

Thursday 26th December 2024

Dear Rebecca

I have just been preparing my kit for tomorrow as I am going surfing again down at Rhosilli. Mild onshore wind, dry day but overcast, high tide around 3pm, and a decent forecast for the surf, so should be a good day. I'll only be able to stay in for about 45mins before my feet freeze solid as I don't have decent boots, but I should be able to get some good practice in. I'm still trying to get my 'pop-up' honed, so I tend to stay in the foam, which is the part nearer the shore after the waves have broken and it's all white water where I can just focus on jumping up from a lying position to standing. I really want to get that skill perfected before I head further out and catch the real surf. You end up having this wall of white water coming at you from behind and as soon as it catches the board you are rocketed forward at breakneck speed surrounded by white foam and the roar of the waves. It really is truly terrific but then amidst all that chaos you have to try and remember the pop-up and to get it all right, which is actually really quite hard, and is the hardest part of surfing, at least initially. Once you are able to pop-up properly then the next bit is staying on the board, which is also really hard, but once you have learnt to pop-up and are able to stay on the board then it is plain sailing for quite a while until you want to learn more advanced manoeuvres, so it's an important point to reach as a surfer and I am slowly getting there. Certainly many surfers are content to stay there and to catch waves and ride them to the shore without learning anything more. That was the way the indigenous Hawaiians did it for thousands of years, and to be honest I'm not that interested in learning all the fancy skills, I just want to be able to ride the waves as it's an amazing feeling and great fun. I've been getting a bit frustrated though as my board is not ideal for a beginner as it is very narrow and that makes it very hard to stay standing on (the more narrow it is the less stable it is and more subject to severe rocking which will fling you off), plus it is only 7ft and really you want something at least 8ft as a beginner as the longer the board the more time you get on it as it will stay afloat longer (a surf board will sink when you stand on it unless propelled by a wave, and the shorter the board the more power you need from the wave, but as a beginner you do not want to be in among the more powerful waves as you will get trashed and maybe drowned, hence the need for longer boards) and also I am having some problems with my pop-up which I am slowly resolving. So I am hoping to head out tomorrow and on Saturday in order to get a couple of days in so that I can make some good progress. I have been practising my pop-up at home on the carpet and that has helped, but it is totally different when you are in amongst it all and trying to do it.

In my last meditation today, as I was settling down, I was thinking about writing this letter to you tonight and I got thinking about how I could never imagine you treating me as an equal. No matter how hard I tried, I just could not imagine it, and it caused me to break down and cry for a bit as I was quite upset about it. I then had to talk to myself and tell myself not to get disheartened but to carry on and see it through. By 'it' I mean this process we are engaged in, which I do feel is going somewhere, but like I said when I tried to imagine it taking us to place where you treated me as an equal, I couldn't imagine it. I feel your abuse of me is deeply ingrained and not likely to change. On the plus side, I have felt that you are starting to respect me more, and when I got to wondering why, I felt it was because of my intellectual reflections on anarchy and other matters that I have been speaking to you about.

Of course, I should say I am a realistic and mature person, and am not dependent upon and nor am I expecting your affections or your respect. Nonetheless I have a heart and such things upset me as they should. I am not interested in being a robot and I like my own sentiments and enjoy being an emotional creature and having dreams and wishes to realise those emotions with others. You are I think still too immature for a healthy relationship, because you cannot even acknowledge your feelings or bring yourself to treat me as an equal. Though that upsets me, I don't take it personally, as it is your failing rather than mine. That being said, we are making progress. Of course, that has

to be set against the background of the fact we are not even talking to each other, so a primitive kind of progress, but definite progress nonetheless. I mean, you are starting to respect me, which is quite something. The part you are respecting is my intellectual capability, which is something that the upper classes do respect, so I guess it is not that great a progress, as it still comes from a place of class, and you have yet to see me without that lens on, because to do so means first of all acknowledging your own deep seated class prejudices, and you are not willing to do that, even privately, never mind publicly, and then also to admit to your own failings and humble yourself, to a man of all things, and that is simply too much. Getting you to admit to your own deeply ingrained class prejudices and your deep seated sexism towards men is too much to ask at this stage. But I am hopeful it will happen, at least to yourself, and then maybe you will actually be able to speak to me.

Of course, would I speak to you? The short answer is yes, but it would initially be to bring you to an awareness of your class and sex prejudices so that any relationship with you would be one of mutual respect and equality. The reason you cannot treat me as an equal is because of your gender and class prejudices. I used to think that it was also ethnic (racial), but I am not as sure about that as I am about class and gender, on which there is no doubt at all. It is a sad state of affairs but something you have never cared less about. You seem perfectly happy to continue with these prejudices and to openly express them and allow them to cause hurt and pain, yet at the same time proclaim yourself committed to social justice, and to peace, whilst all the while sowing the seeds of war and social injustice. I guess we all have contradictions we need to resolve but this has been ongoing for a long time and you do not seem concerned about addressing it, which is why I am repeatedly emphasizing it.

And yes, that is what prejudices do by the way – they are the cause of wars and social injustice, are they not? You have no idea how hard I had to fight to prevent myself falling to hate and retribution and misogyny due to the abuse you heaped on me. I am a strong and committed individual, and I loved you a great deal, so I was able to weather it and remain rooted in my commitments to peace and love, but most people are not so strong, nor so loving, so this is something you ought to take deadly seriously and place at the top of your priority list.

I think you are innocent, by the way, that is why I have not given up. I see in your eyes the light of innocence, and so I remain committed to you even though you abuse me and treat me with disdain. I am committed to the innocence in you, and I still believe in you, and part of this whole process with you is me taking that to the end until it is resolved. Either we become friends, real friends, or I move on, either way I aim to resolve the matter for my own peace of mind.

So, another matter I wish to raise with you is something that I picked up, a vibe if you will, that came my way through the ‘psychic grapevine’. There I was, in bed at the stroke of midnight, listening to the usual liminal experimental jazz on Radio 3 and meditating deeply upon you, when I picked up some of your thought waves. And oh, by the way, before I continue, let me just say that I pick up a lot from you. As a sensitive, I am very sensitive, and I pick up a lot, including your sexual thoughts regarding me. Would you ever admit to having strong and passionate sexual fantasies about me? Ha! I doubt it, but of course I know you do because I pick them up, I have done for years. Even when we were not speaking, I would often get lots and lots of sexual content from you Becky, and I mean A LOT, so it’s about time you came clean with me, rather than continuing this very Victorian British pretence. You make out that I am a pervert, yet all the while you enjoy explicit sexual fantasies about me whilst claiming you have no feelings or interest in me at all. Pfff - its a total farce! And how am I a pervert anyway – let’s have this out one day, as I am deeply offended by it, as you would expect. It’s an outrageous slur. You really need to sort these kinds of attitudes out, as this is part of what I mean by disrespect and sexism.

Newsflash: *Rebecca enjoys sexual fantasies about Sonny and masturbates to them! She secretly fancies him and wants to have sex with him but is too afraid to admit it to anyone so she masturbates and fantasises in secret instead. Sonny wishes he could join in but he can't as she won't allow it because she is a bit scared of him and also afraid of what others would think about her going with someone of such a low caste as he is despite the fact he is a great person, more fun to be with and much more loving, considerate and dedicated to equality and genuine libertarianism than her existing milieu. Oh, and a great lover too :-).*

Anyhow to get back to what I was saying. So I picked up some vibes from you, and when I say 'picked up', I mean I saw this in my mind's eye. Not something I made up, as in my own imagination, but something totally unexpected and not of my own mind. You were lying next to me in bed and enjoying the reassurance that brings, and you were thinking to yourself about my last letter regarding in-groups, resentment, and so on. You got to wishing that you could write in detail like that, analysing anarchist social spaces, their structure and political failings, and you were feeling somewhat envious, and also wondering why your own activism had not matured, and why you were not producing similar analyses and critiques.

That was all I got, but I have been aware for a very long time of your envy of me. In fact I often get that from women, what might be referred to as 'man envy'. You're not allowed to mention it in feminist circles, and if you do you will be ostracised and lambasted, but the fact is in feminist groups, and especially the anarcho-feminist cultures you get in anarchist circles and that typify your feminist milieu, man-envy is the norm. These cultures are absolutely choc-a-bloc with it and their activism is motivated by man-envy and the need to ridicule and put down men out of jealousy. The actual real feminist cause is buried beneath this unpalatable motivation.

I mean I understand it to some extent. If you are a woman and deprived of an education or a career or public life, then you are going to develop angst against men who have these things, because... well, why do they have that and you don't, it's unfair and unjust and they ought to do something to address it, right? And so on. I mean it's quite right, I'm not saying that is a wrong attitude, it's not, but envy takes this attitude a step further and turns it into a bitter war of retribution. It's similar to 'class envy', where e.g. anti-capitalists are motivated by envy of the rich, rather than any actual dedication to a more just society, or the working class are envious of the aristocrats for their access to privileged systems of education that they are not privy to. Whole movements that pretend to be for the greater good arise like this, that are actually driven by envy and the need to therefore attack and undermine the group they are envious of, and they develop a 'resentment' style political ideology and system of values to justify it as I have spoken of in my past letters.

Envy of course is a destructive emotion. It is the cause of discord and wars and injustice and oppression. It is not an emotion that produces wholesome or just results, but an emotion that produces more pain and hurt in society and causes people to behave in a very ugly manner. You have always been jealous of me, and you have ridiculed and mocked me as a result, and stonewalled me out of your life, and done your best to ignore my activism and my voice. You find in people like Sarah willing accomplices who serve to reinforce these ugly feelings and legitimise the harm they do. I have never been deserving of such contempt and disdain from you, and neither have I been deserving of your envy. I have for three decades studied and dedicated myself to feminism, not that you would know as you ignore me and take no interest in me as a person, or the journey I have been on as a man coming to terms with all this and challenging myself and rooting out what I consider to be sexist behaviours, thoughts and attitudes. No easy task, and certainly not one that is appreciated by anyone, as it is a thankless effort to undertake, so you have to be committed, and I have been.

And your own education is a great deal more privileged than mine. I left prison at 19 with two GCSE's, and upon getting out and sent to a hostel in a strange town I had never lived in before and

where I knew no-one, I had to ask the local college headmaster to waive all fees so that I could get an education, and I had to be funded by half a dozen charities to support myself for three years to do GCSE's and A-levels, and I got top grades. I also had to squat and steal in order to survive and get by as the grant money did not cover my costs. After that I managed to get to university by winning competitive scholarships, and then on to do my PhD, etc. My activism spans two decades and is extensive, far more extensive than yours. I have a great deal of experience across so many areas whereas you have a very limited experience in basically one scene, that of EF! I have been involved in loads of different scenes and groups, not just anarchist, but across the spectrum, and at every level, and I have been involved in organising so many actions and campaigns that I have long ago lost count. I am an absolutely outstanding organiser, one of the best I have ever come across, and I am also an outstanding analyst and intellectual. I rate my activism and my capabilities as superb. There have only been a very few people I have met who I considered of equal caliber, though of course due to the oppression I meet with my life and activism have been blighted and stunted to an appalling degree. If you really do have a real desire to work for the greater good and to benefit the earth at this drastic hour then you ought to have learnt from me, and we should have worked together, but instead your 'man envy' and your disdain of men prevented that, and that has also prevented your activism from maturing. It has remained stuck in a rut going nowhere for the last 11 years.

If you want to mature as an activist then you actually need to do some real activism, and not just parrot out tired old workshops and narratives that are intellectually bankrupt, nor carry on with an activism that is fuelled by your own prejudices. I am where your activism matures, me. You will do everything you can to try and pretend otherwise but the fact is your activism has remained immature because you have not worked with me but have maintained totally unjust and outrageous prejudices against me that have no justification. That is immature, and in my letters I am constantly pointing out how your activism is immature, in the hope that you will actually do something about it.

I mean, I am still not considered as part of the vegan 'in-group' by you, despite the fact I have been a vegan now for nearly ten years. You do not consider me as part of the vegan in-group, and you continue to exclude me. The vegan in-group get all sorts of right and privileges from you that I do not. And don't get me wrong, I do not wish to be part of it, as in-groups are founded on social injustice and require the oppression and marginalisation of other people, such as me, I am simply using it to point out your ongoing war of disdain. You still do not treat me as a vegan but instead exclude me because the vegan in-group you are part of awards you status and it does so on the basis of ensuring that others are excluded, and they are excluded by mocking and ridiculing them, as you have always done to me to your Lancaster anarchist peers (as I said, I am a sensitive, and I pick up vibes, so you may think that because I am not there that I won't find out, but I do. As my mother always said, '*a little bird told me*', which is the way that the Irish talk about psychic sensitivity).

Okay I'm in the library and my time is running out so I am going to end rather abruptly there. I need to work on my endings I think...

Love and solidarity,

Sonny x