

Honesty of Truth

Music is the only form of art that does not require the presence of light in order to manifest its aesthetics. Note that “Let there be light” was a sound, so the sound pertaining to light existed before the being of light, and the sound pertaining to light was the God itself¹. God, before anything else was created, was the being of art as music.

Cinema and theatre are highly privileged forms of art because they get to incorporate music into their aesthetics. The essential difference between them is that the stage is holy and that the camera is God. Stage transforms the actors into another beings, thus theatre is a highly ritualistic art. In cinema, camera observes the universe within the frame but never interferes with it. Camera can also allow beings to come into existence only by its gaze. Thus, long takes of tracking, tilting, and/or panning are far superior to montage filmmaking because a continuous shot without a cut (e.g. a track shot) reveals, as it moves, images that the audience has never seen before in their lives.

Here we see that the camera is a different sort of God than that of Abrahamic religions. Camera creates with its gaze whereas the Abrahamic God creates with its music (its speech). One God creates with its ability and the other creates with its art. Thus, if one wants to truly devote his/her life to the Abrahamic God, one must pay attention to its music. And if one wants to devote his/her life to true cinema (the cinema of truth), one must understand the spiritual abilities of the camera.

We are facing the end of the world. By “the end of the world” I do not mean that Earth is going to vanish or our environment is going to heat away its last floating ice mass. Rather, I mean that we are losing our spirituality as time progresses. No one is willing to fully dedicate their lives to spiritual means of expression. Most of us just want to take breaks from our works and designate spirituality as our free time hobbies. What is worse is when people, especially those who call themselves artists, think that they are spiritual but have no understanding of the spiritual qualities of their creative medium. For example, a documentary film about some monks going on a holy journey to somewhere is not automatically spiritual. It is spiritual if and only if the filmmaker understood the spiritual capabilities of cinema and has filmed the documentary according to his cinematic truth.

Fictional films are much more truthful than documentary films because in fictional cinema, an auteur takes control of his/her own vision and imposes the spiritual capabilities of cinema onto the universe within the frame rather than documenting the ‘real’ events in order to string them together into a piece of manipulation of the ‘real’ that is logical, emotional, and whatever. It is important to note that most documentaries are very entertaining. Through fictional cinema, filmmakers can be honest whereas documentaries are intrinsically dishonest, cruel, and inhumane.

There is no need for the sophistication of sense and logic – only honesty is needed in filmmaking, in art; in life – love.

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¹ Now, of course such is only the case if the Abrahamic God was in fact the creator of the universe.