

Zistwar “Pied Piper of Hamelin” ek WANTED 15,000 Youngsters

Ankor enn fwa enn kartunn briyan depi Deven T. (*Le Mauricien* Samdi 10 Septam, 2011)



Kartunn montre enn mizisyen pe zwe enn laflit kuma *Pied Piper of Hamelinti* fer, so laflit li logo FaceBook (enn espes let “f”), e kan li pe danse, ale, bann maws kompyuter (anplas lera) pe swiv li, ale.

Ala enn apersi zistwar lor ki sa kartunn la baze:

“Enn zur dan enn lavil apel Hamelin, dan Lalmayn, ti ena enn gran problem. Lera ti infeste tu kiksoz partu: stok manze ti infeste ar lera, lafarinn dan bulanzri ti infeste ar lera, ti ena lera dan tu lakantinn, lera ti pe fer bal dan lakwizinn sak lakaz. Politisyen o-puvwar dan lavil ti fupamal, ti koronpi, pa ti efisyan ditu. Lerla, kan problem ti vinn telman grav ki zot ti oblize fer kiksoz, tu seki zot ti sey fer pa ti marse. Okontrer, problem ti kontiyn anpire. Lera ti kontiyn peple. Dimunn ti pe dezespere. “Bizin fer kiksoz!” zot ti dir. “Bizin azir!” zot ti dir. Sa moman la, enn mizisyen ti pe pase ar so laflit, li ti arete dan Hamelin. Li anonse ki li, li kapav fer tu lera ale. Personn pa finn krwar li, me li finn sufle so laflit, tu lera finn swiv deryer li. Kumsa li finn lak zot tu. Zot tu finn al tom dan Larivyer Hamelin, nwaye. Me, lerla ki finn arive? Samem mizisyen la, li finn zwe enn lot ler lor so laflit, sann kut la li finn atir tu zanfan dan lavil Hamelin. Zot tu finn swiv li, li finn mont lao montayn Hamelin, tu zanfan finn galup deryer li, e zot tu finn angluti dan enn tru dan flan montayn apre li. Zame pa finn retruv zot ankor. Zis enn sel tipti zanfan finn sape, pu tom divan nu, pu rakont zistwar la.”

Ala enn apersi lor listorik zistwar la (An Angle, par fasilite – akoz finn pran buku surs direk; Konklizyon return an Kreol).

The Folk-Tale

“The Pied Piper of Hamelin” is the best-known of hundreds of similar stories, first written down from the 1200s onwards, 800 years ago, all over Europe. The best-known oral tale is set in the town in Germany called Hamelin, which during the Middle Ages had a very serious problem. In fact there were massive social upheavals and also the Plague all over Europe at that time. In many versions of the story the problem is, like the one in Hamelin, an infestation of rats. There are similar tales from other towns in Germany, from towns in France, in England and even in the Isle of Wight. The political rulers of the town had failed, the story goes, in everything they tried in order to get rid of the problem. Then a flutist came by in multi-coloured clothing, which accounts for his name. He said he could cure the ills. In the case where the problem was rats, he lured the rats away by playing on his flute. The rats all followed him and as he waded through the river, still playing his music, they all drowned in it. However, he later went on to lure all the children with his flute-music and with stories of a beautiful future. He lured them away and right into a hole in the mountain, where they were lost forever. One (or sometimes more), being gammy-legged or not getting into the hole in time, were left behind to tell the tale. The moral of the tale is that children should not blindly follow people who they do not know. (In some versions, there is an additional moral, that it was because the politicians did not keep their promise to pay the flutist that he stole all the children, the moral being that politicians ought to keep promises.)

The story is believed to be a myth based on the story/history of the Children’s Crusade of the year 1212, in which an estimated over 50,000 children/young men from all over Europe, but mainly Germany and France, literally followed leaders, and disappeared in a spread of mass hysteria, as they were on their way to Jerusalem, thus joining into the Crusades. Most of the “children” went to their deaths during the Children’s Crusade by following different leaders “to take the Holy Land back from the Muslims” peacefully, instead of by war. The Children’s Crusade was at the time of Pope Innocent III, and was in the middle of the 8 Crusades or so, at a time of great economic upheaval, causing peasants to be cast off the land, without the means of survival.

The story of the “Pied Piper of Hamelin” and the story/history of the Children’s Crusade have continued to be told again and again for nearly a thousand years, because of their moral: that there is a need to think and plan for change, not just follow a leader. The rise of Hitler in Germany is often considered, like the Pied Piper story, to be a replay of the Children’s Crusade. Young people were so fed up with corruption, price increases and poverty in Germany after the First World War and Germany’s debt during the Weimar Republic, when mainstream politicians were unable to do anything about all the economic and social problems, that they blindly followed the “flute-player”, Hitler, *en masse* and were not only lost to the country – in the SA, the SS and the Hitler Youth – but their gullibility contributed to destroying the country and much of Europe. Kurt Vonnegut, one of the finest American writers of all time, wanted to call his classic novel now known as *Slaughterhouse 5* by the name *The Children’s Crusade* – it is about the American youngsters led into the slaughterhouse that the people of Dresden lived in, at the end of World War II, after the bombing of this city, a non-military target, by the Allies – but his publisher only allowed this to be the book’s sub-title.

For anyone interested, here is some elementary research on the Children’s Crusade. Note the changing interpretations over the past 60 years of history.

Encyclopaedia Britannica (1953, UK)

“...in 1212 there took place one of the most ghastly tragedies that has ever happened in the world – the crusade of the children. Fifty thousand boys and girls were persuaded by some pestilent dreamers that their childish innocence would effect what their immoral fathers had failed to accomplish, and so left their homes on an expedition to capture the Holy Land. The vast majority never returned; the happiest of them were drowned in the Mediterranean”. ...

“The pathos of the Children’s crusade of 1212 only moved him [Innocent III] to fresh efforts. A shepherd boy named Stephen had appeared in France and had induced thousands to follow his guidance: with his boyish army he rode on a wagon southward to Marseille, promising to lead his followers dry-shod through the seas. In Germany a child from Cologne, named Nicolas, gathered about 20,000 young crusaders by like promises and led them into Italy. Stephen’s army was kidnapped by slave dealers and sold into Egypt; while Nicolas’s expedition left nothing behind it but an afterecho in the legend of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. For Innocent these outbursts of the revivalist element, which always accompanied the crusades, had their moral: “the very children put us to shame,” he wrote, “while we sleep they go forth gladly to conquer the Holy Land.”

Encyclopaedia Britannica (1992) USA

“**Children’s Crusade**, a religious movement in Europe during the summer of 1212 in which thousands of children set out to conquer the Holy Land from the Muslims by love instead of by force. The movement ended in disaster, but the religious fervour it excited helped to initiate the Fifth Crusade (1218). ...

“The first group of children was led by a French shepherd boy named Stephen, from Cloyes-sur-le-Loir, a town near Vendôme, who had a vision in which Jesus appeared to him disguised as a pilgrim and gave him a letter for the French king. On his way to deliver the letter, Stephen attracted hundreds of followers, some of whom decided to go to the Holy Land. An estimated 30,000 made their way to Marseille, where they fell victim to disreputable merchants who shipped them to slave markets in North Africa.

“A 10-year-old boy named Nicholas, from Cologne, led a second group. He preached the Children’s Crusade in the Rhineland, attracting an estimated 20,000 children. After crossing the Alps into Italy, they split into groups; some were dispersed among various Lombard towns; others continued on to Genoa where they were refused transport across the Mediterranean. A few then travelled to Rome, where Innocent III (Pope from 1198 to 1216) took pity on them and released them from their crusade vows. The fate of their leader, Nicholas, is unknown, but many of these children, like the French group, were sold in the East as slaves.” ...

“Even children became the victims of mass hysteria; in 1212, in the so-called Children’s Crusade, thousands of youngsters from France and Germany set out to free the Holy Land, only to be lost, shipwrecked, or sold into slavery.” ...

“A wave of revived crusading fervour in Europe produced the pathetic Children’s Crusade of 1212, in which thousands of children were lost or sold into slavery. Three years later Innocent III called for another strike at the Muslim world.”

Modern explanation (According to Wikipedia)

“Recent research suggests the participants were not children, at least not the very young. The confusion started because later chroniclers, who were not witness to the events of 1212 and who were writing 30 years or more later, began to translate the

original accounts and misunderstood the Latin word *pueri*, meaning "boys", to mean literally "children". The original accounts did use the term *pueri* but it had a derogatory slang meaning, as in calling an adult man a "boy" can be condescending. In the early 13th Century, bands of wandering poor started cropping up throughout Europe; these were people displaced by economic changes at the time which forced many peasants in northern France and Germany to sell their land—they were often referred to as *pueri* in a condescending manner. This mistaken literal interpretation of *pueri* as "children" gave rise to the idea of a "Children's Crusade" by later authors who found the story too good not to be true, particularly with so much public support and interest in crusading. Within a generation or two after 1212, the idea of children going on crusade became ingrained in history, retold countless times over the centuries with many different versions, and only in the 20th century has the myth been re-examined by looking at the earliest sources."

Konklizyon

Linportans pu nu zordi sa trazedi "Children's Crusade" ek zistwar "The Pied Piper of Hamelin", se so moral: Fas a vre problem byen, byen grav kote ekonomik, sosyal, politik, li pa sifi pu dir "Wanted: 15,000 Youngsters to Save our Future", "Nu fatige ar tusala", "Bizin desann dan lari", "Ar nu non", "Aret zwe ar nu lavenir", "Azir Moris". Li pa sifi pu swiv slogan vid kumsa. Li kapav tultan amenn pli pir, sanki u pe ule amenn pli pir.

Anfet seki nesaser se pu anmemtan analiz realite, anmemtan analiz parti politik existan, anmemtan ralye dimunn ansam lor baz sa analiz la, osi byen ki lor baz lide konsyan kimanyer nu aksyon pu ede pu amenn progre. Sa prosesis la fer pandan enn diskisyon lib, uver ek "caring". Zis kan kree sa liberte, luvertir ek "caring" ki kapav elabor stratezi ek taktik ki pu gid aksyon. Sa vedir li inportan pu prepar striktir ki sweyn sa demokrasi intern dan lorganizasyon ek muvman ki nu pe konstrir.

Anfet, dan LALIT, samem nu bi kan nu pe konstrir enn lorganizasyon politik ki pu gid nu dan sa lalit ansam ver sanzman. Kumsamem ki nu pu kapav konstrir enn chalennj ki met odefi parti existan, ki pena demokrasi intern, ki koronpi par kapital ki finans zot, ki koronpi par lobi kominal ki ofer zot elekter lor enn plato, ki koronp elekter par metod manipilater kuma lof plas travay ek larzan ek biriani, ek metod manipilater ki servi dan piblisite, setadir "mass advertising".

Anfet ena enn long tradisyon, enn long listwar, batir sa zar lorganizasyon politik, ki sweyn demokrasi intern, ki gard lyen ar aksyon klas travayer (ki indepandan depi kapitalist, Leta ek relizyon tuletrwa), e ki travay ansam avek sa seksyon avanse dan klas travayer ki deza ena lexperyans lalit. Pena sime kupe. Popilism pa pu amenn progre. Li enn miraz. Li depann lor "sansasyon" ki u pe "fer kiksoz", nerport ki kiksoz. Me, pu fer kiksoz ki pu marse dan lalit pu enn meyer lemond, sa li inplik travay politik byen avanse – travay intelektuel, osi byen ki travay konstrisyon enn lorganizasyon ubyen plizir lorganizasyon ki permet partisipasyon demokratik so manb.

Samem kifer LALIT finn anbank li lor long prosesis met dibut enn parti, konstrir enn lorganizasyon avek pasyans, e anmemtan tis bann lyen integ ar lezot lorganizasyon. Samem nu tuzur pe fer sa travay konstrisyon la. Li inportan ki zenn ki pe rod sanzman vinn ver LALIT, dekuver ki nu pe deza fer, zwenn dan prosesis la, gete sipa u santi u anvi partisipe dan sa lalit diyn la. Antuleka, nu konsey bann zenn (ek lezot dimunn osi) ki premye prinsip se REFIZ KRWAR PALAB ki tit-burzwazi irben fane kont LALIT, e

rapel ki bann roke lezot parti politik, zot travay se pu fann palab kont sel parti dan Moris, pur lemoman, ki vremen remet ankestyon sistem kapitalist, lokipasyon militer par USA-UK, reyn patriarsi, ek rol kapitalis dan rwinn ekoloji.

Me, si u “join in” ar LALIT, li dimann kuraz. Li dimann kapasite (ki sakenn devlope lor letan dan so manyer) pu opoz propagann ek palab pro-kapitalist nerport kikote li sorti. Li dimann aksyon ki repoz lor prinsip. Li dimann met *kart sir tab*. Li dimann rant dan prosesis kree Program ubyen Manifesto ansam dan deba uver. Deza ena an-santye program lor enn lekonomi alternativ, lor sekirite alimanter, lor lalit pu enn politik rasyonel lor AIDS ek ladrog, lor liberasyon fam, kont britalite polisyer, lor Palestinn, lor tir baz Diego Garcia ek re-inifikasyon Repiblik, lor langaz maternel. Zwenn dan sa prosesis la! Pu angaz u dan LALIT, li dimann pasyans revolisyoner ek perseverans, selman. Pa zis indinyasyon. Me, nu kapav dir ki, pu angaz u dan LALIT li pa ditu enn “sakrifis”. *It is no sacrifice at all*. Li enn inifikasyon nu lavi individyel ar listwar limanite. Li inifye nu kiltir ek lar ek nu lavi politik. Li inifye nu lamur pa zis pu limanite me pu lanatir anzeneral ar nu aksyon. Li plito enn lavi angaze, setadir enn *plezir* pu viv li. Se sa ki fer bann anti-LALIT pli zalu!

Me, sityasyon tro grav zordi, dan Moris ek onivo mondyal, pu nu azir san reflesi.