

Liquid Democracy

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Citing texts by Jean
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FADE IN:

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - DAY

Distant elevator music fades into the image of an open ocean.

As we hear the waves and the music come together, we can imagine what it would be like to be out on the beach, right now, bathing in the ocean, under an intense tropical sun, while looking at the horizon.

We turn our look down towards our cellphone, in our hand, turning the camera lens towards us.

Take a picture.

Pause that moment.

INT. PRESS ROOM - DAY

A new frame appears on screen, slowly increasing in size, while the ocean is calmly moving behind.

In it, a podium and a flag.

JOHN, an unidentified man, enters the room. He's wearing a business suit.

JOHN

(In an inspirational,
presidential tone)

Hello everyone! Thanks for being here. I'm the president's new press secretary. Today we will be addressing the shift of our political arrangement, which lies between direct and representative democracy.

The public, confused, looks at John. Even though many of them try to ask questions, we can't distinguish any of them.

JOHN

In direct democracy, participants must vote personally on all issues, while in representative democracy participants vote for representatives once in certain election cycles. Meanwhile, our new system doesn't depend on

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JOHN (cont'd)
representatives, but rather on a
weighted and transitory delegation
of votes. We have called it LIQUID
DEMOCRACY.

People in the audience take pictures and navigate on their
cellphones, looking at what liquid democracy means.

JOHN
Liquid Democracy is the term we
have assigned to our new system,
which generically describes either
already-existing or proposed
popular-control apparatuses. Voters
can either vote directly or
delegate their vote to other
participants; voters may select a
delegate for different issues.

John's MOM, an unidentified woman, enters the room. The
ocean still flows behind them, while a list of different
issues of national importance appears in the horizon in
bright signs.

John's mom reads them out loud.

MOM
For example, we could directly vote
on issues such as: marriage
equality, free trade agreements,
peace treaties, tax reform, land
reform, health and social security,
sustainable development...

JOHN
Until now, we have mostly
experimented on a local level or
exclusively through online
platforms. That's why it's super
important that we bring the digital
revolution to everyone, everywhere!

People in the audience clap enthusiastically, others take
pictures and record video, and some are live streaming the
event.

A big title that reads "Liquid Democracy" appears on screen,
as it slowly melts into the ocean.

EXT. PÁRAMO - DAY

A peaceful landscape of the Páramo highlands in Colombia, surrounded by a mysterious fog and mist.

It's the Chingaza national park, in the eastern Andes mountain range.

John's mom addresses the public, from the distance.

MOM

Páramos are known to be "water factories", since most of their vegetation is capable of capturing the moisture in the air, and turning it into water droplets, which due to the force of gravity, find their way to the ocean, forming crooks and rivers on their way.

Videos of rivers, caves, mist, and fog in the Páramo appear on the screen, showing us that this place actually exists.

MOM

They are tropical, since they are located close to the Equator. That doesn't mean they are warm. Actually, most of the time they reach very low temperatures since they are located 3.000 meters above the sea level. That is why Páramos are like frozen islands in tropical zones; a geographical paradox of boisterous beauty.

The images of the Páramo are suddenly disrupted by two frames that appear from above, like projector screens rolled down from the roof.

Two can still see the Páramo behind.

John appears in one of the frames, while his mom appears in another.

We can only see their hands; they are communicating with us through sign language.

JOHN

Hello friends! Welcome to the e-census, my name is John, and you are few steps away, very few, from being one of the first Colombians

(MORE)

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JOHN (cont'd)
to fill out the electronic form for
the national census of population
and housing. Mom... come!

MOM
Tell me son.

JOHN
Look, participating in the e-census
is very easy. Just follow the
instructions.

MOM
OK, what do we have to do?

JOHN
Just click on the button, look,
this one, which says "create a new
account and user name."

MOM
Let me do it...

We can hear the sound of many clicks, while the tour of the
Páramo arrives at the Chingaza lake, very close to Bogotá.

MOM
Done!

JOHN
Now you have to enter your
information in the ID fields.

MOM
OK, I need my ID. Look, here it
asks for a password and a user
name.

JOHN
Remember that the user name and the
password will be the same ones
you'll be using to access the
e-census from now on. You can also
use it to vote in our new liquid
democracy. All the information of
our home is confidential... No one
can see it...

Fill-in boxes appear on screen: user name, password, email,
phone number, favorite meal, authorization for GPS location,
authorization for face recognition, access to microphone,
access to camera...

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

The form is divided in 4 sections:
1. Location, 2. Housing, 3. Home,
and 4. People. Fill in all the
sections.

The e-census is an app, storing our private information in
the new Liquid Democracy cloud.

MOM

Is it very difficult to fill out
these fields?

JOHN

No mom. You'll find definitions
that will guide you. Always review
if the information is correct. It
was never this easy to count us
all!

John and his mom wave goodbye enthusiastically as their
frames disappear into the tour of the Páramo.

John's mom speaks to us from the distance.

MOM

Water is a transparent, tasteless,
odorless, and nearly colorless
chemical substance that is the main
constituent of Earth's streams,
lakes, and oceans, and the fluids
of most living organisms on planet
earth.

We hear the water from the Páramo, flowing through the
mountains.

EXT. MARS - WEDDING DAY

A dusty day on the martian surface.

In front of one of Mars' tallest mountains, a wedding is
being held.

There are no clouds in the sky, as it shines in its deep
darkness.

Jonh's mom addressed her son, who is dressed as a priest,
about to officiate the ceremony.

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MOM

Picture your wedding day,
cloudless, without any words, any
information. Picture how you would
look like viewed from a satellite
camera. How many clouds would form
in the Martian skies just from
pictures of your wedding day?

John stands in front of the pulpit, starting the ceremony.

JOHN

Welcome everyone to this beautiful
day! Congratulations to the lovers.

People in the audience clap incessantly.

JOHN

We can now offer our customers a
'cloud-bursting' service that can
100% guarantee fair weather and
clear skies on your wedding day!

Imagine a series of clouds on the Martian skies, slowly
clearing out.

JOHN

We've been working on this perfect
day for almost 3 weeks. Yes,
success can be guaranteed!

While we hear a musical advertisement promoting this
innovative service, we begin a tour on the surface of Mars.

MOM

Are you sure this works? Isn't it
harmful to the environment?

JOHN

No mom! We've used this technology
at the Olympic games in Beijing,
and at prince William's royal
wedding.

Images of the Páramo, foggy and rainy, appear one by one, on
top of each other, over the Martian skies.

JOHN

However, if a natural disaster such
as a hurricane were to occur, this
cannot be controlled.

We continue our virtual tour around Mars.

(CONTINUED)

Imagine how the Martian clouds could look like. What information could they contain?

John's mom appears on screen, addressing directly the assistants at the wedding.

MOM

Abstraction today is no longer that of the map, the double, the mirror or the concept. The territory no longer precedes the map, nor survives it. Henceforth, it is the map that precedes the territory, and engenders it as well.

John interrupts his mom.

JOHN

Mom, please! You're distracting our customers.

MOM

It is the real, and not the map, whose vestiges subsist here and there, in our own deserts. The desert of the real itself.

The tour on Mars starts to zoom out into outer space.

EXT. HIDROITUANGO - DAY

We begin a tour of the Cauca river, the second most important river in Colombia, starting at the unfinished Hidroituango dam.

John is standing in front of the dam, holding his cellphone, writing a text message that appears on screen.

JOHN

We use clouds for everything in our lives. To search for information, places, entertainment... literally everything.

John's mom appears next to him, also holding her cellphone, typing a text message that appears on screen.

MOM

Unfortunately many regions in Colombia are so remote that a lot of people still have no access to the Internet or to smartphones.

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MOM (cont'd)

That's why many of them are still using legacy phones. John, how could we get those people closer to all the information they're missing?

Some parts of the map are more visible than others; resolution in satellite maps defines our visual access to these territories.

JOHN

We have the solution! My line, powered by Google. A traditional telephone landline everyone can access no matter the moment or the device. My line brings the power of Google assistant to anyone with access to a standard phone line. This inclusive technology makes search and artificial intelligence available to people without a smartphone or a computer.

MOM

Awesome! It's like talking to Google itself. Using myline is incredibly simple; after placing a call to a regular mobile telephone number, the caller can ask Google assistant a question, in just a second or two we process the question in our custom software and connect with Google systems in the cloud.

JOHN

Yes! Then, my line receives the response and speaks it back to the caller by phone. Call 6000913 now!

The tour on the Cauca river arrives at the state of Antioquia, passing by Nechí, region of intense illegal mining.

We hear people calling from their phones, asking questions: Where is Hidroituango? What's the main economic activity in Nechí? What's the weather like in Caucasia? How cloudy will the sky be in Barranquilla today?

JOHN

Now people can access information on the internet without having internet!

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The tour on the Cauca river reaches its final destination, first flowing into the Magdalena river, and finally into the Caribbean, at Barranquilla, Colombia's golden doors.

As the tour ends, the ocean blurs into a blue background screen, inside a T.V. recording studio.

We see different things at the studio: cameras, lights, a chroma blue backdrop, a chroma green flag, and the podium from which John has been speaking to us all this time.

INT. T.V. STUDIO - ANY TIME OF DAY

A strong studio light showers John's face, dressed with a full chroma green suit.

John's mom, unbelieving, addresses the public.

MOM

Where is the ocean?
Where is Mars?
Where is the Páramo?

The cloud is a network of remote servers used to store, manipulate, and process data.

JOHN

Become a universal user of our new democracy. Our digital agora is more lively than ever; just get your new smartphone and get connected!

A series of advertisements appear on screen, promoting these innovative systems:

JOHN

Cybernetic assembly, digital agora, virtual parliament, liquid democracy, cloud explosion, cloudless wedding, universal technology...

Dataflow can also be called stream processing. Water is yet another state of information.

JOHN

The control over information is the control over nature.

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MOM

The control over nature is the
control over information.

The audience in the T.V. studio applaud enthusiastically.

John's mom addresses his son.

MOM

Well done son! It's time to say
goodbye.

We feel, little by little, the division between our bodies
and the screen.

The screen fades to black.

Our bodies too.

The Colombian national anthem begins to play, faint on the
background. We see a green flag, with a fan making it wave,
on the same side that we saw the yellow flag initially.

Behind John, a series of images start replacing the chroma
key.

A computer voice enthusiastically starts speaking, as if
from a loudspeaker.

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - DAY

The open ocean moves, flowing back and forth, on a sunny
day.

We hear the elevator music playing again.

We look at the flag, green and hanging.

John, tired after a long live streaming, is in front of the
podium.

His mom addresses the public.

MOM

Imagine the clouds dripping.
Dig a hole in your garden to
put them in.

THE END