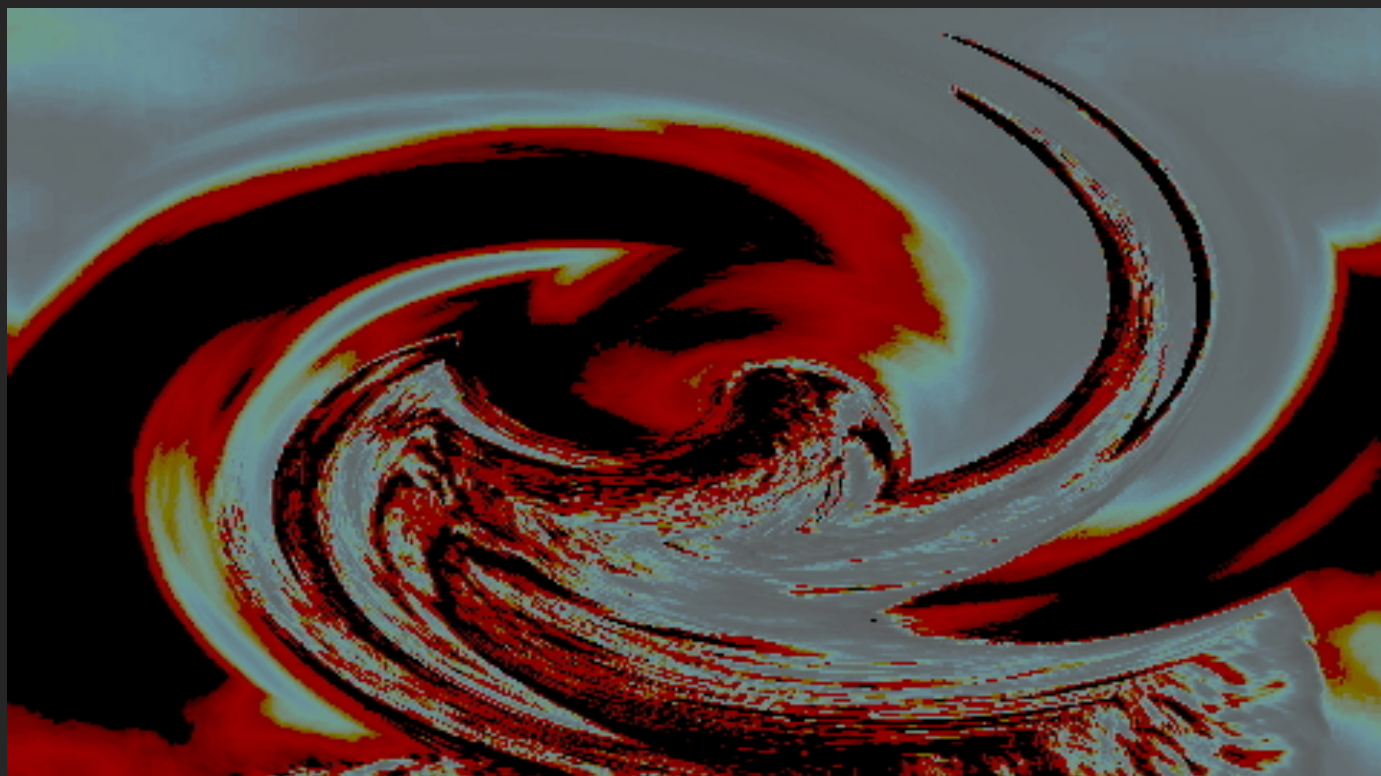


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***IMPROPTU***  
**THE ALIEN - HERACLITUS'S CUT**

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CARLOS A. SEGOVIA

Heraclitus : : Roy Wagner's Coyote

1

*A man goes to knowledge as he goes to war, wide-awake, with fear,  
with respect, and with absolute assurance (Roy Wagner, after Castaneda)*

Indeed.

For all things we see when awake are death:  
θάνατός ἐστιν ὅκόσα ἐγερθέντες ὀρέομεν (Heraclitus).

Ourselves included, then, despite Prometheus's vain gift.

*Scholium*

*Aeschylus dixit.*

Sloterdijk misreads: Augustine.

But who is *still* ready to take it as an offence?

2

*All things die.*

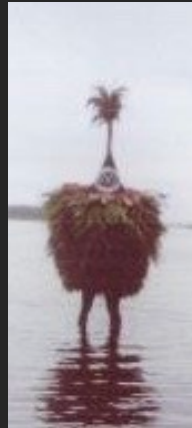
Modal drift (as per Wagner's Law, after Scheinder's):  
*Of all the possible things that could happen in the next moment, only one of them will  
... and only the next moment will tell you which.*

A.K.A. contingency.

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3

And yet (Wagner again):  
*if only to save the plurality or plenitude of the world's event-structure  
or inventory from further attenuation or obloquy*  
... we are reluctant to resign a priori to whatever happens



*Excursus*

Ceci n'est pas une pipe,  
mais c'est une femme quand même!  
(Evidemment c'est aussi autre chose.)  
Tolai Tubuan – Q.E.D.

Photo: Trevor Michie

4

*Die Welt als Wille und Vorstellung.*

What Schopenhauer and Nietzsche got wrong is their equivalence with:

माया.

Two reasons for this:

No. 1

*We picture facts to ourselves* (Wittgenstein).

No. 2

*Outside of this, and inside of it as well  
there are no human beings* (Wagner).<sup>1</sup>

*Scholium*

A "correlationist" provocation?

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<sup>1</sup> The one Nietzsche didn't meet. Had he, things might have turned out differently, as *of all the possible things that could happen in the next moment*, etc.

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5

But then Lovecraft...?

Heraclitus:

ανθρώπους μένει αποθανόντας τελευτήσαντας ἅσσα οὐκ ἔλπονται οὐδὲ δοκέουσιν  
(things await to men when they die which they can neither expect nor fancy).

Things we cannot expect

– for in order to expect anything *foreseeability* is needed,  
and with it *regularity*.

Things we cannot even fancy

– for in order to picture anything *assignability* is needed,  
and with it *identity*.

Maybe we are *already* dead then...  
... inside the Alien?