

If Hens Had a Consciousness

Daniel Prior

“It is a simple exercise. There are things that cannot be, and since they cannot be, they cannot be imagined.

But before reaching this extreme of the impossible, it is mandatory to take the intermediate step: reading the previous paragraph, there are those who could think of things that, although impossible, are imaginable.

Just like a mermaid. They can be drawn, sculpted, placed in literature and cinema, attributed supernatural qualities... But a mermaid is still a woman with a fish tail, you can imagine her joining these two elements, which are real, in your imagination, and well come to one already something unreal.

Let's move a little further towards the impossible. We have talked about the supernatural, and thus a mermaid is attributed immortality or being endowed with a song that can attract men to their own death.

However, immortality is nothing more than an idyllic, metaphysical longing.

What will happen when that mermaid is subjected to extreme aggression, such as having her head cut off? Ultimately, what will happen when she, through the eons, somehow survives? Would the Sun stop engulfing the Earth, or its environment from polluting itself to extinction, whichever has to happen first?

And of the men there is little to say. The song exists as old as there are ways to manipulate them, such as those that arise when they have been at sea for months. Once again, all you have to do is put together the pieces that reality offers us to obtain a mental and imaginative puzzle.

Now, someone could say that one does indeed die in this earthly world, but that one lives again and forever in a supra-reality of a mystical and metaphysical nature.

And this does nothing but bring us even closer to our goal. It can be accepted or rejected outright. There are already those who have done each. But what concerns us here is the imagination. So the obligatory question is, what is that beyond like?

Each one imagines it in his own way, more or less based on his holy book, on Platonism or on popular culture. But in any case, each and every one of these visualizations responds to this model of imagination that we are proposing, integrating beings that at one time or another have shaped reality: loved ones, angels — people with immortal wings, that is, everlasting or what in mathematics has come to be called $[X, +\infty)$ —, a God that one can well imagine anthropomorphic, etc.).

And here we come to the extreme: nothingness. Imagine that you die; You could have had a car accident, a heart attack, whatever. OK, and then? For whatever reason, you do not believe in an afterlife, in something, in short, so you only have nothing left, the absolutely unimaginable, for being outside of reality and any of its elements.”

“You're old, huh? You hardly even lay eggs anymore.”

“If you only knew...”.