

Comment to the movie 24/7 Passion of Life

by Alfred Rott, OStR, Dipl. Theologian

The film: a thrilling access to the subject of sexuality, that has always been driving the humans, to a subject that moral keeper – from religious or other ideological origins – occupied and abused again and again, unfortunately successfully, to repress and incapacitate the humans. The film is a (daring) attempt to step against this fear and sin practice, that is floating in the souls (more unconsciously) until today: in an original and refreshing way.

One of the central smart questions of the filmmakers is probably this one: how come, that the wonder-full “thing” sexuality came from bright light into undergrounds. So the film explores places, into which the repressed lust (and her “perversion”?) has drawn back. In the S&M scene the paradox coincidence of sexual gain of lust and submission = being victim meet. In our tradition this is certainly related to the glorification of the cross (instead of resurrection).

The primeval question about God – also this in central in the film, even if more subtle - and what he is and where he is (perhaps more likely “between the legs” than in a golden tabernacle). They are all sitting in gilded (?) cages, also the rich hotel heiress - and it is her that is leaving it. She persuades with her lust about herself and showing her luxurious body. The viewers in the club enjoy that, also those in the cinema.

Probably in every religion there are ever again streamings through the millenniums, that have praised sexuality in its variety as holy (holy – hole – complete); see the practices of temple prostitution, yes, the even some less concise “sacredness of marriage” of Christian moral theology. If Teilhard de Chardin is right, we are actually living a (new) revolution of love. That dark, retrogressive Powers want to impede this is evident; but these Powers are not where church patriarchs as well as Imams and Muftis want to locate them. (The evil is more likely to be found within those, who exactly know where it is to find.)

The film also made me melancholic. For example the character of „Elfriede“ doesn't get out of my mind: the elderly man with a war trauma (he cries while he is telling about it) finds his salvation in the role of the servile maid; I wished for him, that he could have lived a salvation (politically and also sexually: in a “true” abandon, that means an abandon within a relationship to a woman, that is herself also capable to abandoning herself). But: the film shows a life as it probably really is – and gives like this a number of messages, which especially theologians should not be afraid to reflect on. Therefore please promote it in these circles! Where people who are professionally related to salvation (perhaps from death), to Lust and Love (and their prevention), these are for example psychotherapists or other counsellors. Possible that religion teachers appraise it – and want to deal with the subject in their high school classes. Also suited as an alternative to bad porn-“education” in the relevant medias (“mediators”), which children and youth (and not only them) like to use. Congratulations to all participants! And a soon success story as cult movie!

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