

4. *We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality.*

I. Introduction

A man sits in a dusky room near the TV. The world he lives now in is controlled by the external forces, mostly by the social media and television. The TV is cracked, an image is glitching, some news channel is turned on. The man no longer asks himself about the source of an information. He is completely paralyzed by the fantasy, illusion, because he had chosen an easier path, the more sustainable, as nowadays majority of a society lives like that, zoned out by the image. A world of illusion completely fulfils the new meaning of a values – it works as an entertainment system, for the majority, that no longer enlightens, but performs. One day, for that man everything changes, he doubts the life he lives. His breath gets more rapid until he reaches the apex, he recklessly turns of the TV and feels way calmer, because the external distraction does not have impact on him anymore. He understands, this was the action, that started the transformation from the fantasy world, created by the others, to a reality found by him.

This example does not merely work as a theoretical narrative. It encapsulates the idea of finding true meaning of a live. As Iris Murdoch states: “*We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality.*” Firstly, we should deconstruct the relation between the fantasy and reality. This idea can be analysed from different perspectives. Perhaps the most important aspect, that this quote relies on a fact, that reality is foreshadowed by the illusion. The deformed image can conquer the routine. Secondly, the reality, as the true meaning of life is not forgotten. It exists, but Murdoch understands that to find it, in a world of illusion is harder than before. It means that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the life, driven by the reality, but it requires a lot of determination. In this essay I will analyse this topic from two different perspectives. First, I will use Jean Baudrillard’s formed picture of a simulacred world. He states, that the image nowadays is more important than a reality, and not everybody can even find a difference between a simulacrum and authenticity, because most of the time they are homogenized. Subsequently, the great task of a life can be achieved by not finding a reality, but creating it by ourselves, as the Gilles Deleuze forms an idea of a rhizome, a medium, which cannot be controlled by another, but is driven by the vitality of a creativity. Ultimately, I will state that there is no singular path to reach the main goal, a subject is trapped between two different possibilities, that I formed, and only he is responsible for the choice.

II. Seeking the reality, or how the amusement parks really work

Think about the man, that I illustrated in the beginning of this essay. What is one of the options, and perhaps, the most important, that changed the main values of his life? For the long period of time, he was paralyzed by the artificial image. But then he understood, possibly the main reason, that Baudrillard states "The territory goes after the map". This declaration sounds like an absurd. How a map can be created before the territory? Probably, no one has an objective statement for that. As the Murdoch positions, "We live in a fantasy world", so unexplainable ideas can happen. And Baudrillard's is one of them. Perhaps the majority of a society is fulfilled by the values inspired by the conformism. This approach deforms the understanding of a reality. Society seeks easier life, because they can concentrate in movement of a hedonistic values, not all of them, but some truly live like that. Thus, living in a fantasy world is not always the best choice. It completely changes the perception of how the external forces, the ones, that are not affected, by the illusion has an impact on us. We should analyze, what effect on a society illusion really has?

To understand this thesis better, we should consider Baudrillard's example of the Disneyland. He positions that Disneyland was not only created for the entertainment purposes (sure, it can be seen like that), but mostly to make a misconception to the society, how the reality and illusion differs. Because from Baudrillard's perspective, the certainty is highly impacted by the fake images, and the Disneyland, is one of the aspects, that tries to stabilize the homogenized view. Is amusement park capable of doing so? Looking directly, probably no. It can be viewed as a simulation of a reality, but nothing more, it does not serve as a meta-purpose of an illusion, because it is not created to function like that. But looking from the philosophical perspective, it is one of the most important examples of today's society. First, its foundation is trapped in a framework. I mean, that Disneyland does not produce anything valuable, it just entertains, the social media and the TV works the same way. Mostly, they do not create a content that completely changes the perspective of a watcher. They are trying to paralyze the user by the fantasy world, a medium that cannot be argued, because it only exists on the screens. But if the image mostly exists on the screens, how a subject can find the reality?

Baudrillard's analysis of an illusion mostly resists on a simulated product, how it functions and what impact it has on today's society. It shows the importance of how reality changed in the past and where it is now. It can be affected by the made product (television, social media, commercials that only take time, but are not able create the product), which deforms the ubiquitous values. But what if there is a minority which the framework of an illusion does not fit them? The exceptions that seek the reality, that great idea, which completely changes the field of a realization?

III. The explosiveness of a meaning

In his quote, Murdoch states: “the great task in life is to find reality”. As I previously analyzed in this essay, Baudrillard holds different position. Even if the reality truly exists somewhere, it is hard to find it, because most of it, is foreshadowed by the generated product of an illusion. If a subject spends his whole life trying to find the most important value, that looks different nowadays, there is a high probability, that he would never achieve that. So, what he can do? There is chance, that someday he would understand, as a man, that I mentioned in the introduction of this essay, that something is wrong, and there is a possibility to change the self-beliefs. But the same problem stills remains, society’s structure differs from it, making it hardly possible. Perhaps, the best path to find the meaning of a reality is to create it by ourselves.

As we live in a world, mostly controlled by the artificial objectives, the authentic thinking path gets more important. A French philosopher Deleuze forms an idea of a rhizome. The medium, fulfilled by the vitality of a creativity. It works similarly as grass growing, because most of the time it cannot be controlled or directed in any position; it just exists. It can be interpreted as the way of understanding reality too, the way we perceive it subjectively. As nobody permits us to create the understanding by ourselves, it can possibly change the perception of a values that were previously formed. Most of the time, it does not have any negative affect, because not all perceptions are correct. One of the ways, how new meanings, that posits the importance of the reality, can be created, is by the explosive rhizome. An idea that can work without any control, or external forces. It is very important, in a world, that mostly lays on a fantasy understanding.

IV. Conclusion

In this essay I have analysed the Iris Murdoch quote, that posits, how important reality actually is nowadays. I used two different examples that strengthens my arguments and positions. The Baudrillard premises showed that society can no longer believe everything they perceive, because most of the information, comes from the made-up products, that entertains, but not enlightens. Drawing upon the Deleuze, the rhizome works as one of the possibilities, that does not even find the reality in life, but creates a subjective one, that fulfils the subject. Ultimately, I state, that there is no singular objective understanding how to reach the great task of life – reality, the subject can choose any form of reaching it, but most importantly, is it possible to achieve the reality, even in a fantasy world.