

READ ME FIRST

(In connection to the CD-ROM or possibly as a separate paper.)

The *public* name of the subject is:

**Peculiarities in regard to
THE EXPRESSIVENESS
OF NUMBERS
also in antiquity
(An im-possible story)**

The whole concerns numerous examples, giving evidence of a general *indication out of the background* of various cultures. This striking phenomenon is mostly veiled in 'numbers expressed in decorative elements'. In antiquity silence was held about the meaning of these numbers. This secrecy always points towards something that could be indicated as *the central theme of the human being*. The found examples extend over a space of time of more than 45 centuries. They are located in Egypt, Crete, Greece, India, the Islam, the Christianity, the Judaism, the 'Divine Comedy' by Dante, the Labyrinth of Orléansville, etc., etc.¹ As well in the 'Foundation stone Meditation' of Rudolf Steiner. Moreover there are remarkable correspondences with some mathematical details in the 5 regular solids, also known as the Platonic Solids. And there are undoubtedly relations with what Jung in our culture indicated as *the Self*.²

The unusual subtitle - **(An im-possible story)** - regards:

- the fact that this subject has not been given publicity for thousands of years, it was not possible, not allowed;
- or the resistance that may be raised in the present consciousness. In a deep sense the subject can not be understood by our present way of thinking, but you will get lost in your own illusions if you don't think;
- or the impossibility to read it in a normal way, for if you read it 'diagonally' you will certainly miss *the clue* and if you read page after page you will probably get lost in incomprehensible passages;
- or the author's amazement, who held his writing of this story for impossible during some decades. Even now it is hardly to believe that the essence will be 'recognized' by more than some individuals *during their OWN and actual lifepath*. This is caused partly by the form in which the whole has been set, the 'vehicle', as this inevitably is cursed with the author's own restrictions;
- or . . . and so could be mentioned perhaps still more.

The 'Introductory summary'³ offers 'in short' the possibility for those who want such, to get an *impression*. But don't be mistaken! The *original content* goes further than many can suspect. It is not so much the mental effort that is perhaps required here or there, but rather the esoteric character, the inner and hidden side of the subject. The 'vehicle' that we have had to use, is in its outer appearance but an aid, it assists in giving a direction but it must not be taken for *the Intangible* towards which is pointed.

For several reasons – mentioned briefly in the note on the title page of the 'Introductory summary' – I don't see a possibility for a complete English translation, although this would attract undoubtedly more readers. A professional translation by a translation agency would probably be made without any notion of the above-mentioned hidden side of this subject. That could affect the quality and therefore the functioning of *the clue* in a negative sense.

(Aside from the costs for this commercially uninteresting subject, namely € 0,12 á € 0,22 *a word*, if not more.)

¹ I set aside the number-expressions in the Mayaculture, considering the risk of contamination with practices of black magic in a period of decadence. The available knowledge of this culture is clearly related with a period in which thousands of human sacrifices took place.

² In fact it is so that in numerous number-expressions – about which silence was held – the central theme for the human being and thus for mankind is indicated during more than 45 centuries. It is the same theme that elsewhere makes itself felt in one or another way by projections out of the unconscious.

³ An underlining means that the CD-ROM has a document under this name.

An *attempt regarding translation* could only be successful if undertaken by some innerly involved 'natives', having more or less a good command of the Dutch language. Moreover they should be used to the idea that the Human Being and the Cosmos have 'some' esoteric aspects. In the bibliography are more than 200 titles mentioned of which I used notes in the text; of these 200 are about 90 direct or indirect based upon a range of ideas in the Anthroposophy. The above-mentioned 'natives' should therefore preferably more or less be accustomed with Anthroposophy. With similar considerations only the *'Introductory summary'* could be realized, as well as this *'READ ME FIRST'* and a table of contents of the three parts A, B, and C. (See below.)

As a matter of fact the *'READ ME FIRST'* is made for the CD-ROM. It may be that some people get a growing interest in the book itself. It would offer other possibilities and it is perhaps more suitable for people who want 'to lose themselves' in this peculiar, difficult and fundamental subject. But it is improbable that the book will be still available; the character of the subject implies a very small market and that rules out the commercial way.

*However, the CD-ROM opens the possibility to copy an arbitrary part,
at least as long as the required software is available.¹*

But inevitably the print-quality depends on the available equipment, especially in regard to some pictures. Advice: print anyway *'Contents of A, B, and C, in detail'*. That simplifies at least, despite the language barrier, *'finding the way'* on the CD-ROM.

To anyone who is looking for a further acquaintance with *'the Expressiveness of numbers'*, the next may be useful:

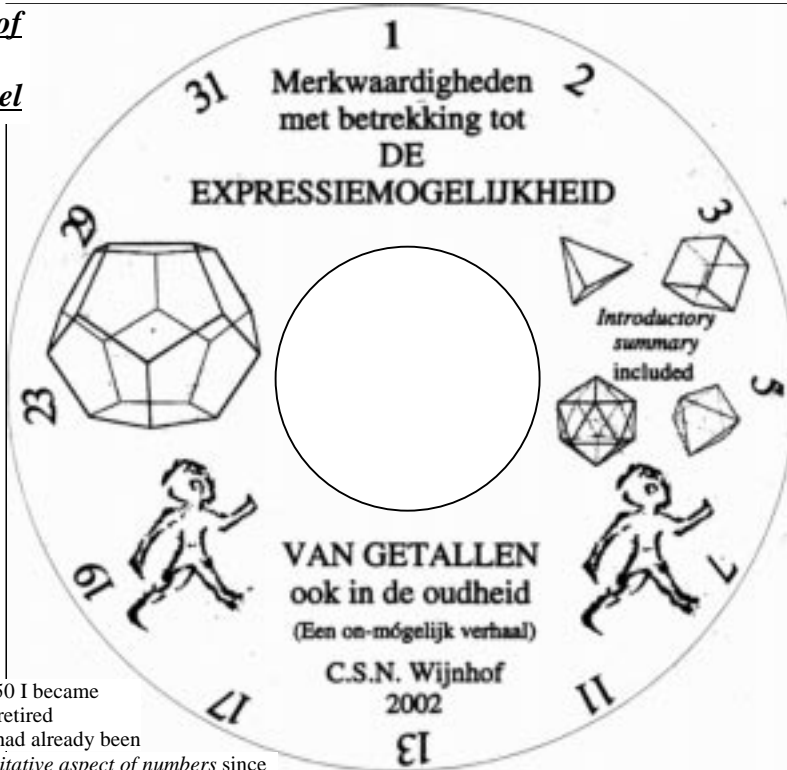
- *Deel A (Part A)* is the most 'accessible'; it is also the most voluminous part. It gives numerous, often striking examples of number-expressions in peculiar ambiances, in different cultures and in a space of time of more than 45 centuries. However, the reader who wants to use *only* intellectual criteria must be advised to do something different. The same applies for anyone who thinks that an intellectual and critical method of approach will be unnecessary because the essence of the whole has to be empathized. Both types would pass over the essence, each in their own way. – To anyone who wants to concentrate seriously on *this time-consuming subject* I give an unasked advice:
 - Read first from this part – *if the language allows this!* - Preface, Introduction and Chapter I.
 - Subsequently browse through the book and read only the parts that your own 'inner compass' gives an indication to read. If the subject appears as too difficult or if it doesn't appeal to you pass it over.
 - After some time take a look in the 'Voorbeelden-index' (the Examples-index). Gradually it will give you the possibility of getting some reference points and that will give, perhaps, some help in feeling a little bit more familiar within this strange subject.²
- *Deel B (Part B)* will be for many people somewhat more difficult. It goes into the extraordinarily position of the regular solids – *the Platonic Solids* - within this study, as well as what has been raised by this. Moreover one finds here the evidence for some mathematical peculiarities, which were only stated in Part A.
- *Deel C (Part C)* is possibly the most difficult part to enter. It describes the way in which *'the qualitative aspect of numbers'* was brought up to the attention of the author himself. It concerns a number of subjects which are not or only very difficult to communicate, but they are of great significance in regard to the hidden indication in the whole study towards

Something that doesn't allow a limitation of being put into words.

¹ Required: Acrobat Reader 4.0 or higher

² If for instance in Anthroposophy interested readers would start right away with Chapter XVII, the chapter about the 'Foundation stone Meditation', confusion or misunderstanding could be the result; it is not without any reason placed at the end of part A.

Explanation of the CD-ROM label



- **The border.** In 1950 I became acquainted with a retired pediatrician, who had already been busy with *the qualitative aspect of numbers* since 1920. The instigation, which was undescribable, came as in a flash and gave him an impression of the inner aspect of the first 12 indivisibles (11 prime numbers + 1, the Unity itself). Wijnmalen, that was his name, had not a single argument to make clear why *these* special concepts were connected with *these* numbers. He said something like: try it out and see what happens. If you find something better change it, and when you think it is all nonsense you put it in the wastebasket. That was my first acquaintance with this subject.
- **The Traveller.** Later on I found in the course of time and in various cultures numerous examples, often with a 'sacral' environment. Examples that showed how the qualitative aspect of numbers, as indicated by Wijnmalen, came to expression. For instance in the Disc of Phaistos, a ceramic disc from the 17th century BC. On both sides a spiral with in total 242 pictograms, 46 different types. One of them, the Traveller, is shown here in the two human figures. But strange enough, the Disc and this figure in particular are an indication to the HUMAN BEING who is en route towards his inner-, his spiritual destination.
- **An im-possible story** (Een on-mógelijk verhaal). 'The qualitative aspect of numbers', in this study one of the main characteristics, is difficult to accept for the average human being of this time and in particular for those who experienced an occupation connected with a scientific education. Life taught them to observe the primateship of 'facts and logic', . . . although it appears on several 'unguarded moments' that 'LIFE' indeed gives the scope to facts and logic but without being fully covered by them. Well then, the subject of this study depends on such 'unguarded moments'. That as well explains somewhat the strange subtitle of 'An im-possible story'. The author obtained in his life a long training in restricting himself to 'facts and figures' and he has been more than once surprised how it has been possible to record this 'im-possible story'. And now still another thing:
- **The Dodecahedron.** This is one of the five regular solids, the only one in antiquity of which it was not allowed to name in public. Plato still gives clear evidence of this; it had (has) a special relation to *the Creation*. In that time it was only known in a small circle of initiates; it apparently touched upon something in which silence was held. Something similar applies to the many examples I found of special number-expressions, scattered over more than 45 centuries in various cultures. Now a story has been written about that, which in those times would have been impossible, not allowed, in short 'an im-possible story'. Furthermore we find a special group of numbers within the scope of the dodecahedron, like an awesome presence in the three-dimensional space. One could also say here an awesome presence in the 'vestments of the Creation'. The four other solids come up as well. Therefore the 1+4 projections of these solids on the label. For the rest:
HOW CURIOUS THAT THIS ALL IS COMING TO PUBLICITY JUST IN THIS TIME!
- **Introductory summary included.** This is an attempt – through lack of an English version - to give at least an impression of *the indication*, brought about by this subject.
- **C.S.N. Wijnhof.** In the preface of Part A is explained how and why I came to this '*pseudo- pseudonym*'. In brief it concerns 5 people indicated by --C—S—N—Wijn—hof-- ,who were in a various way essentially involved in the realization of this study. The last four appeared successively in the life of the author C. Engels.