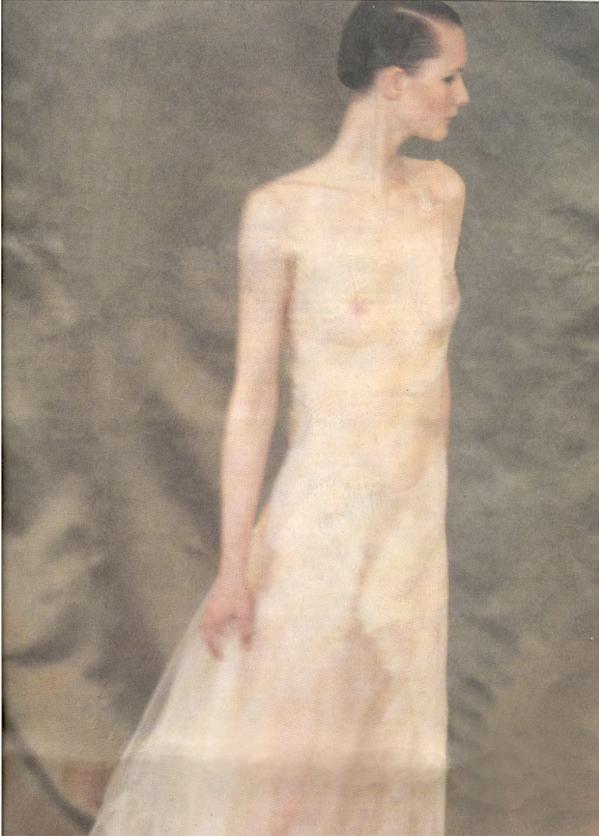


'ROOMERS'



A few parables further then Babel, a ruthless God changes the (nameless) wife of Lot into a pile of salt, his for the mere reason of looking back over her shoulder whilst fleeing for the burning cities of Sodoma and Gomorra.

_Gen.18-19

It took a long time but soon justice may will become hers as she reincarnates into a new brand of people, listening to the name of 'roomers'.

A 'man-made' Heaven is knocking on our door. Technology it appears will soon allow us to travel through time, in the image of this nameless woman. See it as a happy kind of euthanasia, because one won't die, that's for sure. The applied technique incorporates that all fluids from the human body are tapped at high speed and exchanged by a jelly substance. In this 'glazed' condition it becomes possible to freeze the human body without damage and awake it somewhere further in the future. This process can be repeated ad infinitum so that a platform is created for travellers to surf on the waves of time; stepping in and out new time zones, meeting descendants along the way. One basic rule needs to be respected however. Candidates have to reach an age well beyond retirement, have lived a life more or less how we know it to be, otherwise the whole machinery will fall flat.

Thus a whole new time frame is heading toward us, whereby say a couple in their early forties drops their parents at the terminal as for a holiday - compare it with a cruise or an airport terminal, nothing more. Tears, hugs and kisses. A few weeks later we see the parents pick up 'another' elderly couple in turn at a terminal in an exotic place. 'They' are their own children again who have come to age. Hugs and kisses. Even the favourite dog has made it this time.

This journey, the brochure explains, is open for everybody. Even the poorest bump can invest a few dimes and see it grow into a fortune over a few centuries. Time will do its work. The state has turned into the biggest sponsor as it sees a heavy load of social health care fall of its shoulders; sees its collective debt nullified.

Where then is the name 'roomers' coming from ? A roomer first of all takes the pressure away of the younger generations populating earth, and since the future is bulking of empty space...

Roomers also 'see' the world as a manifold (lot). With every stop the traveller buys an all-in ticket that includes a physiological check-up : eyesight, hearing, bone structure, muscular abilities, memory are improved in accordance with the prevailing medical modalities. Each time the world will look brighter, more colourful and intense as if entering in a newly done room.

Projected into time, the process of ageing will in fact be stopped, even reversed. Youth will be remembered as a long bygone embryological phase. If we account for a maximum life term of 170 years that the human body is considered to endure, divide such trough the amount of trips we can make, how much time do we have left after 65 : infinite !

As time expands, the fringes of the universe come into perspective and so the ultimate question can be raised. Shall we be able to meet our ancestors already deceased and be able to look back over our shoulder in time as radical as such ? Who can tell ? Who knows what in a (not so distant) future can genetically be reconstructed and achieved.

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