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THRUPIECE'S POETICS
FOR
DUMMIES

Harry Stottle





1. THRUPIECE'S POETICS, WRITTEN IN 1952 WHILST WAITING FOR HIS MOTHER OUTSIDE THE LYCEUM, ASHMORE IS THE WORK OF A COMPARATIVELY YOUNG MAN [12 YEARS OLD TO BE PRECISE]. IT IS REGARDED AS AN IMPORTANT AND A REMARKABLY PRECOCIOUS CONTRIBUTION TO WHAT MIGHT BROADLY BE DESCRIBED AS THE FIELD OF PHILOSOPHY. AS WITH SO MUCH OF THE PROFESSOR'S LATER WORKS, IT CONFOUNDS PRECISE CATEGORICAL DEFINITION, SPILLING OVER INTO THE RELATED FIELDS OF AESTHETICS, POLITICS, METAPHYSICS, MEDIA STUDIES AND, OF COURSE, CULINARY BIO-ETHICS. [SEE FOR EXAMPLE, A BADMINTON-COURT "CONTAINMENT AND BOUNDARY ERRORS IN THE CATEGORIZATION OF FLUFF TYPES A2-D6" JOURNAL OF THE RSCBE [2002]]

1.1 IN POETICS [CONSCIOUSLY MODELLED ON ARISTOTLE'S SIMILARLY TITLED BUT GENERALLY LESS WELL-REGARDED WORK] THRUPIECE SEEKS [I] TO CATEGORISE AND UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF FLUFF ENCOUNTERED IN THE EVERYDAY WORLD, [II] TO DEFINE UNAMBIGUOUSLY THE NATURE OF FLUFF AND [III] TO DIVIDE "NATURALLY OCCURRING" FLUFF INTO ITS SEVERAL COMPONENT PARTS. THOUGH ISSUES OF PRECISE MENSURATION ARE NOT ADDRESSED DIRECTLY, EVALUATION IS



A SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT OF THE WORK, LEADING MANY TO ARGUE THAT POETICS IS IN FACT A WORK OF **METAPHYSICS** RATHER THAN **SCIENCE** PER SE, AND THUS A CONTRIBUTION TO **ONTOLOGY** [OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF BEING] RATHER THAN **EPISTEMOLOGY** [THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN JUSTIFIED BELIEF AND OPINION].



1.2 INITIALLY AND IMPORTANTLY, THRUPIECE DEFINES FLUFF AS A **'MEDIUM OF AMALGAMATION'** WHICH, THOUGH GENERALLY REGARDED AS DETRITUS, IS IN FACT A FOUNDATIONAL FORM WHICH GIVES ANIMATION TO LIFE THROUGH ITS **REFLEXIVE IMPACT** ON CHARACTER, EMOTION, OR ACTION.

1.3 THRUPIECE DEFINES FLUFF VERY BROADLY, INCLUDING **EPIC FLUFF**, **TRAGEDIC FLUFF**, **COMEDIC FLUFF**, **DITHYRAMBIC FLUFF** [OR "FLUFFINESS"], AND, IN ITS DYNAMIC STATE, **ANIMATED FLUFF** [OFTEN MOBILE AND OCCASIONALLY MUSICAL]. [SEE E WHISKY-MCNIGHTLY [ED] [2003] "AND THE FLUFFS OF THE UNIVERSE SANG THEIR SIREN SONG. ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR BRIAN THRUPIECE", THREADBONE PRESS]

2. ACCORDING TO THRUPIECE, **TRAGEDIC FLUFF** ARISES FROM THE EFFORTS



OF SCIENTISTS TO DEFINE IT AS 'NOBLER' OR 'BETTER' THAN THE ORIGINAL MATERIALS FROM WHICH IT IS DERIVED. **COMEDIC** FLUFF ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A "LOWER LIFE FORM" WHICH EXHIBITS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DEGRADED SUBSTANCE, WHICH IS TO SAY AN AMALGAM WHICH IS LESS THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS. **EPIC** FLUFF, ON THE OTHER HAND, IMITATES THE "NOBLEST" STATE OF MATTER. IT IS SIMILAR TO TRAGIC FLUFF EXCEPT THAT IT ONLY HAS ONE TYPE OF LINEAR STRUCTURE, WHILST THE TRAGIC VARIETY CAN HAVE SEVERAL CONSTITUENT STRANDS - AND IS GENERALLY MORE COMPLEX IN FORM.



3. THRUPIECE LAYS OUT **SIX ELEMENTS** IN A TYPICAL FLUFF SAMPLE, ALL OF WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF ELICITING A SPECIFIC HUMAN RESPONSE AND ALL OF WHICH YIELD TO CORRESPONDINGLY SPECIFIC TYPES OF ANALYSIS. THESE ARE:

PERCEIVED ESSENCE, CHARACTER, ODOUR, COLOUR, TASTE, AND SOURCE. PERCEIVED ESSENCE IS 'THE SOUL' OF TRAGIC FLUFF BECAUSE ESSENCE IS PARAMOUNT TO ITS APPREHENSION AND ALL OTHER ELEMENTS ARE SUBSIDIARY. PERCEIVED ESSENCE MUST HAVE AN INITIAL IMPACT, A SECONDARY WAVE, AND AN END RESULT (RATHER LIKE



THE CHORDS OF A PERFUME OR THE OVERTONES OF A FINE WINE]; IT MUST ALSO BE UNIVERSAL IN SIGNIFICANCE, HAVE A DETERMINATE STRUCTURE, AND MAINTAIN A UNITY OF BODY AND PURPOSE.

3.1 PERCEIVED ESSENCE MUST ALSO BE UNDERSTOOD IN TERMS OF THE SPECIFIC REACTIONS IT ENGENDERS: FOR EXAMPLE, ASTONISHMENT, REVERSAL [PERIPETEIA], RECOGNITION, AND SUFFERING. REVERSAL IS AN IRONIC TWIST OR CHANGE BY WHICH THE MAIN IMPACT OF THE FLUFF PARTICLES COME FULLCIRCLE. RECOGNITION, MEANWHILE, IS THE CHANGE FROM IGNORANCE TO KNOWLEDGE OF ITS ESSENCE, USUALLY INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS COMING TO UNDERSTAND ITS TRUE IDENTITY. SUFFERING IS A DESTRUCTIVE OR PAINFUL ACTION [EG THE WITHDRAWL OF FLUFF], WHICH IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF A REVERSAL OR RECOGNITION. ALL THREE ELEMENTS COALESCE TO CREATE "CATHARSIS" WHICH IS THE ENGENDERMENT OF FEAR AND PITY IN THE APPREHENDER: PITY FOR THOSE TO WHOM FLUFF IS DENIED, AND FEAR THAT A SIMILAR DENIAL MAY BEFALL US.



3.2 WHEN IT COMES TO ASSESSING CHARACTER IN A FLUFF SAMPLE, A SCIENTIST SHOULD AIM TO EVALUATE FOUR THINGS. FIRST, THE FLUFF MUST



BE 'GOOD' AND THUS MANIFEST MORAL PURPOSE IN ITS BEING. **SECOND**, IT MUST HAVE PROPRIETY, OR 'INTEGRITY' [BOTH OF CHARACTER AND SUBSTANCE - SOMETHING WHICH DISTINGUISHES IT FROM GOO]. **THIRDLY**, IT MUST BE 'A TRUE SAMPLE' AND **FINALLY**, IT MUST BE CONSISTENT AT ALL TEMPERATURES, IN ALL PLACES AND AT ALL TIMES.

[STUDY NOTE: ONE OF THE KEY CONTRIBUTIONS THRUPIECE MAKES IN THE POETICS, IS THE INTRODUCTION OF PRECISELY THESE ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO WHAT WAS PREVIOUSLY MERE BIO-CULINARY SCIENCE. WITHOUT THE POETICS, A PROPERLY-FOUNDED CULINARY BIO-ETHICAL SCIENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.] [SEE A BADMINTON-COURT [1994] IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE POETICS TO CULINARY BIO-ETHICAL SCIENCE [THE THREADBONE PRESS].]



3.3 TRAGIC AND EPIC FLUFF IDEALLY FALL INTO THE SAME CATEGORIES: **SIMPLE, COMPLEX** [DRIVEN BY REVERSAL AND RECOGNITION], **ETHICAL** [MORAL] OR **PATHETIC** [AROUSING A PASSIONATE RESPONSE]. THERE ARE A FEW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRAGIC AND EPIC EXAMPLES, HOWEVER.

FIRST, AN EPIC FLUFF DOES NOT USE SMELL OR SPECTACLE TO ACHIEVE ITS CATHARTIC EFFECT. **SECOND**, EPIC FLUFF OFTEN CANNOT BE SYNTHESISED IN A SINGLE STAGE, WHEREAS TRAGIC



FLUFFS ARE USUALLY ABLE TO BE CREATED IN A SINGLE PHASED EXPERIMENT. **FINALLY**, THE '**HEROIC MEASURE**' OF EPIC FLUFF IS ITS MORAL WEIGHT (AS DETERMINED VIA **THE THRUPIECE TABLES**), WHERE TRAGIC FLUFF OFTEN REQUIRES OTHER FORMS OF EVALUATION TO PROPERLY ASSESS ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND CHARACTER.



4. THRUPIECE ALSO LAYS OUT THE ELEMENTS OF **SUCCESSFUL FLUFF IMITATION AND SYNTHESIS**. IN PRODUCING ARTIFICIAL FLUFF-LIKE SUBSTITUTES, THE SCIENTIST MUST MIMIC THE NATURALLY OCCURRING SUBSTANCE EITHER AS **THINGS AS THEY ARE, THINGS AS THEY ARE THOUGHT TO BE, OR THINGS AS THEY OUGHT TO BE**. THE SCIENTIST MUST ALSO BE ABLE TO REPRODUCE ANY ERSATZ FLUFF CONSISTENTLY AND WITHOUT ERROR. **ERRORS** COME WHEN SCIENTISTS SYNTHESIZE INCORRECTLY - AND THUS DESTROY THE ESSENCE OF THE IDEALISED FLUFF - OR WHEN THE LABORATORY TECHNICIAN ACCIDENTALLY MAKES AN ERROR IN THE PARTICLE SEQUENCING, PRODUCING SEMI-FLUFF OR, EXTREMELY, NON-FLUFF (AKA GOO). THRUPIECE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT FACTUAL ERRORS SABOTAGE THE ENTIRE RESULT; ERRORS THAT LIMIT OR COMPROMISE THE UNITY OF



A GIVEN PRODUCT, HOWEVER, ARE MUCH MORE CONSEQUENTIAL.

[STUDY NOTE: MEETING THE CRITERIA OUTLINED ABOVE WAS TO PROVE ONE OF THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCKS IN THE PROFESSOR'S EXTENDED EFFORTS (1953-1964) TO DEVELOP A RELIABLE AND COMMERCIALY VIABLE FLUFF SUBSTITUTE. ONLY AFTER REPEATED EXPERIMENT AND EXACTING PRODUCT TYESTING DID THE THRUPIECE DIET BECOME A POSSIBILITY.



5. FINALLY, THRUPIECE CONCLUDES BY TACKLING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EPIC OR TRAGIC FORM OF FLUFF IS 'HIGHER' AND THEREFORE MORE WORTHY OF ANALYSIS AND REPRODUCTION. MOST CRITICS OF HIS TIME ARGUED THAT TRAGIC FLUFF WAS SUITABLE ONLY FOR AN INFERIOR PALATE THAT MERELY REQUIRED THE AVOIDANCE OF HUNGER, WHILE EPIC FLUFF WAS FOR A 'CULTIVATED AUDIENCE' WHICH COULD ASSESS ITS

FINER QUALITIES THROUGH THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE AND SUPERIOR PALATES. IN REPLY, THRUPIECE NOTES THAT THE APPRECIATION OF EPIC FLUFF CAN BE MARRED BY OVER-INDULGENCE, FADDISHNESS, DESENSITIZATION AND INTER-GENERATIONAL RELATIVISM [DE GUSTIBUS NON EST DISPUTANDUM]; MOREOVER, TRAGIC FLUFF LIKE ALCOHOL, CAN PRODUCE ITS EFFECT WITHOUT INTENTION. ITS POWER



RESIDES RATHER IN ITS MERE CONSUMPTION.



6. THUS THRUPIECE CONCLUDES THAT **TRAGEDIC FLUFF IS, IN FACT, SUPERIOR TO EPIC FLUFF** BECAUSE IT HAS ALL THE EPIC ELEMENTS AS WELL AS ADAPTABILITY, THUS PROVIDING A SOURCE OF ONGOING INDULGENT PLEASURE FOR THE CONSUMER. TRAGEDIC FLUFF THEN, DESPITE THE ARGUMENTS OF OTHER CRITICS, IS THE HIGHER FORM FOR THRUPIECE.

FURTHER READING:

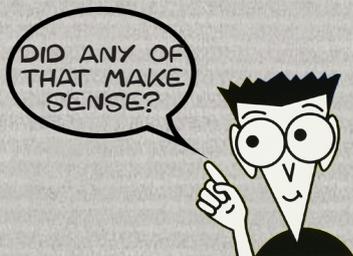
PROFESSOR BRIAN THRUPIECE [2002] "ADVENTURES WITH FLUFF"
[THREADBONE PRESS]

BRENDA OATS [2013] "FLUFF THE THRUPIECE DIET AND ME"
[THREADBONE PRESS]

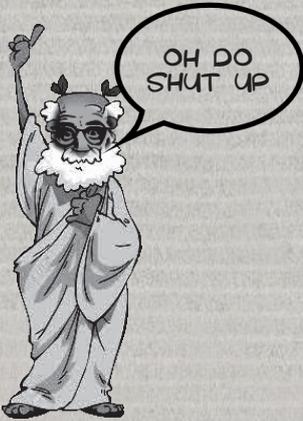
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