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## ***Human bloodthirsty. Long live civilization!***

Sources: Rebellion

Human beings call ourselves "civilized." Yes, definitely. Strictly speaking, we are. We are an absolutely civilized animal species, transposed from end to end by symbolic order. Everything we do is touched by the civilizational process, everything, even those things that seem more natural. Feeding, or reproduction, for example, basic functions to keep each subject alive or to perpetuate the species, as products of civilization are no longer pure biology. That is why there are those who do not have enough to eat and go hungry, or die of starvation (as much food is left over in the world: 40% more than necessary to feed all humanity perfectly), or are obese or have anorexia. None of this is something strictly biological, explainable from physico-chemical parameters. It is a social fabric that determines it, a story.

The same is true of sexuality: there is no strict correspondence between anatomical reality and sexual identity. Today we talk about LGTBIQ+. None of what we call sexuality is entirely determined by biology. It is our social being – subjective history and collective history – that shapes us. Procreation is also a symbolic issue (how to understand from the genetic load homosexuality, the vow of chastity, sterilization or all the confusing and erratic behaviors that we witness in this area?). Strictly speaking, there is no normal sexuality. Procreation is one of the many possibilities that derive from the sexual act, but not the only one. Pleasure in this field can be linked to an almost endless multitude of actions.

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That is: everything we do has to do with our civilization, with our socialization. Even the primitive club of the caveman, that is already a civilizing refinement compared to any animal. Hence, from the first stone sharpened by the first *Homo habilis* two and a half million years ago to quantum computing or space travel, the only animal that could manage to transform nature is this *civilized bug* that we humans are. "*Work is the evidentiary essence of the human being,*" Marx will say, paraphrasing Hegel.

In this line it could be said that civilization is what is moving us further and further away from the animalistic, from pure natural survival, from *instinct* (which is a scheme of inherited behavior that varies little or nothing from one individual to another, and that always develops according to a fixed temporal sequence, having an object and an invariable purpose). To civilize is to refine oneself, it is to use more and more the superior intellectual functions to the detriment of instinctive animality, of pure brute force. Instinct, as has been said in psychoanalysis, is "perverted" by the social. There is no "normal" human being by birth – there may be in biological terms, of course – everything else is historical construction.

Anyway, the brute force persists. Violence is an entirely human thing. No animal exerts violence like our species: predators hunt, period (the lion, the crocodile, the shark, the eagle). Never does a carnivorous predator exercise power, social supremacy, arrogance with the weakest. He simply eats it; in the animal world there is no racism, machismo, economic differences, arrogance and arrogance, torture, discrimination of any kind, pornography, branded clothes... or not even clothing (no animal hides its genital organs; humans do, in all cultures). Animals are not bloodthirsty; we do. We can experience enjoyment with the suffering of others. There are the torture chambers and how much sadistic perversion we can think of. Blood feast? We are not Dracula, but it seems... Why, if not, the permanence of practices such as bullfighting, boxing or kickboxing, or dog fights? Or, in classical Roman antiquity, the Colosseum with lions devouring Christians and gladiator fights to the death. This could also lead us to think about the reason for the wars and their not very close prospect of eradication, but that would lead us along paths that exceed this brief and shallow booklet. Although it is worth remembering that, precisely at this time when we are walking on a minefield with the [provocation](#) of the United States and NATO to Russia.

What can be the pleasure of watching a fight to the death between two adversaries?, because nothing else are, in short, these bloodthirsty practices mentioned above: the search for the elimination of the other, the blood, the feast of death. What desires feed all that? Why this pleasure in enjoying, even getting excited, with the blood that runs? In all these cultural practices, death is the special guest. In the box, precisely as a product of the "advance" in civilization, the death of the opponent is no longer pursued – gloves and mouthguards are used, there are strict regulations to follow and a referee who mediates between the opponents – but to take him out of combat. Anyway, the anger of the public in the stands is still striking: "*Kill him!, Blood!, Hit him in the wound!*". Or the joyful celebration of the winner knocking out the opponent, brimming with joy as the loser is removed on a stretcher. All this may make us think of sigmund Freud's words on the occasion of the arrival of the Nazis and the annexation of his native Austria to the Third Reich: "*Today the Nazis burn my books. In the Middle Ages I would have been burned. That's human progress.*" That is: we are terrible, but we are *less and less terrible*. There is still machismo, but women are no longer forced to wear chastity belts, and while there is racism, no one can be publicly humiliated anymore because of their skin color or ethnicity, because that is a crime.

Civilization is that long, tortuous, never-finished process in which we move away from our animal origins. But the funny thing is that... no animal kills for pleasure! In our civilized world every two minutes a person dies from a gunshot. And the armaments industry (from a personal gun to an atomic aircraft carrier with fighter jets or hypersonic missiles with nuclear charge), is the human field that moves the most money promoting the most daring and incredible scientific-technical advances.

That of turning the other cheek when we are slapped the first, does not go beyond empty and impracticable moral request. Human reality goes in another lane. In the name of love and some god (of the three thousand that exist) the worst religious wars were carried out. It seems that blood calls us ("*Violence is the midwife of history,*" said that nineteenth-century thinker supposedly "overcome"). So, if any brake can oppose violence, the appeal to a sacrosanct love is not enough. Let's say that "no one is obliged to love another, but they are obliged to respect him." In short, civilization is that: the establishment of a law, of a norm that governs social functioning (the prohibition of incest, or murder, the establishment of private property, the red of the traffic light or the interdiction of urinating

in the street plus a long etcetera). To be sure, laws are not necessarily fair (is private property, for example?). They are an order made from power: "*The law is what suits the strongest,*" Said Trasímaco more than two thousand years ago; unjust perhaps, but necessary to establish a human order.

Freud, in what he called his "conceptual mythology," elucidated a *death drive (Todestrieb)*, destructive energy that nests in each of us, and that manifests itself in everything described above. Problematic concept as the most, much discussed by the entire psychoanalytic field. What is clear is that, seeing how human beings move, Freudian intuition does not seem far-fetched. Bullfights, cockfights, box fights... world war with atomic weaponry? It seems that the blood calls.

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