

"the physical sensation closets to the feeling of repetition, which sometimes lasts for several minutes and can be quite disconcerting, is that of peculiar numbness brought on by a heavy loss of blood, often resulting in a temporary inability to think, to speak or to move one's limbs, as though, without being aware of it. Perhaps there is in this s yet unexplained phenomena of apparent duplication some kind of anticipation of the end, a venture into the void, a sort of, disengagement..." (187)



Certain patterns of leaf distribution around a central stem are governed by this sequence; 3 leaves in 5 turns, 5 leaves in 8 turns, and so on. There is something unnerving about the idea that in the myriad possibilities in the growth of tree limbs, branches, etc that there may be an underlying, mathematically repetitive principle in the development of natural bodies. In Rings of Saturn, W.G. Sebald says it nicely:

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, ...

Upon further research into the variety that makes up the tree is something called phyllotaxy, which is a botany term concerned with the arrangement of leaves on the stem of a plant. Upon further research, it becomes evident that the design of the placement of leaves is actually controlled by the Fibonacci sequence.



I wanted to express my interest in repetition and pattern through the mundane in a broad dialogue that can be applied to many facets of one's social, cultural and historical identities. Prior ventures have helped create a more focused theme in regards to my interest in repetition/pattern, which looks at aspects of daily life that have fallen below to threshold of human awareness.

# Prolegomena to Mundanity

AN Meyer

The definition of Mundane says " of this earthly world, lacking interest, tedious..." . I strongly believe that every idea, in both the mental and physical sense, began its existence in an unmundane state, when it was new and full of our awareness. Certain aspects of our life simply fall into mundane states, whatever we will it or not.

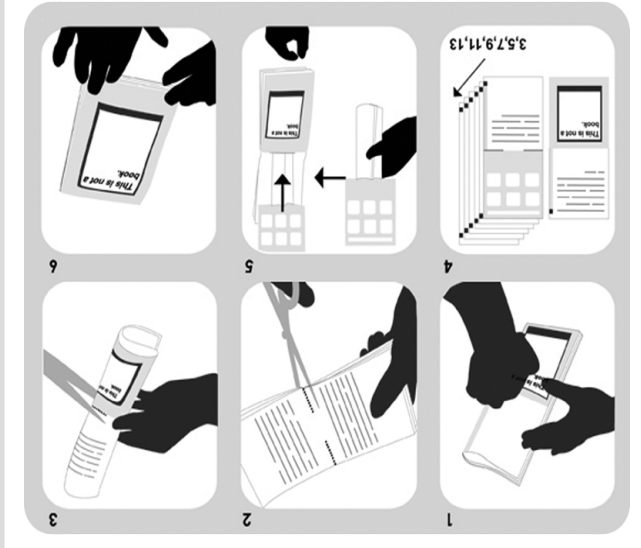


## Prolegomena to Mundanity

AN Meyer

created on: Wed Mar 5 15:54:27 2008

www.diffusion.org.uk  
DIFFUSION eBooks are designed to be freely available to download, print out and share.



What I'm trying to explore is the endless cycle of the ideas that becomes evident upon further reflection of repetition/pattern/mundane. Never is one's thought solely on one idea, but rather ideas continually come and go, as they are needed. Repetition and pattern seen in daily life symbolize routine, which eventually will become mundane at one point or another, in varying levels.

The concept of routine awareness that reaches a point of lost awareness is intriguing because it experiments with the limits of human capacity, as well as the ever-changing motion of our brain. Our multitude of ideas are never set in stone, but rather flow and change like a river. Quoting W.G. Sebald's Rings of Saturn,

*"In the final analysis, our entire work is based on nothing but ideas, ideas which change over the years and which time and again cause one to tear down what one had thought to be finished, and begin from scratch..."* (245)

Reconsidering every idea, and seeing it in a new light is an important observation that gives mundanity more meaning, and rather elevating it from that forgotten state.

The above picture of a mushroom ring is a good example of the evident patterns found in nature, although nature is often seen in a mundane way. The fact that our level of appreciative awareness is diminished over time in certain elements of our lives, like seen in nature, is not out of malicious intent, but rather simply appropriating the world around us on a scale of priority.

Now not to attempt to be too lofty, the simple concept I'm trying to get across revolves around the rediscovery of a meaning, since everything in human existence has some meaning. Georges Perec's *Species of Spaces* puts it nicely, in that we should remember to point out the little details, that are almost too obvious.



I've made it clear that my interest lies in the RPM, particularly RP in M. This interests becomes most manifest particularly in the natural world, although not limited to it. Take for example the idea of the root of the tree. Obviously, it may hardly ever be the mind's top priority of awareness. For the most part it is never visible, really only seen when trees are unceremoniously ripped from it's placement for it's material and the castrated root left to be burned or simply falling back into the cycle of growth.



To end here, what has been read above helps to further define this RPM and the 'meaning behind the meaning'. By asking these questions in things that no longer warrant to be questioned, we come up with answers for our better understanding, so in a way we give an identity to those concepts without an identity through our rediscovered awareness.

**AM**



I believe I have given a few important examples of discerning repetition and pattern in the mundane. Like stated at the beginning, the mundane and boring are one and the same. I could go on with many more examples of the hidden or lost meaning in mundane items, but really, by me setting out on that task, this publication would then descend to a mundane level in and of itself. Short and simple will work fine.

#### Passage V: Conclusion

The root is a perfect example of Perec's interest, as well as mine, in the "elementary distinctions". Upon further reflection, the symbolism found in the root, a very mundane idea, is profound. Let's really consider the root, bear with me, turn this mundane concept into something elevated. It has been recorded that some roots are able to descend 100 feet through desert sand in their quest for water and the occupation of the root "must constantly secrete acids to dissolve minerals to provide nourishment and protection for the plant".

These are really just facts, but to really understand the essence of the root, to progress its awareness on the mundanity level can be seen through the root being a powerful symbol of natural sacrifice since in it's mother role, "it's efforts are not for its own benefit but to uplift the plant in it's movement towards light."



Another fascinating element of mundane is the tree. Apart from each species of tree, the unifying concept that seems so blatantly obvious is the fact that of the trillions of trees on the earth, the physicality of each tree is different in some way or another. There is not one tree that is the exact same make up as the next one. The variety is infinite, but is it variety?

#### Passage IV: Tree Case Study