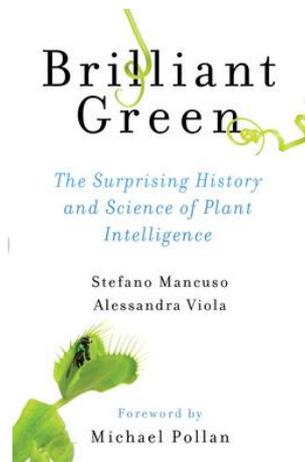


Bookology – Opinion and Reflection

Brilliant Green by Stefano Mancuso & Alessandra Viola

Written by Tiago Miranda



“...These trees have a life like ours... They eat and grow... face poverty, sorrows, and suffering. This poverty may induce them to steal and rob, (but) they also help each other, develop friendships, sacrifice their lives for their children.”

- Jagadish Chandra Bose (1858-1937)

Its name says everything: a brilliant and animated book written by two captivating authors at the peak of their careers. One side is Stefano, a leading plant neurobiologist and author, writer of several other books about plants intelligence and communication beyond human awareness. Another side is Alessandra Viola, scientific journalist and author, writer of documentaries, and a television scriptwriter. Both of them will take you into a journey of plant kinship, and the extraordinary world of plant physiology where plants communicate and proven right, have external awareness, unlike human brains. Page by page, it will halt your past thoughts about plants and rediscover what means to be an immobile being rich in knowledge and adaptive environmental manners. Departing from the idea that knowledge is the ability to solve problems, within clear words and undressed of technical terms, authors solidify history bringing past scientist as a main driven force to the understanding of plants significance. One of them is Francis Darwin, Charles Darwin son, “profoundly influenced by his father’s idea and research, becoming one of the first professors of plant physiology in the world and writing the first treatise in English on this new field of study”; also proclaiming great philosophers, like Aristotle and Democritus, as important factors to

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reconsider plant's role in the world. Mancuso and Viola specify plant's awareness as not a brain-like structure, rather an individual with "adaptively response to the external world and able to receive signals from their environment, process information, and devise solutions adaptive to their survival".

Drawing a line within real and unreal thoughtfulness, moreover, the authors supplement their ideas and research-based upon "our relationship with plants is one of absolute, primordial dependence, and in that sense, it somewhat recalls the relationship of a child to its parents.". Apart from their ability to keep your attention, and throw technical terms into a mix, even the less scientific trained person would able to pick enough information to reconsider somewhat plant's function in this world. Moreover, to reevaluate our necessity, as humans, on plants behalf. Until the end, authors find a thin line of understanding leaving their readers pondering not only about uncertainties but, without a stretch of the imagination, more ideas about plants existence that hasn't been explored yet, motivating readers to search for more. Its grand finale represents the completion of a deep phytology conversation.

"Though it may seem a stretch to invoke for plants a concept that has marked human history, the reference to plants' dignity can be understood as a first step toward legitimizing their rights, independent of human interests. It signifies that plants should be respected and that we humans have responsibilities in relation to them.".