

Sander Narrative

“One of the [research] team was standing on the lawn talking with the Father. Mother as sitting nearby holding her new baby and talking with the leader of the team. The baby became increasingly fussy and mother tried to quiet her but was unsuccessful. Mother became a bit embarrassed in the presence of the leader and decided it was time to bring out refreshments. So she gave the baby to the father, who was standing nearby, and went into the house. The next 2 or 3 minutes of the film show the father standing on the lawn, holding the baby in his left arm, and continuing to talk to the researcher, during which time the baby simply fell asleep and the two went on talking. Run at the normal film speed of 30 frames per second, this is all one sees.

Over the same few minutes, now run frame-by-frame, one sees the father glance down momentarily at the baby’s face. Strangely enough, in the same frames, the infant looks up at the fathers face. Then the infant’s left arm, which had been hanging down over the father’s left arm, begins to move upward. Miraculously, in the same frame, the father’s right arm, which had been hanging down at his right side, begins to move upward. Frame by frame by frame, the baby’s hand and the father’s hand move upward simultaneously. Finally just as they meet over the baby’s tummy, the baby’s left hand grasps the little finger of the father’s right hand. At that moment, the infant’s eyes close and she falls asleep, while the father continues talking, apparently totally unaware of the little miracle of specificity in time, place, and movement that had taken place in his arms” p. 20

Sander, L.W. (2002) Thinking Differently: Principles of Process in Living Systems and the Specificity of Being Known. In: *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 12 (1) 11-42.