

24.400
Proseminar in philosophy I

Fall 2003

The *Tractatus* on pictorial form

TLP 2.11-2.18

[2.11, 2.201, 2.021] A picture represents a situation in logical space, the existence and non-existence of states of affairs. It represents a set of possible worlds.

[2.13, 2.131] The *elements* of the picture correspond to *objects*; the elements *represent* those objects.

[2.1511-2.1515] The *pictorial relationship* of a picture consists in these correlations of the picture's elements with objects. They are, as it were, the feelers of the picture's elements, with which the picture touches reality.

[2.15] The fact that the elements of the picture are related in a certain way represents that the correlated objects are related in the same way; more precisely, in a corresponding or analogous way. For example, the fact that element *a* is to the left of element *b* might represent that the object correlated with *a* occurs before the object correlated with *b* (cf. 4.013-4.0141 on musical notation).

Let us call the way the elements of the picture are related the *structure* of the picture (cf. 2.031).

[2.033, 2.15, 2.151, 2.17] When it is *possible* that objects are related in a certain way, let us say that reality has a certain *form*. Form is the possibility of structure.

[2.224, 2.225, 4.462] If a picture represents that objects are related in a certain way, it must be possible for reality to be the corresponding way.

Thus, if a picture has a certain structure, the corresponding (represented) structure must be a form of reality. That is, it must be possible for reality to be structured in the corresponding (represented) way.

[2.151] This form of reality is the picture's *pictorial form*. It is the possibility that objects are related to one another in the same (corresponding) way as the elements of the picture.

The possibility of structure is the *logical form* of reality (cf. 2.002, 2.0231, 2.0233, 2.033).

[2.18] Thus, restating the above claims about pictorial form in different words: in order to be able to depict reality, any picture must have logical form, i.e. the form of reality.