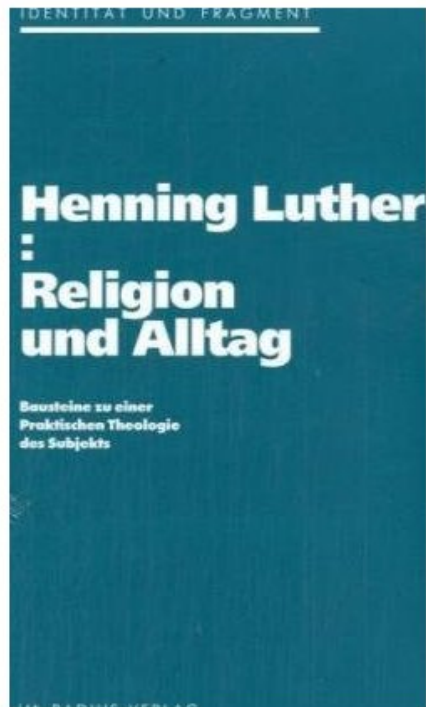




# Henning Luther

Identity as Fragment – Fragmented Identities

# *Henning Luther*



1947 – 1991

Main Question:

How can religion help  
individuals develop  
their identity in  
everyday lives?

# *The Ideal of the Well-Rounded Person*



- + Humanistic Ideal of “paideua” :  
Development of Oneness, harmony, balance, inner and out consistency in one’s identity
- + Erikson: Identity and Life Cycle (1959)

# Now it's your turn



+ Create your own life

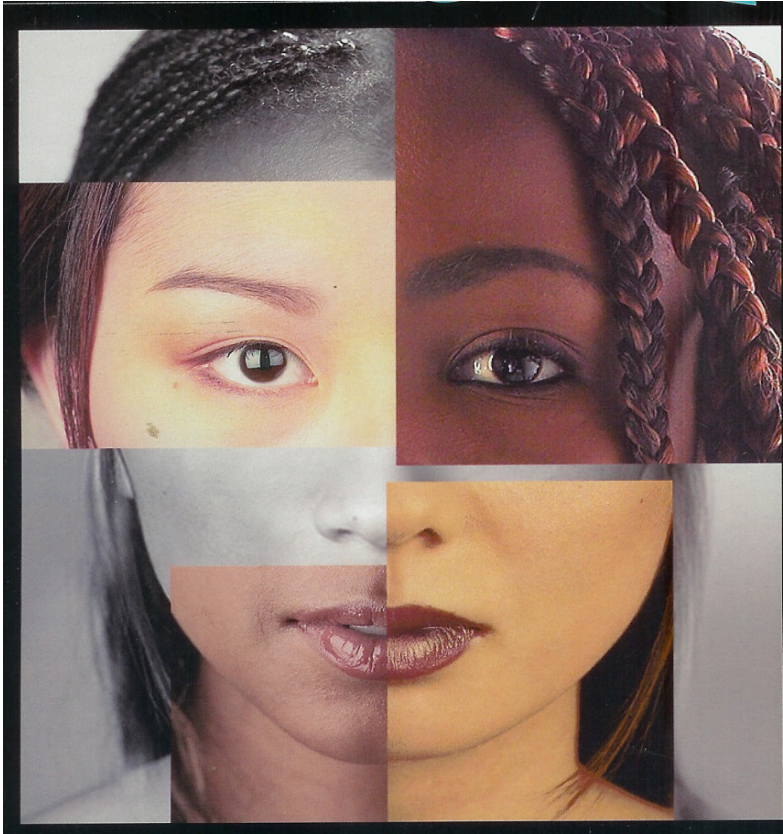
+ Become who you  
were meant to be

# Individualitätszwang (the Compulsion to Define One's Individuality)



- + The Hero's journey to define his/her individuality
- + Identitätsarbeit: the work of creating one's identity
- + You must define your life

# Liquid Modernity



- + Disembedding
- + Individualization
- + Pluralization
- + Segmentation



But...



**+ We experience  
ourselves and life as  
fragmented**

# Individualitätszwang

(the Compulsion to define one's individuality)



- + Fragmentation as the condition of postmodern life and identity
- + Patchwork identity vs. "integration" (Heiner Keupp)



# The Pain of Fragmentation...



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- + "We are always ruins of our past..."
- + Fragments of destroyed hopes and broken dreams"

# The Pain of Fragmentation



- + Grieving the Past:
- + “Discarded possibilities
- + And lost chances”

# The Hope of Fragmentation



+ “Each fragment carries the germination of time within itself. Its essence is yearning...”

# The Demand of the Other



+ In an encounter with others we find ourselves challenged to say anew: "Who am I?"



## Conclusions for Pastoral Care and Supervision...



**+ Allow for the experience of fragmentation and difference**



# Implications for Pastoral Care and Supervision...



- + Provide a holding space for ambiguity and uncertainty
- + Bless Fragmentation