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about 700 words

Babel

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It was during the years of the global recession when the theory first came out. At first, everyone thought it was ridiculous. The theory was called the *Babel* theory as per the country of origin. Before this, very few people knew about this small country. Maybe some geography nerd or general knowledge hunters.

But when the people of Babel officially invited the journalists, scientists, linguists, and politicians from all over the world it became the headline and broke all the news. They invited them to show the practical implication of their theory and to prove their claim. When the experts arrived at Babel they were speechless to see the spectacular events unfolding before them.

They saw that the staff at the airport were talking with each other in different languages. One asking question in a language and the other answering in a different language. Teachers teaching in a language and students are speaking different languages. Politicians giving speeches in languages that the people do not speak and people also clapping and cheering. In fact, none of them seemed to have any problem with this new arrangement. Of course, when they talked to foreigners they used the common tongue but other than that each of them had a different language tailored specially for each of them which is unknown to the others.

At first, the foreign experts were baffled by this and later they became cynical about it. They returned to their own

country and criticized this theory with vehement ferocity. "The so-called 'Babel Theory'", they wrote, "Which claims that inventing a language for each individual which is personally tailored and unique to them is the key to economic development. The theory also claims that this will ensure the maximum level of growth and will make the economy so big that we will not be able to fit it in the tiny planet of ours!"

"But we found out that", they continued, "this is the most ridiculous thing we have ever seen! In Babel, nobody listens to anybody. They just pretend that they understand each other but in reality, they don't! What we don't understand is how so many people are buying this load of junks and nobody realizes how silly it is! Thus we suggest we make a sanatorium big enough so that we can fit the whole Babel inside it and everyone will be happier!" All the world responded more or less in the same manner.

But the fruit is the identity of a tree! The pages of the calendar turned and people lost their jobs. Nobody was happier. The world started to sink into a dark grey mist of poverty and chaos. But Babel kept prospering. Within a few years, they made ships that flew in the sky, machines that sent voices from one

side of the world to the other within seconds, mirrors that kept the moving moments trapped inside them so that anytime it can be viewed over and over again. Their economy became so large that they started giving food to the rest of the world which was hungry. They sent lights that they somehow trapped, to the other countries which were dark and grey. Gradually everyone saw that people of Babel were right all along. The small countries were the first to adopt the new theory and Babel helped them. The bigger countries were not so willing but there were violent riots and revolution and finally after a couple of years or so every human being living on this planet had their own personal tailored language which was so unique that nobody else understood it. Lovers did not understand lovers, parents did not understand children, children did not understand teachers, nobody understood anybody. But everyone seemed happy. The economy boomed! There was no hunger, no grey mist, no darkness, no distance 'too far' but lots of money and lots of languages.

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