

**Yael Leibowitz**

1) All classification proceeds by pairs of contrasts: classification only ceases when it is not longer possible to establish oppositions. Strictly speaking, therefore, the system knows no checks. Its internal dynamism is progressively weakened as it proceeds along its axis in either direction. And when the system comes to a halt, this is not because of any unforeseen obstacles presented by empirical properties of beings of things not through any jamming of its mechanism but because it has completed its course and wholly fulfilled its function.

When the classificatory intention ascends, as it were, towards the greatest generality and most extreme abstraction, no diversity prevents it from applying a scheme through the operation of which reality undergoes a series of progressive purifications, whose final term will be provided, as intended, in the form of a simple binary oppositions (high and low, right and left, peace and war etc.), and beyond which it is, for intrinsic reasons, useless as well as impossible to go.

**Claude Levi Strauss, *The Savage Mind***

2)

**LIFE ----- DEATH**

**GOD ----- HUMAN**

**HEAVEN ----- EARTH**

**HUMAN ----- BEAST**

3)

In every myth we will find a persistent sequence of binary discriminations followed by a "mediation" of paired categories that are distinguished.

"Mediation" (in this sense) is always achieved by introducing a third category which is "abnormal" or "anomalous" in terms of ordinary "rational" categories. Thus myths are full of fabulous monsters, incarnate gods, virgin mothers. This middle ground is abnormal, non-natural, holy. It is typically the focus of all taboo and ritual observance.

**Edmund Leach, *Genesis as Myth***

They (the initiands) are associated with such general oppositions as life and death, male and female, food and excrement, simultaneously....blurring and merging of distinctions may characterize liminality.

**Victor Turner, *From Ritual to Theatre***

**Yael Leibowitz**

4)

**LIFE ----- DEATH**

**GOD ----- HUMAN**

**HEAVEN ----- EARTH**

**HUMAN ----- BEASTS**

5)

**SELF ----- OTHER**

**PRESENT ----- FUTURE**

**PRESENT ----- ABSENT**

6)

**MALE ----- FEMALE**

**ACTIVE ----- PASSIVE**

**STRONG ----- WEAK**

**NATURAL ----- ENGINEERED**

**DEPENDENT ----- INDEPENDENT**

**YOUTH ----- AGE**

**HONESTY ----- DECEITFULNESS**

**SILENCE ----- NOISE**

**CIVILIZED ----- SAVAGE**

**EMPOWERED ----- VICTIM**

**DECISIVE ----- INDECISIVE**

**IGNORANCE ----- WISDOM**