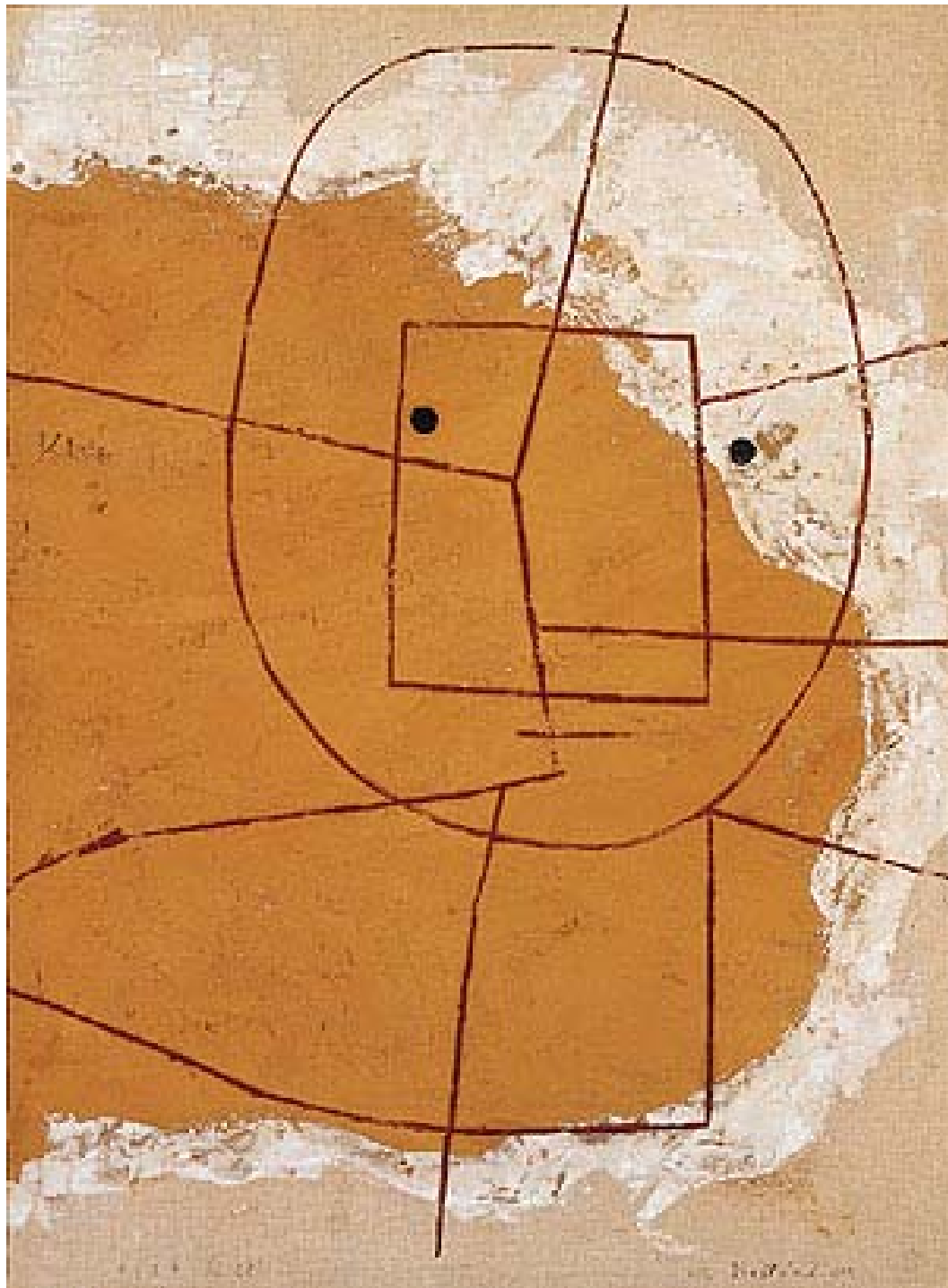# „The one who understands". A transdisciplinary evaluation of religion, culture, science and technology?

Thomas Moellenbeck

(Paderborn):

'The one who understands'
A transdisciplinary evaluation of religion, culture,

science and technology?

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- 'European Identity:

  Culture, Technology, and Religion'

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Topics:

Religion   & Culture

Values   & Europe

Technology, Science **& Values**

Culture   & **Values**

'The one who understands'
A transdisciplinary evaluation of religion, culture, science and technology?

- 'European Identity:
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  Topics:

  Religion   & Culture
  Values   & Europe
  Technology, Science **& Values**
  Culture   & **Values**

- Religion => Culture => Science => Technology
  => decreasing sensitivity to values

The **unity of knowledge**
and the backbone of European identity in
the traditional greek-judaeo-christian attempt of:

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    (- however difficult this might prove to be)

'The real difficulty lies in the fact that physics is a kind of metaphysics; physics describes 'reality'. But we do not know what 'reality' is; we know it only by means of the physical description.'

Albert Einstein

The **unity of knowledge**

and the backbone of European identity in

the traditional greek-judaeo-christian attempt of:

- knowing the world   **and**   thinking a world

(- however difficult this might prove to be)

- evaluating everything according to the goodness
of its true nature

Ernst Wolfgang Böckenförde (1930-)

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'handle with care those cultural sources from which the consciousness of norms and the solidarity of citizens are fed'

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  argumentum ad hominum: contingencies

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- 'Philosophy has reasons to remain open towards
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- 'articulating power of religious language'

- 'what has been lost in other places and cannot be reproduced with the professional knowledge of experts alone – I mean sufficiently differentiated expressions and sensitivities for failing lives, social pathologies, the disruption of individual life-plans and the deformation of distorted life-contexts.'

- A renewal of the unity of knowledge by way of transdisciplinarity?

    'functional' transdisciplinarity

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   ?? argumentum ad hominum: contingencies

Time is almost up

Reply:

1. "Everybody knows that."

- **Reply**:

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- **Theological** answer:

  - You have to learn about nature by way of divine revelation

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  - God became man to cope with contingency from our point of view

- **Reply**:

4. "What's God got to do with it?"

5. "Would we not double our trouble?"

- **Answer to**:

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   Bultmann: "yes, we would"

One of the usual suspects:

- Immanuel Kant (1724- 1804)

the objective and the subjective aspect of our knowledge

The true 'culprit':

- Leibniz (1646-1716)

    - God's eye view
      of metaphysics leading to
      Deism

- Klaus Berger: **modernity** as pictured in Rudolf Bultmann (1884-1976):

"I cannot at the same time use an electric switch and believe in the ascension of Christ."

- Klaus Berger:

  - disciplined
  - synthesizing
  - creative
  - respectful
  - ethical

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- Phil Clayton:
  - layer-cake model ?

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Bultmann: "yes, we would!"

Berger: "no, we would not!"

- **Knowing the world** depends on **functional** Transdisciplinarity

- **Knowing the world** depends on **functional** Transdisciplinarity

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- Thinking the **Unity of Knowledge** is essential to **thinking a world**, yet it rests on a **metaphysical** Transdisciplinarity **beyond** the Science and (historical/positive) Religion Dialogue

Contingency and Catastrophe

- **Leibniz** again:

    - Calculating the possibilities

Contingency and Catastrophe

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  - God compelled to create
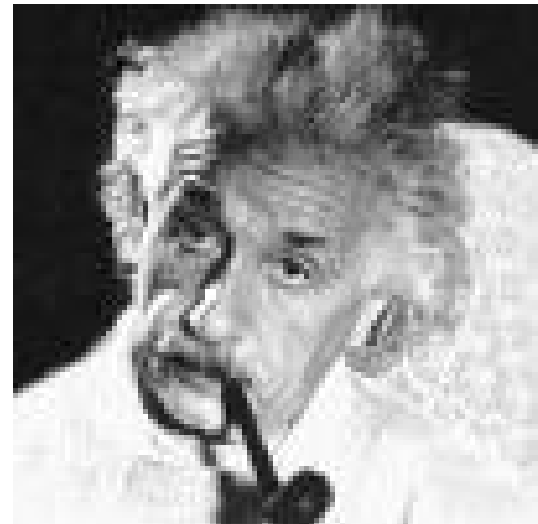   the best of all possible worlds

Contingency and Catastrophe

- **Leibniz** again:
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- **Einstein** as metaphysician:

  - supreme intelligence
    behind
    everything

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Paul Klee (1879-1940)
The One Who Understands
1934

Karl Rahner 1904-1984

- "Theologie und Na-turwis-sen-schaft kön-nen grund-sätz-lich nicht in ei-nen Widerspruch un-ter-einander geraten, weil beide sich *von vornher-ein* in ihrem Gegenstands-bereich und ihrer Metho-de un-ter-schei-den."

In: *Schriften zur Theologie*. *Bd. XV. Wissenschaft und christlicher Glaube.* Einsiedeln: Benziger, 1982.- 426 S.; 26.