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If we can accept the paradox that the real humanity of people is understood through *cultural differences* rather than *cultural similarities*, then we can make profound sense of our differences. It is possible that there is not one truth, but many; not one real experience but many realities; not one history but many different and valid ways of looking at events.

—Jamake Highwater

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Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.

—Edward B Taylor, 1871

Culture facilitates living by providing ready-made solutions to problems, by establishing patterns of relations and ways for preserving group cohesion and consensus.

—Harris & Moran, 1982

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Our entire repertory of communicative behaviors is dependent largely on the culture in which we have been raised. Culture, consequently, is the foundation of communication. And when cultures vary, communication practices also vary.

—Samovar & Porter, 1982

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The beliefs, values, patterns, of behavior, language expectations, and achievements of a group of people which are passed on from generation to generation.

—Baker-Schenk & Cokely, 1980

...Human beings are...guided by the presence of significant arrangements of symbols, called “culture.” Each culture prescribes a ‘set of control mechanisms—plans, recipes, rules, instructions...for the governing of behavior

—Padden & Humphries, 1988 (from Geertz, 1973)