

Strength and the Spinning Wheel (part 1)

g.f.marlier
r.m rilke
wittgenstein
adorno
yeats
reeves
pasternak
lowell
piaget
nouwen



(for everyone who wants to do their best thinking about love)

"WRONG LIFE CAN NOT BE LIVED
RIGHTLY"

- T.A

"The practical orders of life, while purporting to benefit man, serve in a profit economy to stunt human qualities and the further they spread, the more they sever everything tender. For tenderness between people is nothing other than awareness of the possibility of relations without purpose"

- T.A

"Random symptoms of a sickness of contact. Estrangement shows itself precisely in the elimination of distance between people."

- T.A

"Just as nowadays home-walls are cast in one piece, so the mortar between people is replaced by the pressure holding them together."

the useless
conversation

the Holy
Grail
of
Modernity



The
Original
Sentimental
Thug



I got nothin' but love for ya honey
I got nothin' but love for ya baby
I got nothin' but love for ya Sugar...

me: what are you trying to put out?

I: Love, baby, love.

PATIENCE Simplicity Compassion

The endless conversation about the Romantic Relationship.
what it is, how desirable it is,

Why it's desirable

how long it can last, the risk of
objectification. The Risk of Stasis, symbiosis,
merging. The emergence and tyranny of patterns.
What loss of solitude might
endure

and what that loss of
solitude for a period
means for solitude in the long-term
and especially when it returns, fortified
after a time of being, fully
and profoundly, with another.

Discussing "scratch a lover, find a foe"

and thinking about what Nick said:
"Fair's fare, unless you're lovers."

My extreme discomfort with
the suspension of ethical
considerations when you're "in love".
or when your love-bond has been broken.

Kristi says "I think you hold yourself
to really high standards"

- well I reply, I wouldn't call
them High Standards,
necessarily...



" Whatever lasts a moment's only worth
one barley grain - though it were all
the earth;

how can I trust what has no rooted power
and holds existence for a transient hour? "

" Until your heart is free of ownership
you cannot start -

- Atkar

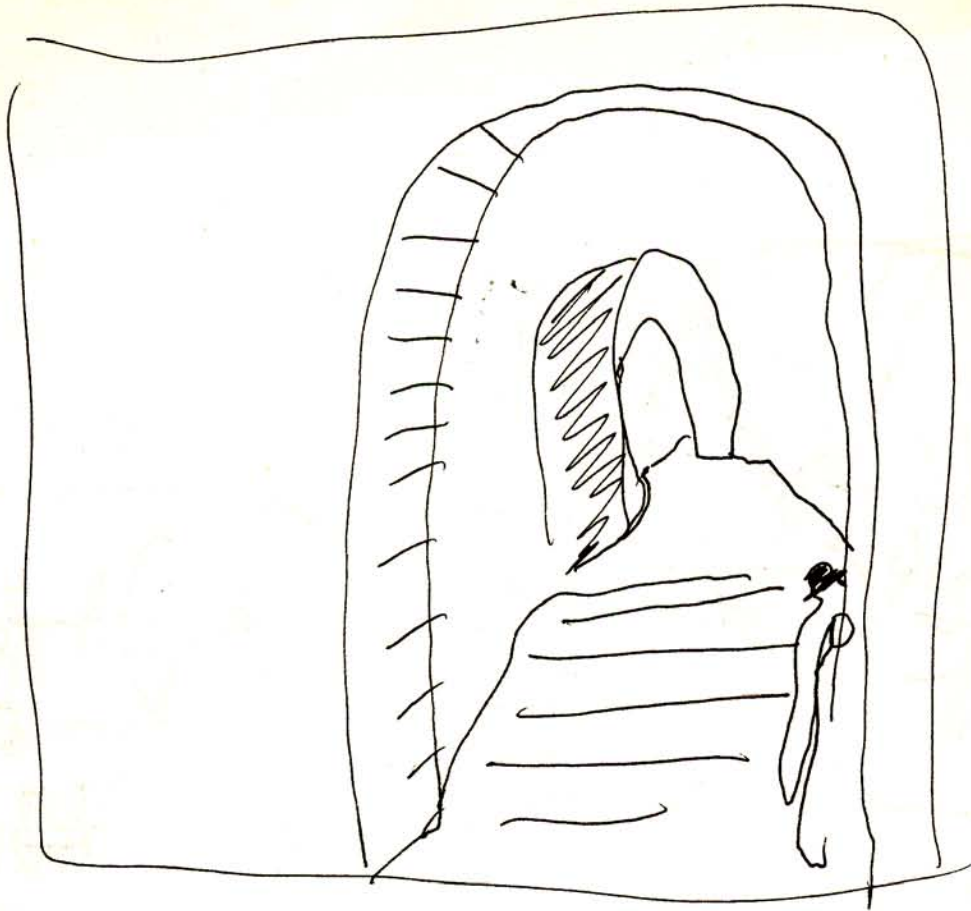
Since we must leave this prison and
its pains,

detach yourself from all that it contains;
will what you own or be death? will death

if you would enter on the pilgrims' way? ^{Delay?}

Are up your grasping hands: all you endure
is valueless if you set out unprepared "

- "



to attribute empathy as
a character trait
is inaccurate

to attribute empathy as
a potential faculty is accurate

to cry when you see a dead bird
in the street is not empathy, it is
sentimentality

empathy is intelligent participation
in the suffering and joy
of someone else.

Storytelling is an empathetic act.

This verbal fight about
are there five universals
is not where it's at

Much of truth is very local

Intelligence, the capacity to be afraid,
these are universals of the
human mind.

Do you identify with the
Ox or the ass



Theme:
FLIRTATION

different types:
Subtle, overt
Verbal, nonverbal

with Sincere intent (Romantic)
Emotional

with Sincere physical intent (Sexual)

with Insincere intent of either or other sorts

(Hoerbig / Joke)



"To be a poet is to do nothing,
and do it in one's own way"
- James Reeves

"Strife is better
than loveliness"

- Yeats'
favante
gaelic
proverb.

"It is more important in life
to lose than to acquire"

- Pasternak



Whitlow
Myopia

Whitlow
Stenopticon

Levinas

Q: How to go toward the other? is it love that brings me to him?

E.L: If you wish, without putting into this word all the literature that it evokes, if you take up again the term non-indifference, love then is perhaps an affective engagement where an intention of love is felt, the responsibility in being about which I spoke - all that spreads out in love.

Responsibility makes precise something given in the consciousness of alterity. Love goes farther; it is the relation to the unique.

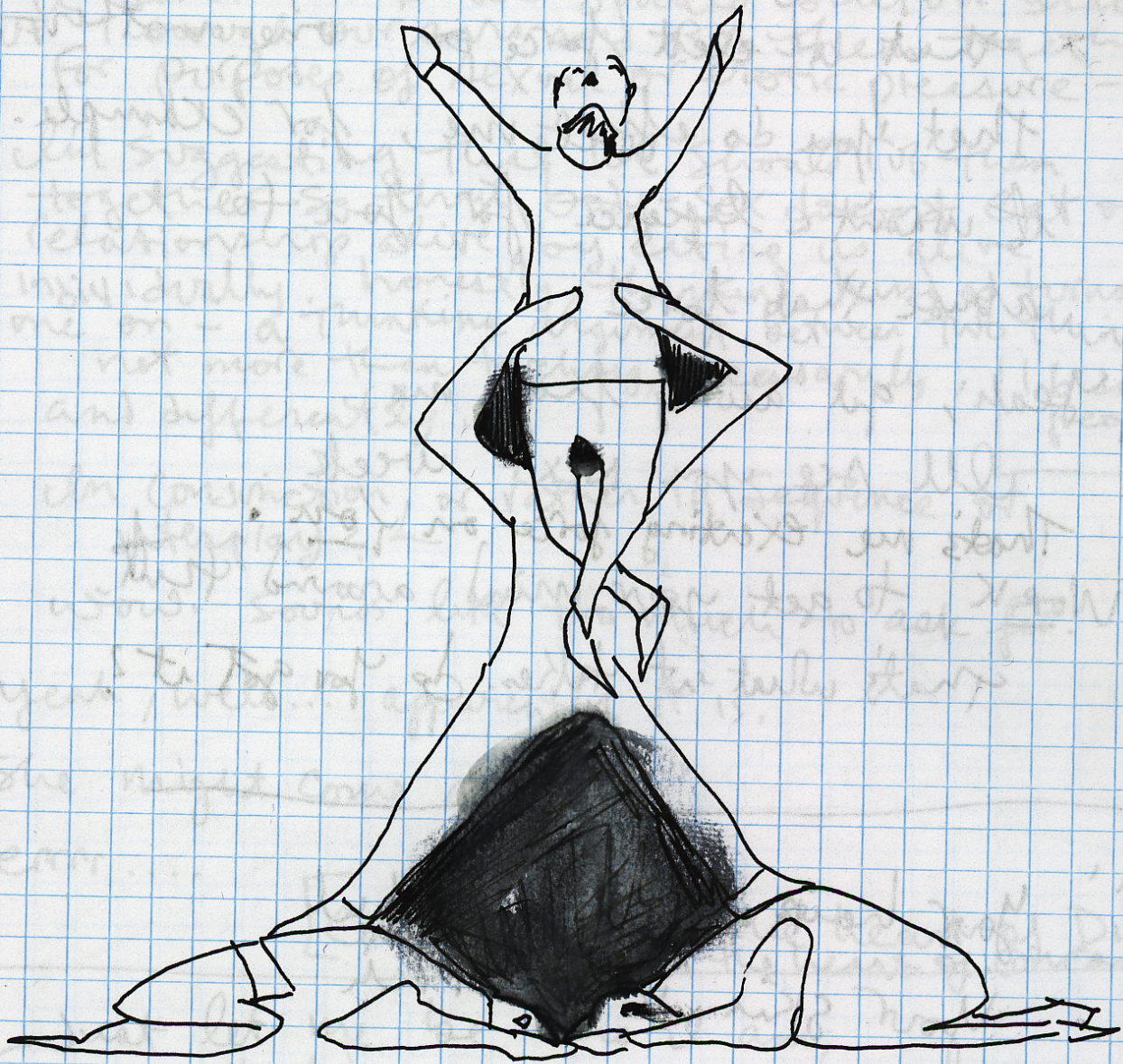
It is proper to the principle of love that the other loved, is unique for me unique in the world. Not because in being in love I have the illusion that the other is unique. It is because there is the possibility of thinking of someone as unique that there is love.

Q: But every other is unique. And we do not love everyone.

E.L: That is where we leave what I call the ethical order, or the order of holiness, or the order of compassion, or the order of love, or the order of charity where the other man concerns me - independently of the place that is given to him in the multiplicity of humans and even beyond our appartenance as individuals to the human genus. He concerns me as neighbor as the first one to come along! He was the unique. In his face, despite the countenance he gave to himself, I have read an appeal addressed to me, God's order not to leave him.

The interhuman relation in the
gratuitousness or the holiness of
being-for-the-other.


Q. I'll ask my Questions again,
We don't love everyone; we prefer,
we judge."



"It is a glorious privilege to live
to know, to act, to listen, to behold, to love.
To look up at the blue summer sky,
to see the sun sink slowly beyond the line
of the horizon; to watch the worlds
come ~~to~~ twinkling into view, first one by one,
and the myriads that no man can count, and lo!
the universe is white with them; and
you and I are here."

Marco
Morrow





"The way to solve the problem you see in life is to live in a way that will make what is problematic disappear. The fact that life is problematic shows that the shape of your life doesn't fit into life's mould. So you must change ~~your~~ the way you live and, once your life does fit into the mould, what is problematic will disappear. But don't we have the feeling that someone who sees no problem in life is blind to something important, even to the most important thing of all? Don't I feel like saying that a man like that is just living aimlessly - blindly, like a mole, and that if only he could see, he would see the problem? Or shouldn't I say rather: a man who lives rightly won't experience the problem as sorrow, so for him it won't be a problem but a joy rather; in other words for him it will be a bright halo round his life, not an obvious background."

-L.W

"getting hold of the difficulty deep down is what is hard. Because if it is grasped near the surface it simply remains the difficulty it was. It has to be pulled out by the roots; and that involves our beginning to think about these things in a new way. The change is decisive as, for example, that from the alchemical to the chemical way of thinking. The new way of thinking is what is so hard to establish. Once the new way of thinking is established the old problems vanish, indeed they become hard to re-capture. For they go with our way of expressing ourselves, and if we clothe ourselves in a new form of expression the old problems are discarded along with the old garment."

"often it is only very slightly more disagreeable
to tell the truth than to lie; about as difficult
as drinking bitter rather than sweet coffee;
and yet I still have a strong inclination to
lie". - Wittgenstein

"you could attach prices to thoughts.
Some cost a lot, some a little. And how
does one pay for thoughts? The answer,
I think, is: with courage."

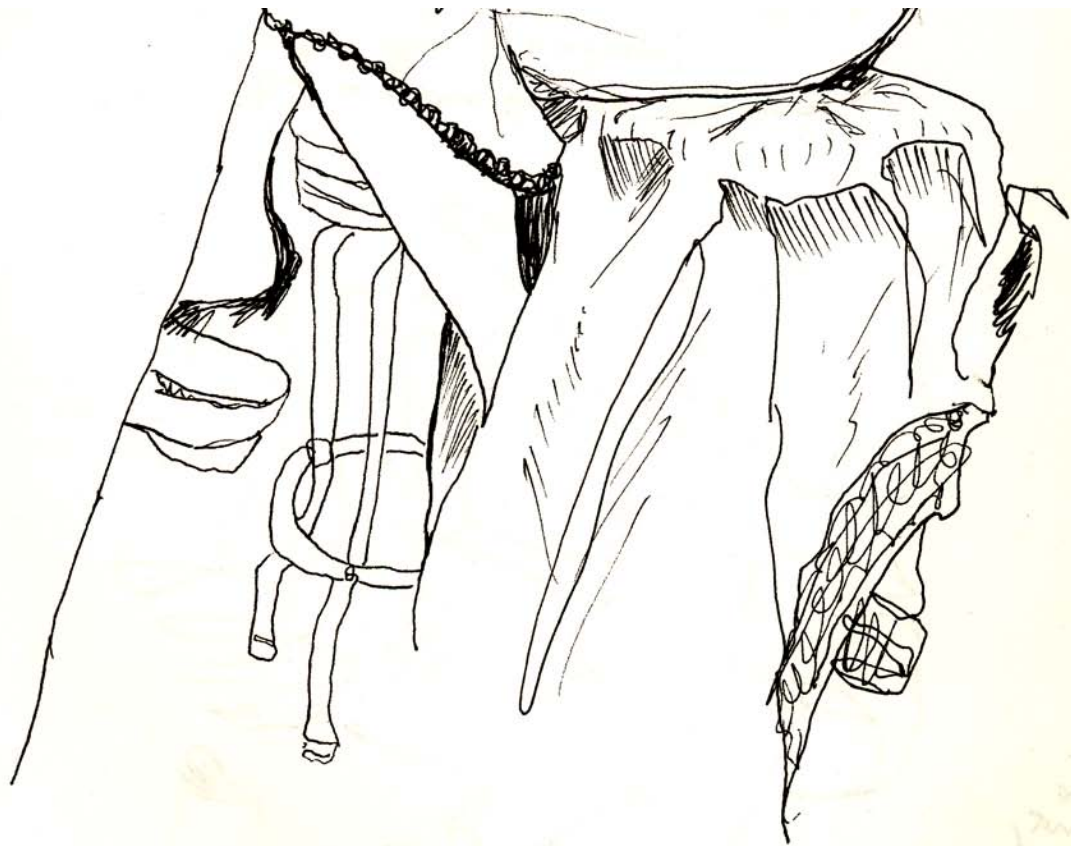
may your heart meditate understanding
your mouth speak wisdom,
and your tongue induce song

(Mer. 17A
R. Amnis
students
upon leaving
his class)



Tagairt é seo a fhivigeann tú
gan amhras
don h-éireas gamos
an pósadh a deindeadh ar neamh
is blasmigh de Chriostal
teglái bhur lánónachais
ta fvar agam fanacht sa doras
i mo dhilleachtá, i mo Spreas

There is a reference
- not lost on you of course -
to the h-éireas gamos the marriage
made in heaven. Outside
the warm conspiracy of your love
I stand, a nobody
an orphan at the door



Nancy on a 3-person Marriage,
what has made hers work -

'we laugh a lot'

'if you love each other, it's Right'

'it's hard work and you need to be careful
and pay attention to each other'

regret - when she came in, changing J and
MA's dynamic - "They yelled, I didn't like
yelling, but they needed to yell, it was an
important part of their relationship"

Respecting the fact that diff. partners interact
with each other differently, not trying to
change other people's relationships with each other.

- Also very important

Always being honest with each other and
with everyone else about what this is.
Whatever you're doing, whatever the
arrangement is, Be HONEST 100%.

Especially if you have kids.

Nancy thinks this is why her kids
never got screwed up about the whole thing.
They got the same story from all
their parents from day 1. They were
told the truth from day 1.

There is just something wonderfully healthy
about telling the truth -
to yourself, to your family, to
the world.

NOTES FROM # 11

- Recourse to Sexual Fertility for proof of Creative Potential.
 - The interminable noise of an ovation for a work you tried to imagine
 - a born-again hoodigan ready to be King again
 - straining to intimidate confident mediocrity from the Throne.
 - we're all looking at a screen. maybe if we look hard enough, we'll see through to the other side.
 - "you need something that ~~might just~~ ~~save you forever~~ and that ~~something~~ ~~may or may not be sex"~~ something
- also "Fair is fair, unless you're lovers" ↑ (from Nick's letter)

With no aid save everyday experience,
Intelligence suffices to teach us the
most important and most overlooked
fact concerning that Reality which is
OTHERNESS: Namely, that it has a way
of its own and does not exist merely
to suit our likings.

The habit of taking "Otherness" into
account, and a wider and wider
circle thereof, might serve as a
rough test of Intelligence and of
its progress.

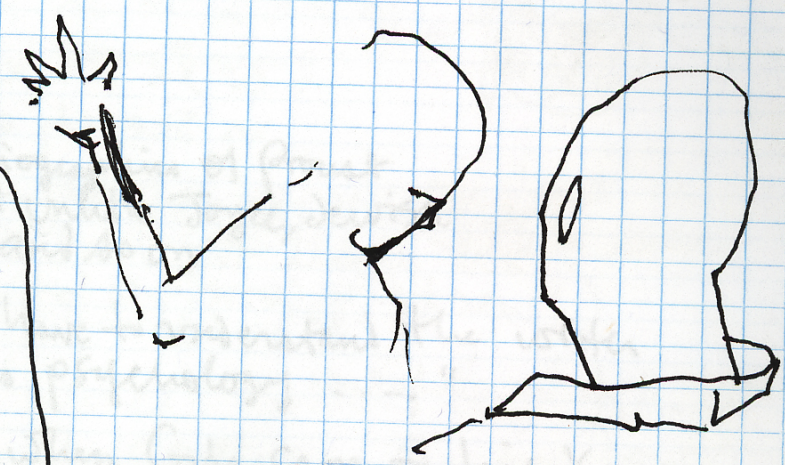
There is getting to be something rather
old-fashioned about settling general
questions on the strength of single
personal experiences.

THINKING IN TERMS OF CHANGE.

This seems an intrinsic part of
Thinking in terms of Otherness;

yet, as a fact, it dates only from
the days of Montesquieu, Voltaire,
Gibbon and Condorcet. This last
name brings home that until the
eighteenth century the only future
that people thought about was the
Future in heaven or Hell. The importance
of the latter alternative explains quite
sufficiently why no interest was left
over for any other after-life, to wit, →

Sleeping
in
the smell
of
another
person



Sleeping
in your
smell

From Plié project by Sara Smith

"this is
"a need for words to flesh out the
beginnings of physical understanding,
and the need to connect action to
language"

"This is an effort to interview those
closest to the subject, to develop
a character sketch and list of
possible motivations"

"this is about what the body processes."

Nuala Ní Thomhnaill

Póg

Do phóig Fear eile mé
i lár mo bheola,
do chuir sé a théanga
istach i mo bhéal.
Níor bhraitheas faic.
Dúirt leis

"Teir abhaile, a dheartháirín,
tán tú éolta
is tá do bhean thall sa doras
ag fanacht"

Ach níl a chrimhním
ar do phóigsa
Cúitheann mo Chromáin
is iníonn
a bhFoil eatarthu
ina lucht.

Kiss

Straight on my mouth
another man's kiss.
He put his tongue
between my lips.
I was numb
and said to him
"little man, go home
you're drunk
your wife waits at the door."

But when I recall
your kiss
I shake, and all
that lies
between my lips
liquefies
to milk.

trans.
Michael Hartnett

~~R~~ P+S

Technic

Makes a mini 35 adaptor
that will fit on the HVR-
V1U

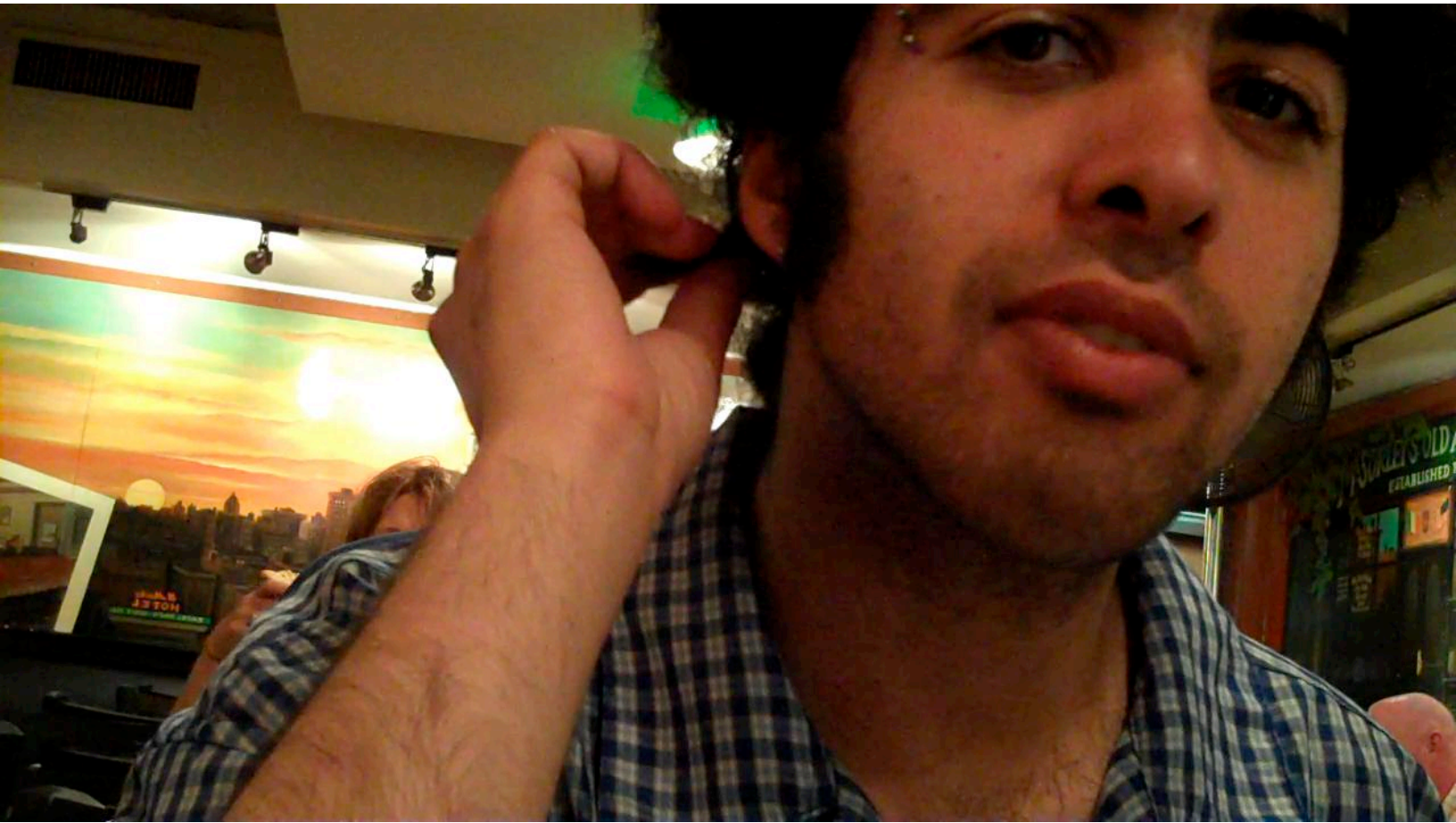
"Love is space and
time made perceptible
to the heart"

Proust

WWW.

NYCswim.org

Brendan Flaherty, first glimpse at age
17, sitting atop a ladder on the High School
Theatre's set shop, listening bemusedly
to the conversation below. Dressed up in 80's
fracknits with Chris Porter. Romy DMC blasting
swing dancing with Brendan in his brown
thrift-store jacket and tie ~~at the~~ ^{the} ~~bar~~ ^{bar}

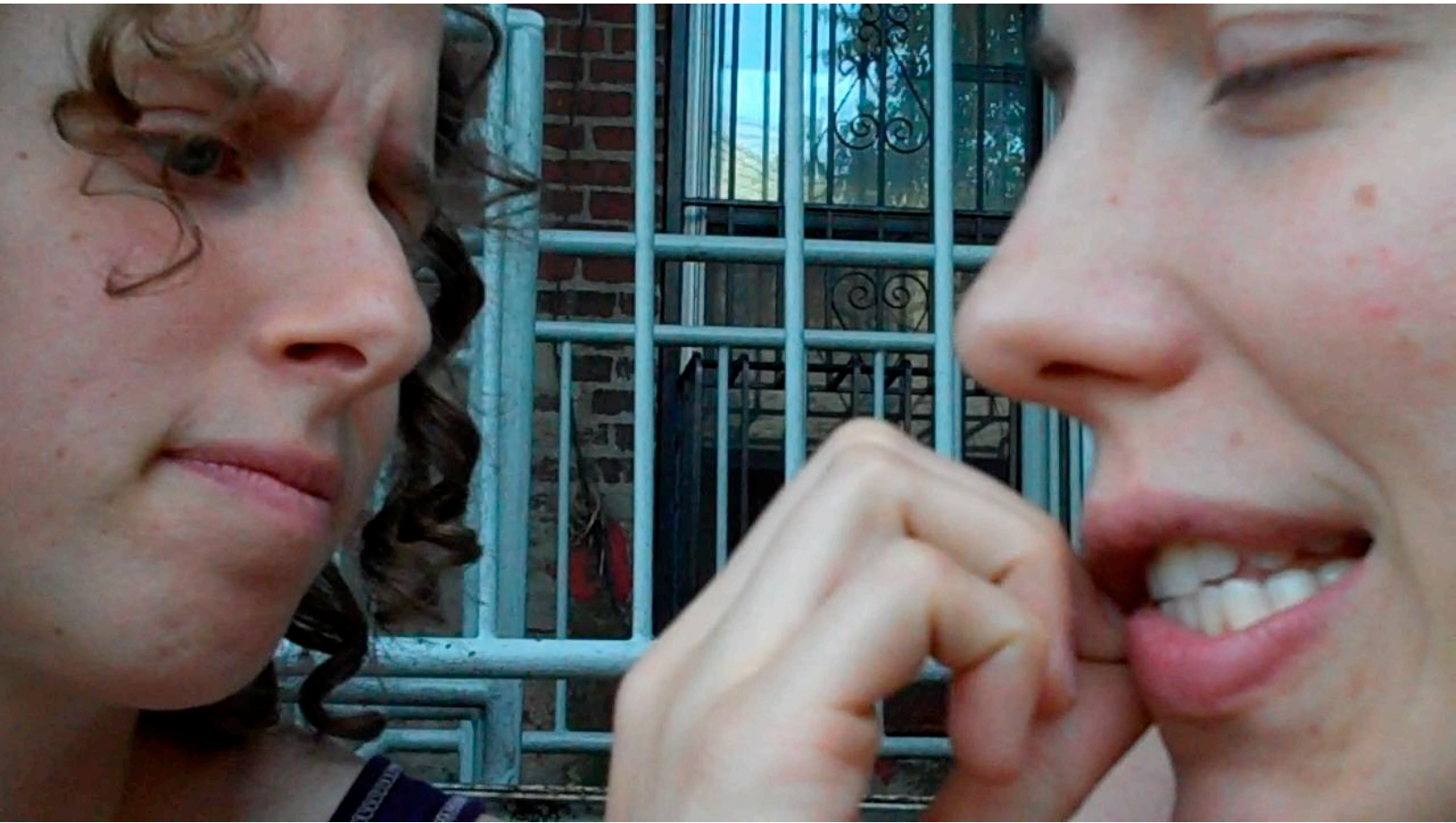


"Somewhere we know that without
a lonely place our lives are in
danger. Somewhere we know that
without silence words lose their
meaning, that without listening,
speaking no longer heals.
Somewhere we know that
without a lonely place our
actions become empty
gestures"

- Henri Nouwen
From Out of Solitude

"The nature of closeness and disaffection,
sameness and anomaly, belonging
and exclusion: The tension between
our sentimental expectations of what
is supposed to be, and the debacle
of what is"

" \$ "



"I have sat and listened to
too many
words of the collaborating muse,
and plotted perhaps too freely with
not avoiding injury to others, ^{my life,}
~~not~~ avoiding injury to myself —
to ask compassion . . . this book,
half fiction,
an eBook made by man for the
eek fighting —
My eyes have seen what my
hand did."

Robert
Lowell

Charisma - the presence of grace
Kairo - grace

The power to prevent hell
from freezing over

The prevention of bureaucracies
Becoming brittle, paralyzed
Bureaucracies need constant infusions of charisma

Anti-
godfriend

Person
(friend?)

Girlfriend

These icons
Quicken

the human
ability to empathize

tonic for empathy

To ut ~~des~~ des

Sacrifice becomes Bribery

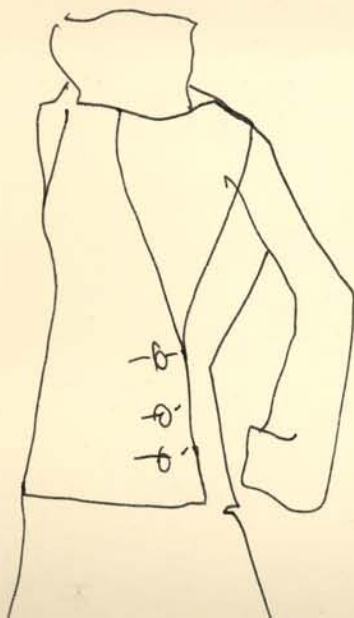
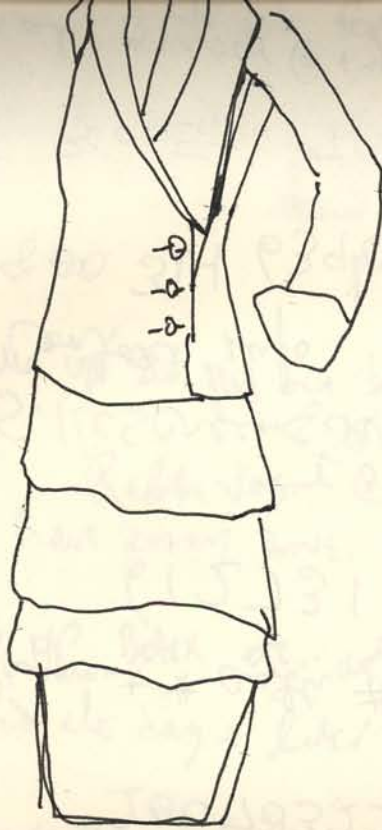
I give so that you give
I do it so I get my way

negotiation

The principle of reciprocity

Sacrifice:
to make
something
Sacred

Bribery:
to make something
happen for yourself



" I hold her hands and press her to my breast.
I try to fill my arms with her loveliness
to plunder her sweet smile with kisses,
to drink her dark glances with my eyes.
Ah, but where is it?
Who can strain the blue from the sky?
I try to grasp the beauty; it eludes
me, leaving only the body in my hands.

Baffled and weary I come back.
How can the body touch the flower
which only the spirit may touch? "

- Tagore

" One morning in the flower garden a blind
girl came to offer me a flower-chain
in the cover of a lotus leaf.

I put it round my neck, and tears came
to my eyes.

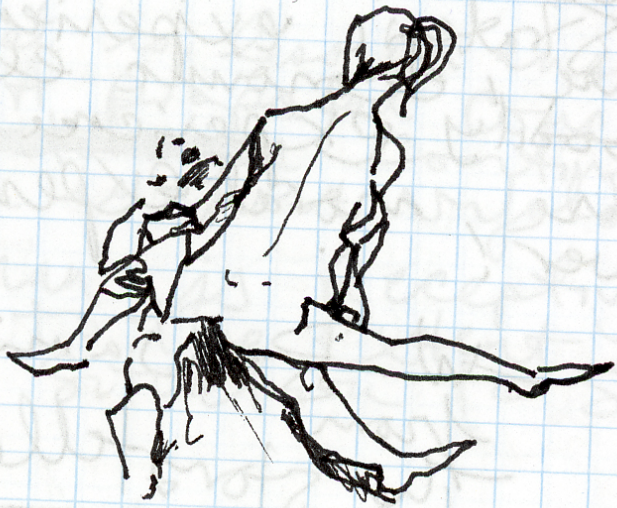
I kissed her and said, " you are blind
even as the flowers are.

You yourself know not how beautiful
is your gift."



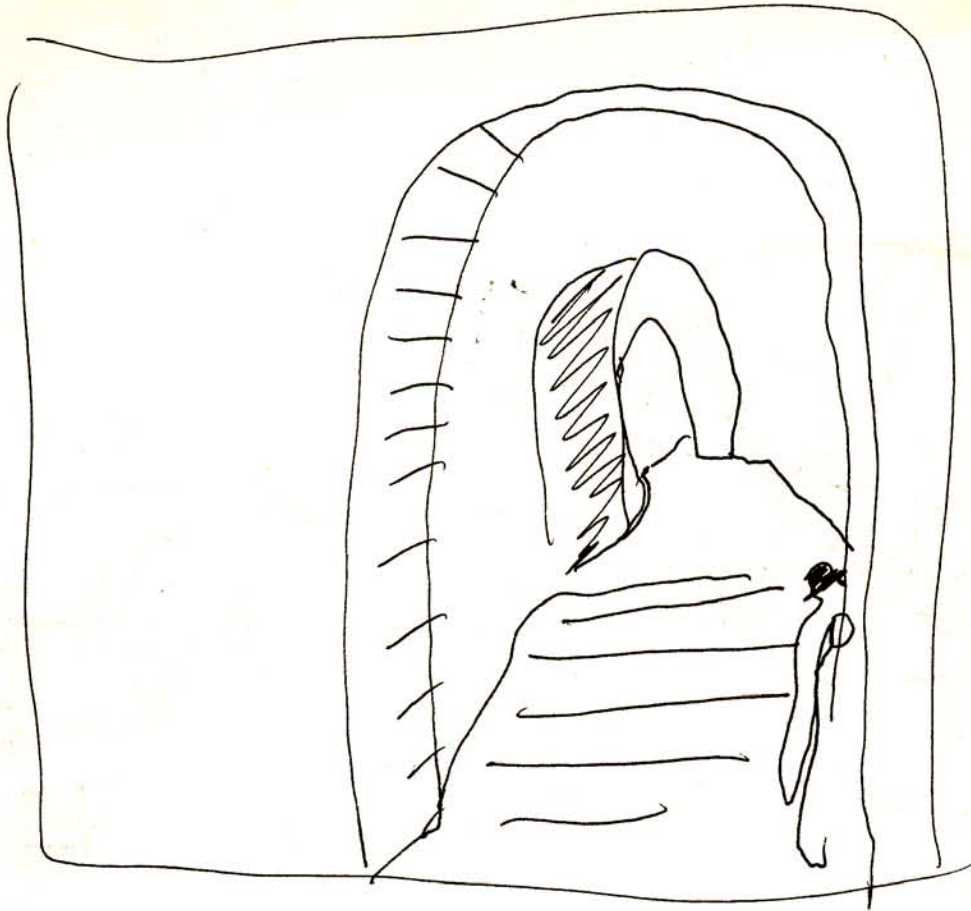
-
- what do you say then, to the proposition that there isn't any such thing as a person simultaneously a friend and lover to another?
 - humpph
-

- Dissect this quotation from an anonymous representative of a seemingly universal, Recurrent form of Anger
 - I hate you!
 - why?
 - You're Fucking My Boyfriend!
-



THINKING FROM YOUR GUT

about the things your
gut is effected by.



Rilke's letters on love

I tell you that I have a long way to go before I am —
where one begins...

You are so young, so before all beginning, and I want to beg you, as much as I can, to be patient toward all that is unresolved in your heart and to try to love the Questions themselves like locked Rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to Live everything.

Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer. Resolve to be always beginning — to be a beginner!

There is scarcely anything more difficult than to love one another. That it is work, Day labor, Day labor, God knows there is no other word for it. And look, added to this is the fact that young people are not prepared for such difficult loving; for convention has tried to make this most complicated and ultimate Relationship into something easy and frivolous, has given it the appearance of everyone's being able to do it. It is not so. Love is something difficult and it is more difficult than other things because in other conflicts nature herself enjoins men to collect themselves, to take themselves firmly in hand with all their strength, while in the heightening of love the impulse is to give oneself wholly away. But just think - can that be anything beautiful, to give oneself away not as something whole and ordered, but haphazard rather, ~~bit~~ bit by bit, as it comes? Can such giving away, that looks so like a throwing away and dismemberment, be anything good, can it be happiness, joy, progress? No, it cannot... When you give someone flowers, you arrange them beforehand, don't you?

At bottom no one in life can help anyone else in life; this one experiences over and over in every conflict and every perplexity: that one is alone.

All companionship can consist only in the strengthening of two neighboring solitudes, whereas everything that one is wont to call giving oneself is by nature harmful to companionship: For when a person abandons himself, he is no longer anything, and when two people both give themselves up in order to come close to each other, there is no longer any ground beneath them and their being together is a continual falling.

Therefore this too must be the standard
for resection of choice: whether one is
willing to stand guard over the solitude of
a person and whether one is inclined to
set this same person at the gate of
one's own solitude, of which he learns
only through that which steps,
festively clothed, out of the great darkness.

It is a question in Marriage, to my feeling, not of creating a wide community of spirit by tearing down and destroying all boundaries, but rather a good marriage is that in which each appoints the other guardian of his Solitude, and shows him this confidence, the greatest in his power to bestow. a TOGETHERNESS between two people is an impossibility, and where it seems, nevertheless, to exist, it is a narrowing, a reciprocal agreement which Robs either one party or both of his fullest freedom and development.

But, once the Realization is accepted that even between the closest human beings infinite distances continue to exist, a wonderful living side by side can grow up, - if they succeed in loving the distance between them which makes it possible for each to see the other whole and against a wide sky!

It holds this to be the highest
Task of a bond between two people:
That each should stand guard over the
Solitude of the other. For, if it
lies in the nature of indifference
and of the crowd to recognize
no solitude, then love and friendship
are there for the purpose of continually
providing the opportunity for solitude.
And only these are the true sharings
which rhythmically interrupt periods
of deep isolation...



"a poet is by the very nature of things a man who lives with entire sincerity, or rather, the better his poetry, the more sincere his life. His life is an experiment in living and those who come after him have a right to know it. Above all, it is necessary that the lyric poet's life be known, that we should understand that his poetry is no Rootless Flower but the speech of a man. That it is no little thing to achieve anything in any art, to stand alone perhaps for many years, to go a path no other man has gone to accept one's own thought when the thought of others has the authority of the world behind it... to give one's own life as well as one's words (which are so much nearer ~~to~~ ^{to} one's soul) to the criticism of the world" -

W.B. Yeats