

Monoculture and a museum to hide us

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Together with our youngest daughter, my wife and I will move next month to a 1684 Saxon farm in the Dutch museum village of Oud Aalden, where it's still possible to wander around and walk for hours in the Esdorp landscape, through the monumental farm village, the Essen, the brook valley, the heath and forests. Small scale, which no longer exists in the Netherlands outside living 'museums'. A few weeks ago I wrote that man is a pure quality organism that is relatively slow in reproduction: currently almost 7.5% of all people who have ever lived is alive; the same percentage of all rats alive at once would lead to a huge shell covering the earth.

With the invention of the printing press, we started to compensate this slow biological reproduction rate by exploiting cultural/technical reproduction mechanisms. Economy emerged as infinite growth from finite resources. While biology produces quality at the level of the human organism, the level of our technology outputs mainly quantity; large-scale and diminishing diversity. Think of monocultures, which have supplanted the beautiful stream valleys and varied landscapes of yesteryear, especially after the land consolidations. Or think of the cities, with human "storage stables" with as many floors as possible. Prestige objects in a battle for power. Control-c, control-v: copy-paste. But is there sufficient attention for humanity - pure quality - in this quantitative reproduction compensation battle?

No, economic growth has completely overgrown our biological, and therefore psychological (including moral, ethical and emotional), reproductive potential. Who I am, what I want, and what I can do, I can discover in multiplicity everywhere on my multimedia devices. However, It's far more difficult to find answers to these questions in myself or in communication with the people I really live with, although there is probably already an app for that! How do we get back to ourselves, and start to really see and appreciate each other and ourselves? Despite Nokia's old promise to "connect people," the answer is certainly not in applying more technology or in developing better technology. It has been shown time and time again that improved technology in one aspect for which it was designed subsequently created new problems in a multitude of other aspects. For example, the car was a less polluting successor to horse and carriage. However, with the upscaling of mobility, it turned out to cause much more unforeseen, but far more serious, problems than stinking and decaying horse droppings in nineteenth-century cities.

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It is time for science and politics to take real responsibility for the "iatrogenesis" (pathogenic effect) of technology, instead of blindly investing in new disruptive technology. Even though the close link between technology and the economy seems to "force" it. Monocultures are both not natural, and they are fragile; if things go wrong like with Corona, the necessary items are by definition in the wrong place, because there are no more self-sufficient systems anywhere. Repetition - copy/paste - that results from upscaling is also repetition of side effects, such as decreasing diversity. Nature is colourful, full of variety, and is home to the most diverse species. Exact repetition is nonexistent. People are also colorful, diverse and unique.

Unfortunately, they are less and less in the monocultures that have started to overshadow us, even though so many people are living right now. Can't we do better? As I said, my wife and I will be moving to our small-scale "museum" with our youngest daughter soon. I'm looking forward to it!