

From: Serkan Ozkaya <serkanozkaya@yahoo.com>
To: <kortun@netone.com.tr>
Date: Thursday, May 24, 2001 2:47 PM
Subject: Fwd:

--- Serkan Ozkaya <serkanozkaya@yahoo.com> wrote:
> Date: Sun, 20 May 2001 03:41:08 -0700 (PDT)
> From: Serkan Ozkaya <serkanozkaya@yahoo.com>
> To: serkanozkaya@yahoo.com
>
> - But but but the most important rumour now for
> Istanbul is what I'm really working on is the
> earthquake rumour, you know that.
> - No, I don't know about this. There's an earthquake
> rumour?
> - Of course. It is coming. It is coming. Tonight it
> might might be here.
> - But since when is the earthquake rumour here?
> - Uh, since the last earthquake.
> - Which was in ninetynine.
> - Ninetynine. Everybody is living with this
> earthquake
> rumour and everybody is exactly lying into their
> beds
> with with one rumour, waking up with another rumour.
> And everyday there is this trance of rumour going
> on.
> And I'm really thinking of doing something with the
> roofs of Istanbul. Something like that.
> - Tokyo has the same rumour you know. I think Tokyo
> has this idea that it comes in cycles and and and
> the
> inhabitants of Tokyo are very convinced that it's
> gonna come pretty soon.
> - This is the this is the same but we don't know the
> cycles here. Because you know the the the most
> important situation actually -- it's not a rumour --
> we know exactly the reality, that it's going to be
> tonight or in thirty years. Something like that. You
> can create any rumour.
> - Now it's twenty-nine.
> - Twenty-nine; so you can create any story within
> this
> time actually.
> - When was the last rumour, not the last rumour, the
> last earthquake in Istanbul?
> - August.
> - It's ninetynine.
> - But then the epicenter was not in Istanbul.
> - No, it wasn't in Istanbul but yea...
> - It was really so many dead in Istanbul.
> - It's super.
> - And it's a really really big earthquake?
> - It's incredible.
> - It was it in Istanbul, it could be feeled in
> Istanbul also?
> - During the last one, yea.

> - Certainly felt in Istanbul, oh my god.
> - I mean it was it was strongly as that.
> - A part of the city which is Avcılar was...
> - A part of the city was gone.
> - And during the last biennial we've been shaking.
> - Yea, during the biennial.
> - Yea, and everybody was here and.
> - We had some shakes.
> - And uh yea, Carsten Höller has a small booklet as
> a
> work used for the biennale of the earthquake.
> - But he's probably interested in this rumour,
> Carsten
> Höller. He's in the very much in the broad????
> - Yea, but the most important thing about Istanbul
> is
> now consantly about because now every time we for
> example we enduct something recently it was the 25th
> of april which everybody thought was something was
> to
> come and on the televisions and everywhere and
> everywhere people were asking each other whether it
> will come or something to some you know err science
> people...
> - Yea.
> - They were asking and that man was saying for
> example
> 'Oh no, oh I don't believe it will come because I'm
> going to take my children and go out for a holiday
> on
> that evening' and so on somethings so I have. Funny
> conversations.
> - The last one all the last one was cloud formation.
> - Yea.
> - Spesific cloud formation that predicts the
> earthquake, right?
> - Yea.
> - These black clouds that are vertical. So they look
> at the charts and they set another different
> understanding because so that's these Chinese
> ancient
> bla bla you know methodographic.
> - And this this.
> - Astrological.
> - Social hysteria.
> - This this this is a paranoia in the city this is
> the
> most important thing to do.
> - And i really kinda think that the really
> interesting
> norm of the earthquake cities I mean there's a whole
> kind of you know meaning of, i mean Mexico is in a
> situation.
> - Alo?
> - But but.
> - Tokyo, it's the same.
> - But it is one thing which is different for
> Istanbul
> is it is a period of hundred years maybe to to for

> the
> earthquake to reach Istanbul you know. It's such a
> long period for the big ones.
> - It's rare.
> - Yea. And this one to come is going to be really
> really be something. A big collapse. So we had the
> small experiment with the other one you know and the
> last one is going to be the final one and so on you
> know and people are really in a paranoia.
> - I think it's related to the rumour in Tokyo, there
> and then and then it's gonna be the big one.
> - Yea.
> - It's very very similar.
> - So I think this is a so good to concentrate upon
> the
> situation.
> - I think it's a kind of i don't know astral,
> social,
> cultural kind of hysteria. O.K. it's the fact. But
> also we don't have this common sense of solidarity
> or
> whatever. There never has been this self kind out of
> rumour. It really developes a social platform. Which
> we are never we are not very good at that. This
> social
> kind of contacts of in public spaces public spaces,
> public humour, rumour whatever. And then err this
> rumours which is going around is in fact a kind of
> positive thing like because we are kind of wild
> society so we can give a lot we can we can develop
> empathy...
> - Emphaty.
> - Of turkish people. Emphaty. I mean really we don't
> have sense of humour and we don't have this
> emphatetic
> thing. So this is a kind of a communicative way. And
> for I think the structure of the nature of the
> rumour
> thing there's something maybe which is very
> essential
> that if you contribute it, if you share it or... I
> believe that Japan Japanese people have that
> earthquake conscientiousness whatever but they don't
> very contribute in a kind of histeria but we
> contribute.
> - But ours ours is not conscientiousness.
> - No! But this is a contribution we do in kind of a
> what public thing.
> - But I also want to say now you say the rumour has
> been around of the earthquake since the last you
> know
> very big earthquake very throughly. But has there
> been
> the form of a rumour was around? Or it's always
> there?
> - Nothing is around since this.
> - Yea, yea.
> - No no no no.
> - No.

> - Since this big earthquake you know we had but
> actually err all the science people knew that this
> was
> the time. Time of...
> - The situation was very.
> - Everybody knew about it but since we had the thing
> we experienced the thing, everything was that. But
> after this experience the rumours began. So so every
> night you go to bed every morning you wake up, every
> night you wake up you know waiting for it. So on.
> And
> err during that time. I was away. Actually I didn't
> live this earthquake here. I was away.
> - Did you live this, were you here?
> - Yea yea yea. That's when I posted the message.
> - shigava.
> - shigavea an exchange.
> - But did it, it happened?
> - Yea yea he came we got to the areas you know we
> got
> all the materials you know then he was connected
> whit
> to this company who actually is providing all the
> chairs for tomorrow's lecture.
> - Yea.
> - And he comes actually the guy who sponsored the
> whole event.
> - So why don't we ring shegayowa?
> - That would be fantastic.
> - Let's do this. Tomorrow morning early let's meet
> there, trying to connect.
> - He's been there. You know, right? shegeowa was
> here
> couple weeks ago. He has done workshops,
> exhibitions,
> all kinds of things. He was here a few months ago,
> four months ago.
> - But how do you see this because if you're an
> architect. I'm very much interested how do you see
> this earthquake condition, because somehow i find it
> very ineteresting in Japan for example this whole
> notion of the last, lasting you know a kind of
> beauty
> in Japan that has always bein talking about how a
> building can die. That's something in in most of
> Europe there has always been this idea is that
> buildings never die. I mean Cedric Price is one of
> the
> only artitects who always predicted that uhh that
> that
> a time based building should disseppear or could
> disseppear after ten years or twenty years. And I
> mean
> in Japan there's a high conscientiousness of this
> that
> buildings actually die buildings dissappear. And
> that
> always has a lot to do with the earthquake condition
> of Tokyo. Not only and you're as an artichtect with

> this training. Has that an effect on your practice?
> - Err err err, ya biraz yardım eder misin?
> - Yea yea. Sen Türkçe söyle ben çevireyim.
> - Biz bir kere mimar olarak earthquake'le birlikte
> yaşıyoruz. Böyle yerçekimiyle birlikte yaşıyoruz
> aslında. Ve sürekli olarak bizim challenge'ımız
> yerçekimine karşı. Ve bu konuyla ilgili sürekli
> ilgilimiz ama benim de iki tane binam tam depremin
> ortasındaydı fakat ben strüktür üzerine çalıştığımı
> için benim için iyi bir tecrübe oldu. Yapılarımda da
> çok şey parçalar var, light construction diye bunlar
> ve.
> - O.K. I think that, I mean as I like as a building
> architect as I am now I am linked of course our job
> is
> dealing with the gravity. Err basicly. And this like
> I
> have a building, two building in the center like in
> the epicenter of the all the problems of the light
> constructed building as a state, but ama senin daha
> önce söylediğin daha başka bir şey vardı. Yani
> burada
> şeyin gelenegın ağırlığından bahsediyor. Yani the
> baggage of history meslesi var. Ondan bahsetsene
> biraz.
> - Asteriks'in tercümanları gibi. Asteriks'te bir
> tercüman vardır. Ağır.
> - Yeniden yazıyorum. Şey şey.
> - E ee bambaşka bir şey anlatacağsın.
> - Yok bambaşka değil. Bir de şunu söylesene diyor.
> - Ama onu söylüyordu aslında.
> - Hain bir göz olarak dolaşıyorsun.
> - Yarın bunu göstereceğiz.
> - O, ondan iki tane şey çıkartacak.
> - A ah! İmdat.
> - All the life is fucked-up.
> - Kahve mahve, tatlı matlı, kek mek?
> - Damlalıklı mı veriyor?
> - Hey Mambo Italiano.
> - Tatlı var mı?
> - Kokanegro var.
> - Kokanegro var.
> - Ya bizim gelenegımızde dayanıklı depreme dayanıklı
> yapı özelliği var. Yani işte sivil mimaride aksap
> yapılar hep light construction yapılar. Devlet
> yapınca
> daha önce de yani işte Osmanlı ve bundan önceki
> dönemlerde Bizans'ta da gerçekleştireilmiş binalarda
> da
> çok iyi bir geometri bilgisi var. Çok basarılı
> yapılar
> var. Fakat 20. yüzyıla beraber işte o evrensel,
> ulusal dille birlikte bu şey kayboldu. Yani zaten
> mimarlık da mühendislik gibi bir alanı kaybettiği
> için
> benim ülkemde hızlı yapı yapılması gerektiğinden bu
> deprem varlığını gözardı edildi.
> - O.K. So actually the traditional architecture here
> since the state has a lot more influence now, is ...

> and the historical buildings and the cardinal
> buildings are from byzantine tradition or ottoman
> tradition they're based on mathematics, basicly. so
> they're very stable.
> - Mambo.
> - On the other hand universities modernist bla bla
> natioanlist buildings things I mean the issues of
> yani
> issues of stability are never questioned. Which then
> of course state buildings the buildings of.????
> - Ya bugün 20. yüzyılın çoğ'u döneminde yapılan
> yapıların nasıl bir mimari dille ve hangi
> gerçeklikle
> yapıldığ'ını bilmiyoruz yani. Yani I 'stanbul'da böyle
> çok yapı var. Korkutucu olan da bu zaten. Herhangi
> bir
> s_ekilde yani sizin de korktuğ'unuz o zaten. Herhangi
> bir s_ekilde deprem kars_ısında nasıl davranacaklarını
> bilmiyoruz. I 'stanbul'un gerçeğ'i bu. Ve yakında bir
> deprem. Deprem gerçeğ'i bu.
> - Bilmiyorum.
> - The earthquake.?????
> - This is, there is Vasif.
> - Let's start doing in the epicenter egptians
> - This is very important. Because when you say that
> a
> building die, there's this belief or whatever. And
> we
> have another, we believe in that buildings survive.
> And it's a kind of destiny kind of. What he says
> that
> is very true that we don't develop any kind of
> attitude of the realty. For example something
> happened
> during this earthquake time there was one big shake
> and there were some Japanese people in the building.
> They got up to top and the Turks went down. They
> died.
> Turks died and Japanese survived. See? It's you
> know.
> I don't know. It's it's it's vey crazy. And all
> these
> Japanese five, six Japanese, somewhere in the center
> of the earthquake. They go up.
> - Well, then they walk out from the first floor. It
> becomes first floor.
> - Yea, they the the Turks were going downstairs.
> - Super interesting.
> - So they they never fucked fucked it up, and the
> Japanese survived. I don't know, it's kind I think
> it's.
> - What is the notion I mean I don't know I mean this
> is a this is traditionally used to be a place of not
> efficiency but economy. I mean things people used to
> recycle. I mean up until very recently I mean if you
> have a byzantine column in your in your backyard and
> if you can't find a column already and you put the
> column up using it to support your new apartment or
> your new building. There's a whole culture of spolia

> it's completely uninstitutionalized
> way
> of using history. Among museum of history and that's
> the foundation I mean. Anatolia is all over the
> place.
> People use things that they dig from the ground.
> Whenever it's stone or mason or stone structure, I
> mean this is how it goes. Huh? I mean there's a very
> natural I mean organic kind of continuum with
> history.
> Etnoloic?? arthitecture or you know vernacular.
> 'Cause
> we just use whatever this whatever you have. So it
> seems the history is so layered from I don't know
> from
> the who died to this he died to that to that to
> that.
> This this constantly gets recycled.
> - And another rumour of city the city. Are you
> finished?
> - Yea.
> - Yea. Another rumour about the city is the last
> biggest err earthquake has been in in the in the end
> of nineteenth century which was eighteen, 1896 or
> something like that.
> - That was a big one?
> - Yea a big one.
> - In Istanbul?
> - As I have a studio in one of those building which
> was built in 1869 or two years after or something
> like
> that. There is a great belief that in Istanbul all
> the
> structures which has been built near to that date is
> constructed in a way that everything would survive
> with these buildings. Becuase because they are very
> much sthought before they remained so that
> everything
> was in the in the in a way the construction is
> against
> this earthquake or something like that. So I am in
> one
> of those reliefs. But you should see how it's
> separated itself and it's really in a very bad
> condition but again I I still believe that it's it's
> better than the new ones and so on and so this
> rumour
> goes on that the old buildings from the beginning of
> the century are safer than the new newly built
> buildings in the city. So. This is another rumour
> actually.
> - Also most of the things are. Do you think they're
> not they're not artcitecture, I mean they are not
> built by arthitects.
> - Hmm hmm.
> - Like most of the city is not built by arthictects
> actually.
> - Generic
> - Generic.

> - But are there earthquake rumours in the 'Black Book' of uhh Orhan Pamuk?
> - No, I don't think. It was written before the earthquake.
> - No. No.
> - There's a whole.
> - No, o no no it's not always.
> - Always.
> - There's one thing you didn't mention it with the,
> you mentioned it with a few things you mentioned it
> which is quite fascinating for me that after this 99
> earthquake people lived for one or two months in the
> parks in the streets which is pure.
> - Yea exactly.
> - Even not in the epicenter even in the.
> - Yea yea yea.
> - Cihangir park.
> - I'm sorry. It's this. They've.
> - And this was very interesting for me here because
> people told me that there was a very intensive time
> to
> say there must something change now.
> - Yea.
> - But obviously, ha ha, no things are changed.
> - There was a drum&base party in the open air.
> Organized immediately seven days and nights.
> - Yes.
> - And nights were .
> - Such a, I mean interesting topic the earthquake
> rumour which has come up with this discussion of
> tonight. Anybody's written a book about this?
> - Not yet. But I'm I'm working on it. I'm working
> and
> you know and I've started to shoot I'm going you
> know
> several times a month up to that Galata Tower which
> is
> built really in an interesting point which sees the
> whole Istanbul. I'm going up there and you know I'm
> shooting the city from from this tower you know all
> around the city you know this is I'm gathering
> things.
> I don't know yet what will come out. But you know I
> really think of narrating something or putting
> something over things you know this is something
> I've
> talked previously. I don't know now what will come
> out
> of if but this situation with the earthquake is
> something terribly interesting with the city. You
> you
> you sometimes you know it's a kind of paranoia in
> the
> same time. Leave the rumour to somewhere, but it's
> really a paranoia you know you always have to
> you
> know for example I my way my way of looking at the
> city

> has changed and the city looks something else to me
> now you know. With the with the possibility of it's
> been gone in a few years or something like that so
> there comes the feeling of losing something there
> comes the feeling of seeing the all seeing
> everything
> in rumour in in in ruins in a very err you know
> small
> time so on so it's it's it's really a paranoia it's
> it's...
> - But paranoia...
> - Or whatever.
> - ...is a kind of cognition. It's very important we
> can develop a kind of knowlegde and is so. We are
> not
> very rational kind of...
> - I do, I do.
> - So paranoia is very developed kind of cognitive,
> very precautions.
> - Of course.
> - But the funny thing is that the recycling of the
> rumour. That the rumour is recycling. It's like the
> telephone game, it's like that, it really turns into
> some other paranoia.
> - Yea.
> - And it it it it sometimes effects the government
> also. You know for example one night after this
> after
> the big earthquake.
> - The state.
> - The state, there was a rumour that it was coming
> again and they announced.
> - Yea, they announced.
> - They announced again I was in Berlin it was.
> - There was a true anticipation. You won't believe
> this you know my mother I mean my mother-in-law
> called.
> - Announced.
> - My mother-in-laws calls me and she says listen i
> have a very important very special knowledge from
> Ankara. It's coming from the government they say
> leave
> Istanbul right now. They say...
> - The state.
> - And the epicenter is the islands where my parents
> are staying, right?
> - In the.
> - And meanwhile the islands are like all buildings
> are
> one floor, two floor, three floor.
> - Happy hour.
> - So we stayed the whole night outside. Two cars,
> tent
> everything my house is right there and we're like
> and
> we're like 'Where shall we park the car you know if
> if
> like half of the land splits?' this is O.K. and you
> know. The whole city spent that night outside.

> - Picknick, the whole city is making picknick
> - Yea i was.
> - Were you outside that night?
> - Uhuh.
> - You were. Were you outside that night?
> - No green spaces.
> - I mean we were all outside that night.
> - Picknick.
> - It's increadible.
> - Picknick. People are pickinicking.
> - You know
> -
> - and the
> - One of the ideas of the rumour city
> - That's right.
> - Rumours and everything
> - Earthquake stone. There's no shaking. Nothing
> happened actually. There was no afterschocks that
> night. Nothing.
> - Government says no picknick tonight.
> - Nobody made any explanation afterwards you know.
> Making people stay out all night.
> - Because all of them you know they cannot
> - We need that we need this you know.
> - They said 'O.K., it's over you can go now.'
> - We need this public public touch, solidarity or
> whatever. Picknick.

>

>

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