

Soi-même comme un roi

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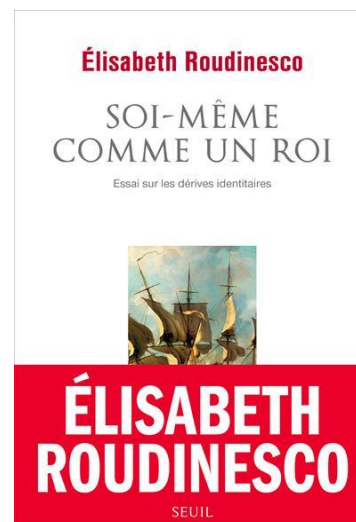
A 4 - Beat Interview

To be oneself like a king, is to desire the end of alterity.

To assimilate identity to a belonging is to attach the subject in a submission to roots that shackles its freedom.

To fetishize an imaginary past, is to invite doom on the present.

To make the world uniform is to extinguish its light.



4 Guiding Quotations

"Not too near, not too far"
Claude Lévi-Strauss

You cannot think universality without difference, which means that the cohabitation of societies in the world is only possible if each one respects the idea that we can be, at the same time, similar and different according to our cultures. In the same way, the prohibition of incest, common to all societies, implies that we can never reproduce beings identical to ourselves without destroying all the genealogical links, consciously or unconsciously. The tragedy of Oedipus bears witness.

"One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman"
Simone de Beauvoir

To define the feminine identity, the anatomical difference between the sexes will not suffice. We must also take the existential experience of women into account, and the way in which, socially and psychically, that difference we call gender is constructed.

"A negro I am, a negro I will remain"
Aimé Césaire

It is the definition of negritude that relies, not on racial identity, but on the construction of a common culture among all the peoples that have been victims of segregation because of the colour of their skin, whether they are descendants of the slave trade or the heirs of colonial empires. Negritude depends upon the adoption of a common language taken from the coloniser and it should not, in any case, be cut off from universal culture.

"I am I, it's as simple as that"
Michel Serres

It is a question of thinking the existence of an identity inhabited by freedom. This identity is both divided and still "other" while remaining "oneself", independent of the contingencies of the body or the land of our origins. The identity is multiple, and it includes the foreigner in oneself: such is its universality.