Spinoza #04 book



We have asked: what is the compound of philosophy and its materials? Here we are asking: what is the compound of psychoanalysis and something else (for instance philosophy)? Can we even consider this compound without heeding Spinoza's call for 1-in-1 unity of essence and existence in substance?

That is, the **in-one** requirement to define 'substance' as an ethical method to maintain relationships **not** based on isolation, but on **individuation**: that is a relationship which has to be maintained **within** each one of us, to feature aesthetico-epistemic interaction **between** us, that is **actually** operational.

I am not sure whether anyone really has succeeded at this—because how exactly would we know?—but my feeling is that just as the unity between essence and existence is haptic (even if infinite), the finite terms of the situational is contingent to substance, once it has become individuated.



materials [return] 15.03.2020

What has been established up to this point is a possible approach to the book and its materials: that is, the book's multiple references and the context of Spinoza's life: how he made a living and how is life went. Which means that we need some materials of our own, to avoid merely expanding the isolate.

Since the same problem that we encountered with the **exegetic** method can easily be expanded and **invented** as we include the context and the materials for the book. The only way to **break** with the **premise** of the **isolate** is to think and act **relationally**, which means that we need a material & context.

So, let us think of this scenario. We have a material composed of two different subsections. Both are conceived as isolates. But whereas one corpus claims essence but lacks existence (it claims to be a book to come), the other corpus exists but makes no claims (it is only made up of diaries).

Being part of the same archive—by the decision of the two people who produced and owned them—the isolate can be broken by deciding that they should be submitted conjointly to the readability of a book. The readability of a book is not the same as reading written words and sentences in a text.

The book contains writing, but it also contains elements—such as images, charts, case, boxes, references and chapters—characterised by the fact that they can be listed and numbered: so the book includes this sort of inventory defining the book as such. It also contains elements that can be told: stories.

Of course, any text can be analysed in these terms, but then we are analysing it as a book. More importantly, the outline of constituent elements of a book—outlined above—is relevant in the context of **publication**. Just by creating such inventories for the above archive, we are **already** working on a book.

Archives are defined by provenance—the acts of legal/regular deposit—and not by structures of this kind, in which we are interested in here because they are not only structures, but structuring structures: in the concrete sense that the character of the material—hidden in its isolation—will reveal itself.

Which means that the **book-making** process—initiated by working on archive materials with the scope of a book—will initiate a kind of character-analysis of the materials: that is a process similar to a **psychoanalytic** labour, but carried on **something else** than a psyche: something potentially a **cultural** material.

In other words, we are approaching something articulating at the crossroads **between** a psychology of culture—a character-analysis at the level of a life-situation involving relationships (e.g. **wife** and **husband**)—and that thing Spinoza termed **substance**: e.g., the outlook from their **domestic** unit.

To make psychoanalysis to work in this way—to avoid the problem of the isolate—the psychoanalyst would, in this case, be in **professional collaboration** with e.g. an anthropologist. The work of Deleuze and Guattari on Kafka—on the topic of 'minor literature'—could be forerunner of **such** an attempt.