

Monoculture.

One language. One race.

One way of life.

Monoculture is the birthchild of globalism,  
and monoculture is everywhere.

From uniform grassy lawns

to gender binaries,

to implementing “zero tolerance” policing

and surveillance tactics worldwide.

Let’s think of it like this:

A machine must have all parts uniform

and operating consistently.

This calls for homogenization,

which makes sense for computers or machines.

Not human beings.

People can’t be programmed to be exactly alike

because we vary genetically.

We experience life differently.

And there are countless factors

that can change our bodies at any given moment

in ways that can’t be reversed or fixed.

The purpose of monoculture

is uniformity.

To make everything and everyone and everywhere

as much alike as possible.

Why?

It’s just easier to control that way.

But how do you deal with the reality

that human body-minds are diverse

in a capitalist society that requires people

to be as much alike as possible?

Able bodied, for example.

Monoculture shows up in our defensive thoughts  
and conditioned responses to other people's behaviors  
that don't match our own.

Capitalism promotes ableism.

There's no room for disabled  
and/or chronically ill bodies  
in a labor-intensive society,  
especially one where burnout culture is celebrated  
and a person's labor is equated to their worth.

When people are removed from  
or kept from participating in society  
it makes it easier for monoculture to thrive.

This removal declares,

"Only some of us can be here, not all of us."

Monoculture recognizes the existence of other cultures  
but that only one can be superior.

Therefore oppression occurs  
and hierarchies are established.

In Brilliant imperfection:

Grappling with Cure,

Eli Clare draws comparisons between  
agriculture and being surrounded by able bodied,  
apparently healthy individuals at an airport:

"Monocultures do an immense amount of damage."

"So much labor and violence"

"goes into creating and maintaining them."

"Their existence requires [...] eradications and removals"

Eliminating native species of plants for one crop  
does tremendous damage to the ecosystem  
yet this removal is a key component to monoculture,  
and it happens with people all the time,  
eg removal of Indigenous peoples from native lands.

In a foreword by Ashanti Monts-Tréviska  
in *Sins Invalid's Skin, Tooth, and Bone*,  
mentions Dr. Paddy Ladd's coining of the term Deafhood  
in response to "the cultural understanding of oralism  
being the form of monocultural colonialism."

Monoculture manifests in everyday communication  
and positions oral speech as being superior  
to sign language.

What other examples of monoculture are there?

Standardized education and teaching methods  
that disregard people with learning disabilities?

Or deforestation and the way cities and lawns are designed  
to discourage people from growing food at home?

How about assumptions that all people  
can perform the same physical tasks

in the same manner and the same time frame?

Monoculture even filters our thoughts and narratives.

This is why representation in media is so important,  
especially for those in the disabled community,  
whose narratives are erased or misrepresented.

While monoculture presumes to make globalization easier,  
to supposedly make the world run "smoothly,"  
you must consider how much we lose every day  
by silencing the voices of the marginalized.