

From: A.D. Dirkzwager djatirot@me.com
Subject: Belated Happy Birthday wish
Date: 20 October 2021 at 13:23
To: Stuart Cook jwstuartcook@gmail.com



Dear Stuart,

Vera's short memory fails her. Reading a book is useless. That means she appreciates my company to pass the time. Besides being 'honoris causa' Vera's caretaker, I am also her companion. And so it happens that because of that, I forgot your birthday. Better late than never, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations on reaching your 83rd year of life. That the remaining 361 days of that year may keep you in good health is our wish. Love from both of us to Ursula and you, Adriaan



Vera had misplaced her public transport ticket. We searched all places in the house where the ticket could possibly be. To use the bus, tram or metro, we can check in with a plastic ticket and check out after the ride. It is difficult to pay with cash if you want to use public transport. This card is in the name of the user with a face photo of the user. Vera had lost her plastic transport ticket. To get a new ticket she needed a picture of her face. On October 15th I took this picture of her, which she could use to buy a new transport-ticket. A day later she found her ticket on her desktop, behind which she no longer sits.

About the state of the world.

According to the Greek philosopher Protagoras (490-420 BC),

values in a certain period are determined by human thinking.

"There is nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so." (William Shakesperare 1564-1616)

It follows that nature in itself is value-free, to the exclusion of man.

The opposing interests of different people on Earth are such that there is always a struggle.

By projecting my human value judgments into the following example, I argue that the cat's heaven is not the same heaven that the mouse longs for. Perhaps the cat's heaven is nothing but the mouse's hell.

In a world full of incomprehension, a civilised person tries to find his way.

'But everything sublime is as difficult as it is rare,' is a quote from Spinoza (1632-1677)