

Poems  
Ergot  
Elysian Mysteries  
Death  
Medieval

Not All Who've Died Are Gone

EssayArt Piece

First Collection of Story Aspects

In the following Essay I will explore the collapse of an artistic idea. The work - which held the same title as this paper - set out to recreate an ancient greek ritual drug, used in cathartic rituals in the *Elysian Mysteries*. During the process of research and experimentation of this deadly substance: *Kykeon* - using the Ergot Fungus Alkaloid LSA as the psychoactive ingredient, I was confronted with my own unsurpassable fear of death. This fear of dying forced me to stop the self-experience based experiments.

What will stay is this Essay. Presenting my research and exploring my own relationship to letting go of life.

I understand the used of the Essay Format as an attempt to create Objectless Art. What you are reading at the moment does not exist. You are reading the thoughts in my mind - transmitted directly from me to you.

This paper is not more then a conversation between friends; it is not more than the description text of the painting that is every day life; it is a memory; it is an academic relic; it is a series of visions while falling asleep; it is almost a dream; it is a detailed analysis of what cannot be explored.

This paper is not dying; This paper is not alive as well.

This paper can not be trusted.

This paper is as close to the truth as I can get.

I feel cold.

Threads of nausea crawl through my body.

Memories of vomiting in trains and plains and car and boats flash in and out.

20:35

I write in my notebook

*Still sick, still no hallucinatic effect*

The Ergot Fungus (*Claviceps*) is a species of *Mycelia*, which infects predominantly outcrossing grains with open flowers, to use them for growing its fruiting bodies (*Sclerotium*). The infection of Rye is the most common. This makes the Rye Ergot Fungus (*Claviceps Purpurea*) the most common in the Genus *Claviceps*.

For an infection, the fungal spores get in contact with the stigma of the blossoming flowering grain. Then the proliferating fungal mycelium destroys the plant ovary and connects with the vascular bundle originally intended for seed nutrition. The first stage of ergot infection manifests itself as a white soft tissue (known as sphaecelia) producing sugary honeydew. This often drips out of the infected grass florets. The honeydew contains millions of asexual spores (conidia), which

insects disperse to other flowering grains. Later, the sphacelia convert into a hard dry sclerotium inside the husk of the floret. At this stage, alkaloids and lipids accumulate in the sclerotium.

Deep sunken  
Paragraphs of memory  
I stare into my Umwelt

I stare against the white bedsheet  
Everything is normal  
I'm starring to find something, anything  
If you stare at something long enough you start to make up your own reality  
When you're searching for the un-normal

I will now initiate you, she said, into the greater mysteries; for he who would proceed in due course should love first one fair form, and then many, and learn the connexion of them; and from beautiful bodies he should proceed to beautiful minds, and the beauty of laws and institutions, until he perceives that all beauty is of one kindred; and from institutions he should go on to the sciences, until at last the vision is revealed to him of a single science of universal beauty, and then he will behold the everlasting nature which is the cause of all, and will be near the end. In the contemplation of that supreme being of love he will be purified of earthly leaven, and will behold beauty, not with the bodily eye, but with the eye of the mind, and will bring forth true creations of virtue and wisdom, and be the friend of God and heir of immortality.

(Symposium, by Plato, Translated by Benjamin Jowett, 1998)

The *Party of Rejuvenation Research For Conventional Medicine* exists in Germany since 2015, with 321 members to this day. Since then they have participated in 26 local and federal elections in their country. In their first campaign in the elections for the Berlin Senate, they got voted 7854 times - which is 0,5% of votes that year.

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partei\\_f%C3%BCr\\_schulmedizinische\\_Verj%C3%BCngungsforschung](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partei_f%C3%BCr_schulmedizinische_Verj%C3%BCngungsforschung)

On their website they explain, that physical aging is just an accumulation of damage to the body. That we humans can be repaired like a car, kept safe in a garage, restored until eternity. Everyone born before the 20th century has died, they write, but everyone born in the 21st is likely to live forever. Having the body of a young adult, for as long as we want.

<https://verjuengungsforschung.de/>

The greek word for god, theos, corresponds to a predicative concept.' Used by itself, without article, it designates a divine happen-ing: the god as event. The article removes the emphasis from the event and introduces a more personal view of the god. Provided with the masculine or feminine article, but still unchanged in form, theos points to a definite god or goddess, a deity whom the speaker does not wish to name: either because he may not or because he need not. Consequently Theos or the feminine Thea, rather than a name, is very much in place when mystery gods are to be spoken of.

(ELEUSIS - Archetypal Image of Mother and Daughter, C. Kerényi)

It is believed that the Sclerotia of the Rye Ergot Fungus are toxic, to protect the spores from the consumption of animals and insects.

It is unclear what the exact deadly dose is for humans, but it has been understood, that a continued ingestion of Ergot Mothergrain, is the cause of Ergotism.

This deadly disease, also named St. Anthony's Fire, causes symptoms of: Spasms, Diarrhea, Paralysis, Mania, Psychosis, Headaches, Nausea and Vomiting.

Multiple Waves of Ergotism rolled over medieval Europe - deaths in the ten-thousands and millions getting sick. No-one understood where the sickness was transmitted from. The victims would move their bodies uncontrollably, scream about an inner fire burning them, caught in delusional hallucinations.

St. Anthony was who Ergotism victims prayed to. Anthony the Great (251-356 CE) was born into a rich family, but gave away all his possessions at the age of 25 to travel to Egypt and spend his life in solitude. It is told, that he struggled against the devil - resisting worldly temptations. In his name Hospitals were built to treat the victims of the "holy fire". The walls of the hospitals were painted red and the monks wore black robes with blue crosses.

In Ancient Greek Mythology *Demeter* is the goddess of grain, health, birth and marriage. She is sister to Zeus, Hades, Poseidon, Hera and Hestia. Together with Zeus she has a daughter: Persephone, goddess of fertility.

One day Persephone was picking flowers, when Hades - god of the underworld - appeared and ravished her. He stole her into his carriage, drove circles around the earth with her and then abducted her into the underworld. After Demeter noticed her daughter's disappearance, she started searching for her. When Persephone could not be found, Demeter broke down and disappeared. Out of pain she forbade the flowers to grow and the animals to multiply.

When more and more humans started dying from the lack of food, Zeus - who had known of his brother's intentions - sent Hermes to Hades to force him to let her go. They came to the conclusion that Persephone shall remain with Hades for 4 months of the year - ruling the realm of the dead as his queen. The other 8 months, she shall stay in the realm of the living with her mother.

**Bog Body - Ritual killing**