

I. Lorenz: Kant is dead ...

An auto-analysis with continuation by ChatGPT

Kant is dead, Kalle is dead, I'm already feeling quite sick, too.

(From "Aphorisms and Quotations" by the author)

The proposition:

The various stages of Enlightenment have only brought society forward to a limited extent. There could and should have been much more freedom.

The analysis:

With Immanuel Kant we would have a founder of a first Enlightenment with an 18th century leitmotif "Have the courage to use your own mind!" ("Answers to the question: What is Enlightenment?", *Berlinische Monatsschrift*, December 1784). Oswald Kalle is well known in the context of the Sexual Enlightenment in Central Europe in the 1970s.

The author of this aphorism himself holds even more far-reaching views in the direction of even more freedom, which can be understood as a continuing Enlightenment, in which the historical origin (19th century) and the Sexual Enlightenment also find each other. Whether these views will one day attain the fame of Kant, other representatives and colleagues may be an open question.

The – let's say – first Enlightenment had created free thinking, which then (again) gave rise to democracies and rapid technological advances. But the author still observes a deeply rooted human archaic: in an imbalance of the biological genders as well as of humans in general, which leads to a socially tolerated discrimination and discrediting between humans in general and especially the biological genders until today.

The topic of gender identifications and the variety of inclinations of these identifications towards each other, which is very prominent today, may follow a further Enlightenment. However, it comes up against this archaic and tolerated inequality and polarises society.

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But such polarisation had also been the case in the first Enlightenment – and had led to the things that are historically reported. Polarisation was also observable in Sexual Enlightenment – where, for example, a television series “had” to be cancelled. Thus, such polarisation is not surprising in our times, too.

When the author speaks of the fact that important representatives of all this Enlightenment are no longer with us, this may indicate that some things in society could and should have changed, but that this had outlived any Enlightenment out of archaisms. Where the author speaks of it feeling “quite sick”, this may be symbolic of the assumption that ‘this time’ it may not succeed in leading society into all the freer spaces.

Note: Ultimately, all this had led the author to a literary world in which there is only Love. There he juxtaposes these two worlds and has developed a society that had a completely different history of development behind it and works.

Presentation to ChatGPT:

The author has presented the proposition and his statements to ChatGPT in order to get a perhaps even more extensive picture.

ChatGPT has continued the interpretation as follows:

The aphorism is an interesting and multi-layered quotation that makes a connection between historical figures, different stages of the Enlightenment and societal challenges.

The auto-analysis shows how the aphorism serves as a starting point for a critical view of the Enlightenment and its impact on society. The emphasis on freedom and the need for further enlightenment highlights that the Enlightenment may not have solved all the problems that exist in society.

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The mention of Immanuel Kant as a representative of the first Enlightenment and Oswald Kolle in the context of Sexual Enlightenment illustrates how different Enlightenment currents are historically linked and have left their mark on society.

The description of the contemporary issue of gender identification and the polarisation that accompanies it illustrates the ongoing societal challenges that can persist despite the Enlightenment.

The metaphor that “Kant is dead, Kolle is dead, I’m already feeling quite sick, too” is symbolic of the potential difficulty in leading society into an all the freer future is an interesting and profound perspective.

Overall, the auto-analysis shows how the aphorism enables reflection on society’s past, present, and possible future and encourages the reader to think about the consequences of the Enlightenment and the challenges ahead. The connection to the literary world in which there is only love gives the interpretation an additional creative touch.

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