

L.s:

"Media Anonymous -Meditations" (c) 2000 Media Free Times /George Kasey continued

Russell reiterates Weil's concern for mathematical dehumanization :

Pg. 34 chapter on "ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY" re : Pythagoras*
from Bertrand Russell's "A History of Western Philosophy"

"....ethic, the opposition to modern values. In connection with a football match, modern-minded men think the players grander than the mere spectators. Similarly as regards the State: they admire more the politicians who are the contestants in the game than those who are only onlookers. This change of values is connected with a change in the social system-the warrior, the gentleman, the plutocrat, and the dictator, each has his own standard of the good and the true. The gentleman has had a long innings in philosophical theory, because he is associated with the Greek genius, because the virtue of contemplation acquired theological endorsement, and because the ideal of disinterested truth dignified the academic life. The gentleman is to be defined as one of a society of equals who live on slave labour, or at any rate upon the labour of men whose inferiority is unquestioned. It should be observed that this definition includes the saint and the sage, insofar as these men's lives are contemplative rather than active.

Modern definitions of truth, such as those of pragmatism and instrumentalism, which are practical rather than contemplative, are inspired by industrialism as opposed to aristocracy. Whatever may be thought of a social system which tolerates slavery, it is to gentlemen in the above sense that we owe pure mathematics. The contemplative ideal, since it led to the creation of pure mathematics, was the source of a useful activity; it increased its prestige, and gave it a success in theology, in ethics, and in philosophy, which it might not otherwise have enjoyed.

So much by way of explanation of the two aspects of Pythagoras: as religious prophet and as pure mathematician. In both respects he was immeasurably influential, and the two were not so separate as they seem to a modern mind.

Most sciences, at their inception, have been connected with some form of false belief, which gave them a fictitious value. Astronomy was connected with astrology, chemistry with alchemy. Mathematics was associated with a more refined type of error. Mathematical knowledge appeared to be certain, exact, and applicable to the real world; moreover it was obtained by mere thinking, without the need of observation. Consequently, it was thought to supply an ideal, from which every-day empirical knowledge fell short. It was supposed, on the basis of mathematics, that thought is superior to sense, ..."

* see also pg's. 31-33 re: "all things are numbers" theory

...then from the list of 101 entries with keywords "computers"(link info. in "M.f.T." vol.26) from the "Amazon.com internet movie database"... see "PI" for more of "numbers theory and addiction to "power", this is Cybernetic narcosis, it is not just the "intoxicating delight " to mathematical mystical insight (described on pg. 33 *ibid.*) it is like all media addiction the loss of self awareness to the "extensions of man ", achieved whether by the prolonged mental exercise of the mathematical kind, or by simple unconscious reconstruction of the Television image in the mind's eye ("Four Arguments for The Elimination of Television" by Jerry Mander) or process addiction to Religious repetition ("When God Becomes a Drug") . Whatever the technique (S.& M.) the result has the same effect on the "slave" as any other drug , to make passive. The theme of S.& M., domination and bondage, is a reoccurring constant in most of the "computer" films , ie. in "Demon Seed" the computer rapes, tortures and uses the woman as an artificial womb for the ultimate (generation xyz ?) "man-machine" crossbreed, ... total bondage and technological torture is depicted as normal and commonplace in e.g. : "Dark Star", "Matrix", "Colossus: The Forbin Project", "Conspiracy Theory", "eXistenZ", "Johnny Mnemonic", "THX1138",...some interesting omissions from the list include "2001" and "2010"

with the “heavy breathing” in the claustrophobic “space suites” ...perhaps they might be called “Zero-space suites” and in the and the “Terminal Man”, the original electronic brain implant domination film, “Brave New World” and “Things to Come” imply the use of robotics implicitly and S.&M. or “human sacrifice” , N.B. bondage in the space capsule is explicit . These films /T.V. films are in themselves S. & M. to inspire fear and threaten serenity and as such are also designed to sell bondage / addiction ie. “junk food “ ad subliminal in “The Enemy of the State “ blend into split second frames in ultra violent scenes only visible by stop action analysis. While delivering information about supposedly state of the art surveillance that is dated by 35 yrs. In terms of real time mind control technology practiced today by everyone from the Religionists to Organized Crime with ultra high tech that makes “Johnny Mnemonic” look dated like the 1920’s comic book hero “Flash Gordon” . We need sci-fi to tell a historically dated story of our real world of techno fascism S. & M., that Would be too upsetting to the ratings and to offensive to the advertisers. It is significant that there are only 101 movies in the list compared to the tens of thousands made in all and of those 2/3rds have no significant or intelligent comment to make. It is safest for us to live in the “rear view mirror” our present condition wired to the “Matrix” Would be to startling for us to recover from. Even real factual and scientific accounts of the Reality such as in the book “The Matrix –Computer Networks and Conferencing Systems Worldwide” by John S. Quarterman give us only a detached glimpse of what “MOTHER (multiple output telecommunications home end resources)” is all about and what it is doing to our children....”Demon Seed” ...aka “Proteus Generation” is now “alive”. We are indebted to the producers of these films however for some small attempt at generating some pseudo democratic dialogue on issues of “public interest “, limited as they may be, they are still Better than the void that is out there otherwise.
