

Notes on Camp

Words such as wilderness, forest, nature and bush collectively describe, if often haphazardly, the world beyond the city's frontiers. The word landscape, used to describe the visual or literary representations of such places, powerfully connotes their centrality within the western imaginative tradition. Such words describe civilisation's other, a fictive realm beyond the prosaic particularities of urban struggle; above all, they delineate a zone of strict ideological neutrality. Considerations of the use to which a forest or wilderness might be put, whether through resource extraction or its ideological opposite, eco-tourism, generally fall outside descriptions of the place itself. The land can be logged, hunted in, hiked through, photographed, painted, viewed or left alone, but from the city's vantage it remains "outside", mysteriously beyond and above economic exigencies. Unlike land in the cities, the wilderness is presumed to be held in a kind of common trust, preserved by an act of collective regard. An example of the results of such attitudes occurred during the last week of June...Sound, when...protest. Though the activists morally separate themselves from the uses to which the land was put, they cannot so easily transcend a view of it--as common cultural property, equally accessible to all--as essentially unreflective as the loggers whose livelihoods they seek to eradicate.

Why, therefore, do words such as wilderness and forest, which would appear to be merely descriptive and neutral, evoke not only the places they denote, but imply a transcendence of the social and economic realms? Cities..omit land...for beholden "subject"....
omit next sentence...

Why is the natural world presumed to be above these structures?

The fact that an ecosystem can be self-governing means...

omit "into all land"

Simply because the natural world is not a densely human social arena does not place it outside a political economy. The bush...

So to ask why...of imaginarily freedoms is to ask such freedoms are seen as necessary. One answer posits the city..of work, beholden...his or her. In opposition are the limitless forests...where the relationship of person and environment are unmediated and free. In this... as counterpoint and balm to city pressures, a place where the weary citizen can recharge his or her psychic batteries, returning to the workplace recharged and recreated.