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Dustin Pickering

Mimesis and Mart Twain

In order for something to exist, there must be a space of Nothing for it to occupy. The placeholder must be Nothing to maintain its sanctity. Nothing is holy and pure. For a space to be Nothing, it must be contrasted with Something - that is, it must perform dialectically between positive and negative.

Such is language. The hypothesis concerning the development of recursive imagination as forerunner to language itself appeals to mimesis - a strong natural process in human culture.

Mimesis is the repetition of another's act or speech. In other words, it is "copycat"; Mark Twain wrote that a cat touching a hot stove will naturally not do so again, and he advises the reader not to "copycat." What is he suggesting about human nature? That we defy learning? Or perhaps that we apply our own judgment to learning? Do we need to touch the stove to know its heat?

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Mimesis, the process of imitation and conveyance via our social nature, is a process of taking Something and duplicating it. Therefore I ask the reader does this suggest that in order for Existence to prevail logically, must there be an Essence?

Nothing exists to be filled with Something because a cup cannot remain empty if it is to fulfill its purpose. Having been created to hold liquid by human hands for human hands, the cup will not remain in its stationary field; rather, it will attend the flux crossing through it and around it.

Therefore, to "copycat" one must adapt a pattern and share it. Therefore learning is a process of imitation, whether conscious or unconscious.

Perhaps what Twain meant is we satisfy ourselves at the lode - instead of copycat, we risk independent inquiry and truth. The statement should not be taken literally. What can it offer my original thesis?

Action - intangible or tangible - does not exist within a Void; rather, it leaves the Void. Mimesis exist to shape form of formlessness. All act and thought must fill Nothingness, a Nothingness only it can fill. Individuality is purposeful and within consistent conscience.

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