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'We start our lives in chaos, in babble. As we surge up into the world, we try to devise a shape, a plan. There is dignity in this. Your whole life is a plot, a scheme, a diagram. It is a failed scheme but that's not the point.

To plot is to affirm life, to seek shape and control...'

(Don Delillo, White Noise, 1986, p. 291)

You reach a moment in life
when, among the people you
have known, the dead
outnumber the living. And the
mind refuses to accept more
faces, more expressions: on
every new face you encounter,
it prints the old forms, for each
one it finds the most suitable
mask.

(Italo Calvino, Invisible Cities, 1972/1979, p. 75)

That's what it all comes down to in the end,' he said. 'A person spends his life saying good-bye to other people. How does he say goodbye to himself?'

(Don Delillo, White Noise, 1986, p. 294)

For the written to be the written, it must continue to "act" and to be legible even if what is called the author of the writing no longer answers for what he has written, for what he seems to have signed, whether he is provisionally absent, or if he is dead, or if in general he does not support, with his absolutely current and present intention or attention, the plenitude of his meaning, of that very thing which seems to be written "in his name."

(Jacques Derrida, 'Signature Event Context,'
A Derrida Reader, 1991, p. 91)

