**Sameness**

**The darkness and the light are both alike to thee*.   
(Psalm 139:12)***

**In Hawaii, the word “aloha” means both “hello” and “goodbye” and this causes no end of confusion. *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 41)***

On March 7, 1993, technicians at St. Jerome Hospital in Batavia tested a bowl of lime Jell-O with an EEG machine and confirmed the earlier testing by Dr. Adrian Upton that a bowl of Jell-O has brain waves identical to those of adult men and women. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 135)*

Before leaving for my first day at work after many years as a homemaker, I prepared six brown-bag lunches. After labeling the five children’s sacks with their names, I wrote “Mom” on mine. At the office, I opened the refrigerator provided for employees’ lunches. The top shelf was full of brown bags, all marked “Mom.” *(Marie Martoff, in Reader’s Digest)*

**At a New York party, violinist Isaac Stern was introduced to Muhammad Ali. “You might say we’re in the same business,” remarked Stern. “We both earn a living with our hands.” “You must be pretty good,” said Ali. “There isn’t a mark on you.” *(Catholic Digest)***

**In China, when you’re one in a million, there are 1,300 other people just like you. *(Bill Gates)***

**The very circumstance which makes each of us so completely unique also makes us so absolutely the same! At a level far beyond our surface personalities lives the Christ, and this divine Presence is exactly the same in everyone. Its workings in each person's life are unique in that person, without doubt, but its presence is identical throughout all humanity. No matter how each wave looks, it will always be ocean. (Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest , p. 84)**

**We are all, to some extent, crazy. If you come to know any human being well enough, you eventually gain access to the basement where the traumas and wounds and deprivations are stored; rummage in there for a while, and you begin to understand the neuroses and fixations that shape his or her personality. The successful, reasonably happy people I’ve known are nuts in a way that works for them. Those who struggle and suffer fail to turn their preoccupations to some meaningful use. Next week, the American Psychiatric Association releases the latest version of its bible of mental illnesses, the DSM-5, which catalogs about 300 categories of crazy. Critics of all kinds have lined up to assail this dictionary of disorders as subjective and lacking in scientific validity – assembled primarily to justify the prescribing of pills of dubious value. About 50 percent of the population, the APA admits, will have one of its listed disorders at some point in their lives. Shy, like Emily Dickinson? You have “avoidant personality disorder.” Obsessed with abstractions and numbers? You have “autistic spectrum disorder,” like Isaac Newton. Suffer from “narcissistic personality disorder,” with some hypersexuality thrown in? You must be a politician. To be skeptical of these neat categories isn’t to deny that minds get broken, stuck, or lost, and need help finding their way out of misery. But psychotherapy remains an art, not a science; there is no bright line between nuts and not. If you’re an old lady who lives amid piles of newspapers and personal treasures, you have “hoarding disorder.” If you’re a CEO who exploits sweatshop labor to pile up countless billions, you’re on the cover of Forbes. (William Falk, in The Week magazine, May 24, 2013)**

**After investigating the Southern Corn Leaf Blight of 1970, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences noted that “the corn crop fell victim to the epidemic because of a quirk in the technology that had redesigned the corn plants of America until, in one sense, they had become as alike as identical twins. Crops become genetically vulnerable because of the uniformity society demands of the plant breeder. (Michael Morrison, in Genetic Vulnerability of Major Crops)**

**Penguins mate for life. That doesn't surprise me much, because they all look alike. It's not like they're going to meet a better-looking penguin someday. *(Ellen Degeneres)***

**The picture of humanity, all of the same type, all under the same institutions, all possibly wearing blue Chinese dungarees, is a nightmare of which you can get a faint foretaste from modern air travel. You can go from airport to airport all around the world and wonder where you are. They all look exactly alike. This standardizing tendency in our modern industrial system makes one all the more eager to cling to any sense of separate personality, culture, or tradition. (Barbara Ward, in Five Ideas That Change the World)**

**My Favorite Saying: “Remember that the last step down on the ladder is the first step up.” (Karen Beckett, in Reminisce Extra magazine)**

**People are all exactly alike. There’s no such thing as a race and barely such a thing as an ethnic group. If we were dogs, we’d be the same breed. George Bush and an Australian Aborigine have fewer differences than a Lhasa apso and a toy fox terrier. A Japanese raised in Riyadh would be an Arab. A Zulu raised in New Rochelle would be an orthodontist. People are all the same, though their circumstances differ terribly. (P. J. O’Rourke, in Holidays in Hell)**

**Always remember you’re unique, just like everyone else. (Encyclopedia of One Liners Web site)**

**The road up and the road down are one and the same. (Heraclitus)**

**Can you argue with the contention that identical twins are clones of each other? (L. M. Boyd)**

**In the Mandarin Chinese language, the word for crisis and opportunity is the same. If we grew up thinking that crisis and opportunity were the same, how would that affect our ability to respond creatively in critical situations? *(Terry Braverman, in New Thought magazine)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***