

Aleksandar Bogdanić

A Grin Without a Cat, Again



How to Be Yourself
in the World
of Others?

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Banja Luka

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A Grin Without a Cat, Again

- What're you doin' out in the middle of nowhere?
- I had to be at that crossroads las' midnight to sell mah
soul to the devil.
- What'd the devil give you for your soul, Tommy?
- He taught me to play this guitar real good.
- Oh, son! For that you traded your everlastin' soul?!
- Well, I wasn't usin' it.

Joel and Ethan Coen
(O Brother, Where Art Thou?)

Preface

Thousands of years ago, the story goes, our ancestors found quite a few things wrong about living by brutal savagery in the merciless free market of wild nature. And they looked for something to help them change this unblest situation. A young couple in some place announced they had discovered something to help everybody. It was their minds. Overwhelmed with curiosity, the tribe leaders blasted the couple's heads, to check their minds out. Thus fell the first for the common cause. Soon followed the wheel and the lever.

The quest has continued. Ever since then we have been trying to shun the fate of the two lovers. Although we have perfected the wheel and the lever and made the axle, there are some indications in today's world that we either have not quite escaped it, or that we are going back to where we started; not exactly back, though. We are doing an extremely good job in getting rid of nature and we still favor brutal savagery. The brains in contemporary society are also being blasted, more often in a somewhat different fashion, though – we seem to be losing them without even noticing it.

Consciously or not, this problem bothers all of us. We have all, at one time or another, wondered how we could

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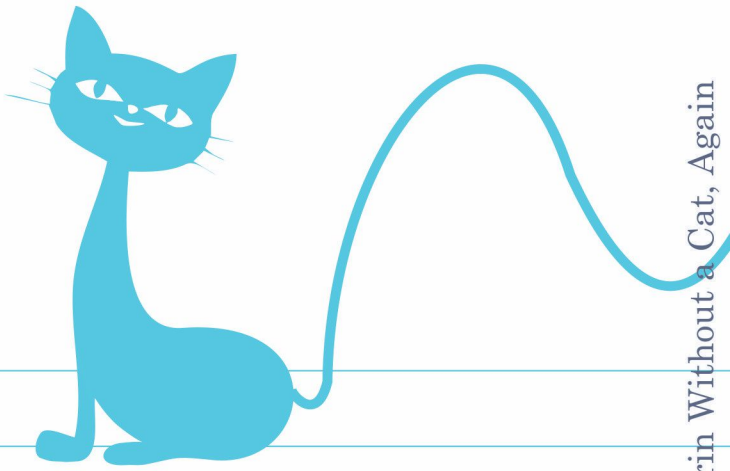
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