

(130) DIFFERENCES

This is a short paper about differences, their meaning and the consequences of their disappearance. Hopefully it is only a first try and will it be the start for further versions, after I got comments from those who will read this paper and comment on it.

1. It is clear that everything that exists is really very different from everything else. From the biggest entities which exist, the stars and the “milk ways”, till the very smallest, the bacteria &c the differences obviously remain. This is true for all entities, it is equally true for all the parts of all entities. It belongs to existence itself that everything that exists is, in many, many manners, different from everything else.

The differences are again different in character. They originate in different origins and different histories. Probably, if we would know everything, they would be understandable, but it is very clear that it never will be possible to understand all differences. The history of the differences is thus extremely complicated that we will never be able even to explain only a small part of them. We can describe them as good as we can, but probably even that will be possible on a very small scale.

2. Thus it belongs to the essence of existence, to existence as such that it only exists in differences. There simply are no existences outside of, without differences. There is no being for everything which exists without being different. Trying to get away from differences means trying to get away from existence as such.

Thus it is very interesting that we, in our age of mass production, in a sense try to get rid of differences. During the last century we have destroyed endless many cultural differences and will probably go on with this till most of the cultural differences have disappeared. Of course in a deep sense we don't wish it. We try to find the really different, for ourselves. But in the same time we do more and more away with differences and in the same time we produce more and more of the same. We are, here as maybe everywhere, in all our doing paradoxical.

3. Human culture always remained in the context of this general rule, of this general “law” of everything which exists. Culture always ordered the relationships between human beings with differences, differences between men and women, between peoples and between languages, between places to live, between places generally, between dresses, habits, between positions in society, tasks in society, professions &c &c.

There clearly always was a deep insight that without differences life would end up in chaos. The story of the tower of Babel, Gen. 11, 1-9, is an example of this insight. Another aspect is that we always are fascinated by differences, both in nature and in culture, but probably we only became fascinated in this manner when the differences in culture began to disappear. Our fascination is an aspect of the fears which arise just because differences are disappearing.