it became a bigger part of people's life (especially in "developed" countries), it became a necessity, something that "must" exist. That's what Illich called radical monopoly. As and if economy crumbles, what (infrastructure, institutions, energy and information, still non-existent institutions and infrastructure…) must remain functional? It's a dangerous idea to think that all (goods, services, and energy available all the time and in the amount we are addicted to) and none are the only options. Non-convivial tools are those that have scarce knowledge embedded in them (both directly and through the societal context), those that outsiders from corporations have difficulties to build, develop, and modify on their own. It's nice if an employee in an institution or corporation works and earns, but is non-conviviality a good enough reason to, under changed circumstances, tear a society and community apart? Ivan Illich might have some delusions about some politicians, but his understanding of reality is very broad and competent. In case of the author of this text (The Will), politics cannot be separated

from other issues. My opinion against racism, ideological rigidity, and violence as the universal cure is the core of everything I wrote here.

Pink Floyd – Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun

4. WHY DID I NAME THIS TEXT "THE WILL"?

   As I've already said, I'm heavily inspired by my take on active imagination, my dreams, visions, and free associations. While doing it, I was trying to figure out the intents of that thing behind imagination, its agenda. What is its understanding of ethics and sustainability? In order to align to its will, should a person be focused on protection of his/her own behind or on community or on the whole ecosystem? Does it know some secrets hidden from a common individual or does it also learn something as we are learning collectively? Does it want to save our species from self-destruction? Can it save our species from self-destruction? As this planet is drastically changing, are we on the path of renewal or perpetual agony? What will be sacrificed as we do whatever we do? What kind of assistance can we expect from our Self? Can it help us to build somehow a more functional Global Brain, a collective entity capable to imagine creative solutions to emerging problems and apply them on time? If the collective unconscious and archetypes (I don't know who and when will read this text, but my approach to consciousness is very Jungian) are inherited from our ancestors, can they help us to imagine a life worth living for our offspring?

   If a person understands a situation, how can he/she impose the Will, to spread a virus of change? For instance, a politician can do anything and get away with it, especially if a nation is dumbed-down by the media, and convinced in its moral, intellectual, and racial brilliance (if we were slightly more humble, we would be perfect). Well defined institutions, humane and brutal alike, are constraints to what is possible and imaginable. Even if you wake up one morning after you figured out everything, it will be very difficult for you to contribute to the change (especially if you are too rebellious to bother yourself with careerism and institutions – There is a proverb in Serbian: "You can only spit under my window."). Here are some reasons why even the best ideas and intents have difficulties to push and pull the status quo in a healthier direction:

1. Not being present on TV,
2. It's much easier to break than to make something,
3. People are more hardwired to react than to anticipate (see #2),
4. Is it really urgent if no one else cares about it (the syndrome of a turkey feeling good at the moment)?

   Complex problems require complex solutions. If a problem is ignored or misunderstood, the solution will be complicated and incomplete rather than complex and interconnected. What is in front of us is some kind of collective neurosis. According to Jung, neurosis should be seen as a challenge, pressure just before (with a little help of courage and understanding) a creative breakthrough. This is a time of collective neurosis. Whether it will transform into something that makes more sense, a place where a politician is more responsible than dangerous, and where people are more self-aware or a collective catatonia, confusion, and agony, we'll see. Respect to Mr. Willi Paul, the host of Community Alchemy, for being bold enough to expose himself in such a way and trying to contribute to the new global

mythology. This time (anticipated in Jung's The Red Book) will be a big test (I really apologize for calling this potentially awful situation "test"; I hate when people talk about initiation or destiny when a situation is just plain wrong) will be a huge test for Jungian (depth; add Freud if you think he went deeper) psychology and any other scientific and spiritual discipline ("Yeah, right, one more Armageddon in a row", says the skeptic within) that deals with people and society. If depth psychology really is about the ocean rather than ripples, perhaps people intensively focused on their dreams, visions, active imagination, alchemy, and Hero's Journey can contribute to the change, to let them be moved by the ocean and help the ocean show what it is capable of. Perhaps some of you are already surfing in this ocean. I'll try to move things in the right direction (and try to figure out what is the right direction) in my tiny part of the world, to think about the change on a daily basis. Meanwhile, whatever this text does or doesn't achieve, you are just the perfect audience to praise it or throw it into a dustbin.

There is a good book Nudge. Perhaps its title should be "The Power of Default Options". The concepts of rational customers (economy driven by supply and demand, people buying goods and services that they just must have) and "democracy" are very powerful fairytales. Perhaps people should be (more or less) subtly pushed in the right direction. There is a need for a different default context where people are building resilient communities instead of doing all those strange things (destruction and greed for the sake of it) known as business and politics as usual. In order to bring the change, perhaps the current default options ("It's just how we live.") should be reexamined. Meanwhile, try to observe the situation from different angles, leave the perspective of your comfort zone, profession, and institution. Define rather than let others define you. Try to imagine that the future is already here. How will you and people around you behave (what mind and technological tools will you need) in order to become and be more resilient?

Audioslave – Be Yourself

5. CONCLUSION

Question the reality and your priorities. Don't react – anticipate. Have you received your "call for adventure"? Go for it. This text may or may not contribute to solutions (also, one node doesn't make a network), but I hope it did at least contribute to your understanding and feeling of interconnectedness and confusing times in front of us.