

When I see a red flag crumble

By Stinne Hust on August 16, 2012

A tribute to two strong, unique women

This post is a tribute to two women I greatly admire. I have never met them face to face. One of them I have been lucky enough to get to know through a cyber friendship', which has developed into a strong bond between us. Her name is Anja Hende. The other is my absolute favorite artist. Her name is Polly Jean Harvey (PJ Harvey).

Substantial evidence from nations in decay

P. J. Harvey says in his number from work 'Let England Shake': "The Words att Maketh Murder" of the wars which England participate in. It's written from a soldier's point of view. The song is for me about how basically 'innocent' words can turn into cruel reality. The whole work 'Let England Shake' is a portrayal and reflection on a homeland that is at war. What war does to people involved in the field. What it does to the country and its inhabitants. What it does to self-awareness, patriotic spirit and national identity. So I think that 'Let England Shake' is PJ Harvey's strongest and most significant work to date .

Significant evidence of systems that breeds evil

Anja Hende, founder of www.Autismwhisper.com . She is autistic and has 3 children who also have autism. She has written the book 'From Miss Denmark to Disabled'. Autism Whisper is an attempt to give autistic people a voice. Anja is fabulous to explain the autistic language, character and behavior - autism on their own terms and in a way that is also to understand for people who do not have autism. The book 'From Miss Denmark for disabled' tells the shocking extent of a welfare state, as well actually no longer deserve this particular title. Assault after assault from the public system will be described, so you almost cannot comprehend it. Countless examples of environments that cannot - or refuse to understand. Examples of a system which in my world breeds evil - just as war does. The two systems with a built-in language and logic - but each to their brutality. And it threatens to destroy both the people who are expected to administer it - and those who fall victim to it.

And what have these two unique women have in common? In my eyes, providing both women essential witness to the times we live in - a nation in decline. From their own unique point of view. Both expresses a very strong message that deserves attention.

Once I was proud - what should I mirror myself in?

Once I was proud to live in Denmark. Once I saw Denmark as a country with mental power. The words of the Socialist government was initially promising. I hoped that the red flag would crack open and inequality in our society would be reduced. Instead, I see today a red flag crumble. Time and again, the promises have been betrayed. It is entirely the wrong way. It starts with the way we talk about things. Several things that were previously unimaginable to say, has become acceptable. The words come to life and become a close-knit system of its own, established truths. These two women challenge the truths thereby challenging the nation's self-image. Is it really the Denmark we want? Is it a country we can be proud of? The question that comes to mind when I read Anja's book. When I hear PJ Harvey 'Let England Shake', I think about how it must be to hear the words as patriotic Englishman. Can the longer recognize themselves and reflected in the nation's pride?

What if I take my problems til United Nations?

As the song ends with: "What if I take my problems til United Nations? " I wish that it was exactly what one would do when I read about the many abuses that Anja and her family have been subjected to. And I know that, unfortunately, she is far from the only one who 'official family' has been let down by the welfare system, which ideally should be the guarantor of individuals and families, there are various reasons have more than plain big challenges in life.

My post is a tribute to Anja and Polly Jean Harvey and a reminder that words are not innocent. They can kill - brutally and en masse or slowly to life eventually subside in weakness.

If you still have a residue of love to spare for your country, fight for what you want to mirror you in. Fight for what you are proud to tell your children and grandchildren about your country. Fight for what you hold dear. Choose your words carefully - the words are helping to shape our surroundings.

I would strongly recommend buying Anja's book.

Here is the text to P.J. Harveys 'The words that maketh murder':

*I've seen and done things I want to forget;
I've seen soldiers fall like lumps of meat,
Blown and shot out beyond belief.
Arms and legs were in the trees.*

*I've seen and done things I want to forget;
coming from an unearthly place,
Longing to see a woman's face,
Instead of the words that gather pace,
The words that maketh murder.*

*These, these, these are the words-
The words that maketh murder.
These, these, these are the words-
The words that maketh murder.
These, these, these are the words-
Murder...*

*These, these, these are the words-
The words that maketh murder.*

*I've seen and done things I want to forget;
I've seen a corporal whose nerves were shot
Climbing behind the fierce, gone sun,
I've seen flies swarming everyone,
Soldiers fell like lumps of meat.*

*These are the words, the words are these.
death lingering, stunk,
Flies swarming everyone,
Over the whole summit peak,
Flesh quivering in the heat.
This was something else again.
I fear it cannot be explained.
The words that make, the words that make
Murder.
What if I take my problem to the United Nations?*