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Proceedings of Flight

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Preface

The notion of “flight” is associated with movements of bodies, thoughts, desires, fancies, and journeys from one place, state or condition to another, seeking sites of hope, settlement, escape, respite, safety, security, appropriation and more. “Flight” presumes an initial state of discontent, stagnation, danger or defeat.

On the one hand, the thought of “flight” is inspired by certain feelings of despair and vacuity in closed, claustrophobic, even embattled circles. As a mode of endurance, perdurance or survival, the subject of flight may escape from reality to illusion or from one reality to another, through contemplation, aesthetic creation, drinking wine or consuming drugs, to avoid existential malaise, with aims as diverse as purgation or redemption. At odds with thwarted motion or vitality, flight opens towards life as a nomad, as an exile, as a refugee, alienated, by choice or coercion, from the natural ground.

On the other hand, “flight” has positive connotations associated with freedom, liberation and survival. It is inscribed in the will to take wing and undertake adventures in utopian experiment to realize dreams. Indeed, “flight” is a crossing in which subjective forms, singular, collective, composite, or hybrid construct appropriate alternatives, finally comporting with forms of well-being or well-becoming; or in which these forms surpass themselves in ways they cannot yet know.

There are strong drives which urge the individual to fly—to be, to see, to feel, to experience at a larger scale—seeking a better or perfect destination in order to break with the chains of repression, frustration and dominance. Paradoxically (or not), “flight” often aims to come to ground via divergent trajectories of violent actions and illegal practices to change a political regime

or abort the spread of a particular ideology. As a concept then, "flight" constitutes a clustering or intersecting of vectors whose forces, directions, and even names, would seem to negate one another: anarchy and unionization, security and terrorism, nomadism and encampment, 'on the lam' or 'holed up'. In the postmodern political thought, escape or the line of flight is a radical movement that aims to either escape or confront despotism or totalitarianism. In fact, vectors of flight may converge in drawing the schemes for revolution, aspiring to the establishment of new plateaus for free and democratic discursive practices. Often these plateaus establish themselves in literature, on the stage or screen, in the dance club, or across the 'black mirrors' that accompany our most banal flights. And sometimes even in the classroom.

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What makes the flows of life desirable is the belief in flights as happy journeys aiming at the inventions of new realities that are yet to come. In dreams, visions, evasions, deviations, mitigations, migrations, escapades, adventures, inventions, madness, nomadism, nomadology, and schizophrenia, the query of flight necessitates insightful perceptions and radical apprehensions for the affirmation of the joyful consciousness of history.

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