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DESC.By: Mirja Chavez
Artist: SirakFISH EATS
FISH

[inverosímil]

Escúchanos en SPOTIFY



We all know Lilo's iconic phrase from Disney's Lilo and Stitch, said after she arrives late to her Hula class: "Every Thursday I bring Pudge, the fish, a peanut butter sandwich. And today, we were out of peanut butter, so I asked my sister what to give him, and she said a tuna sandwich. I can't give Pudge tuna, do you know what tuna is? IT 'S FISH! If I give Pudge tuna, I'd be an ABOMINATION. I'm late because I had to go to the store, to get peanut butter, because all we have is, is stinkin' tuna."

Now, that I've grown up, I realize that fish do not eat fish and that in many places the idea of a species eating itself is frowned upon. We, as humans, have laws that explicitly forbid one human to eat another ... pardon me? what? Ah yeah, I forgot that we are a rational species and this is an atrocity, since it violates the dignity of the human being.



I remember when we read several fragments of "A Modest Proposal For preventing the Children of Poor People From being a Burthen to Their parents or Country, and For making them Beneficial to the Publik", even though many only know this work as "A Modest Proposal", by Jonathan Swift in an English Lit class in middle school.

The objective of the class was to uncover the social context through the author's narrative, the economic needs of the period, and, of course, understand the literary movement.

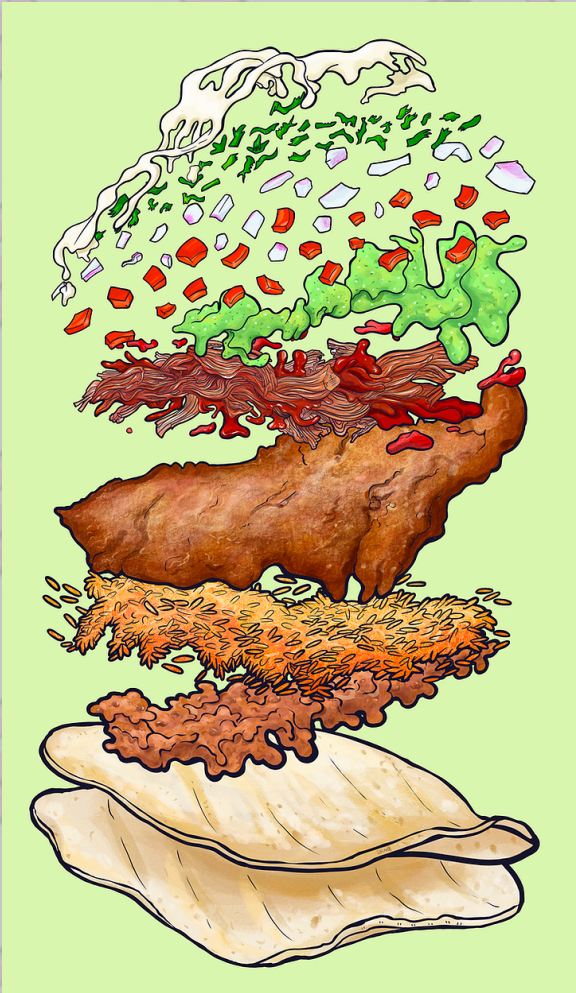
This is one of the best texts that I have ever read for a class, I have it overly etched in my memory, and that rarely happens; since I usually forget the author's names and their works. Honestly, I was fascinated by Jonathan's audacity in pushing forward his ideas, they were absurd, challenging, logical, iconic and twisted. It is difficult for me, personally, to declare with the utmost conviction that something is to my liking. He dared, despite the criticism he received at the time, and even today, to say that it would be a good idea to eat other human beings, and not just any type of human being, but children.

Sirak's artwork made me not only remember Jonathan's proposal but the whole class where we analyzed it. I heard how my classmates said, with great amazement and with an air of wisdom, that this was inhuman. That the author had surely smoked opium, that there is no way for someone to perform such an act without being a monster and that, therefore, he is a monster for proposing it. I was afraid that they would turn around and see the enthusiastic look on my face, and at the same time, my discontent towards them; because I set myself out to imagine what it would be like if that proposal were to be made today.

I imagined what it would be like in Mexico: food stands could be carts, like where ice cream and street corn are sold, perhaps it would work better where carnitas are sold. People could choose what part of the body they want: chest, thigh, cheek, perhaps even the eye; would it taste better with salsa verde or salsa roja? They would sell everything to make a tlayuda or some tacos, grilled,

going through war. The economy was, and continues to be (in addition to the pandemic), unstable. Under a system where labour is the only way to survive, what's the best way to get manpower? children. Back then, families had children hoping that they would grow up and go to work, providing more money for the family.

However, the majority of the children were under 10 years old when they died due to malnutrition, disease, and poor care. Consequently, the parents had more children.



Yes, maybe Jonathan Swift was a monster for proposing cannibalism as an action plan, and I am a monster for imagining all of this. However, seeing what is happening around the world today, under the tutelage of a neoliberal system, is the true monstrosity.

Individuals turning a blind eye, pretending to have deaf ears, not standing up for others, and having a mouth that does not know how to express critical thoughts or provide alternatives. We are constantly monsters because we do not want to eat fish, or babies, or children, but we are great at stepping on each other's feelings even when it is not "wise" to do so.



WRITTEN BY: Mirja Chavez

TRANSLATED BY: Sofía Figueras

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ciudad de méxico. méxico
muda@museodeartes.org

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