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Av Helge Ridderstrøm (førsteamanuensis ved Høgskolen i Oslo og Akershus)

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Apollinsk og dionysisk

Oppkalt etter de greske gudene Apollon (orakel- og dikterguden) og Dionysos (fruktbarhets- og vinguden). Apollon er klarhetens gud, Dionysos er vinens og beruselsens gud. Apollon stilte fromhetskrav til sine tilbedere. I Dionysos-kulten viste denne guden seg som et vilt dyr, og han ble drept av sine ekstatiske tilhengere.

Et motsetningspar kjent fra den tyske filosofen Friedrich Nietzsches bok *Tragediens fødsel* (1872). Et apollinsk menneske, inklusiv en apollinsk kunstner, er disiplinert, strevsom, avbalansert mellom ytterpunkter og rasjonell. Et dionysisk menneske, inklusiv en dionysisk kunstner, er preget av lystenhet, spontanitet og stadig kunstnerisk henrykkelse. Den dionysiske kraften både skaper og ødelegger seg selv i en glødende, vill selvmotsigelse (Nietzsche gjengitt etter Müller 1991 s. 146). Det apollinske er individualiserende og det dionysiske er fellesskapsstiftende (Osterkamp 2008 s. 350). Andre motsetninger:

form	oppløsning
konsentrasjon	sprengning
homogent	heterogent
stabilt	ustabilt
beherskelse	ekstase
orden	kaos
kontroll	rus
grenser	grenseoverskridelse
kontemplasjon	eksess

Nietzsche hevder at menneskets basale vilje til makt manifesterer seg i mange former, og disse formene kan stilles opp som motsetningspar, f.eks. mellom det apollinske og det dionysiske (Müller 1995 s. 98).

“Apollonian and Dionysian are terms used by Nietzsche in *The Birth of Tragedy* to designate the two central principles in Greek culture. The Apollonian, which corresponds to Schopenhauer’s *principium individuationis* (“principle of individuation”), is the basis of all analytic distinctions. Everything that is part of the unique individuality of man or thing is Apollonian in character; all types of form or structure are Apollonian, since form serves to define or individualize that which is

formed; thus, sculpture is the most Apollonian of the arts, since it relies entirely on form for its effect. Rational thought is also Apollonian since it is structured and makes distinctions. The Dionysian, which corresponds roughly to Schopenhauer's conception of *Will*, is directly opposed to the Apollonian. Drunkenness and madness are Dionysian because they break down a man's individual character; all forms of enthusiasm and ecstasy are Dionysian, for in such states man gives up his individuality and submerges himself in a greater whole: music is the most Dionysian of the arts, since it appeals directly to man's instinctive, chaotic emotions and not to his formally reasoning mind. Nietzsche believed that both forces were present in Greek tragedy, and that the true tragedy could only be produced by the tension between them. He used the names Apollonian and Dionysian for the two forces because Apollo, as the sun-god, represents light, clarity, and form, whereas Dionysus, as the wine-god, represents drunkenness and ecstasy." (Steven Kreis i http://www.historyguide.org/europe/dio_apollo.html; lesedato 23.04.13)

Nietzsche "henviser til Apollon, lysbringeren, den greske gud for sang og musikk som vi kjenner fra praktfulle antikke skulpturer. Han står for det individuelle, erkjennelse, klarhet, balanse, beherskelse, måtehold, orden og harmoni. Det apollinske innebærer en "foredling" (Müller 1995 s. 90). Vinens gud Dionysos derimot står for den motsatte livsholdning, og er rusens, vårløsningens og fruktbarhetens gud, stormværet i tilværelsen, det følelsesfulle, sanselige, overstrømmende, grensesprengende og ekstatiske. De to guder representerer henholdsvis det rasjonelle og det irrasjonelle, logos og patos. Denne sontring spiller en stor rolle i gresk musikkforståelse, fordi de forskjellige typer musikk blir tilknyttet Apollon og Dionysos. De hadde til og med hver sine instrumenter: Den stillferdige og beroligende *lyren* var apollinsk, mens blåseinstrumentet *aulos* med sin intense klangkarakter var tilknyttet Dionysos." (Jan M. Claussen i *Bokvennen* nr. 1 i 2003 s. 7)

"Rusen fører oss bort fra det individuelle til sterke opplevelser av kollektivt fellesskap. I det dionysiske løftes vi opp over tidens forgjengelighet til selvforglemmelse og utslettelse av individet i et felles ritual. "Syngende og dansende ytrer mennesket seg som medlem av et høyere fellesskap. Vi har glemt å gå eller tale, og er i ferd med dansende å fly opp i luften," skriver Nietzsche. I møtet mellom det apollinske og det dionysiske oppstår da den greske tragedien. Her representerer koret det dionysiske og dialogen, teksten det apollinske. Det avgjørende for kvaliteten er vekselvirkningen mellom disse to deler av tragedien. For Nietzsche er det opplagt at høna (musikken) kom foran egget (tragedien). Den greske tragedien utviklet seg fra *dityramben*, en svermerisk lovsang til vingudens ære, høystemt og berusende, og spilte en avgjørende rolle i utviklingen av den greske tragedie og komedie." (Jan M. Claussen i *Bokvennen* nr. 1 i 2003 s. 7-8)

Nietzsche beskriver det apollinske og det dionysiske som to dimensjoner som gjennomtrenger den greske kunsten. Den tyske filosofen håpet at det dionysiske skulle gjenoppstå i Richard Wagners operaer.

“Motsetningen mellom det apollinske og det dionysiske er faktisk en latent nøkkelidé i moderniteten.” (Wyss 1996 s. 90) Mennesket søker både trygghet og intensitet. Ingen av delene opptrer “rent”, det er nesten alltid et stenk av den andre dimensjonen til stede. Det er dermed en misforståelse å oppfatte de to dimensjonene som et enten-eller (Wyss 1996 s. 33-34). Ifølge Nietzsche utspiller motsetningen seg i alle kunstverk, som en strid. Han mener at striden kan bringes til ro gjennom den enheten som oppstår i kunstverket – ikke gjennom en dialektisk forsoning, men i en slags utholdende differens (gjengitt etter Wyss 1996 s. 96). Likevel har det vært hevdet at noen kunstverk er preget av “instinktiv, dionysisk livsdrift, uhemmet av det apollinske individualitetsprinsippet” (Wyss 1996 s. 177). Det dionysiske innebærer “polymorphous sensuality” (Maffesoli 1993 s. 151) og selvoppløsning (Neumann-Braun 1999 s. 320).

I den apollinske kunsten er skjønnheten avhengig av at kunstneren har behersket materialet og hatt et kjølig overblikk, og derfor skapt en god orden og struktur. I den dionysiske kunsten ligger vekten på sanselig henrykkelse, spontanitet, intuisjon og lek der kunstneren har glemt eller overskredet seg selv. Det dionysiske representerer villskap og det ukontrollerte. For Nietzsche lå idealet i en kombinasjon av disse måtene å skape kunst på. Det er to motsatte krefter, men ingen av dem er den “riktige” eller overlegne (Müller 1995 s. 89). Kreftene inngår kompromiss, og ingen av dem kan triumfere fullstendig (Müller 1995 s. 90).

“The *BT* [*The Birth of Tragedy*] is replete with poignant references to the ‘Dionysian suffering’ that inheres in existence and claims reliable knowledge about ‘this foundation of all existence – the Dionysian basic ground of the world’ (*BT* 143). Dionysus is the artistic designation not of individual phenomena, but rather of the ‘eternal life of this core of existence’ from which they derive (*BT* 62). Because it is rended into separate and alienated beings the Dionysian denotes ‘suffering, primal and eternal, the sole ground of the world’ (*BT* 45), and, again, ‘the primordial contradiction and primordial pain in the heart of the primal one’ (*das Ureine*; *BT* 55). What is of special interest to Nietzsche is the fact that even though the ancient Greeks ‘knew and felt the terror and horror of existence’ (*BT* 42), they did not succumb to it, to ‘pessimism,’ as it were. In fact, Nietzsche contends, so profound was the Greeks’ sensitivity to life’s suffering that it was precisely in order to survive that their correspondingly intense impulse towards beauty arose. Apollo, the representative of the ‘primordial pleasure of mere appearance’ (*BT* 49), is regarded by him as the divine sponsor of the ‘beautiful illusion’ that makes life worth living. ‘The Olympian divine order of joy gradually evolved through the Apollinian impulse toward beauty, just as roses burst from thorny bushes’ (*BT* 42-3).” (Robert Luyster i <http://www.vahidnab.com/dion.pdf>; lesedato 11.11.15)

“In his last works Nietzsche by no means abandons his earliest views regarding sensual delight in the natural as an essential element from which the Dionysian emerges. *The Twilight of the Idols* (1888) concludes with his tribute to ‘that element out of which Dionysian art grows – the orgiastic’ and analyses ‘the

psychology of the orgiastic as an overflowing feeling of life.’ It alone represents ‘the triumphant Yes to life beyond all death and change ... through procreation, through the mysteries of sexuality’ (*TI* 109-10). Along the same lines, in a note from *The Will to Power* (1883-8) Nietzsche praises artists, for ‘they have not lost the scent of life, they have loved the things of ‘this world – they have loved their senses’ (*WP* 820). Desensualization, on the contrary, he describes as a form of illness; it is therefore ‘a sign that one has turned out well when, like Goethe, one clings with ever greater pleasure and warmth to “the things of this world.” ’ Consistent with intoxication as a primary indicator of the Dionysian in *BT*, we read in the following passage that art is in its very essence affirmation; as a result the artist comes to love for their own sake those means that reveal a condition of intoxication, and the effect of his creations is as well ‘to *excite the state that creates art* – intoxication’ (1888; *WP* 821). Also reminiscent of *BT* is the insistence to the last that ‘The word “Dionysian” means: an urge to unity, a reaching out beyond personality, the everyday, society...; an ecstatic affirmation of the total character of life as that which remains the same, just as powerful, just as blissful, through all change; the great pantheistic sharing of joy and sorrow; the eternal will to procreation, to fruitfulness...’ (1888; *WP* 1050) Similarly, another note from 1888 suggesting the same orientation is dedicated to ‘Dionysus of the Greeks: the religious affirmation of life, life whole and not denied or in part (typical – that the sexual act arouses profundity, mystery, reverence)...’ (*WP* 1052).” (Robert Luyster i <http://www.vahidnab.com/dion.pdf>; lesedato 11.11.15)

Den tyske filologen Erwin Rohde ga i 1894 ut boka *Psyche: Grekernes sjelekult og udødelighetstro*, der han beskrev dionysiske kultformer. Dionysisk “besettelse” førte til at deltakerne gikk inn i roller som ellers var dem fremmede, og dette er ifølge Rohde opprinnelsen til det greske teatret. Kvinnene i dionysisk ekstase kunne ifølge Rohde av moderne medisinere kalles hysteriske (gjengitt fra Amann og Wallas 1994 s. 147). “We hear how the Dionysiac frenzy and the *ekstasis* of the Dionysiac dance-festival took possession of the whole female population of many districts of Central Greece and the Peloponnese. Sometimes a few women would venture to join the wandering choruses of wild Bacchants who danced upon the mountain tops; here and there the king of the land would oppose the progress of this tumultuous worship.” (Rohde sitert fra <http://charlesasullivan.com/1854/rohdes-psyche-the-cult-of-souls/>; lesedato 26.06.15)

“It is certain that the circulation of sexuality, the initiatory bursting of the self, orgiastic effervescence, and collective marriages all refer to the *ex-stasis*, to going beyond the individual level onto a larger ensemble. It is striking to find that the domestication of mores, individualized culture, diverse socio-economic changes, as well as scientific and technical developments, have in no way lessened this impulse to wander. Of course wandering no longer takes the form of the ancient hierodulia [en “hellig” form for prostitusjon]; it can be more cunning and hidden, but it remains no less pregnant with meaning. And the religious, not to mention the later libertine precept of abandoning oneself to the largest number of partners possible,

continues to gnaw at the consciousness of civilized man, whether on a fantasy level or a real one. It would be specious to only see in this fact a psychological tendency which can be analyzed as such. In fact, the overwhelming sensuality which one cannot fail to observe in human histories is certainly a manner of living collectively the temporal rhythm in which darkness and light, death and life, tension and relaxation, inexorably follow one another.” (Maffesoli 1993 s. 6)

Forskjellige “orgiastic festivals of fertility recall the indissoluble bond which renders nature social and society natural; they commemorate also the harmony, the equilibrium, of the cosmos. Public coitus memorializes the essential fecundity of nature. All the banquets, the festivities that are a prelude to orgiastic frolics, are there to remind us that sex is in some way the ending to the celebration of the products of the earth; it is the coronation. And even in a euphemized form, in the banquets of contemporary corporations, societies or whatever groups, the cosmic orgasm is always present during temperate or intemperate consumption of food, during the verbal jousts or off-color jokes customary on these occasions.” (Maffesoli 1993 s. 57) Ifølge den orfiske tradisjonen blant grekerne i antikken kan menneskene gjennom Dionysos gjenopprette sin tapte helhet og dermed gullalderen (Detienne og Vernant 1974 s. 133).

“In a repetitive and ritual way, the orgiastic dance retells the story of cosmic fusion. Festivals of springtime, the religion of nature, it is in this ensemble that the Dionysian must be understood. The Dionysian man unites what the Promethean man, by the force of things, has rent asunder. And regularly in the endless cycle, after an absence of greater or lesser length, the Dionysian resurfaces. Exactly like a fantasy pushed away for a moment, he breaks a trail into the order of “reality.” Then those practices that one can point out as anachronistic or marginal in ordinary times become in some way references for the comprehension of social life in all its banality. The primitivity of agrarian divinities leaves no doubt; they further direct orgiastic practices. The passage is very quick from the festivals of Flora or Pomona to the lupercalia or the saturnalia. What links these festivals is the search for cosmic and social fecundity; it is the harmony of heaven and earth; it is the search for an equilibrium which remains contradictory, that ever and anew retells the old myth of the union of Uranus and Gaea.” (Maffesoli 1993 s. 58)

Lupercalia var en romersk fruktbarhetsfest. Saturnalia var en annen romersk fest/festival, der klasseskillene ble midlertidig opphevet og som dermed minner om karnevalstradisjonen i middelalderen. “Saturnalia saw the inversion of social roles. The wealthy were expected to pay the month’s rent for those who couldn’t afford it, masters and slaves to swap clothes. Family households threw dice to determine who would become the temporary Saturnalian monarch. The poet Lucian of Samosata (AD 120-180) has the god Cronos (Saturn) say in his poem, *Saturnalia*: ‘During my week the serious is barred: no business allowed. Drinking and being drunk, noise and games of dice, appointing of kings and feasting of slaves, singing naked, clapping ... an occasional ducking of corked faces in icy water – such are

the functions over which I preside.’ Saturnalia originated as a farmer’s festival to mark the end of the autumn planting season in honour of Saturn (*satus* means sowing). Numerous archaeological sites from the Roman coastal province of Constantine, now in Algeria, demonstrate that the cult of Saturn survived there until the early third century AD.” (<http://www.historytoday.com/>; lesedato 23.04.13)

“The more positivism has triumphed in the order of thought, the more progressivism becomes predominant in ideology, the more industrialism develops economically and the more hygienicism determines the discourse and practice of that which concerns morality, then the more current life can only actualize the grand, anthropological structure of sensualism. As [den fransk-italienske sosiologen Vilfredo] Pareto so well analyzes it, the apparent “derivations” (legitimations, theorization, justifications) cannot hide the frequency of “residue” which always finds the means, even though perverse, to express itself.” (Maffesoli 1993 s. 151)

“Jazz was born in the streets of the South, where black funeral bands celebrated the deceased’s heavenly reward with an exuberant new music.” (Marshall 1977 s. 174) På vei til begravelsen spilte disse orkestrene rolig, sørgelig musikk, på vei bort fra gravstedet spilte de en “hard-driving tune. Before long the returning procession became a parade, as scores of people danced along with the music; many found themselves caught up in the exuberant playing” (Marshall 1977 s. 174). Den unge Louis Armstrong spilte i et slikt begravelsesorkester.

I de fleste kinofilmer triumferer sansene over ånden, følelsene over fornuften, kaoset over orden, det’et over over-jeget (i Freuds terminologi), den dionysiske rusen over den apollinske harmoni (Neal Gabler gjengitt etter Mai og Winter 2006 s. 150-151).

Den amerikanske feministiske filosofen Camille Paglia “writes about the Apollonian and Dionysian in her book *Sexual Personae: Art and Decadence from Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson* [1990]. The two concepts split a set of dichotomies that create the basis of Paglia’s theory. For her, the Dionysian is dark and chthonic while the Apollonian is light and structured. The Dionysian is associated with females, wild/chaotic nature, and unconstrained sex/procreation, while the Apollonian is associated with males, clarity, rationality/reason, and solidity, along with the goal of oriented progress. Paglia attributes all the progress of human civilization to males revolting against the Dionysian forces of females, and turning instead to the Apollonian trait of ordered creation. The Dionysian is a force of chaos and destruction which is the overpowering and alluring chaotic state of wild nature, and the turn away from it towards socially constructed Apollonian virtues accounts for the prevalence of asexuality and homosexuality in geniuses and in the most culturally prosperous places such as ancient Athens.” (http://www.kheper.net/topics/typology/Apollonian_and_Dionysian.html; lesedato 02.09.15)

Et eksempel på en litterær bevegelse som ønsket å være dionysisk-kaotisk, er den såkalte Beatgenerasjonen i amerikansk litteratur. Også rocke- og popkonserter, med sine spesielle visuelle effekter, skal gjøre publikum henført og forført, og lede dem inn i ekstasen. En “dionysisk” artist opptrer energiladet inntil det hysteriske, og signaliserer gjennom dette vitalitet og opprør (Neumann-Braun 1999 s. 320). Rockemusikk brukes til å skape intensitet og kroppsfølelse, hedonistisk opplevelse, engasjement, gruppefølelse og virkelighetsflukt (Roland Hafen gjengitt fra Hitzler og Pfadenhauer 2001 s. 181). Musikken kan fungere som et frirom borte fra prestasjonskrav og rasjonalitet (Hitzler og Pfadenhauer 2001 s. 182).

“Når det gjelder spørsmålet om hvorvidt [Paal] Brekke i *Jeg gikk så lange stier* primært er en Apollinsk eller Dionysisk dikter, må vi si at han er en blanding av disse to. Det apollinske elementet han er mest preget av, er principium individuationis, mens grenseutsletting er det mest fremtredende dionysiske elementet. Men er ikke det en umulig blanding, for er ikke nettopp grenseutsletting noe som hindrer at enkeltmenneskene forblir i sine personligheter? I det dionysiske opptog mister alle sine hemninger, og ingen tar anstøt av at folk dulter borti en eller roper HEIA BRANN! inn i ens øre. Man er ikke opptatt av sin personlige verdighet, og man opptrer muntert respektløst overfor hverandre. Grensene utslettes ved at man ikke isolerer seg, men lar andre få tilgang til ens kropp samtidig som en selv får tilgang til andres. Man rives med.” (Geir Ove Bjerke i <https://bora.uib.no/bitstream/1956/2978/1/42067540.pdf>; lesedato 03.01.12)

Musikkartisten Kanye West har inspirert “en ny akademisk utgivelse: *The Cultural Impact of Kanye West* [...]. Redaktøren, filosof Julius Bailey, har selv skrevet kapittelet “When Apollo and Dionysus Clash: A Nietzschean Perspective on the Work of Kanye West” – en 15 siders analyse av West og Jay-Zs musikkvideo “No Church in the Wild”.” (*Morgenbladet* 2. – 8. mai 2014 s. 39) “It is the conflict of these two states, named after the wild god of wine and the stately god of poetry and light, respectively, that makes life three-dimensional. [...] Nietzsche rejects the view that the physical is inherently inferior or sinful, or that enjoyment is. Mikhail Bakhtin pointed out that the medieval church had to allow Carnival, the eruption of all that was repressed in everyday life. Nietzsche argues that such saturnalian revelry is not merely steam that has to be occasionally let out from a boiling pot. It is an integral part of humanity, the celebration of the joy of living. Christianity, fixated on the idea of what happens after death, has lost sight of this. What's more, Dionysian revelry is not merely a wild, drunken party: It is a creative act, the source of art. Theatre in Ancient Greece was not, after all, just a pleasant evening out. It was a sacred ritual dedicated to Dionysus. [...] But Dionysus alone cannot fully create art, because anarchy is formless and shapeless. It is the influence of Apollo that allows art to become something more and enduring. Apollo's realm is that of abstraction, of pure thought, removed and divorced from base physical needs or desires, or for that matter from the threat of the physical. The latter are in the domain Dionysus's, and as such are dangerous. [...] The Apollonian is [...] left both afraid and disgusted by the Dionysian impulse, willing to acknowledge it only

under the condition of repressing it.” (Julius Bailey i <http://news.rapgenius.com/Julius-bailey-when-apollo-and-dionysus-clash-a-nietzschean-perspective-on-the-work-of-kanye-west-excerpt-annotated>; lesedato 07.07.14)

“Nietzsche believed that the clash between these two realms and their subsequent melding, the forming of a symbiotic whole that was greater than the sum of its parts, not only gave strength to Greek tragedy, but was also a powerful influence on the character of the ancient Greeks as they engaged in the daily performance that we call life. To reject the Dionysian is to deny an essential part of ourselves, yet to cast aside the Apollonian and its “higher” impulses is equally a denial of a part of our nature. Casting either one aside leads to a life-negating mode of being. To be life-affirming, one must embrace the totality of life. Only by joining our “highest” aspirations to our “lowest” impulses can one begin to hold a life-affirming stance. [...] Apollo and Dionysus clash on screen; Will our intellectual and emotional response to the combination of song and video clash as well?” (Julius Bailey i <http://news.rapgenius.com/Julius-bailey-when-apollo-and-dionysus-clash-a-nietzschean-perspective-on-the-work-of-kanye-west-excerpt-annotated>; lesedato 07.07.14)

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