

BIBIANA, International House of Art for Children

THE WAY THERE and BACK AGAIN

OF

HOW NOT TO LOSE ONE'S WAY

(About labyrinths and mazes)

Motto:

Just the possibility of return will lead us on ...

M. Heidegger

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O mazes and labyrinths

A maze contains countless ways and crossings. They are well-paved and very alluring, but many of those ways are blind. One has to choose the right way.

If you fail to do so, you'll get lost. You will miss your destination, you waste a chance

Through the labyrinth - there is only one way, you cannot get lost here.

The only problem is the own (im)patience and time. The way through the labyrinth is long and bendy, but it is a way to knowing oneself.

Voyagers take the way through a labyrinth. Adventurers through a maze. Both of them are looking for something

Choose ...

Through a labyrinth

Nobody can go this way / for of you

It is your way / your task,

your destination, / your central point.

YOUR EXPERIENCE

Watch and listen carefully

Breath! / Find peace, comfort and balance.

You will not get lost.

DON'T WORRY!

Looking for the centre

The principle of a maze and labyrinth is one of the most fundamental symbols in mankind's history. Philosophically it represents a long and complicated path to the desired destination (with a possibility of return). Simply (really very simply) speaking: It is a way into the centre hiding a secret. In our lives, every one of us accomplishes a solution or change - more or less successfully. The solution basis of all labyrinth related equations is the search for the centre.

Exhibition parts

Prelude: The Cretan Labyrinth

- 1.) Universe
- 2.) Desert
- 3.) The Garden
- 4.) Temples
- 5.) Nursery with Plays
- 6.) The Brain

PRELUDE

We can encounter the Minotaur in the labyrinth.

In a labyrinth - we encounter first off all ourselves!

DAEDALOS was a famous Greek artist - building numerous magnificent and stunning temples and making many beautiful sculptures. His best known work /partially preserved even to present days/ is the labyrinth in the palace of Knosos on Crete built 16 centuries B.C., ordered by the Cretan king Minos, who wanted to hide away a monster with a bull's head - the Minotaur. Each year, he sacrificed 7 young men and 7 virgins to the Minotaur.

The hero Theseus finally killed Minotaur, with the help of the king's daughter Ariadne and her ball of red yarn. Before entering the labyrinth, Theseus sacrificed an olive-twig to the gods, symbolising strength, light, sense and purity.

UNIVERSE

The Universe has no boundaries - neither by space nor by time. This means that it is a limitless labyrinth.

DESERT

.... a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt.. A land so deserted, dry, gloomy and desolate.

A land through which the Lord led you for 40 years to test you ...

Old Testament, Jeremiah 2.6.)

THE GARDEN

THE GARDEN IS A REAL AMUSEMENT AND REFRESHMENT FOR THE SPIRIT

All lexicons and books dealing with labyrinths mention also garden-mazes. They were commonplace especially in the Baroque and Rococo period - basically it well cut hedges for the amusement of the visitors.

TEMPLES

The labyrinth played an important part also in all world religions. All of them are - over and over again - about the complicated and distressful way to its centre and the unveiling of its secret. In Asia, people perceive the labyrinth to be the **protection of the centre**. Mosaic-styled labyrinths on the floor of Christian temples symbolise the way to God. The labyrinth theme was most frequent in medieval temples.

PLAYING WITH LABYRINTHS AND KNOTS

It is extraordinary interesting that completely independently from each other - several cultures finally reached the same labyrinth layout. The circular labyrinths of the Indians of the Hopi tribe, living in the Grand Canyon are almost identical with the labyrinths of Crete. The 7-circuits labyrinth symbolises the Mother Earth and the way out of it means the way to this world - i.e. giving birth to a child. The same meaning had the labyrinths in Asian cultures.

A knot - is also a kind of labyrinth

WHO WANTS TO UNTIE A KNOW - MUST KNOW HOW IT WAS TIED. (BUDHA)

THE BRAIN

The human brain is a labyrinth as well. Today, we know a lot about the brain's anatomy but we know much less of how the brain works. The brain is an own universe in a nutshell.

THE CHILD AND THE LABYRINTH

The way of a child through a labyrinth is simple. The child itself is the centre, the middle - so it starts in the centre.

For children, the centre is the starting point, the goal and the end.

Someone passing a labyrinth cannot stay the same as he used to be before...

Have you succeeded making your own way through the labyrinth?

Have you succeeded finding the centre - unveiling the secret?

Have you "managed" to get lost?

Přeložil: Roger Doberstain

