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WILD SHARKA AH!

We have an old Czech tale about a girl's war.

Women were disgusted by men's rule and they started an uprising and fought. Not for emancipation; they wanted to rule themselves. One of the female heroes was Šárka - the English transcription would be probably „Shaarkah“. She committed suicide at the end: she jumped down from a high rock. - Today there is a nature reserve on a Prague suburb named „Wild Shaarkah“.

We live close to the reserve; I like the name; and I like the mythical fighting women from the tale. So this is my personal fanning.



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I was surprised and immediately became enthusiastic with the fact that people in western countries create their own zines for a couple of friends - just for fun. Moreover I discovered that SF fanzines are usually published by just one person - not by a SF club which was necessary if you wanted to publish a fanzin in our country.

Why this cooperation of several people was inevitable? - Not everybody had access to xerox machines before the revolution; if the circulation was high, it would be too expensive for just one person to pay it, and officially it was forbidden to sell any amateur printed stuff. The authorities became suspicious in case that you wouldn't have an organization /such as Union of Socialist Youth/ that would "protect" you. And our fanzines were based mostly on amateur translations of foreign SF stories - and it needed cooperation of several persons: translators, editors, typists, illustrators and persons with access to xerox machines.

It's everything changed by now.

There is plenty of topics about which I want to communicate with my friends, lot of impressions that I want to share with them, and a plenty of stuff which is too special, uninteresting or personal for readers of Ikarie magazine /for which I should write more moderate and not too crazy articles/.

I shall probably concentrate mostly on SF and feminism. What concerns politics, the environmental topics especially attract me. And - the drawing and graphic work! What a pleasure that I can try this! On this field I am really the worst kind of an amateur...

WHY A HORROR TO BE A WOMAN!

I finished reading of an anthology of horror stories by women edited by Lisa Tuttle. It was published by Women's Press and its name is Skin of the Soul.

I haven't read many horror stories before; so, this anthology gave me a completely new insight into possibilities, capabilities of the genre. Before, I was slightly suspicious that horrors are in principal all garbage. Now I see that horrors are literature. Moreover, these stories have some feminine specificity which fascinates me and attracts me as a reader.

I read somewhere that boys in their drawings prefer action, races, fight, movement, but girls prefer to draw rooms, inner spaces of houses, castles, gardens. Perhaps that's the very essence of the "feminine" feeling that the stories are bringing on. I mean the insight into the inner world of the heroines: mapping of the inner space of their souls.

The fears in the anthology are often connected with feminine body /with these strange processes which occur in it independently on the person's will/ or with feminine weakness, pliability, submission... quire, how my image of a typical, average, model woman differs from that. During my life in socialism, I learned that women are strong, self-sufficient, stubborn beings, mostly manipulating their passive and dull male spouses!

If I would write a "feminist" horror story, it would probably be about the dread of men who are boring, undecided, demanding the others /women/ for some manipulation. Or I would express the steadily suppressed aggressivity against all the time yelling and whimpering children, steadily demanding some care and entertainment /this is still more attractive for me in my present situation/.

I know that it would be a shocking blasphemy, but anyway, I would like to write a story about a MOTHER OF MUTANTS which treats her deformed freak children just according to her instincts. She is isolated with them in a cage/probably for some scientific experiments of extraterrestrials/ and her task is very simple - to produce new mutants. From time to time the "breeders" take away some of her offsprings; the cage is overcrowded and mother is rather aggressive - she fights with her children for food, for their toys and so on. She hates the permanent noise and she tries to find out how to keep the children in silence. It also depends on her decision which child she will push into the tube that takes the mutants away; she decides very carefully which freak she should get rid of first...

THE RICHER - THE BETTER -

- say our politicians, and claim: if the market develops and everybody is rich, we will be able also to care better of the environments!

But will the new enterprises behave environmentally friendly? I am afraid that foreign partners could offer us the factory equipment which they can't use in their own countries - such as production of sprays with freons or PET bottles... and if the price is decent, we shall gratefully accept!



The Law about Environmental Protection - though it was prepared long before 1989, i. e. before the revolution, was withdrawn from the work schedule of our government!!! - Now, it's turn of "more important" laws - such as law about privatization. But the new private enterprises don't have any duty, not to harm the environment... scaring, isn't it?

Everybody is fascinated by MARKET ECONOMY: the richer we shall be... etc. But Communists did the same, they postponed environmental problems to "better future times when we shall be rich"...

"Anti-nuke" groups of Austrian Greens which object against our nuclear plants wanted to meet our President during his visit in Salzburg, but he didn't accept their suggestion for meeting them! - It means that nuclear energy is our last hope and we can't afford to discuss about it much.

I pick this information from a highly critical environmentalist's magazine NIKA. There is perhaps some one-sidedness in these articles but in principle I trust that NIKA is right.