The Songs of Maldoror

O octopus, with your silken look! whose soul is inseparable from mine: you must beautiful inhabitant of the terrestrial globe, who have at your disposal a seraglio of four hundred suckers; you in whom, linked indestructibly by a common accord, the sweet communicative virtue and the divine graces are nobly present, as if in their natural residence, why are you not with me, your mercury belly against my aluminum breast, both of us sitting on some seashore rock, to contemplate the spectacle I adore!

1. CLARIFICATION: It needs to be made clear that this is not an “oil spill.” This is a manmade disaster. Depending on which official version you chose to believe, anywhere between 5,000 to 200,000 gallons of oil have been gushing into the ocean every day since April 22, 2010. A “spill” is what happens when a drinking glass of water tips over; this is and always has been an unstoppable, unpluggable, uncleanable, uncontrollable, unleashed manmade geyser of toxic disaster.

2. PEOPLE’S TRIBUNALS FOR ECOTERRORISTS: An injury to one is an injury to all! We charge every BP America executive and governmental overseer of offshore oil drilling with manslaughter and ecocide. The mansions, yachts, and private jets seized from these executives and bureaucrats will be converted into sandboxes, tree forts, rain gardens, greenhouses, and amusement parks. The accused must face a people’s tribunal and stand trial in the Gulf Shore communities that their actions (and inactions) have affected. The jury will be made up of those drawn from the communities that their actions (and criminal inactions) has most affected, particularly the families of those eleven workers killed when the BP rig exploded. Bussed in from the cities, the underground, and the countryside, members of the Earth Liberation Front and Earth First! should be on hand to witness the proceedings, especially those who are currently serving harsh prison sentences for their work in defense of the natural world.

3. DISMANTLING OF ALL OIL, COAL, AND NUCLEAR POWER COMPANIES: The obscene perpetuation of environmental devastation and endless wars in the name of energy company profits cannot be tolerated any longer. In the name of brown pelicans, shrimp, frigate birds, marlins, sea bass, laughing gulls, octopi, and piping plovers, we demand an immediate and total cessation of the violent industrialized extraction of oil and coal from the Earth. We also call for the shutting down of all nuclear power facilities whose foul radioactive wastes threaten ecologies everywhere.

4. DISSOLUTION OF ALL MEDIA CORPORATIONS: It should be clear to everyone following the news coverage of this atrocity that corporate media serves only the interests of their stockholders and the State. All equipment and broadcast network technology currently used to disseminate these outrageous lies and propaganda (“We’re glad that you’re on the job, Admiral”; “Don’t worry—warm water microbes break down the oil”) is to be collectivized and redistributed on street corners in order to encourage more participation and free expression in the report and analysis of such tragedies.

There are monstrous 10-mile long by 3 miles wide “plumes” or tentacles that continue to grow! The media here is focused on the “sheen” on the surface while this enormous monster grows beneath the waves. And they repeat the official estimates of 210,000 gallons per day (up from the original 42,000) when it may be ten times that much—millions of gallons per day. One BP official said more or less “isn’t it great how we get to try out new things.” In other words, create a catastrophe and then grope around in the dark for a way out of it. In a CNN fiasco of a report, a reporter interviewed another BP official and at the end said—this is totally unbelievable—“We’re all praying.” As if BP is some kind of victim that CNN, the public we suppose, is praying for.

This situation is in so many ways beyond normal insanity, —Max Cafard, New Orleans

We’ve seen the graffiti in Mobile, Alabama: “When life gives you oil spills, make Molotovs!”

THE SURREALIST MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Declaration of May 21st, 2010 * www.surrealistmovement-usa.org