



Catatau (Portuguese Edition)

Paulo Leminski

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Escrito durante quase uma década, esse "romance-ideia", como o denominou o autor, "O catatau" é um monólogo onírico de René Descartes em visita a Pernambuco no período holandês. Diante do absurdo da natureza dos trópicos e dos costumes dos indígenas, o filósofo vê sua razão naufragar: "Duvido se existo, quem sou eu se esse tamanduá existe?", pergunta.

Num texto lúdico, parodiando as narrativas dos viajantes e empregando recursos do Concretismo e do Tropicalismo, Leminski cria uma fábula inovadora e radical, firmando-se como um dos grandes explicadores do Brasil.

O leitor tem em mãos um clássico da literatura brasileira recente. O Catatau (1975) de Paulo Leminski é um texto experimental que se filia à grande tradição das novelas satíricas e filosóficas, tais como Gargantua de Rabelais, Gulliver de Swift, Jacques, o fatalista de Diderot, Robinson Crusoe de Defoe. Tanto é que o núcleo da fábula do Catatau trata de uma insólita vinda do filósofo René Descartes a Recife, no tempo do Brasil holandês. Submetido ao trópico e à exótica natureza tupiniquim, após fumar certa erva que lhe sequestra a clareza de pensamento, René Descartes, ou simplesmente Cartésio, delira enquanto espera a vinda do oficial do exército da Companhia das Índias Ocidentais, o polonês Krzysztof Arciszewski, o qual ficou de lhe explicar esse inabordável Brasil.

O Catatau é, pois, um texto de vanguarda que trata de assuntos afeitos aos séculos 16 e 17. Nele o autor emprega recursos como neologismos, aforismos, filosofemas e trocadilhos nonsense, parodiando clássicos portugueses, constituindo-se em verdadeiro tesouro de invenção prosódica da língua, que une o falar culto ao popular. Nesse sentido o Catatau pode ser encarado como um romance Tropicalista, Concretista, Neobarroco.

- Maurício Arruda Mendonça

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