

A Zen for Scheme

Dr. Arne Babenhauserheide

<2021-09-30 Do>

In all life there must be balance. Python had something that Scheme lacked: The Zen of Python aka

`import this`

It is a powerful unifier that helps people graft libraries that feel pythonic. I try to write something in the same spirit (but not in [the same form](#)) for Scheme.

RR Remove limitations to Reduce the number of features you need.
*but **OM**: Optimizability Matters.*

HA Hygiene reduces Anxiety
except where it blocks your path.

PP but Practicality beats Purity.
except where it leads you into a dead end.

RM Readability matters
but nesting works.

ES Errors should never pass silently.
unless speed is set higher than safety.¹

RW Recursion Wins.
except where a recursing loop-macro is better.

FI Freedom for the Implementation and from the Implementation.
*but **CM**: Community Matters: Join the Scheme you choose.*

WM Use the Weakest Method that gets the job done.
but know the stronger methods, so you can move to them as needed.

SL Mind the small Systems!
And the Large Systems!

¹Thanks for the error-note goes to John Cowans [Satire in the same form as Python](#).

3P 3 Pillars of improvement:

Experimentation, Implementation, Standardization.
except where the standard is wrong™.