

Impressum

Klaus Bung: Morningale - An extravaganza

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EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

This prose poem describes the rude awakening of a masterful woman in a Latin country. 'But that, surely, is blasphemy!'

Klaus Bung:**Morningale**

An extravaganza

Laura! Laura! She is not a witch, but she always goes to bed with a broomstick. That is neither her husband nor her lover. She uses it to silence her battery of alarms. But last night she had broken it on her husband's back. That had silenced him, too. He is now a battered husband and, mercifully, an absent one.

As the starlings start their car alarm dawn chorus, chasing all car owners of the quarter out of 'the rank sweat of their ensemäed beds'(1)^, her eighteen alarm clocks go off one by one, starting fortissimo, several minutes apart, then overlapping and continuing into a great crescendo, to ffff, with different sounds and radio stations on each. She has carefully placed them at precise angles in all parts of her room. They must ffforce her out of bed, however short or lively her night may have been. This is her morning concert. She lets it go on for several minutes before she furies out of bed, races from one to the next, dives under the bed from various angles, jumps to the ceiling where three systems are suspended and tries to shut them all up before they start again. She does not succeed and lets her systems have their way. Music, as she keeps saying, plays an important part in her life.

She drops back into bed. Here struggle giants like Luigi Nono with dwarfs like Albi Noni, Mo Zart with Boulez Bruital, Master

Singers with Bloody Beginners, Hinde Mith with Herda Mith, Wegda Mith and Hinde Ohne. It was she who commissioned Beethoven to write his atrocious Battle Symphony. In her quarters, Malbrough s'en va en guerre against A jolly good fellow. Beethoven called her his heroic a'. Bach listening to her morning concert suffered there, in her bedroom, his Sin Matthew Passion. His Sleepers-wake was wilfully ignored. No wise virgins in this house, no bloody virgin at all, but a smart woman, thank Devil. No oil neither, but plenty of vaseline.

In her bedroom, Edgar Varèse derridas Foucault. Gustav Mahler's children died of her vibrations, while his penguin clamoured for aunt Arctica. Here her cock Thomas Mann witnessed the morning cacophony, which inspired him to write Dr Faustus (Adrian's solitary pleasures): This 'durch fünfzig Takte hingefende, mit dem Gekicher einer Einzelstimme beginnende und rapide um sich greifende, Chor und Orchester erfassende, unter rhythmischen Umstürzen und Konterkarierungen zum Tutti-Fortissimo grauenhaft anschwellende, überbordende, sardonische Gaudium Gehennas, dieser aus Johlen, Kläffen, Kreischen, Meckern, Röhren, Heulen und Wiehern schauderhaft gemischten Salve (Regina) von Hohn- und Triumphgelächter der Hölle' (Thomas Mann, Doktor Faustus, S. 502)

She does not jump out of bed when the concert restarts. A battery of cuckoo clocks joins in the racket. She hugs her lover more tightly and cocks a snook at her absent husband. She calls him 'Der gehörnte Siegfried'. Sirens go off, flapping their wings. Somebody rings storm on the doorbell. Neighbours bang on walls, floor and ceiling to complain. She is oblivious to it all.

The cacophony has now been going on for two hours. Her cat and her canary have both died. Battle-wary, some of her alarms have packed up. She has a standing order with a catalogue firm and three new alarms are sent to her every week, at a quantity discount. Every Christmas, that company, having grown big through her custom and her recommendations among the Portuguese aristocracy, sends her a cuckoo clock from Germany. The cuckoos have been programmed to rock 'around-the-clock'. She calls them 'my jolly good Rockefellows'. She likes cocks and cuckoos.

Such are her weekday mornings. Only on Sunday does she become piously erudite and superimposes the disk with her Latin Rock Christmas Oratorio (it used to be spelt 'roque') on the general mêlée. She has installed a quadrophonic loudspeaker system, each set the size of a fridge, the sound makes you stagger when it hits you, and from all sides the ancient calls attack her, incessantly, fugato, and randomly repeated: 'puella, tibi dico: surge', 'surge et ingredere civitatem', 'surgens vade in vicum', 'surge et sterne tibi'. Half an hour passes, she ignores the divine commands (this is called Latin culture), and at last he, the fucking believer, to add insult to injury, jeers: 'exsurge baptizare et ablue' (Arise, and be baptized and get washed), and, fearing that he might baptize her in her slumber, a form of child abuse practised on babies by paedobaptists and the fate worse than death for adult heathens, she gets up. 'Even a bad fuck is

better than a good baptism any day,' she mutters. But that, surely, is blasphemy.

NOTES

The author has not inserted reference numbers to notes into the text because there might have been too many notes and they would inhibit the stormy flow of the text. Instead the notes, below, have been provided in the sequence in which the notes-needing words, names, and allusions, occur in the text.

1. 'the rank sweat of their enseatm'd beds':
Shakespeare: Hamlet 3:4
2. Luigi Nono with dwarfs like Albi Noni:
Luigi Nono (1924-1990), Italian composer of avant-garde music
Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751), Italian composer
3. Mo Zart with Boulez Bruital:
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791): Composer
German "zart" = tender

Pierre Boulez (1925-2016): French composer
brutal = brutal, French "bruit" = noise
4. Master Singers with Bloody Beginners:
"The Master Singers" (Die Meistersinger):
opera by Richard Wagner (1813-1883)
5. Hinde Mith with Herda Mith, Wegda Mith and Hinde Ohne:
Paul Hindemith (1895-1963): German composer, during his
lifetime often ridiculed by addicts of "classical music"
because of his "modern" style with many dissonances.
Among music lovers, German puns on his name abounded:

"Hin damit" (Throw it there) (cf Hindemith)
"Her damit" (Give it, fast)
"Weg damit" (Rubbish, chuck it in the bin; bin it)

Hinde-mith: with Hinde (mit = with)
Hinde-ohne: without Hinde (ohne = without)
6. Beethoven to write his atrocious Battle Symphony:

Beethoven wrote an orchestral piece called "Wellington's
Victory", also known as "The Battle Symphony" even though
it is not a symphony, but a medley in which he combined
(rather primitively, as some people think) several
popular tunes to characterise the nationalities
participating in the Battle of Vitoria. The tunes are:

"Rule Britannia"

"Malbrough s'en va-t-en guerre"

(Malbrough goes to war)
 (sung today in England to the text
 "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow"

"God Save the King"

Quote: "In their book 'Men of Music', Wallace Brockway and Herbert Weinstock termed the piece an 'atrocious potboiler'." (Wikipedia)

Malbrough s'en va en guerre against A jolly good fellow:
 "Malbrough goes to war" against A jolly good fellow.

7. Beethoven called her his heroic a':
 Beethoven's Symphony 3 is popularly known as the Eroica.
8. Sin Matthew Passion:
 Bach's "Saint Matthew Passion" depicts the suffering and death of Jesus in poetic and musical terms.
9. His Sleepers-wake: Bach wrote a cantata 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' (Sleepers, wake, a voice is calling)
10. No wise virgins: In the gospel of St Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus tells the story of the wise virgins who were always prepared for the unannounced arrival of the Bridegroom, in the middle of the night, or whenever, and therefore always had oil in their lamps - as opposed to the foolish virgins who did not prepare for such contingencies. Bach's cantata "Sleepers wake" reflects on this story.
11. Edgar Varèse derridas Foucault:
 Edgar Varèse (1883-1965): French composer
 Jacques Derrida (1930-2004): French philosopher
 Michel Foucault (1926-1984): French philosopher
12. Gustav Mahler's children: Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) wrote a song cycle "Kindertotenlieder" (Songs on the Death of Dead Children) based on poems by Friedrich Rückert.
13. Thomas Mann ... write Dr Faustus (Adrian's solitary pleasures): Thomas Mann's novel "Doktor Faustus: Das Leben des deutschen Tonsetzers Adrian Leverkühn" (Dr Faustus: The Life of the German Composer Adrian Leverkühn) does not describe Adrian's "solitary pleasures", but German "Faust" means "fist".

<p>(14) 'durch fünfzig Takte hinfeigende, mit dem Gekicher einer Einzelstimme beginnende und rapide um sich greifende, Chor und Orchester erfassende, unter rhythmischen Umstürzen und Konterkarierungen zum Tutti-Fortissimo grauenhaft anschwellende, überbordende, sardonische Gaudium Gehennas, dieser aus Johlen, Kläffen, Kreischen, Meckern, Röhren, Heulen und Wiehern schauderhaft gemischten Salve (Regina) von Hohn- und Triumphgelächter der Hölle'</p> <p>(Thomas Mann, Doktor Faustus, S. 502)</p>	<p>(14) These overboarding, sardonic highjinks of hell, sweeping through fifty bars, starting with the giggling of a single voice, rapidly spreading, catching hold of choir and orchestra, with rhythmical overturns and counter-attacks horribly swelling into a tutti fortissimo; this salvo (Regina) of hell's laughter of scorn and triumph, a horrific mixture of hooting, barking, screeching, nannying, belling, howling and neighing.</p> <p>([mis-] translated by Klaus Bung)</p>
<p>The word "(Regina)" has viciously been added by a diabolic copyist.</p>	

15. **Salve (Regina):**
Thomas Mann wrote "Salve" (a round of shots, or a sudden outburst of noise, like a round of shots). He did not write "Salvo" and he did not write "Regina". There is a famous Latin hymn in honour of the Virgin Mary, often sung in Roman Catholic Churches. It starts with the words "Salve Regina" (Be greeted, o Queen).

German "die Salve" = English "the salvo"
Latin: "Salve Regina": Canticle
16. **'Der gehörnte Siegfried' (The Horned Siegfried):** This refers to a popular German story from the 15th century, related to the sagas associated with the Nibelungenlied (Song of the Nibelungs) and Wagner's cycle of operas ("The Ring of the Nibelung"). Siegfried has acquired a layer of skin which is as hard as horn, and he can therefore not be wounded. But it can also mean that horns have been put on his head, that he has been cuckolded, i.e. his wife has been unfaithful to him.
17. **Sirens go off, flapping their wings:** Sirens are mechanical alarm systems, e.g. warning of air raids or other imminent danger. These are the sirens which "go off". But the Sirens are also magic creatures of Greek mythology, and they can fly, i.e. "flap their wings".
18. **rock 'around-the-clock'.** She calls them 'my jolly good Rockef**ell**ows': The Rockef**ell**er family is an influential family in American business and politics. She refers the song "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow".

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19. Latin Rock Christmas Oratorio (it used to be spelt 'roque'): Bach's Christmas Oratorio was composed during the musical Baroque period.
 20. 'puella, tibi dico: surge':
Damsel, I say unto thee, arise (Mark 5:41)

'surge et ingredere civitatem':
Arise, and go into the city (Acts 9:6)

'surgens vade in vicum':
Arise, and go into the street (Acts 9:11),

'surge et sterne tibi':
Arise, and make thy bed (Acts 9:34).

'exsurge baptizare et ablue':
Arise, and be baptized and get washed (Acts 22:16)
 21. paedobaptists: Paedobaptists are not paedophiles, but churches, like most main stream western churches (e.g. Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran) who baptise children (paido-). Paedobaptism (infant baptism) is the opposite of credobaptism (believers' baptism, baptism of adults), which presupposes that the person to be baptised must understand the doctrines of the Christian faith. Baptists and Pentecostals practise credobaptism.

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