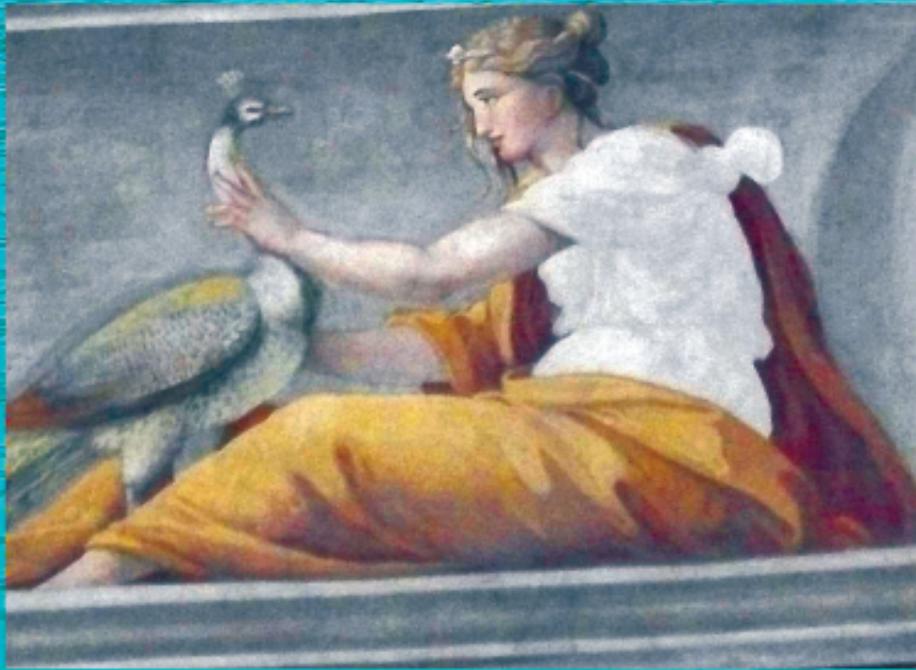
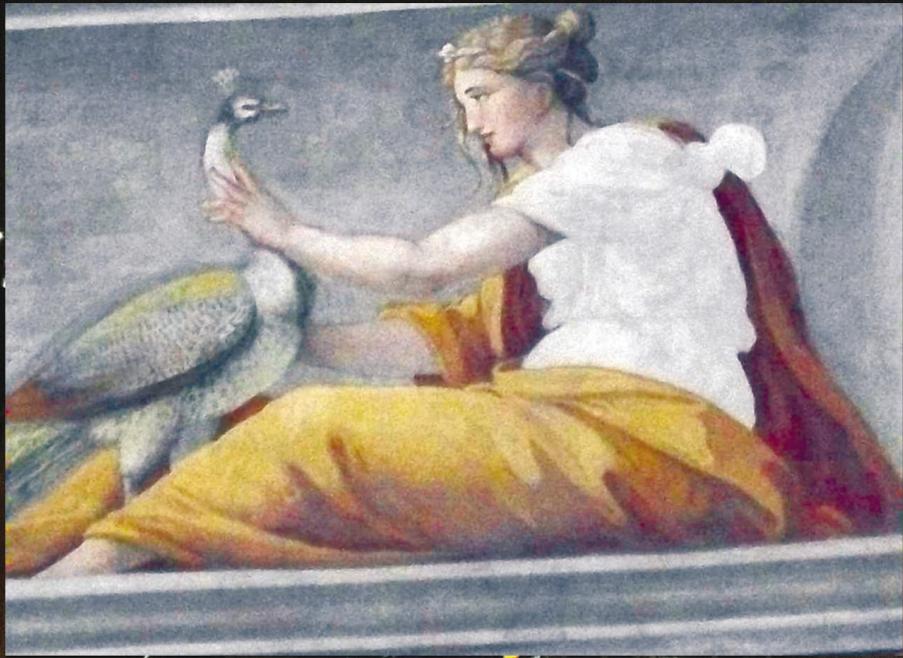


JOHN P.A. IOANNIDIS

Variations on the art of the fugue
and a desperate ricercar

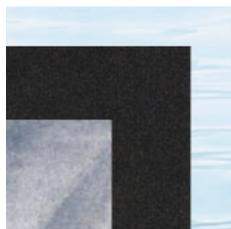


KEDROS



JOHN P.A. IOANNIDIS

**VARIATIONS ON THE ART OF THE FUGUE
AND A DESPERATE RICERCAR**



KEDROS

ISBN 978-960-04-5231-0

© John P.A. Ioannidis, 2022 ©
Kedros Publishers, S.A. 2022
www.kedros.gr
e-mail: books@kedros.gr

Variation 14

Mythical city with an embedded biography of Caravaggio

Although this city is an entirely mythical construct, we managed to walk across its full length within a single evening, trying to unravel an elaborate case of sabotage, assassination or poisoning after so many years, when there is no longer anyone, neither the victims themselves nor any of their relatives, to rejoice that justice is served at last, the only ones who have survived and have perpetuated their species are the victimizers and their award-winning work, some unnecessary depositions of chitin and other dystopian calcifications – I mean the city with the Norman walls of 1082 and the roasted chestnuts that are easy to peel this year next to the statue of Olympias who is equally an assassin and an assassinator, with the equally mythical winter moon, with empty streets, with that popular restaurant where the cable channel was playing again and again that same old movie on that popular guerilla fighter, the one who was notoriously betrayed, playing it for the eight hundredth time, with those difficult words when you extend a farewell to a friend, we'll see, we may suspend operations, no one really knows, we'll sort things out until April, when are you leaving, when are you returning, I see, so you won't ever return then, will you? With some relief, they are all rubbing their hands with glee, they can't wait to hear the latest news, some avviso fetched from Porto Ercole or from the Palo of Civitavecchia confirming that the dirty mission has been duly accomplished.

The abutment that would deter the landslide from crushing our house is gone, what remains now is just a broken wall, wild cynodon grass grows here and there, soil and stones are scattered across the backyard, these are the same stones as the ones you can find in the razed sanctuary of Dodonean Dione, we are being eroded for over twenty centuries now by that same moisture of the unconditionally surrendered city of Tekmon, as for your life, oh well, your life has become much smaller than the statistical error, the floor is slippery upstairs when you try to rewarm the heating bodies, the house has remained firmly closed for many months, open shelves reveal their entire operated and eviscerated interior, books of classical literature bought for one Euro from outdoor benches in Sorbonne and Saint Germain des Prés, a small greeting card with a baby girl and three ladybugs, watch out your photo, it is balancing dangerously on the edge of the caldera cliffs in Oia along with business cards carrying all my 18.5 academic titles, the fallen electrical switch cannot fall again, the movie theaters that closed eight years ago cannot close again, in the background one can hear the demonstration of the unemployed immigrants, one may also hear those overtures of Domenico Cimarosa. Likewise, during that wintry night at the Arsenale all our photos came out too dark like paintings of the apparently murdered Amerighi, perhaps he poisoned himself while devouring debonair the plentiful lead of his own paintings, he had cut his own disfigured head and

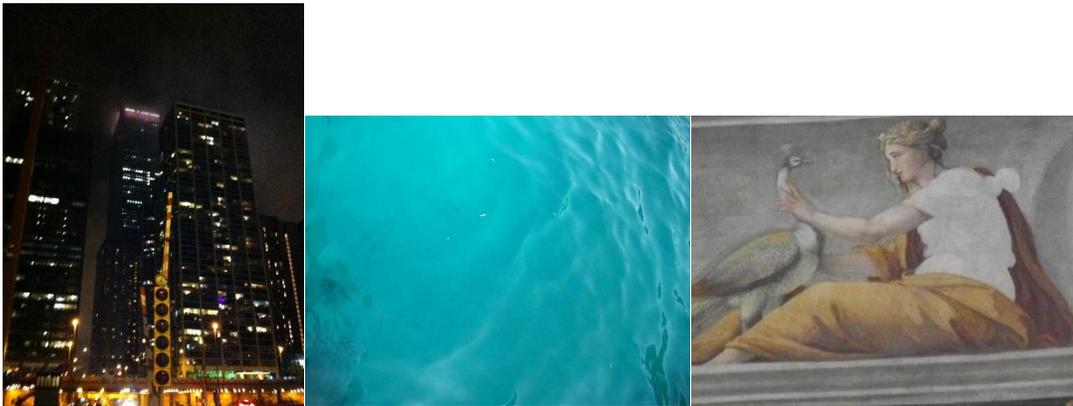
had trusted it to Salome to save it for better times in her platter while he continued to paint to glorify with gratitude his potential murderers (those who passed the external evaluation exercises and had their names preserved in history simply because they made his work seem as their own achievement). There is even an 85.4% chance that we have found him (or his degrading skeleton at least), unless these thugs threw him overboard –then we won't ever find any trace of him. Why am I telling you all this? Well, there is a little dry bread with sesame seeds left and you don't want to throw it away, you keep arguing that the sparrows need it in wintertime, but you are trying to say something else, you won't accept it, I won't accept it, we are not willing to take it for granted, but it happens, it happened, it has already passed – don't worry, it will pass.

Variation 53

In memory of Christina Spyraiki

The island of Sikinos persists with the iridescence of Alameda
plus the adversarial parentheses
the qualitative zoom-in
the cross-eyed Easter
offering houses with skylights to former losers (*vae victis*)
and courtyards of Perama with those transparent sunken triremes in Kynosoura
the view from the unknown location of the ancient theater in Aexoni is evidently as stunning
as any misunderstanding and as any sour guideline in the all-white yard of Prospero
winter-in-May is coming upon us on the mountains of Kassiopi
walking paths were licked by the welcoming fire
like the naked deforested mountains of classical Attica
and the Ilissos river stinking of tanneries in the golden era of Plato
the last little bears return to the deserted Brauron – Christina, just wait a single moment
among the almond and pistachio trees in the abandoned Mesogeia
and in that rapacious Manhattan skyscraper
the one that rises above the invisible foundations of the Cretan summer
it will mature, please wait for me, within three years max
there are still so many possibilities that remain unfulfilled
the metal whole-body Glockenspiel of the young country singer in New Orleans
sounds of untold desires made of zinc
the proportion of variance explained in our death is trivial but enough
any private information offers a huge advantage to the serious investor
take the inexplicable lemon trees in Menlo Park for example – Christina, just wait a moment
Lesvos has no reason to exist, yet it continues to drip insistently like some Chinese torture
the incorrigible damaged aqueduct of adolescence
leads to an ancient building with pits for oxidized copper mirrors
where you never looked – Christina, just a moment
a few neoplatonic erotogenous benthic bacteria are all that's left to us
like a toast that had no sequel

ANNOTATIONS



Technical instructions

For those Variations that have annotations, a hyperlink has been entered in the variation heading. If a Variation has an annotation, by **clicking on the Variation heading** (e.g. Variation 164), you will be transferred to its respective Annotation. Then, to get back from that Annotation section to the previous main text section, click **Alt** and < (< is the **back arrow** in your keyboard).

Caveat lector

The Annotations are not mere explanations. While they may often help the reader to get oriented in issues of background knowledge and references, they can also lead astray from the primary text if taken too strictly. Therefore, use them cautiously – they are a book within a book, sort of a new trap to fall into for readers who enjoy falling into traps and then escaping, fleeing, enjoying the fugue. Moreover, annotations are provided for most of the Variations but they are not exhaustive. For many Variations, no annotations are given at all. The reader is invited to do his/her homework in these cases, or, perhaps even better, work with the text without any annotations and just take it at face value.

See also Variation 100 for the arrival of Agamemnon back to his palace in Mycenae along with his new captive and lover, the oracle Cassandra whom she has carried as his prisoner from Troy. Cassandra foretells the impending doom, but she has been cursed to be met with disbelief by her listeners. She knows very well what will happen, but no one understands her or pays any attention to her incomprehensible lament.

the deserted Lara beach after the end of the season in Akamas:

Lara is a beach in the area of Akamas, one of the last unspoiled natural reserves in Cyprus.

sea daffodil...in Cyprus, in Poseidonia and in Kythnos:

Pancratium maritimum, the sea daffodil, is highly prevalent in various areas of the Mediterranean.

Variation 14

the city with the Norman walls of 1082 and the roasted chestnuts that are easy to peel this year next to the statue of Olympias who is equally an assassin and an assassinator:

The Norman walls in the medieval castle of the city of Ioannina were erected after the Norman ruler Bohemond of Taranto captured the city in 1082. The lineage of Olympias, the Macedonian queen who was the mother of Alexander the Great, came from the royal house of the Molossi, in the area of Epirus where currently Ioannina lies. Olympias had a reckless political career, struggling to maintain and grow her power in tumultuous times, assassinating many of her enemies, and eventually assassinated by her enemies. A statue of Olympias (with her son Alexander the Great) was placed in 2005 in one of the squares of downtown Ioannina.

they can't wait to hear the latest news, some avviso fetched from Porto Ercole or from the Palo of Civitavecchia confirming that the dirty mission has been duly accomplished:

Variation 14 is heavily infiltrated by the life and mostly the death of Amerighi da Caravaggio, arguably the most famous painter in the transition from the Renaissance to early Baroque. The circumstances of his death still remain a mystery. Two notes (avvisi) were dispatched in July 28 and July 31, 1610 suggesting that he had died (on July 18, 1610?) in Porto Ercole in Tuscany. According to the dominant story, an infuriated, sick, and mentally broken Caravaggio had walked 80 kilometers on foot after being released from imprisonment in Palo (due to false identification?), a tiny port near Civitavecchia in Rome. However, not even the place of death is certain and the cause of death remains a topic of fierce debate. Could he have been killed or could it be that he was thrown by his enemies overboard from a boat? Officially, it was said that he died of fever (exhausted after marching that long distance from Palo to Porto Ercole. Perhaps he died indeed of sunstroke after being weakened by syphilis or some other infections - but it is also possible that he was murdered.

Caravaggio had created so many enemies over the years that it not even possible to say who hated him the most and who would be the most likely to orchestrate his final demise. Since he fled from Rome in 1606 after a brawl where, in his wrath, he castrated and killed an opponent, he must have felt the presence of death and murder breathing on his neck for the last 4 years of his life.

these are the same stones as the ones you can find in the razed sanctuary of Dodonean Dione, we are being eroded for over twenty centuries now by that same moisture of the unconditionally surrendered city of Tekmon:

The temple of Dione is one of the temples in the sanctuary of Dodona, arguably the most impressive ancient sanctuary in Northwestern Greece, site of the most venerated oracle in the early Greek world (before losing its first rank placement from the ascendancy of Delphi that eventually became far more famous). The site was razed in 167 BC by the Romans led by Aemilius Paulus who destroyed 70 major Greek cities in the area and sold their population into slavery, in retaliation for the invasion of Italy by Pyrrhus in the previous century. Tekmon was an ancient city in the vicinity, its exact location however is disputed. Many cities were devastated, to the point that even their mere location is entirely unknown. I have often ruminated on the theme that the prefecture of Epirus (Ioannina is its current capital city) is a map of thoroughly erased cities that left behind no trace whatsoever. The genocide and the extermination were quite perfect.

in the background one can hear the demonstration of the unemployed immigrants, one may also hear those overtures of Domenico Cimarosa:

An extreme contrast in terms of the sound, not necessarily of the history though. Domenico Cimarosa was the most well-known opera composer of the second half of the 18th century, with an acclaimed international career. He was arrested because of his liberal views and imprisoned along with other liberals by orders of the restored monarch in Naples. Barely escaping execution, he was eventually released from prison and sent into exile. He was already terminally ill with cancer and died shortly thereafter in exile.

Arsenale:

The arsenal of Venice.

like paintings of the apparently murdered Amerighi, perhaps he poisoned himself while devouring debonair the plentiful lead of his own paintings, he had cut his own disfigured head and had trusted it to Salome to save it for better times in her platter while he continued to paint to glorify with gratitude his potential murderers:

During an ambush where his enemies tried to assassinate him in 1609, Caravaggio managed to escape, but he suffered a wound that seriously disfigured his face. After this event, he painted a *Salome with the Head of John the Baptist* (currently in Madrid). In this painting, Caravaggio depicted his own severed head placed on the platter of Salome. Caravaggio then sent this painting as a plea for forgiveness to de Wignacourt, the grand master of the Knights of Saint John in Malta, one of his sponsors and candidate enemies who apparently might have wished to murder him in retaliation. Caravaggio had had a tumultuous stay in Malta, initially well received and offered many commissions, but then ostracized as a “foul and rotten” person. He also painted his own severed head in *David and Goliath* in 1610, another painting that was aimed to be a redemption. He planned to offer it to his patrons and enemies in Rome and apparently he carried that painting with him on the boat trip from Naples to Palo just before he died. Throughout his short life (he died before turning 40) he painted prolifically for powerful patrons who were his sponsors but also his persecutors and potential assassins.

There is even an 85.4% chance that we have found him (or his degrading skeleton at least):

I came across this perplexing news item one day in 2010: “Scientists in Italy are 85% certain that they have found Caravaggio’s bones in the crypt of a church near Porto Ercole [Tuscany] where the artist died in mysterious circumstances in 1610. Researchers from four Italian universities analyzed 200 sets of bones from the ossuary and used carbon dating to identify those which would have belonged to men in their thirties. [There is some doubt over Caravaggio’s birth date but it is generally thought to have been 1571.] The scientists then ran DNA tests on the selected bones – comprising a skull fragment, a femur and 2 fragments of jaw - and only one set matched Caravaggio’s “profile” with regard to age, gender, period and height. The bones also contained high levels of lead and other metals used in the paints of Caravaggio’s time. Most importantly, the DNA is compatible with that of the artist’s presumed relatives in the town of Caravaggio [Lombardy].” (<https://www.italymagazine.com/featured-story/caravaggios-bones-found>). The scientific paper describing these findings appeared much later as a letter in the *Lancet Infectious Diseases*: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(18\)30571-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(18)30571-1/fulltext), and the final cause of death was attributed to *Staphylococcus aureus* sepsis from leg osteomyelitis. However, much of the story seemed a conjecture, and a thorough rebuttal of the evidence behind this rather speculative (if not entirely far-fetched) interpretation was also published ([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(18\)30719-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(18)30719-9/fulltext) – yet for completeness, it is useful to see also the original author’s response to the fierce criticism: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(18\)30726-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(18)30726-6/fulltext)). The case is not closed.

Variation 15

the road leading to Koronisia, a very thin thread of rocks crossing the immobile evening dream of the lagoon:

Koronisia is situated in the Amvrakikos (Ambracian) lagoon and it is (almost) an island connected with a very thin thread of land to the mainland. It has an old settlement with a tiny harbor and a 7th century Byzantine church dedicated to the Virgin.

Variation 18

Hewlett...Axe...Cantor:

All of these names refer to locations on the Stanford campus.

The William R. Hewlett Teaching Center is where I used to teach for many years my meta-research course, initially joining forces with the late Ingram Olkin. Ingram was a giant, widely recognized as the father of meta-analysis. The last time I taught this course with him was in March 2016. He died on April 28 of the same year at the age of 92.

The Axe here refers to the Axe & Palm, a dining facility and gathering place at 520 Lasuen Mall; it is named after the Axe (the trophy of the annual Big Game between Stanford and Berkeley

component of the Orthodox funeral service. The Epitaphios is a burial procession that may hold similarities to ancient rites, such as the rites for the dead Adonis (see also Variation 2).

the Chora of the island of Kythira:

One of the Ionian islands.

the immortal body of Calypso:

The goddess Calypso managed to keep Odysseus in her remote island (Ogygia, see also Variation 136) for a long time before he found the courage to leave her. She was just perfect and she could offer everything to him, but that was the problem – he just wanted to remain mortal and get back home.

the glory of Dulichium, and of Cephalonia and of the Paliki peninsula that somehow lost its name:

A reference to the islands from which the suitors of Penelope stemmed. The names of some of these islands have changed since the times of Homer. For example, the Homeric Ithaca has been identified with either modern-day Ithaca itself or many other Ionian islands and even with the peninsula of Paliki in Cephalonia – which might even have been a separate island in earlier times in this highly seismogenic area.

Spetses:

An island across the coast of Argolid.

my name would have been Nobody:

Odysseus called himself Nobody in his encounter with cyclops Polyphemus, see Variation 102 on this.

Korgialeneios:

Reference to a famous school and institution in the island of Spetses.

Ermioni:

A location in the coast of Argolid, not far from Spetses.

Myrtoan:

The Myrtoan Sea.

Variation 53

Christina Spyraiki:

Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Athens and at the University of Crete, she also served as Rector of the University of Crete. Christina was the first woman to be elected Rector at a Greek university. She was my mentor when I was a medical student in Athens. She served as vice-minister of health and she passed away at the age of 59 in 2006. Here is an excerpt from my book *Λόγω κρυμμένα λογοκριμένα (Censored sensors)*:

“Greetings from SFO. I am just bitterly joking, of course, but you know well that there are prestigious professors who still get funding by the smoking and vaping industries. And you know that nobody does anything about it, in fact everyone is proud of this debacle. Many years ago, I was a member in a national committee for the approval of clinical trials. We received for approval a trial where a tobacco company would fund research by professors of cardiology! It even included a letter from the CEO of the company praising the professors of cardiology for being so open minded and seeking the truth! ΔΗΘΗ, ΑΔΗΘΕΙΑ, do you remember what we were talking about a couple of months ago? We refused to approve it. Guess what. Very soon our committee was dissolved.

Have I ever told you the story of how one day I found myself nominated to be a national expert for the Council of the EU Ministers of Health? It was at the time where the EU would have to decide on toughening the advertising regulations for tobacco. Greece had joined Germany and other countries that wanted to avoid making regulations more tough for the industry. In the meeting of the national delegation preceding the vote, I told the vice-minister and her team that taking this stance would be entirely irresponsible, they would be killing people. One of the top EU officials attacked me and I completely destroyed him with data and arguments. The vice-minister luckily was a scientist and a physician. She knew very well what the truth was. She also knew that the tobacco industry was running the country unfortunately. I was almost coming to blows with that EU official, when she interrupted the meeting. She said “I have a bad headache, let us please have a break.” She took me aside and told me that I am absolutely right, but the guy who I attacked has the equivalent rank of a minister and I should be more careful, these people have tremendous power. I told her I don’t care, I don’t give a damn. I don’t know if the high-ranking official had been bribed by the tobacco industry or he was just doing whatever he was doing because of stupendous ignorance.

At the Council meeting the following day, the German representative made a speech stating that “health is important, but trade and finances are more important.” Following my recommendation, Greece changed her position and did not side with Germany. This single vote was decisive, it made the difference for accepting the new, tougher regulations. So, when you see these pictures of cancer and horribly sick people on cigarette packets, I am partly to blame for them.

As for the vice-minister who listened to me and voted against the tobacco companies, a delegation of the tobacco companies visited her office a few days after she had returned to Athens. They bluntly told her that her political career was over. Pretty soon, several newspapers and other media went into a frenzy accusing her about a child who had died because of leukemia. The vice-minister was claimed to be responsible for the death of an innocent child. Everybody was accusing that monster assassin. Being female and in power was unimaginable back then (it still is today in many ways). All the corrupted men, even in her own political party, tore her apart. The whole story made absolutely no sense, the accusation was ridiculous, she had nothing to do with it. Very soon, nevertheless, she was forced to resign.

The resigned vice-minister died from cancer a few years later. She was one of the very few people who went into politics and really cared. Also one of the very few who went into politics after having a full, successful career as a scientist of international caliber. I was away at that time and could not attend the funeral, but I noted the place. It is in one of the few spots in Attica that still maintain their primitive, unadulterated charm. Whenever I pass by that area, I remember her.”

With Christina Spyraiki resigned from the ministry, I was also soon sacked from the position of Vice President of the Hellenic Center for Disease Control (the predecessor of the

Hellenic Public Health Organization, the equivalent of the US Centers for Disease Control). The tobacco industry and its allies apparently have had the means to influence even who will lead national public health organizations! Given its financial power, it possibly influences to some extent even on who will lead the whole country. In Greece, every Prime Minister, regardless of political party affiliation (right or left), pays his dues to the tobacco industry, visits their headquarters and congratulates their leadership for their great work in killing massively the citizens of his country (and more than just the citizens of his own country, since some of the produced tobacco products are exported). The latest Prime Minister was a bit different in that he paid his dues even *before* he got elected; he rushed to visit Philip Morris and extol their work during his election campaign. The President of the Republic (the ceremonial head of state in Greece) and the Minister of Health have also thanked the tobacco industry for their “social responsibility” in solemn ceremonies that celebrate public health and the role of the tobacco industry in promoting health and saving lives. Absurdity has no visible end. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Philip Morris even offered some ventilators to the Greek national health system to further prove their “social responsibility”. Once again the political leadership thanked them deeply for their virtue and kindness.

The top media and social media in the country have also paid their dues and have published paid advertisement stories in their pages extolling the tobacco industry and its heroic leaders, including hagiographies of the CEO of Philip Morris. I wrote many times trying to reveal what was going on and how deceptive all this PR agenda was. As a result, not only I did not succeed to turn the tide of deceit, but I was eventually ostracized and self-ostracized from these media. Instructions were given from the top political echelons that I should never be allowed to appear again, even if I wished to. Some journalists who were not aware of this ban invited me to interviews, and then came back to me to say that they apologize, but they had not checked with their editor first. In one funny example, an anchor from the national television called to ask me to give an interview. He was literally begging me. I asked him what date would work and he said any date would work, offering a large number of options, all days were free “for the greatest Greek scientist”. I gave him my preference and waited for a confirmation. Then he called back a few hours later to tell me that he checked again and he had not realized that all these dates and all these times had been already taken. “Maybe some time next year” was his final wishful statement – which did not materialize.

Eventually, it is very likely that the reputational attack against me during the COVID-19 pandemic in Greece (and possibly also internationally) was at least in part orchestrated by Big Tobacco and their powerful media and social media allies who were waiting to get their revenge. Some of the other people who attacked me did not realize that after all they were serving unwillingly a corrupt agenda where Big Tobacco featured prominently. See also the following articles/commentaries for more details:

1: Ioannidis JPA. Greece: Crisis, smoking and tobacco conflicts in social media. *Eur J Clin Invest.* 2017 Dec;47(12). doi: 10.1111/eci.12841. Epub 2017 Oct 26. PMID: 28981138.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/eci.12841>

2: Ioannidis JPA. Lethal news: The dexterous infiltration of news media by the tobacco industry agenda. *Eur J Clin Invest.* 2019 Jul;49(7):e13125. doi: 10.1111/eci.13125. Epub 2019 May 18. PMID: 31058313.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/eci.13125>

3: Ioannidis JPA, Jha P. Does the COVID-19 pandemic provide an opportunity to

eliminate the tobacco industry? *Lancet Glob Health*. 2021 Jan;9(1):e12-e13. doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30466-6. Epub 2020 Oct 26. PMID: 33120026. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214109X20304666?via%3Dihub>

The island of Sikinos:

A small island in the Aegean, see also Variations 8, 81, and 153.

Alameda:

A county of California.

vae victis:

In Latin, “woe to those who have been vanquished” – derived from the famous extortion of Brennus, the chieftain of the Gauls who had defeated Rome, urging the Romans to give him more gold. When the Romans complained that the scales used to weigh the gold were manipulated, he threw also his sword onto the scales and exclaimed that famous phrase. His sword was the strongest argument.

Perama:

A poor neighborhood in Athens, across from the island of Salamis. A ferry connects Perama and Salamis.

those transparent sunken triremes in Kynosoura:

A promontory in Salamis. Salamis is where the naval battle between Persians and Greeks took place in 480 BC. Many ancient triremes are sunk in the waters.

Aexoni:

A location in the south of Athens, one of its ancient municipalities.

the all-white yard of Prospero:

Reference to *The Tempest* of William Shakespeare. Lawrence Durrell lived in Corfu and called it *Prospero’s Cell*.

the mountains of Kassiopi:

Kassiopi is in the north of Corfu.

the naked deforested mountains of classical Attica:

Deforestation may have been prominent even in ancient times for the mountains surrounding Athens. It is a major issue nowadays, following a series of devastating fires.

and the Ilissos river stinking of tanneries in the golden era of Plato:

Ilissos was one of the rivers traversing ancient Athens. Its course can be traced in modern Athens, although it has been largely covered by roads and buildings. This evolution is the equivalent of filling up the Seine in Paris. Sounds unimaginable, doesn’t it? Nevertheless, contrary to the idyllic conception of ancient Athens, where Socrates would walk with his friends discussing along the banks of Ilissos, it is likely that the river in antiquity was already environmentally degraded and it was stinking due to the presence of multiple tanneries in the area. Well, the Seine nowadays is not

a paradise either. It is so polluted that swimming is not allowed (and would be medically risky to do anyhow), but efforts are underway to revert this pollution. Conversely, Ilissos can no longer come back to life, I am afraid.

the last little bears return to the deserted Brauron:

Brauron is an ancient sanctuary of Artemis, the virgin goddess of hunt, in the west coast of Attica. This is where Iphigenia came back to Athens from Tauris. Adolescent girls were consecrated to Artemis before their marriage and spent time in the sanctuary dancing, engaging in games of running, and wearing elaborate robes – they were called ἄρκτοι, she-bears.

among the almond and pistachio trees in the abandoned Mesogeia:

Mesogeia, literally “middle earth” are a part of Attica with vineyards, almond, and pistachio trees, several parts still remaining unspoiled but continuously being encroached by urban development.

the metal whole-body Glockenspiel of the young country singer in New Orleans:

A Glockenspiel, a percussed instrument, is worn here as a full-body tunic.

Menlo Park:

In California – where my home currently is.

Lesvos:

An island in the Northern Aegean.

Variation 54

American Inn of Bethesda:

Bethesda in Maryland, where the headquarters of the National Institutes of Health are.

castellated precipice in the Theodosian walls of the City of Constantine:

The Theodosian walls were erected in the first part of the 5th century AD in Constantinople by Emperor Theodosius and they were effective in guarding the city for over 1000 years (with the exception of the Crusaders in 1204). The walls cracked under the attacks of cannon gunpower in 1453. They consist of a double fortification system and even though they have long been dismantled, large segments of them still remain intact.

Mormon church ... Stanford Avenue:

There is indeed a Mormon church in Stanford Avenue. The avenue forms one of the boundaries of the Stanford University campus.

the island of Serifos:

An island in the Aegean. See also Kentarchos and Ganema in Variations 62 and 65A, respectively.

VARIATIONS ON THE ART OF THE FUGUE AND A DESPERATE RICERCAR

Variation 1 <i>In search of evidence</i>	7
Variation 2 <i>Desirable encounter</i>	10
Variation 3 “Little blue pseudonymous bird, don’t leave my garden”	11
Variation 4 I don’t know myself well enough, but I always liked eucalyptus trees	12
Variation 5 <i>Diary of a foreigner</i>	13
Variation 6 Last June we were all alone in the Garden of Eden	15
Variation 7 I won’t defend myself, I am distressed by all these indicators	16
Variation 8 <i>Inconceivable</i>	17
Variation 9 <i>Difficult dialogue</i>	18
Variation 10 I remember very well that afternoon when I was wearing that red sweater	19
Variation 11 <i>The third time of Odysseus</i>	20
Variation 12A In his dreams there often came the image of a large paved square	22
Variation 12B <i>Specification</i>	23
Variation 13 The purifying robot surveys the bottom of the swimming pool	24
Variation 14 <i>Mythical city with an embedded biography of Caravaggio</i>	25
Variation 15 <i>Return to Koronisia</i>	27
Variation 16 Their sleep was recorded objectively in the actigraph	28
Variation 17 These are the poems written in clogged sinks of civilization	29
Variation 18 <i>Series of various observations</i>	30
Variation 19 Sacred and miserable, the news arriving 10 hours after the future	31
Variation 20 <i>Underground agent</i>	32
Variation 21 <i>Unpredictable present time</i>	33
Variation 22 <i>Unpredictable past</i>	34
Variation 23 <i>Construction: work in progress</i>	35
Variation 24 It was an embarrassment for the news anchors	36
Variation 25 <i>From a distance</i>	37
Variation 26 <i>Back to Venice</i>	39
Variation 27 <i>Back to Lago di Como</i>	40
Variation 28 <i>Anthill</i>	41
Variation 29 <i>Stemming from</i>	42
Variation 30 <i>Prayer to Leucothea</i>	43
Variation 31 The cycle of the moon shrinks	44
Variation 32 <i>Nikon</i>	45
Variation 33 <i>Alonissos? Maybe.</i>	46

Variation 34 <i>Authentication</i>	47
Variation 35 <i>These summer items do exist</i>	48
Variation 36 <i>Happy summer 2011</i>	49
Variation 37 <i>Not meeting the standards of high art</i>	51
Variation 38A Table: Greek scientists with published works of high influence	53
Variation 38B <i>Antiphon: Cloud of recognizable Greeks</i>	66
Variation 39 <i>Bibliometrics</i>	67
Variation 40 <i>August 12, after 12:20pm</i>	70
Variation 41 <i>Unfinished</i>	71
Variation 42 Fragments of lyrics from the aleatoric paradise	72
Variation 43 <i>Back to Escorial</i>	73
Variation 44 Kathisma Lucia Egremos Big Sur	74
Variation 45 <i>Back to Halle</i>	75
Variation 46 Summer would not let go at Stanford	76
Variation 47 <i>Sperm liquefaction</i>	77
Variation 48 Hercules slays the centaur Nessus somewhere in the median divider island	78
Variation 49 <i>Parallel lives</i>	79
Variation 50 Striving to save his own life and to secure the return of his companions	80
Variation 51 Was it a miscalculation eventually?	81
Variation 52 <i>Realistic scenario</i>	82
Variation 53 The island of Sikinos persists with the iridescence of Alameda	83
Variation 54 <i>1300</i>	84
Variation 55 <i>Flight Chicago-San Francisco</i>	85
Variation 56 <i>Disillusionment</i>	87
Variation 57 Fortunately the Red River is not perfect	89
Variation 58 <i>Epiphany in Key West</i>	90
Variation 59 <i>Back to Florence</i>	91
Variation 60 <i>Luther posts his positions</i>	92
Variation 61 Theorem: Every man resembles others more than his own self	98
Variation 62 <i>Kentarchos choral</i>	99
Variation 63 <i>Back to Nea Moni</i>	101
Variation 64 <i>With starting point in Agio Gala</i>	102
Variation 65A <i>Back to Aegina</i>	104
Variation 65B <i>Back to Aegina</i>	105
Variation 66 The lighthouse just before nightfall	106
Variation 67 <i>Lost nationality</i>	108

Variation 68 <i>Journey</i>	110
Variation 69 <i>Back to Freiburg</i>	111
Variation 70 <i>Discontinuation of mechanical support</i>	112
Variation 71 <i>Representation of a crime</i>	113
Variation 72 <i>Back to Kinetta</i>	116
Variation 73 <i>Transportation from the airport in a black limousine with tinted glass windows</i>	118
Variation 74 <i>Three sufficiently nocturnal stories in Larnaca</i>	119
Variation 75 <i>Large offices</i>	120
Variation 76 <i>Evacuation</i>	121
Variation 77 <i>Flight to Lugano</i>	122
Variation 78 <i>Lost works of Johann Pachelbel</i>	123
Variation 79 <i>Turning into pulp</i>	124
Variation 80 <i>The rental contract stated explicitly that in this particular house</i>	125
Variation 81 <i>Variations on the night shift</i>	126
Variation 82 <i>Variations of morning in the ocean</i>	127
Variation 83 <i>Even if you come back now, the kids will all be gone</i>	128
Variation 84 <i>A mine of titles</i>	129
Variation 85 <i>Yucatan hinterland I</i>	130
Variation 86 <i>Yucatan hinterland II</i>	131
Variation 87 <i>Yucatan hinterland III</i>	132
Variation 88A <i>Yucatan hinterland IV</i>	133
Variation 88B <i>Form of partial destruction</i>	135
Variation 88Γ <i>Form of censoring 104/561</i>	137
Variation 88Δ <i>Form of censoring 31/561</i>	139
Variation 88E <i>Form of censoring 31/561</i>	141
Variation 88ΣΤ <i>Meticulous restoration of the damaged text</i>	143
Variation 89 <i>The clear meaning of history</i>	144
Variation 90 <i>Isabella Stewart Gardner</i>	146
Variation 91 <i>New York – Athens</i>	147
Variation 92 <i>Venture</i>	149
Variation 93 <i>Back to New York</i>	150
Variation 94 <i>Friendly priest of Apollo at Delphi</i>	152
Variation 95 <i>Refusal to visit Souli with wedged memory of Magnesia</i>	153
Variation 96 <i>John/Ioannis/Yannis/Giannis Ioannidis/Ioannides</i>	154
<i>Cloud 1 – John Ioannidis (296 words)</i>	

<i>Cloud 2 – John Ioannidis (148 words)</i>	
<i>Cloud 3 – John Ioannidis (74 words)</i>	
<i>Cloud 4 – John Ioannidis (37 words)</i>	
<i>Cloud 4.1 – John Ioannidis (20 words)</i>	
<i>Cloud 4.2 – John Ioannidis (11 words)</i>	
<i>Cloud 4.3 – John Ioannidis (6 words)</i>	
<i>Cloud 4.4 – John Ioannidis (3 words)</i>	
<i>Cloud 4.5 – John Ioannidis (2 words)</i>	
<i>Cloud 4.6 – John Ioannidis (1 word)</i>	
<i>Definitive Cloud – John Ioannidis (0 words)</i>	
Variation 97 <i>Back to Coronado</i>	173
Variation 98 <i>Here I come</i>	174
Variation 99 <i>The tall and slender violinist is roaming her single-membered orchestra</i>	175
Variation 100 <i>ότοτοτοϊ</i>	176
Variation 101 <i>Following orders to retreat</i>	178
Variation 102 <i>Mammalian leader</i>	180
Variation 103 <i>Another program of annual events without a single Greek name</i>	181
Variation 104 <i>Schimpf und Spot</i>	182
Variation 105 <i>Civilization in terminal sepsis due to a miscalculation</i>	183
Variation 106 <i>What’s going on here? he wondered.</i>	185
Variation 107 <i>Themistocles</i>	186
Variation 108 <i>The fog comes and goes just as suddenly in Ampelia and in Tunitas Creek</i>	188
Variation 109 <i>Someday I will buy the deserted beach where I became wrecked</i>	189
Variation 110 <i>Thy hand, Belinda, darkness shades me</i>	190
Variation 111 <i>Volume of objects</i>	191
Variation 112 <i>Self-awareness</i>	192
Variation 113 <i>Back to lake Léman</i>	193
Variation 114 <i>Europe 2013</i>	194
Variation 115 <i>I will buy my memory</i>	196
Variation 116 <i>The current issue is dedicated to celebrating</i>	197
Variation 117 <i>Respiratory infection</i>	198
Variation 118 <i>The sick body</i>	199
Variation 119 <i>Delirium of Alexander the Third</i>	200
Variation 120 <i>Resurrection prayer in Santa Cruz</i>	201
Variation 121 <i>Successful Greek leadership</i>	202

Variation 122 There are fingers that type casually	203
Variation 123 <i>Lorenzo de' Medici, April 8, 1492</i>	204
Variation 124 <i>Back to Minnesota and interpretation of the landscape by Jaufre Rudel</i>	205
Variation 125 How embarrassing is that full moon! – to get rid of it, you pull the curtain	206
Variation 126 He viewed with distaste the cashier check that they offered him like a Thyestean meal	207
Variation 127 <i>Levels of 17 beta estradiol</i>	209
Variation 128 <i>Informed consent</i>	210
Variation 129 <i>Twenty seven predetermined automations</i>	211
Variation 130 <i>Doubtful retrospective – portrait, 2013</i>	217
Variation 131 He searched feverishly the entire house, he was given eight months	218
Variation 132 <i>Establishment of the northwestern empire</i>	219
Variation 133 The speech is written every day, it is changing, it diversifies	220
Variation 134 <i>Prst, Tkr, Trs, Dnn, Shklsh, Wshsh</i>	222
Variation 135 <i>Back to Andros</i>	223
Variation 136 <i>Comprehensively prearranged ricercar</i>	225
Variation 137 <i>Inviolable dermatology</i>	227
Variation 138 <i>Katerina Gogou</i>	229
Variation 139 What do we do then	232
Variation 140 OK, you don't exist, my God	234
Variation 141 You should hope that the worst prevail	235
Variation 142 <i>Encyclopedic knowledge</i>	236
Variation 143A <i>Marketing</i>	238
Variation 143B <i>Marketing</i>	240
Variation 144 <i>London with in-built forged biography of the revolutionary fugitive</i> <i>Rigas Feraios</i>	242
Variation 145 <i>Mixed messages</i>	244
Variation 146 <i>Making a living out of science</i>	245
Variation 147 It was the first time that what mostly attracted attention to the Parthenon sculptures was their advanced decay	246
Variation 148 <i>Back to Corfu</i>	248
Variation 149 <i>Requiem for a university campus</i>	249
Variation 150 <i>Vita of Saint Alexis</i>	252
Variation 151 We need to clarify and call things what they really are	255
Variation 152 <i>One plus four novels in the price of one</i>	256
Variation 153 <i>50% Pangrati + 30% Lavrion-Kea + 20% Italy</i>	259

Variation 154 <i>Back to Carthaea</i>	261
Variation 155 <i>Back to Poieessa (not necessarily of Kea)</i>	263
Variation 156 Everything is ultramodern –	264
Variation 157 <i>Exhaustive Title: The swimmer was distancing himself from the coast with excellent breast stroke and he seemed to recite an unusual ballad that nobody was on the beach to record. The content became approximately known from other sources</i>	265
Variation 158 You claim, my friend Parialastius Ipikeoris, that I should be writing a novel	267
Variation 159 Eventually the Mediterranean landscape is not the issue, the landscape is just fine	268
Variation 160 <i>Sequencing</i>	270
Variation 161 <i>Solitude-loving terrorist in self-defense</i>	273
Variation 162A <i>Philosophy</i>	275
Variation 162B <i>Science</i>	276
Variation 162Γ <i>Poetry</i>	277
Variation 163 <i>Tal</i>	278
Variation 164 <i>Turn back</i>	279
Variation 165 <i>Type of game in a big city</i>	282
Variation 166 <i>Back to New Haven</i>	283
ANNOTATIONS	287

The cover and the frontispiece are compositions based on photos from North Water Street in Chicago, the Villa Farnesina in Rome, and the island of Antipaxi from the archives of the author.