





METATEXT

# IMMATERIALISM

VILÉM FLUSSER

METAFLUX

IMMATERIALISM

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¶WORDS MAY CHANGE THEIR MEANING. THE ONE THAT IS THE TITLE OF THIS ARTICLE MAY SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE. IT USED TO MEAN A PHILOSOPHICAL TENDENCY TO DENY THE REALITY OF MATTER (FOR INSTANCE BERKELEY). IT NOW OFTEN MEANS A FORM OF ART THAT RESULTS IN IMAGES WITHOUT MATERIAL SUPPORT (FOR INSTANCE HOLOGRAMS). BUT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN COMMON TO THOSE TWO MEANINGS. IF NOT, WHY USE THE SAME WORD? IT MUST BE POSSIBLE TO EXTIRPATE THAT COMMON NUCLEUS OUT FROM THOSE TWO WIDELY DIFFERENT MEANINGS. AND THAT NUCLEUS WILL HAVE

SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CONCEPT »MATTER«. NOW IF ONE SUCCEEDED IN DOING THIS, ONE WOULD HAVE OPENED AN ACCESS TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION WE ARE WITNESSING. BECAUSE »MATTER« IS OBVIOUSLY A BASIC CONCEPT OF OUR CULTURE, AND IF IT HAS SHIFTED ITS MEANING, THE ENTIRE EDIFICE OF CULTURE WILL BE SHAKEN. THIS ARTICLE WILL EXAMINE THIS SHIFT. ¶CONCEPTS MUST BE DEFINED, IF THEY ARE TO HAVE A MEANING. THEY MUST BE DISTINGUISHED FROM OTHER CONCEPTS. FOR INSTANCE: THE CONCEPT »TABLE« CAN BE DEFINED

BY DISTINGUISHING IT FROM THE CONCEPT »CHAIR«. IT THEN BECOMES OPERATIVE. ONE MAY, FOR INSTANCE, CONSTRUCT A WIDER CONCEPT, NAMELY »FURNITURE«, AND HAVE IT COVER THE TWO ORIGINAL CONCEPTS. OR ONE MAY CONSTRUCT A GREY ZONE BETWEEN »TABLE« AND »CHAIR«, IN WHICH BOTH CONCEPTS APPLY, AND ONE MAY INSTALL, FOR INSTANCE, A SPECIFIC SORT OF SCHOOL FURNITURE WITHIN THAT GREY ZONE. NOW WITH THE CONCEPT »MATTER« THOSE OPERATIONS WILL NOT WORK, AND FOR A CURIOUS REASON. OUR TRADITION DEFINES »MATTER« WITH

REGARD TO TWO OTHER CONCEPTS, NAMELY »SPIRIT« AND »FORM«. BUT IT DOES SO »DIALECTICALLY«, MEANING THAT THE TWO CONCEPTS DEFINED WITH REGARD TO EACH OTHER CONTRADICT EACH OTHER. THUS, »MATTER« IS EITHER DEFINED AS »OBJECT OF SPIRIT« OR AS »CONTENTS OF FORM«, AND, INVERSELY, »SPIRIT« IS DEFINED AS »THE SUBJECT OF MATTER« AND »FORM« IS DEFINED AS »CONTAINER OF MATTER«. NOW SUCH NEGATIVE DEFINITIONS DO NOT PERMIT OPERATIONS. NEITHER A WIDER CONCEPT, NOR A GREY ZONE BETWEEN CONCEPTS CAN BE CONSTRUCTED. IT

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IS AS IF WE HAD DEFINED  
»TABLE« AS AN »ANTI-  
CHAIR« AND »CHAIR« AS  
AN »ANTI-TABLE«. THIS  
TYPE OF CLUMSY CONCEPT IS  
CALLED »METAPHYSICAL«,  
AND ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE  
ELEGANT IT IS NOT VERY  
USEFUL. ¶NON-WESTERN  
CULTURES DO NOT SEEM TO BE  
TROUBLED WITH THIS SORT  
OF METAPHYSICAL SCRUPLE,  
AS FAR AS THE CONCEPT  
»MATTER« IS CONCERNED.  
FOR INSTANCE, THEY QUITE  
HAPPILY CONSTRUCT A GREY  
ZONE BETWEEN »MATTER«  
AND »SPIRIT«, WHICH THEY  
FILL WITH THIN MATTER OR  
THICK SPIRIT OF THE TYPE  
»GHOST«, OR »ANGEL«, OR  
»ASTRAL BODY«, AND THEY

EVEN PHOTOGRAPH THOSE  
PHANTOMS. OF COURSE: THIS  
INTERMEDIATE POPULATION  
EXISTS IN THE WEST JUST  
AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE, BUT  
WITH US IT IS CONSIDERED  
EITHER AS A REMNANT OF  
A PRIMITIVE AND ALMOST  
EXTINCT RACE, OR AS  
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.  
BECAUSE WE, THE TRUE  
HEIRS TO THE ANCIENT JEWS  
AND GREEKS, DO NOT PERMIT  
ANY SPIRITUALISATION OF  
MATTER OR MATERIALISATION  
OF SPIRIT. FOR US, THESE  
ARE OPPOSITE CONCEPTS,  
AND AN ABYSS SEPARATES  
THEM. ¶YES, BUT: IF  
»SPIRIT« MEANS »SUBJECT  
(OF MATTER)« AND »MATTER«  
MEANS



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»OBJECT (OF SPIRIT)«,  
 WHAT HAPPENS IF I  
 THINK ABOUT »SPIRIT«?  
 DOES IT NOT BECOME AN  
 »OBJECT«, AND THUS  
 A CURIOUS KIND OF  
 »MATTER«? FOR INSTANCE,  
 AS WITH DESCARTES,  
 A »RES COGITANS«, A  
 »THINKING THING«? AND,  
 BEING A »THING«, MUST IT  
 NOT BE LOCATED SOMEHOW  
 SOMEWHERE, AT SOME  
 MOMENT? THIS OF COURSE  
 WOULD RESULT IN SUCH  
 FUNNY PROBLEMS AS THE  
 ONE THAT SEARCHES FOR  
 THE »SEAT OF THE SOUL«.  
 AND IF ONE PURSUES THIS  
 QUEST FURTHER INTO THE  
 DIRECTION OF ELEGANT  
 SPIRITISM, ONE WILL

FINALLY COME UP AGAINST  
 THAT EVEN FUNNIER  
 PROBLEM CONCERNING THE  
 »IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL«.  
 AN EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE  
 EXAMPLE FOR THE TROUBLES  
 WE ARE IN WHEN TRYING TO  
 OPERATE WITH THE CONCEPT  
 »MATTER«: »SPIRIT«  
 CONTRADICTS »MATTER«  
 AND THIS CONTRADICTION  
 MANIFESTS ITSELF AS  
 »WORK«. THE RESULT OF THIS  
 IS »CULTURE«. THEREFORE,  
 CULTURAL OBJECTS ARE  
 MATERIALISED SPIRIT AND  
 SPIRITUALISED MATTER,  
 ALTHOUGH NOT QUITE IN  
 THE SENSE THAT EXTRA-  
 OCCIDENTALS MEAN WHEN  
 TALKING OF PHANTOMS,  
 WHICH SHOWS THAT



A BUTTERFLY FROM ITS COCOON, AND WHAT I HAVE DISCUSSED UP TO THIS POINT IS THAT EMPTY SHELL, WHICH SCIENCE HAS LEFT BEHIND. NONETHELESS, SCIENCE COULD NOT BUT INHERIT THE CONCEPT »MATTER« FROM PHILOSOPHY, BECAUSE THIS IS A BASIC CONCEPT. AND IT DID NOT KNOW VERY WELL WHAT TO DO WITH THIS CLUMSY CONCEPT, EXCEPT TO TRY AND MEASURE IT. THUS, IT INVENTED THE CONCEPT »MASS«, WHICH IS ALSO NOT VERY COMFORTABLE, BUT WHICH AT LEAST PERMITS ONE TO POSE THE QUESTION OF THE STRUCTURE OF MATTER. THE RESULT, ALTHOUGH NOT VERY HELPFUL, IF

METAPHYSICAL CONCEPTS ARE NOT VERY COMFORTABLE.

¶OF COURSE: THIS GORDIAN KNOT MAY BE EASILY CUT THROUGH, EITHER BY DENYING THE »REALITY« OF »MATTER« (IMMATERIALISM IN THE OLD SENSE) OR OF »SPIRIT« (RADICAL MATERIALISM). BUT THIS IS NOT A VERY CLEVER METHOD.

IT LEAVES »MATTER« AND »SPIRIT« UNDEFINED, AND THUS WITHOUT MEANING. TO SAY THAT »EVERYTHING IS MATTER (OR SPIRIT)« IS JUST AS MEANINGFUL AS IS A COCK'S CROWING. WE MUST FIND OTHER WAYS OUT, AND SCIENCE IS TRYING TO DO SO. ¶SCIENCE DEVELOPED FROM PHILOSOPHY LIKE

THE OVERCOMING OF METAPHYSICS IS THE AIM, IS, TO SAY THE LEAST, SURPRISING. ¶»MATTER« NOW LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE A SERIES OF RUSSIAN DOLLS, ONE CONTAINING THE OTHERS. THE BIGGEST DOLL IS ASTRONOMICAL (EINSTEINIAN), IT CONTAINS THE MOLECULAR DOLL (NEWTONIAN), WHICH CONTAINS THE ATOMIC DOLL (WHERE MASS AND ENERGY MERGE), WHICH AGAIN CONTAINS THE NUCLEAR DOLL (WHERE CAUSALITY ABDICATES IN FAVOUR OF STATISTICS), WHICH AGAIN CONTAINS THE PARTICLE DOLL (WHICH POSES CURIOUS PROBLEMS OF SYMMETRY)

AND THE SMALLEST DOLL IS THE QUARK DOLL (WHERE IT IS DIFFICULT, EVEN MEANINGLESS, TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PHENOMENON AND MATHEMATICAL SYMBOL). NOW THIS DOES NOT SOUND VERY HELPFUL, EXCEPT FOR ONE BIG SURPRISE, WHICH IS THAT WHATEVER PHILOSOPHY SAYS CONCERNING »MATTER« RELATES EXCLUSIVELY TO THE MOLECULAR LEVEL. ON ALL OTHER LEVELS, IT IS NONSENSE TO SAY THAT »MATTER« IS AN »OBJECT OF SPIRIT« OR A »CONTENT OF FORM«. ¶THUS, ALL OF THE ETERNAL PROBLEMS THAT PHILOSOPHY HAS WITH MATTER, LIKE THE

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PROBLEM OF THE  
IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL  
OR THE MATERIALISATION  
OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH  
COMMITMENT TO CULTURE,  
ARE SHOWN TO BE MOLECULAR  
PROBLEMS. AT FIRST SIGHT,  
THIS DOES NOT SOUND VERY  
STUNNING. DO WE NOT LIVE  
ON THE MOLECULAR LEVEL,  
ITS DIMENSIONS BEING OURS  
(OUR BODIES ARE MEASURED  
IN CENTIMETRES, AND OUR  
AGE IN SECONDS) ? ALL THE  
OTHER LEVELS OF  
MATTER ARE EXISTENTIALLY  
IMMEASURABLE FOR US,  
AND DO NOT CONCERN US.  
THE ETERNAL PROBLEMS OF  
PHILOSOPHY ARE THUS OUR  
PROBLEMS, AND NOTHING  
SCIENCE MAY SAY CAN CHANGE

THIS. SCIENCE IS  
INCOMPETENT IN THE FACE  
OF THIS KIND OF PROBLEM.  
AT SECOND SIGHT,  
HOWEVER, THIS BECOMES  
UNTRUE. WE DO NOT LIVE  
EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN  
THE CENTIMETRE/SECOND  
DIMENSION. PROCESSES GO  
ON WITHIN OUR BRAIN AND  
OUR NERVOUS SYSTEM, WHICH  
HAVE ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT  
DIMENSIONS. PARTICLES  
ENTER THOSE SYSTEMS, THEY  
JUMP QUANTICALLY BETWEEN  
THE NERVE SYNAPSES, AND  
THEY ARE PROCESSED THERE.  
AND WE EXPERIENCE THIS AS  
PERCEPTION, IMAGINATION,  
WISHING, THOUGHT, AND  
DECISION MAKING. WE LIVE  
CONCRETELY JUST AS

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MUCH ON THE LEVELS OF PARTICLES AS WE LIVE ON THE MOLECULAR LEVEL, WHICH GIVES RISE TO A CURIOUS SUSPICION: WHAT IF »SPIRIT« WERE THE NAME WE GIVE »MATTER« ON THE LEVEL OF PARTICLES, AND WHAT IF »MATTER« WERE THE NAME WE GIVE »SPIRIT« IN THE MOLECULAR LEVEL? THIS MIGHT NOT SOUND LIKE A VERY ORIGINAL SUSPICION (IT SOUNDS LIKE SPIRITISM) BUT, UNLIKE SPIRITISM, IT PERMITS TECHNICAL EXPERIMENTATION. UNTIL RECENTLY, ALL EXPEDITIONS UNDERTAKEN INTO THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF MATTER STARTED FROM THE MOLECULAR LEVEL. DEMOCRITUS LEFT IT IN SEARCH OF ATOMS, ARISTOTLE IN SEARCH OF THE STARS AND SCIENCE CONTINUED TO DO SO, ALTHOUGH IT ORGANISED ITS EXPEDITIONS A LITTLE BIT MORE CAREFULLY. THIS IS CHANGING. WE NOW WITNESS EXPEDITIONS COMING FROM THE LEVEL OF PARTICLES THAT INVADE THE MOLECULAR LEVEL AS IF FROM BELOW. THINGS LIKE THERMONUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, COMPUTERS, ROBOTS, OR ELECTROMAGNETIC IMAGES ARE PARTICLES INVADING OUR MOLECULAR LEVEL. THEY EXPLODE OUR ETERNAL PROBLEMS. IT IS NONSENSE TO SAY OF A



THERMONUCLEAR PLANT  
THAT IT SPIRITUALISES  
MATTER; OF A COMPUTER,  
THAT IT IS A MATERIALISED  
SPIRIT; OF A ROBOT, THAT  
IT DECIDES AND ACTS UPON  
DECISIONS; OR OF A TV  
IMAGE THAT IT IS A PURE,  
PLATONIC FORM. ALL SUCH  
METAPHYSICAL FORMULATIONS  
FAIL, WHERE SUCH PARTICLE  
INVASIONS ARE CONCERNED.

INSTEAD, IT BECOMES  
POSSIBLE TO EXPERIMENT  
WITH THESE SORTS OF  
PROCESSES, WHICH ARE OF  
THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE  
OUR BRAIN INHABITS.

SO-CALLED »ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCES« MAY  
SERVE AS EXAMPLES FOR  
THIS TRANSITION FROM  
METAPHYSICS TO TECHNICAL  
EXPERIMENTATION. THEY ARE  
RUDIMENTARY SIMULATIONS  
OF A FEW BRAIN FUNCTIONS.

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY HAS NOT  
ADVANCED VERY FAR INTO THE  
SECRETS OF THE BRAIN, BUT  
FAR ENOUGH TO PERMIT THOSE  
SIMULATIONS. THIS IS NOT  
SURPRISING: PALAEOLOGIC  
MAN DID NOT NEED A WELL-  
ELABORATED THEORY OF  
MECHANICS TO SIMULATE  
A FEW FUNCTIONS OF HIS  
ARM TO INVENT THE LEVER.

OF COURSE: IT WOULD BE  
AN EXAGGERATION TO CALL  
A LEVER AN »ARTIFICIAL  
ARM«, JUST AS IT IS AN  
EXAGGERATION TO CALL OUR  
CRUDE SIMULATION





OF BRAINS »ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCES«. STILL, THE LEVER IS THE ANCESTOR OF ALL MACHINES, AND MACHINES HAVE NOT ONLY TAKEN OVER MOST OF THE MUSCULAR BODY FUNCTIONS, THEY HAVE EXCEEDED THE MECHANICAL CAPACITIES OF THE BODY BY A LONG WAY.

WE ARE, AS FAR AS OUR INTELLECTUAL CAPACITIES ARE CONCERNED, AT THE STAGE OF THE LEVER. ¶NOW THESE CRUDE SIMULATIONS SHOW THAT MUCH OF WHAT PHILOSOPHY (AND THEOLOGY) USED TO CONSIDER »SPIRIT« (LIKE LOGICAL REASONING OR DECISION MAKING) CAN BE PERFORMED BY APPARATUS. THUS, »SPIRIT« IS BEGINNING TO ESCAPE FROM ITS IMPRISONMENT WITHIN THE SKULL, AND MAY BE OBSERVED AS IF FROM OUTSIDE. THE FOGS OF PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND OTHER IDEOLOGIES THAT ENVELOP IT ARE LIFTING. WE SHALL HAVE TO THINK EVERYTHING CONCERNING »SPIRIT« ALL OVER AGAIN. ¶ANOTHER SUCH INVASION OF PARTICLES INTO THE MOLECULAR LEVEL IS ELECTROMAGNETIC IMAGES, AND THEY TOO OBLIGE US TO RETHINK ETERNAL PROBLEMS. BUT WITH THEM, IT IS NOT THE DIALECTICS OF »MATTER-SPIRIT« THAT

ARE IN QUESTION, BUT THE DIALECTICS »MATTER-FORM«: LET US CONSIDER IT. ¶THERE IS A CURIOUS MYTH THAT SUSTAINS WESTERN THOUGHT IN THIS RESPECT, AND WHAT IT SAYS IS THIS: IN THE BEGINNING (WHATEVER THAT MAY MEAN), THERE WAS A FORMLESS SOUP CALLED »MATTER« AND OVER IT HOVERED EMPTY FORMS (SOMETIMES CALLED »IDEAS«). THE FORMS SOMEHOW DIPPED INTO MATTER LIKE SPOONS AND FILLED THEMSELVES, AND THIS IS CALLED »CREATION«. NOW, ALTHOUGH THIS MYTH IS UNBELIEVABLE, IT IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN US. WERE WE TO GIVE IT UP, WE WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP JUDEO-CHRISTIANITY AND THE GREEK BELIEF THAT THE UNIVERSE HAS A MATHEMATICAL STRUCTURE. WE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO GIVE UP THE ENDLESS QUARREL BETWEEN »MATERIALISM« AND »IDEALISM«. BUT WE WILL HAVE TO GIVE IT UP IN THE FACE OF SCIENCE. ¶SCIENCE SAYS THAT THE UNIVERSE IS A PROCESS, OR AN EVER MORE UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION OF THE PARTICLES FROM WHICH IT IS COMPOSED. IT TENDS TOWARDS THE TOTAL LOSS OF FORM. IN FACT, THIS TENDENCY TOWARDS LOSS OF FORM MAY BE TAKEN AS



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A MEASURE OF THE AGE OF THE UNIVERSE AS A WHOLE, AND OF EVERY PHENOMENON THEREIN (E.G. THE CARBON TEST). THE EQUATIONS THAT PERMIT THIS MEASUREMENT ARE THOSE OF THE SECOND PRINCIPLE OF THERMODYNAMICS. ¶NOW, WHAT THOSE EQUATIONS MEAN IS THAT EVERYTHING TENDS TO BECOME MORE PROBABLE, AND THAT WHAT WE CALL THE »UNIVERSE« IS AN IMPROBABLE, TRANSITORY STAGE OF THIS PROCESS.

THUS, WHAT WE CALL »MATTER« IS AN IMPROBABLE FORM OF ENERGY THAT WILL DECAY INTO UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED HEAT (THERMIC DEATH). THUS, »MATTER« AND »FORM« COME TO MEAN THE SAME THING, NAMELY A TRANSITORY AND IMPROBABLE STAGE OF ENERGY DISTRIBUTION.

¶WHAT IS SURPRISING IN THIS IS NOT SO MUCH THAT THE ANCIENT DIALECTICS OF »MATTER-FORM« HAS LOST ITS MEANING. RATHER, IT IS THE CENTRAL POSITION THAT THE CONCEPT »PROBABILITY« TAKES. IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH GAMES, WITH CHANCE, WITH LUCK, WITH ACCIDENTS, IN SHORT: WITH DICE. THE UNIVERSE APPEARS AS A KIND OF BLIND GAME, WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE END IN THE EXHAUSTION OF ALL ITS CHANCES



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(A ZERO-SUM GAME), BUT  
IN THE COURSE OF THIS  
ACCIDENTS MAY OCCUR,  
UNFORESEEABLE SITUATIONS.  
AND IT IS THESE ACCIDENTS,  
THESE STROKES OF LUCK,  
WHICH CONCENTRATE OUR  
ATTENTION. THE EQUATIONS  
OF THE SECOND PRINCIPLE  
OF THERMODYNAMICS,  
WHICH MEASURE THE  
TENDENCY TOWARDS THE  
EVER MORE PROBABLE, MAY  
BE TURNED AROUND, AND  
THEY WILL THEN POINT  
TOWARDS THE IMPROBABLE,  
THE ACCIDENTAL. THIS  
TURNING AROUND HAS  
BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE  
THEORY OF INFORMATION.  
AND ELECTROMAGNETIC  
IMAGES MAY BE CONSIDERED  
TO BE RESULTS OF THIS  
THEORETICAL UNDERSTANDING  
OF »INFORMATION«. ¶WHAT  
ONE SEES, IF ONE LOOKS AT  
IMAGES LIKE VIDEO-CLIPS,  
HOLOGRAMS, OR THOSE  
SYNTHESISED ON COMPUTER  
SCREENS IS HIGHLY  
IMPROBABLE CONFIGURATIONS  
OF PARTICLES LIKE  
PHOTONS. THESE IMPROBABLE  
CONFIGURATIONS HAVE  
NOT COME ABOUT BY BLIND  
CHANCE (AS THEY DO, FOR  
INSTANCE IN GENETIC  
INFORMATION), BUT BY  
HUMAN DELIBERATION.  
THEY ARE THE RESULT OF A  
DELIBERATE INVERSION OF  
THE UNIVERSAL TENDENCY  
TOWARDS UNIFORM

DISTRIBUTION. HE WHO PRODUCES THEM PLAYS WITH CHANCE AGAINST CHANCE; HE PLAYS AGAINST THE BLIND GAME OF »NATURE«. THIS MAY BE SEEN IN EVERY IMMATERIAL IMAGE, BUT WITH SYNTHETIC IMAGES THE STRATEGY USED (IN THIS GAME AGAINST THE GAME) IS CLEAREST: IT IS THE STRATEGY OF COMPUTATION. AND THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT THE TERM »IMMATERIALISM« HAS COME TO MEAN: A DELIBERATE PLAY WITH PARTICLES, SO THAT THEY MAY ACQUIRE IMPROBABLE FORMS; THAT THEY MAY BECOME »INFORMATION« USING THE STRATEGY OF COMPUTATION.

ONE MAY NOW TRY TO SEE HOW FAR THIS ARTICLE HAS SUCCEEDED IN UNCOVERING THE COMMON NUCLEUS OF THE TWO MEANINGS OF THE TERM »IMMATERIALISM«. WHEN FIRST USED, THE WORD STOOD IN A CULTURAL CONTEXT WHERE »MATTER« WAS EITHER DEFINED AS THE »OBJECT OF SPIRIT«, OR AS THE »CONTENTS OF FORMS«. THESE DEFINITIONS ARE NO LONGER USEFUL. AS IT IS NOW BEING USED, THE WORD STANDS IN A CULTURAL CONTEXT WHERE BOTH »MATTER« AND »SPIRIT« MUST BE THOUGHT OF AS IMPROBABLE »FORMS« OF WHAT MAY BE CALLED

¶STILL: FUTURE  
»IMMATERIAL« CULTURE,  
THE CULTURE OF »PURE  
INFORMATION« WILL  
BE ALMOST COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT FROM OURS. AND  
THIS, IS WHAT IS SUGGESTED  
HERE BY THE SHIFT IN  
THE MEANING OF THE WORD  
»IMMATERIALISM«.

»ENERGY« (A TERM THAT  
DEFIES DEFINITION). NO  
DOUBT, HERE, WE HAVE COME  
UP AGAINST A PROFOUND  
CULTURAL REVOLUTION. THE  
VERY PILLARS OF WESTERN  
CULTURE, »MATTER«,  
»SPIRIT«, AND »FORM«  
HAVE FALLEN. BUT WE HAVE  
BY NO MEANS OVERCOME  
METAPHYSICS. WE HAVE  
DEMYSTIFIED THESE  
THREE PILLARS, BUT A  
MYSTERY NOW ENVELOPS THE  
CONCEPTS OF »ENERGY« AND  
»PROBABILITY« INSTEAD.  
IF ONE THROWS METAPHYSICS  
OUT THROUGH THE DOOR, IT  
COMES BACK THROUGH  
THE WINDOW.



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