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**2 weeks essay**

The documentary, Nostalgia de la Luz, moved me very much. Its fascinating to see how two things that, at plain sight, have nothing in common have it all: astronomy and Chile´s civil war. In the time of the war, there was a big boom in astronomy; helping people see things differently and helping them see the world in another way. If it had not been for astronomy, maybe many of the people would not have been able to survive the jails, the concentration camps, the loss of their loved ones, etcetera. It is also impressive how the connection that exists between these topics is also seen now a days, with the people who were affected or the descendants of those affected by the war.

At the end, everything that the documentary is and describes is how everything is based on the past, and how the past affects the future. We are connected to the past, one way or another. This is how I understood it: astronomy like all of the aftermath of the civil war is archeology, they study the past, things that already happened and that people are trying to uncover.

While watching the documentary so many things came to my head, so many things that I was able to connect with things that we say throughout the week.

When we were in the dialogue about Don Quixote, Roberto Blum mentioned something about some people who thought that we were connected to the skies, that human beings are reflected in celestial bodies. They believe that when one person dies, a star dies with them. That we are connected, in some way, by the materials that we are made out of. In the documentary, they mention that some part of us is also part of the component that created the stars. It’s interesting to think that maybe we are connected to the stars, since we are created out of the same things. And, it doesn't even have to be a physical relationship that we share with them, it can be some kind of other connection, like the one mentioned in the documentary: Just like when a star dies it makes space for a new star or planet to be created, we also die and make space for someone else, a son or daughter, or grandchildren.

Another connection that I made was with the eternal and the infinite that we talked about with Roberto Blum. He mentioned that our life is eternal in itself, but if we compare our life with the age of the world, it is not eternal, it doesn't even compose a great part of it. Relating this to the documentary, I kept on wondering that if the women that are looking for the remains of their beloved are not actually doing an eternal or infinite quest, in the sense that they will never rest or stop searching until they die.

Relating this documentary with the topic of the past, I made a connection between the documentary and a comment that Gabriel Zanotti made. He mentioned that to understand the present and to be able to make theories about the future, one must understand and know the past. A thing that, according to the archeologist in the documentary, has ceased in Chile. People have stopped looking for the past, they have even tried to cover it up. It is also something that the astronomers model well, they look at the past, at the stars, in order to have more information and bases for their theories about the origins of the stars, the universe and human beings.

Another great example of how the past is used in order to represent the present or even the future is in the book “The Copernican Revolution”. The book, instead of jumping straight in to the theories of Nicholas Copernicus, starts with how some of the ancient civilizations looked at the universe, then continues explaining one of the great theories of the universe that gave birth to Copernicus´ theory: the two-sphere universe. Kuhn mentions that we need to know the past theories in order to know what gave way to the new ones, how the people thought and how it affected everything else. Another example is our study of the camera obscura. Instead of learning modern photography, we are going to the beginning of cameras and old photography books because we are going over the beginning of it all and its history in order to have a broader base for the modern concepts.

This is important to know, especially in Kuhn´s book because with time, concepts change, they acquire new meanings. This is something we talked about in our second Meta-dialogue. When one forms concepts (in the isomorphic way), one is connected to its history and to our own past. Our experiences help us form new concepts. But in the case of Copernicus´ theory, how can we understand these concepts completely without knowing where it came from and what it meant and what it means now a days?

Now that I have mentioned how concepts can change over time and how some concepts are valid at one point and then are forgotten or are considered false afterwards, I can mention that this reminds me of Emerson´s Self-Reliance. The concepts do not mean the same as they did 40 years ago, for example: the concept of the civil war in Chile doesn't mean the same thing today than it did at the time of the war. But it doesn't matter if the meaning of the concept changes, because the context is not the same anymore, there are other things that affect it, namely time. I relate this to Self-Reliance because Emerson mentions that it doesn't matter if our opinion is not the same today as it was yesterday. It is okay if we change our minds. I believe this also applies to concepts over time; they don't have to be the same today as they were yesterday.

As I have mentioned before and I will mention again, in order to understand our present and future we must be able to understand the origin of things. In these two weeks, I believe this has been the subject that has connected almost everything. We see it in the examples I have mentioned above, The Copernican Revolution, the camera obscura, astronomy, and etcetera. We even see it in “Gödel, Escher, Bach”, in a phrase that Bach uses in Latin meaning “by seeking you will discover”.