

The Egg Clip 4

Solon: ...you went ahead, and didn't allow me to complete my story, to lay down my thoughts.

Luke: Now we could use another cigarette. Can you live another fifty years without cigarettes?

S: First of all, stop lobbying in favor of cigarette smoking, because they will stick us with the stigma that we are taking money from the tobacco companies. Cigarette smoking kills and you as an underdeveloped person can't stop it. Okay then, what were we saying? Look, Luke, my friend, if we indeed have fifty more years of life, this means that there's extensive room for action, do you get it? To act.

L: Namely?

S: What 'namely', Luke? In fifty years you understand exactly what humans can do.

L: Ah, human beings, yes, exactly what. What will we do, though?

S: We too, Luke, us too. What are we, animals? Calculate exactly what happened from nineteen thirty-eight to nineteen eighty-eight, to today. So, precisely what did humans achieve.

L: Humans? And I, precisely what will I accomplish?

S: You can do whatever you want, Luke, you can do everything.

L: Everything?

S: Of course, everything.

L: I can do anything I want to? Tell me, can I become a kiosk man, let's say?

S: You can become not only a kiosk man, but also... a top kiosk man. That's all that's missing -- if in fifty years we can't become kiosk men, then what are we doing?

L: You mean I can become anything I want to?

S: You can become whatever you want to. You can become, let's say, you can become a butcher, and a flower seller, and a star...

L: A star too, eh?

S: A star too, of course. Certainly a star, that is the easiest, do you get it? It's the easiest, to become a star, good gracious.

L: A souvlaki vendor. Souvlaki sells.

S: Well, of course, souvlaki sells, but choose something more dignified, Luke. Something more dignified, something...

L: Namely, what kind of 'dignified'?

S: Eh, something more dignified.

L: You mean I can become a goldsmith? Eh, no matter that you sell bronze and you pay for gold.

S: Yes, yes, gold too. But I told you, something more... In any event, if you want to become a goldsmith, I have no objection, it's approved.

L: We're now looking into it, we studying it.

S: Well, of course, we're looking into it. We're examining it a little more long-term, we're looking at it from all angles, globally -- did you get it? What do you think about gold? Today it's there, and tomorrow it isn't.

L: Oil?

S: Oil too. Today it's there, and tomorrow it isn't. It's running out, someday it will run out.

L: But a star, so easy?

S: Well, of course, a star. Easy as pie. We'll leave it for later, do you get it? There's a whole crowd, you could suffocate in it. Still, we could have invented an atomic bomb, do you get it? A bomb like the atom bomb.

L: So Onassis, what was he, wasn't he poor?

S: He too, for sure, a lot poorer than us. No question.

L: Niarchos too, and Ford, and Latsis? Weren't they poor?

S: All of them were very poor. Because if you aren't poor, why would you want, no matter what, to become rich? You and I, Luke, for instance, if we had secured both work and lodging, we would have followed the same path until the end, do you get it? With no dreams, my friend. But now we may suffer a little, but we have luxurious dreams. Rich dreams.

L: You mean, Solon, that it's an advantage to be poor.

S: Well, of course, it's an advantage, because only a poor person dreams of becoming rich, Luke.

L: So, let's try to invent something.

S: Yes, of course, what do you think, that too is very easy. What do you think Einstein and Marconi were? It's really easy to invent things, and it doesn't cost anything. How do you think it goes? You come up with an idea, and then bang on it, Luke -- did you get it? Only you've got to maintain some secrecy, so that they don't steal your idea, do you understand?

L: So then, let's look to invent something outstanding.

S: Haven't I been telling you this all along, my friend? Keep looking, think, so we can hit a bull's-eye.