

A Manifesto
Meaning and Time

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Wir fragen: “Was ist die Sprache? “, “Was ist der Satz?”. Und die Antwort auf diese Fragen ist ein für allemal zu geben; und unabhängig von jeder künftigen Erfahrung.

—Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*

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I

1. The meaning of the world is its most general representation.
2. The image of generality is futurity.
3. Time tells what being is.

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4. God is the generality of time, the unanticipated future.

5. Time gives logic content.

6. Tautology, e.g., A rose is a rose:

We anticipate other predicates.

7. Even theatrics:

Act as if the future were not known.

8. Humor, as the miracle, thwarts expectation.

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9. The skeptical argument points to the fact of time, futurity.
10. A concept arises against the background of alternative possibilities.
11. We seek in seriality the significance of numbers:
That there is change.
12. We presume more than we know, as if there were no time.
13. We wallpaper the future with images from the past.
We then marvel at our dissatisfactions.

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14. We live vicariously, through crystal balls.

15. We fear death, as if we understood life.

16. We suffocate under premature senses of reality.

17. Philosophy enables us to breathe again.

18. Human life is a struggle against specific forms of anticipation.

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19. “If but this feather stirs . . . “:

The future, conditioning meaning, has power to redeem.

20. We think our way to the clarity that prefigures time.

21. The limitations of knowledge:

Solution, not circumstance.

22. Know thyself:

As if one could, independently of futurity.

23. We inadvisedly, as to our fear, make a fetish of pain.

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24. Our fears are anchored in presumption.

25. Our knowledge is expectation of things to come.

26. Meaning exhausts expectation.

27. That we presume more than we know justifies the windmills of Quixote.

28. Eden:

We return naked of presumption.

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29. The significant forms of experience cannot be known.

30. As much as Kierkegaard of Kant, we defeat the presumptions of intelligence.

31. Even as to disease, old age, and death:

We presume more that we know.

32. Against the future, we live extremes of freedom.

33. Spirituality:

Futurity has no face, humility no trappings.

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34. Selflessness:

How one acts not out of need.

35. Always, we seek generality:

That it could be otherwise.

36. As to pain:

That it stop.

It may stop anytime.

37. We ease the burden of expectation.

38. The future is undetermined, not uncertain.

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39. Time has the strength of elliptical expression.

40. Mortality:

Disease as chrysalis, pain as labor.

41. Eternity is the moment to come.

42. The unanticipated future:

Each moment a miracle.

43. We may say:

God is a skeptic, generating time.

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44. Our enterprise is Cartesian:

Our certainty is futurity.

45. Hamlet to Horatio:

Possibility is a token of generality, time.

46. The stars, in metaphor or science, are possibilities of other worlds.

47. The a priori ground of experience:

That there should be time.

48. Death ends in ignorance of the moment to come.

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49. We ride the world, growing young.

50. Over and over it comes back to us, as the sound of a steel drum:

Our thought is our salvation.

51. We express truth without metaphor,

This is the death of God.

52. We give the meaning of the world, and the only solution possible to the
problem of mortality.

II

53. Art:

We seek to summarize the world's meaning in an object.

54. Artistic development inclines to generality of form.

55. A work of art explicates modes of contrast.

56. Contrast generalizes concept.

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57. Art contrasts its environment.

58. Environment includes the legacy of art.

Our paintings therefore move.

59. We seek perspective in seeing upside-down.

60. Michelangelo, Picasso, and the requirements of surface:

We paint inside-out.

61. That we stand upright, elongated:

The vertical generalizes human form.

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62. Wittgenstein:

Der menschliche Körper ist das beste Bild der menschlichen Seele.

The vertical is the image of spirituality.

63. We encapsulate art in shadow.

64. Art, in stillness or shadow, is a metaphor of time.

65. For Leonardo, and physics, raging waters elude mathematics, are images of chaos.

66. We baptize in the waters of chaos.

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67. We transfigure water with light.

68. The light that blinds, darkness that effaces, both conduce to generality of form.

69. We aspire to the sense of works in progress.

70. We see sunlight in shadow:

What are our needs?

71. Catharsis:

Art invokes other worlds, hypostatizing futurity.

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72. Art states time's value.

The mystery of art is time.

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