

#2

The Stranger

The stranger is the figure of not belonging. Where there are borders there is the stranger. There is the ideal stranger outside of these boundaries, of which the real stranger within the borders lends his looks. Outside of these borders lie places and peoples who are both real and unreal at the same time. The outside is the otherized. The outside exists as real outside and as other. The outside, the otherized, the ideal stranger.

-

He/she is complicated in the sense that he/she has complications. The ideal stranger, as the embodiment of the ideal of the stranger, is necessarily contradicting himself. He/she is a being of/in contradiction. Partly this has to do with the contradiction within the idea of 'the embodiment of an ideal', as within the realm of the real an ideal can never be embodied. This dynamic does something with strangeness.

-

Fetishization keeps the stranger alive within the realm of the real. Fetishisation makes sure that the other stays other. The other marks the unknowable ideal outside. Under the banner of inclusion, the other is desired. Always desired, never wanted. Desire maintains the position of the other, it fixates it in this unknowableness. It is the desire to know the unknowable that maintains the unknowable as unknowable, that maintains you as a stranger. The fetish must be kept alive. You must remain outside for us to enjoy you. You are the object of our desire. No I'm not racist, I loved going to africa, don't you notice from the beautiful ornaments I've decorated my home with. No I'm not racist I fucked an arab once. No I'm not racist I love indian food. When you knock on my door I enjoy what you bring, never your presence. I enjoy your visit, as long as you don't stay.

If you can't enter the centre, let him enter you

I am the object of your desire.
You desire to enter me.
Mia Khalifa must be droned.
Go to Pornhub. Bomb Iraq.
Enjoy your visit.

No, I desire for you to enter me.
That's how you see it, and to an extent you are right.
At least when you enter me I am close to you.
Maybe if you are in me I can experience what you do.
Enjoy their visit.

-

Question: Is entering the centre the same as the centre entering you?

Short answer: no.

Long answer: ...

Bibliography

Ahmed, Sara. *Strange Encounters Embodied Others in Post-Coloniality*. Routledge - Taylor and Francis Group, 2000.