

late in the book. Each repetition on each level is not a repetition of the same thing but a variation that must be understood in terms of pure difference. All an act can do is introduce further variations and see what comes of it. It is like playing a game with changeable rules against an infinitely adaptive opponent. Just as fixed rules and a strategic pattern emerge, they lose efficacy, forcing us to begin experimenting anew (*The irony is I thought I knew what made him tick. Then he vanished.*).