

Meeting #14 Mar 18th
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English/German Tales Study
The Genesis of the Moon

Attendees: Robin, Vanya, Ekant, Bobbie, Sandra

AI Meeting Summary

Summary of Transcript

Overview

The discussion delved into the nuances of translating Gurdjieff's text, focusing on terms like "Schnecken" (snails) and "Grossvater" (grandfather). Robin Bloor explained the historical use of "slug" to mean a lazy person and its ironic application in Gurdjieff's work. The group explored the etymology of words like "asphyxiating" and "stink," linking them to biological processes. They also discussed the symbolic significance of angels and archangels, particularly "Algamatant" and "Sakaki," and their roles in digestion and waste disposal. The conversation highlighted the literary technique of presenting opposing viewpoints, encouraging readers to reconcile them.

Action Items

Explore the meaning of "chance" (Zufall) in the German text and how it differs from "luck" or "accident".

Investigate further the significance of the word "Atlantis" mentioned in the chapter and how it relates to the development of human beings.

Outline

Discussion on Slugs and Snails

Vanya discusses the German term "Schnecken" and its translation to "slugs" in English, noting the difference in connotations.

Robin Bloor explains that the term "slug" originally meant a lazy person in English, adding an ironic layer to Gurdjieff's use of the term.

Vanya mentions that in German, "Schnecker" can also mean someone who is very slow, which didn't translate to English.

Robin Bloor notes that the term "slug" in English specifically refers to laziness, and there is a term "slugabed" for someone who is always in bed due to laziness.

Differences in Addressing Elders

Vanya points out a difference in the German text where "Vati" is used instead of "Opa," indicating a familiar form of address.

SW questions the change from "Vati" to "Opa," and Vanya explains that "Opa" is a more familiar form of "Vater" (father).

Robin Bloor and Ekant discuss the emotional impact of using "Opa" in German, suggesting it evokes a sense of endearment.

Vanya notes that "Opa" is repeated twice in the text, indicating a specific intent in the German version.

Translation of "Sein" and "Wesen"

Robin Bloor and Ekant discuss the translation of "Wesen" as "being" in English, noting its dual meanings in German.

SW clarifies that "Wesen" can be both a noun and a verb, adding complexity to the translation.

Ekant mentions a feeling of pride in humanity's uniqueness when reading the German text, which Robin Bloor notes can be interpreted as irony in English.

SW suggests that the pride in peculiarity could be seen as ironic, as it implies that other beings might be as peculiar as humans.

Interpretation of "Asphyxiating" and "Numbing"

Vanya and Robin Bloor discuss the translation of "asphyxiating" as "numbing" in German, noting the difference in connotations.

Vanya finds the term "ash stick" more fitting, suggesting it means being overwhelmed by a bad smell.

Ekant explains that "bitoy" means to be sedated or intoxicated, adding another layer to the interpretation.

Robin Bloor connects the term to the stopping of the pulse and the Greek word "stent," suggesting it describes an orgasmic experience.

Etymology of "Sakaki" and "Looisos"

Robin Bloor explains the etymology of "Sakaki," which means "sack of shit" in various languages, and its connection to the large intestine.

He also discusses "Looisos," which means "toilet" in French, and its connection to the womb and the umbilical cord. Isos means "equivalent to."

Robin Bloor describes "Looisos" as an angel rather than an archangel, and its role in pregnancy and waste disposal.

He explains the significance of "Album Attempt," which means "collaborator with bacteria," and its role in the small intestine.

Discussion on Archangels and Angels

Robin Bloor elaborates on the roles of various archangels and angels, including their connections to organs and processes in the body.

He explains the significance of "Album Attempt" as the arch engineer, responsible for digesting food and making it absorbable.

Robin Bloor discusses the precision of the body's processes, such as the digestion of food and the absorption of water and salts.

He notes the schizophrenic nature of the book, which alternates between describing pregnancy and a solar system.

Translation of "Zufall" and "Glück"

Vanya and Ekant discuss the translation of "Zufall" as "chance" in English, noting the different meanings in German.

They also discuss the translation of "Glück" as "luck" in English, and the difficulty in finding exact translations.

Vanya notes that "Zufall" can also mean "accident," adding complexity to the translation.

Ekant suggests that "Glück" can mean "righteousness" in the context of the text, adding an ironic twist.

Interpretation of "Anulios"

Robin Bloor explains the etymology of "Anulios," which means the highest centers in man, and its connection to the moon.

He discusses the significance of "Moon" as the instinctive center in man, and its connection to sensation.

Ekant suggests that "Anulios" could be compared to the afterbirth, adding a biological perspective to the interpretation.

Robin Bloor notes the importance of the moon in the process of conception and the role of "Anulios" in this context.

Discussion on Elliptical Orbits and Catching Up

Robin Bloor explains that orbits are never circular but always elliptical, and the concept of geostationary orbits.

Ekant compares the elliptical movement to the breathing process, noting its natural rhythm.

Robin Bloor discusses the significance of the moon's orbit and the law of catching up, explaining its physical implications.

Ekant notes that the phrase "catching up" has a different meaning in German, suggesting a more literal interpretation.

Literary Techniques and Symbolism

Robin Bloor discusses Gurdjieff's literary technique of presenting opposite viewpoints without resolving them, leaving it to the reader.

He notes that the book often presents necessary and unnecessary actions side by side, challenging the reader to find a resolution.

Ekant suggests that some things have opposite viewpoints, and it may not always be possible to

resolve them.

Robin Bloor emphasizes the importance of humor as a reconciling force, noting its role in the book and in everyday life.