

In the most recent few hundred thinksheets, I've modulated from meaning as sense-making to meaning as connection-making (which is the how of sense-making). For this thinksheet I've coined a new German word, Bauwelt (leastwise it ain't in any of my German dictionaries). And I take a text from the devil (Mephistopheles, 203, Goethe's FAUST, tr.by Louis MacNeice, Galaxy/51/65):

"In the end we all depend, you know,
On creatures of our own creation."

1. Vassily Kandinsky the (mainly) painter joined up after WWI with Walter Gropius the architect to form what came to be know as *Bauhaus* ("house-building"), the German word on which I've formed *Bauwelt* ("world-building"). The thesis of this thinksheet is that feeling-thinking (who can really separate the two?) is a perpetual conscious/preconscious/unconscious conversation between the out-there-world and the in-here-world; or, to change the figure, a perpetual weaving, on the warp of *the world*--a perpetual weaving of *my world*. The notion is a commonplace of the world's old and new epistemologies; uncommon is the using of this commonplace heuristically vis-a-vis present-day complexities and perplexities.

2. Your *axis mundi*, the center-and-orientation of your "built-world," is (1) the first consideration, the foundation of your life-building, and (2) the grounding of your *axis domi*, your house-building, in what Bucky Fuller called "Universe," reality, *mundus mundorum* (the world in/on which all worlds are grounded). For me, this center-and-orientation is Jesus-as-Lord (*Kyrios Iesous* being the earliest Christian creed and baptismal formula): scores of times each day I recenter with the inner word "Lord,..." "The Jesus Prayer" ("Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy (on me)"), an Eastern Christian devotion, is gaining use in the West in this time when attentional self-control is harder and more necessary than ever before in history. (For a short, competent exposition, see the Foreword Movement pamphlet, "Using the Jesus Prayer," By Bede Thomas Mudge; 421 Sycamore St., Cin., O. 45202.). In the religious traditions of India it would be called a "mantra" (Skr., "speech"), the heart of the various Eastern-meditation cults now peppering the West. Learning from the East, Mudge suggests this procedure: sit relaxed in chair, ankles crossed and palms up in lap; tense/relax all muscles upward, beginning with the feet; concentrate on distracting sounds till they bore you; breathe in on "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God" and out on "have mercy (on me)." Thus "we make our bodies part of our prayer." More often, I use only "Jesus." The Sermon on the Mount ends with contrasting foundation-builders, a bright one and a dumb one. Good builders give major time-attention to the foundation. In the inner world the foundation must be laid daily or your *Bauwelt* becomes weak and vague and impotent and you fall into confusion and depression and despair (gradually losing God-axis, world-axis, self-axis). On consciousness + body in prayer, see Ps.84.2.

3. Chaotic times precurse reordering times. So *Bauhaus* (going back to square one: What are buildings for?) followed the Chaos of WWI, and so in 1984 we're beginning to experience design-thinking. E.g., Jerome S. Bruner's IN SEARCH OF MIND: ESSAYS IN AUTOBIOGRAPHY (H&R/83): Mind "constructs reality," gives structure to human thinking/living/planning, by acting on all levels of the environment. Environment provides the building materials, mind provides the blueprints--which is as true of the individual life as it is of society/culture/civilization. It's a call to *active* attention ("directing our attention"), against *passive* attention (B.F. Skinner's outside realities "capturing our attention"). Psychology is the science of (1, Bruner) mind or of (2, Skinner) behavior. Cognitivism and behaviorism rest each on one of two parallel truths; the former seems truer to me, and is basic to this thinksheet.

4. Deconstructionism/reconstructionism. "Your world is too small" (extension of J.B. Phillips' YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL): ethnism, nationalism, racism, classism, sexism, ideology (capitalism, communism). High buildings are narrow, with low morals.

*Sectarianism (religious, cultural, philosophical) can illuminatingly be put under "ideology."