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# TO AVOID DEPRESSION FROM FEELING OPPRESSED BY HYPERTROPHIED PLURALISM'S UNJUST REPRESSION OF

PARTICULARITY, I stay angry--but not hostile, for that would be hard  
on my hypertrophied (enlarged) heart

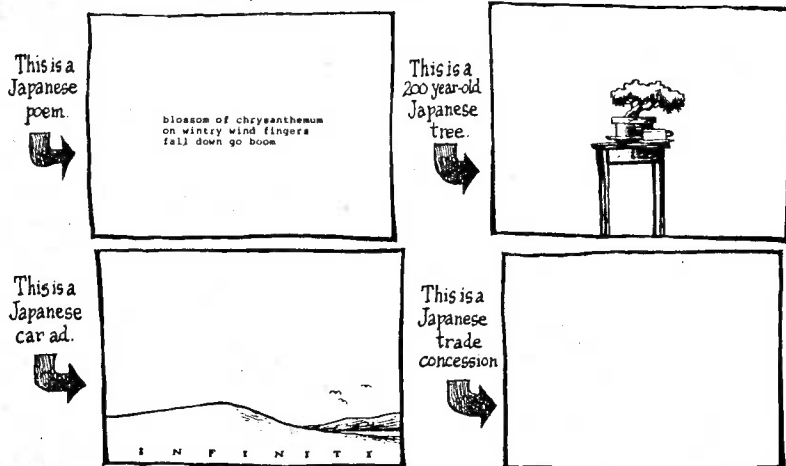
**The Problem:** So holy a word has "pluralism" become as to demonize its rivals, which are innocent particularity & guilty singularism, which pluralism equates. Here are some causes: (1) Leftover '60s antimajoritarianism of babyboomers who've come to enough power (jr.-exec. level) to throw their weight around, especially in the media & in education; (2) Shoah-Holocaust, with its continuing reminder that our Western civilization is not demon-proof; (3) Vietnam & sequels, placarding profound moral corruption at our nation's levers of power; & (4) Our nation's diminishing population-% of WASPS, the representatives of the founding religious & political culture.

1. Hedonists, including the consumerists that millions of Americans have become, are presentists, unconcerned about historical continuity, cleaning the culture's springs & tending its roots. Call them passive pluralists: they're broad-minded by default, from having no particular culture values to be closed-minded, committed, about. I like Jn. Dewey's bon mot: "Open-mindedness is not the same as empty-mindedness. To have out a sign saying 'Come right in; there is no one at home' is not the equivalent of hospitality." Why worry about these nonthinkers? Because they're the lumpen proletariat the active pluralists can depend on the support of.

2. Among the active pluralists, the most disgusting are the Hate America Firsters, who are so intent on pointing to the log in our eye they have no time to see the speck in any other's eye (their self-unrighteousness reversing Jesus' picture). The baddies they attack are Americans, esp. WASPS, esp. males (me!). I've encountered this in public-school teachers & administrators, whose globalism not only avoids special emphasis on America but actually denigrates America in comparison with other nations. Without teaching the children to appreciate our country's foundational culture, these "prophets" teach them to depreciate it. Paid by our taxes!

WAXEY Chicago Tribune  
1990

## Japanese Minimalism:



3. I'll call it pluralistic therapeutic particularity, or the 12-point religion. While not all support groups are 12-point, on the AA model, an astonishing % are (as is cataloged by Self-Help Clearinghouse, 25 W.43rd St., NY, NY 10036). In the history of religions are thousands of cults of therapeutic origin, & tens of thousands of such shrines. Religion being the experience of transcendence, these celebrate transcendence of sickness--some even of death (eg, Christianity)....How can a 12-point group be both pluralistic & particular? It becomes particular when its members have it as

their primary religious praxis, their "church" (whether or not they admit it). And it is pluralistic in the good sense of welcoming all & in the bad sense of denying particularity by being vaguely religious (compare the unexplicit religiosity of rap music). I thought up a slogan for this: "Religion works: work religion." An ex-fatty lost 60lbs. by Overeaters Anon., by "the support of the fellowship and the awareness of a higher power. This need not be any specific religious figure" (in 15Mar90 Ann Landers). (Atheist groups say [see Durkheim] the fellowship is the higher power.)

4. Taking advantage of this pseudo-pluralism, secular forces unjustly repress genuine historic particularity, leaving the field to atheism & New Age mysticism. Esp. depressing is excessive concession, eg Christians' repression of the name "Jesus."