

THE ARROW MAKER #1: MATTHEW FULLER (2015)

Some facts regarding teleportation

Teleportation would be, for Earth, a huge scientific advance, but on the planet Semyon it has been a staple fact of human evolution. Humans are differentiated from other species here by their ability to transport themselves at will to any place without passing through an intermediate point.

This creates a range of novel situations from the point of view of those familiar with conditions pertaining on Earth. A number of these are set out in what follows, an initial report assembled at speed and under a certain amount of perplexity.

The possibility of generating boundaries based on simple physical exclusion is difficult, indeed futile. This renders the division of space into zones such as countries or private houses, as they exist in our understanding, rather difficult and has not yet occurred.

Following this, the characteristic forms of architecture have developed in a manner that tends to neglect the differentiation of buildings into demarcated or separate entities. Since one can move from one chamber to another at will without having to negotiate spaces of transition they are blobbed together more like frogspawn and spread out like dandelion seeds. Corridors and doorways are unknown.

Spaces are however differentiated on the basis of vague notions such as ambience, but also in more precise terms such as temperature. More important however is their particular ease of remembering, for those who have been to a place, or simplicity of prospective imagination, for those who have not yet arrived. The latter, if travelling alone, may have to shuffle through numerous variations on a description of a place until they finally arrive at the location that seems right.

Systems of transport are undeveloped in our understanding of the term. Streets, canals, roads and railways do not exist. Even immense objects may be transported simply by holding onto them when teleporting and subsequently care must be taken to avoid unintentional contact with any object, leading to a sort of skirting motion being common in everyday comportment.

It is impossible to keep anyone out of an event they want to attend. In order to avoid the disasters of multiple bodies occupying the same space, anything that

is likely to be popular or more precisely, to attract thought, even of repulsion, is held in an area of open ground.

Food or other commodities cannot be safeguarded so they are left in large warehouses for use at need. There is no possibility to hoard large amounts of objects since those that want them only have to think of them to arrive at their use.

At certain times of difficulty Semyonites, or Semyonians, Semyonauts, the nomenclature drifting and unestablished, have to make a great effort of will to remain in a particular place, since no fatigue or effort is implied in moving to another. Social obligations are used by certain sectors of the society to replicate the effects of tiredness or languor and thus, in focusing the mind spatially, motivate a sense of what can be approximately translated as a persistence of location. Such obligation might be similar to those due to a family or employer, if one can use such approximate terms. One suspects these roles are merely adopted as make-believes assumed as forms of temporary location-fixing.

Daydreaming is not associated with movement. Staying still involves, if not the suppression of thinking about elsewhere, a certain emphasis on the consideration and experience of time.

Secrecy amongst people is difficult since one can arrive at the truth about what any particular person is doing at any time simply by thinking about them. This has meant that the creation of elaborate diversionary aspects of one's life, of the kind that might be considered to be fabrications on Earth, have come to be seen as a genuine compliment to their recipients on Semyon. Since there is little surprise in ordinary interactions due to the condition of constant potential propinquity under which life is lived here, the creation of an entirely bogus parallel life and the aggregation of its appropriate panoply of objects and attachments in order to entertain one's friends by their perplexity upon their encounter with it is a measure of the high esteem in which one holds them. The particular art of being, for periods of time at least, unimaginable is not yet known to me.

A personal observation that may be added to these facts is that when they arrive somewhere, many people manifest what I take to be an expression of surprise. It is as if they are expecting to teleport to somewhere else, but that the specific location they had aimed at had slipped their mind. The discussion of what we might understand, with substantial modifications, as the unconscious is largely played out in spatial terms.

The more information one has to envisage a location for arrival, the more precisely one can target it. Distinct regions and cultures on the planet are distinguishable via things such as greater or lesser proximity to the nearest sun

at certain times, the geographical variation of resources due to land quality and other factors. Even so, cultures tend to move at a pace less like landmasses and more like clouds. One may be teleporting towards something that is already moving.

In order to teleport to a particular place that is unvisited by others, it is said that people from certain currents in the population secretly craft statistically improbable objects that only they can envisage. Over time, partially overlapping currents have developed the custom to imagine different kinds of object that may or may not exist. They produce a mental image of it and then attempt to teleport to it. If it exists, they arrive. Such activity is, in some momentary social formations, described and annotated in great detail, forgotten about in others, and disapproved of and treated as a symptom of underlying malaise amongst certain agglomerations. Needless to say, there is an appreciable effect on the methodologies of scientific research obtainable from such an approach.

Nearly a month ago, by what I now take to be Earth time, a report was delivered to a large number of inhabitants of Semyon about life on Earth, with lengthy descriptions of the nature of the planet, its predominant social forms, characteristic buildings, key cultural objects and tendencies and so on. There was evidence of keen interest in this information, with further clarifications requested on all areas of Earth life. People however desired the information be provided in an allusive manner, so that it would become difficult to arrive on Earth by accident merely by thinking of an aspect of it, that all description of Earth should be made by comparison to things and understandings familiar to the Semyonauts. I fear I would fail them were I to make arrival on earth unavoidable.