

Heidegger's Fundamental Ontology

click above for definition of key terms

***Befindlichkeit*: Situatedness**

The German term *Befindlichkeit* has been variously translated as “finedness,” “disclosure,” “state of mind,” and, as below, “attunement.” *Befindlichkeit* is related to Dasein’s **facticity** and its fundamental **moods** (*Stimmung*). Dasein is in the world, as Heidegger notes time and again, and this *situatedness* of Dasein, this finding of itself in the world, is what makes possible Dasein’s fundamental moods. Dasein, as situated in its “finedness” is never neutral in its stance in the world: whether anxious, joyous, or bored, **Dasein** is always *there* (*da*) in the world; this ineradicable fact is *Befindlichkeit*. Thrown into the world, Dasein is **disclosed** as situated or attuned (*Befindlichkeit*) in a particular way (in its mood, *Stimmung*), and for the most part, Dasein is situated or attuned with regard to everydayness and the dictates of **das Man** (the “They”).



Heidegger, *Being and Time*, Stambaugh translation, p. 128.

That a Da-sein factually can, should, and must master its mood with knowledge and will may signify a priority of willing and cognition in certain possibilities of existing. But that must not mislead us into ontologically denying mood as a primordial kind of being of Da-sein in which it is disclosed to itself *before* all cognition and willing and *beyond* their scope of disclosure. Moreover, we never master a mood by being free of a mood, but always through a counter mood. The *first* essential ontological characteristic of attunement is: *Attunement discloses Da-sein in its thrownness, initially and for the most part in the mode of an evasive turning away.*