

World 3 Obsessio: *Emptiness & the Self – The Outcast*

The obsessio centers on the empty or false self. The weight is a lack of self-confidence, which emerges from an inability to believe in ourselves. This inability leads to self-estrangement which may be experienced as emptiness, invisibility, loneliness, or rejection.

The conundrum becomes that where there should be an “I” there is only a void. I am an outcast – not because I have been cast out – but because there is nothing there to begin with. No matter how pleasing others find me, I know I’m a zero. The self – my self – always seems to be an afterthought, even by me.

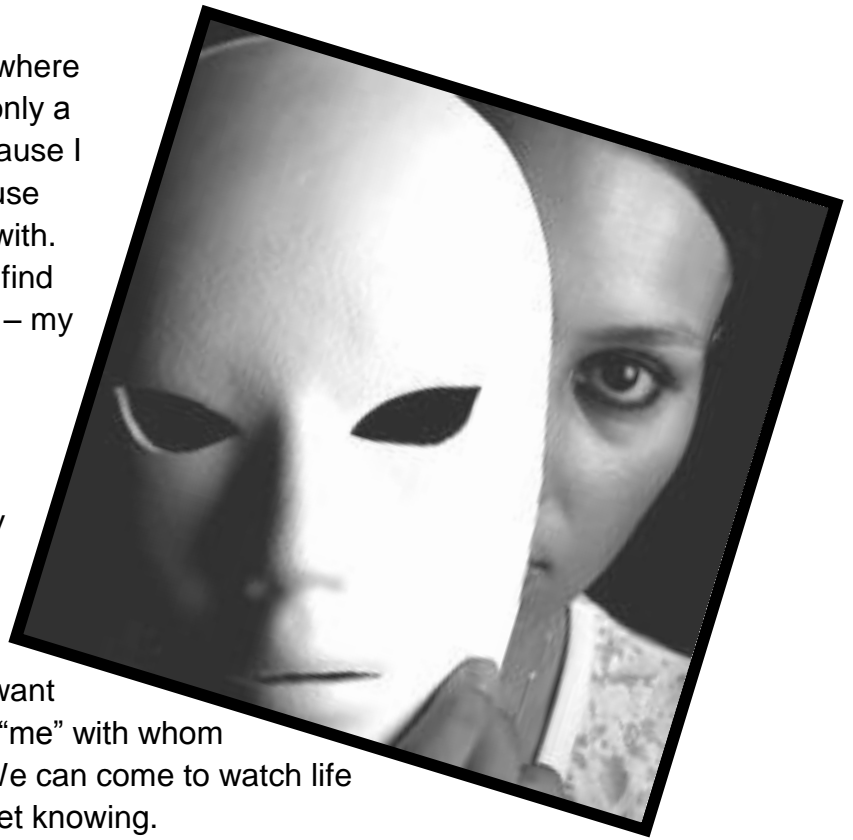
My secret is that there is simply a vacuum behind the façade of what I appear to be. I so crave to be accepted that in the game of trying to be who they want me to be, I no longer know the “me” with whom the “I” and “they” are playing. We can come to watch life from behind a “me” that “I” regret knowing.

“The inauthentic self is one smothered in the ‘has been,’ paralyzed by the ‘can be,’ hiding from authenticity through mass anonymity and or material accumulation” (Rudolph Bultman).

World 3 Obsessio: fulfillment to be realized; unrealized potential

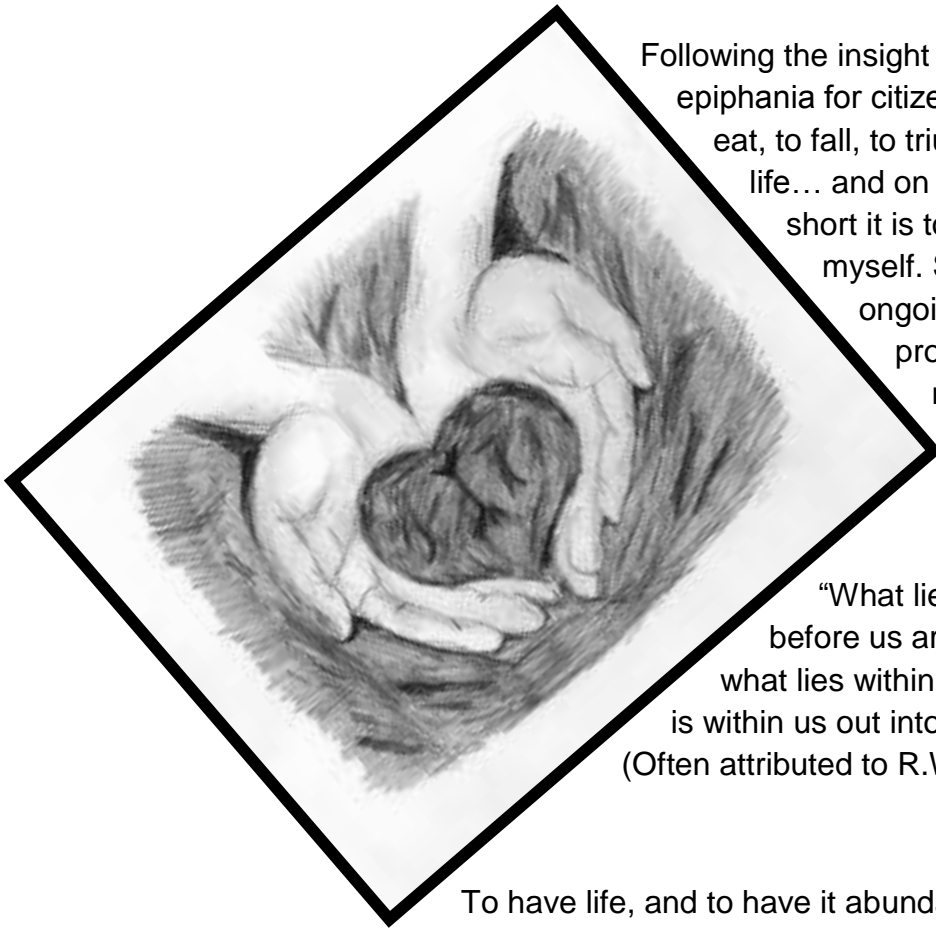
World 3 Sin: to miss the mark

World 3 Gospel Truth: no one gets through life without experiencing brokenness



World 3 Epiphania: Fulfillment as Enriched Belonging

Self-liberation can begin with the recognition of psychological slavery as a patronizing subjugation of those who already have so little by those who have so much. Freedom is experienced as transcending predetermined limits, hierarchical roles, heteropatriarchal patterns, and internal guilt while entering into the wholeness belonging to self-discovery, self-growth, and self-risk.



Following the insight of James Joyce, the epiphania for citizens of World 3 is “to live, to eat, to fall, to triumph, to create life out of life... and on and on and on and on!” In short it is to dream enough to believe in myself. Selfhood then becomes an ongoing project, an event in progress – never finished, never totally determined – a project always in the making.

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. And when we bring what is within us out into the world, miracles happen.”
(Often attributed to R.W. Emerson, but unknown).

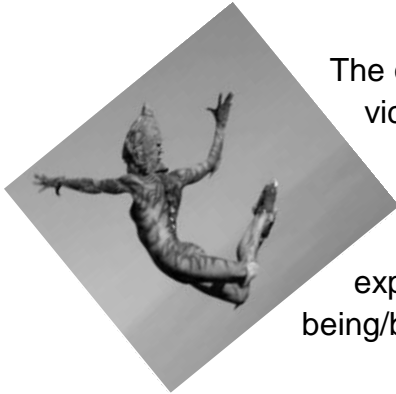
To have life, and to have it abundantly also means to be grasped by some form of enriched belonging through the love of friends, communities of caring, or communities of faith.

World 3 Epiphania: abundant life

World 3 Christology: Christ is the model human who teaches me how to be whole and loves me into wholeness

World 3 Gospel Celebration: “The glory of God is the human being fully alive”
(Irenaeus).

*World 3 Quest:
Filling to Overflowing -
To Become the Truth*



The quest is to become who I am by living directly rather than vicariously. Where I used to live through my partner, company, social class, nation, etc., I now live directly. It is I who reaches out, enfolding and bringing fullness through my own embrace of life. I give myself to expanding and exploring a broad Eros which pushes me into passionate being/becoming.

The spirituality that speaks to citizens of World 3 is Ignatian in flavor. The life reflected on has more weight than the life not reflected on. Even though there is much dreaming, trying, and failing: the invitation “to be” promises the act of self-authentication.

Since we cannot love others if we do not love ourselves, we must risk exposing who and what we are to others. With luck and God’s abiding in us we might discover that we can be ourselves and have love and community by finding the treasure of the self/Self.



World 3 Scripture: expression of spiritual experiences
World 3 God: lover of the soul/self
World 3 Salvation: flourishing of the true and authentic “I”
World 3 Movement: from Outcast to Blesser