

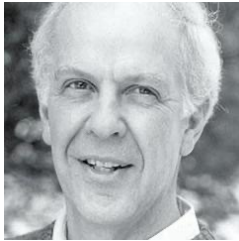
1

Journal Questions

- What force has built inside your heart that's left you uneasy as you are?
- What threshold do you need to cross that would have you come alive once more?
- What might have died within you?
- What wishes to come alive?
- What richer life are you seeking?
- What is about to be born?
- What is keeping you confined?
- What have you been vacantly enduring?
- What is your soul's desire?
- What questions bring you here?
- What struggles are you having around vocation?

2

"If your problem is soul-deep, your soul alone know what you need to do about it."



~Parker Palmer

3

Vocation
 early 15c., "spiritual calling," from Old French vocation
"call, consecration; calling, profession"
Occupation
Profession
Career
 Work
 Job

4

Vocation
Occupation
 Old French occupacion "pursuit, work, employment; occupancy, occupation" (12c.), possession; business, employment, "employment, business in which one engages" is late 14c.
Profession
Career
 Work
 Job

5

Vocation
Occupation
Profession
 c. 1200, "vows taken upon entering a religious order," from Old French profession (12c.), from Latin professionem (nominative profectio) "public declaration," from past participle stem of profiteri "declare openly" (see profess). Meaning "any solemn declaration" is from mid-14c. Meaning "occupation one professes to be skilled in" is from early 15c.
Career
 Work
 Job

6

Vocation
Occupation
Profession
Career
 1530s, "a running (usually at full speed), a course"
 "course of one's public or professional life" (1803).
Work
Job

7

Vocation
Occupation
Profession
Career
Work
 Old English weorc, worc: "something done, discreet act
 performed by someone;
 expending labor in some useful or remunerative way"
Job

8

Vocation
Occupation
Profession
Career
Work
Job

9

Avocation
 1610s, "a calling away from one's occupation;"
 1640s, "that which calls one away from one's
 proper business," from Latin avocationem
 (nominative avocatio) "a calling away, distraction,
 diversion"
 something a person does in addition to a principal
 occupation, especially for pleasure; hobby

10

Journal questions

- If you work for money right now, which of these six terms would you use to designate that work?
- Do you feel called to that work?
- What are you professing with that work? Is it in alignment with your values?
- Is your work how you wish to occupy your time?
- Is there a path you have been following in your work that makes it a career?
- Does your work feel like "just a job"? If so, what purpose does your work fulfill? Is it tied to a deeper vocation (like the calling for having a family) or to an avocation (the pursuit of hobbies or unpaid pleasures)?

11

VOCATION AND INDIVIDUATION

Individuation: A Jungian term for the process of becoming more whole and complete, for living in integrity with oneself (one's Self), for becoming one's *distinct* self (an individual divided from the collective, but un-divided internally), for becoming more fully self-expressed. Synonymous with the term self-actualization from the humanistic tradition.

12

My assertions:

- Our vocation *is* individuation (the spiritual calling to become ourselves and embody our genius)
- **Thus**, our vocation may be separate from our occupations or professions or jobs or careers
- **But**, wouldn't it be lovely, even ideal, if our occupations et al. were in service to our individuation? Were places where our genius could be expressed? Actually fostered our self-actualization (or at least didn't impede it?) Were places we could bring more of our whole selves to, and in the process, become even more whole?

13

**But yield who will to their separation,
My object in living is to unite
My avocation and my vocation
As my two eyes make one in sight.**

Robert Frost, "Two Tramps in Mud Time"

- How close is your vocation (or occupation or profession or career or job) and your avocation?
- If you could get paid well to do anything full or part-time, what would you do? Or if you don't need or want to get paid for work, what volunteer work would feel like getting recognized for enjoying a hobby?

14

Calling: "the sense that you are on this earth for a reason, that you have a destiny, no matter how great or small"

"A calling is a deep sense that your very being is implicated in what you do. You feel that you fit into the scheme of things when you do this particular work. You have a sense of purpose and completion in the work. It defines you and gives you an essential tranquility."

~Thomas Moore

15

QUESTIONS ABOUT CALLING

- Does your current career/occupation/vocation allow you to bring your very being to the work?
- Do you feel like you fit into the scheme of things?
- Do you have a sense of purpose and completion?
- Does your work define you?
- Does it give you an essential tranquility?

Which of these above five qualities of a calling resonate the most with you as something you'd like from your work in the world?

When in life have you felt any of these qualities, especially the one that resonates with you the most? What were you doing then?

16

- **Calling** versus calling
- **Jackhammer**
versus hummingbird
- **Calling** versus callings
(polycentric view of vocation)



17



18

Polycentric View of Vocation

“The work that provides such a deep reward may change over time, and you may go through several periods in your life defined by a different work. Toward the end of your life you may see all the jobs you have done as fateful, composing your life work and answering your calling.”

~Thomas Moore

19

The Way It Is

William Stafford

There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change. People wonder about what you are pursuing. You have to explain about the thread. But it is hard for others to see. While you hold it you can't get lost. Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die; and you suffer and get old. Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding. You don't ever let go of the thread.

20

“The acorn theory says that there is an individual image that belongs to your soul. The same myth can be found in the kabala. The Mormons have it. The West Africans have it. The Hindus and the Buddhists have it in different ways. They tie it more to reincarnation and karma, but you still come into the world with a particular destiny. Native Americans have it very strongly. So all these cultures all over the world have this basic understanding of human existence. Only American psychology *doesn't* have it.”

~James Hillman

21



22

“...its simplistic ideas of human life, and also its emptiness. In the cosmology that's behind psychology, there is no reason for anyone to be here or do anything. We are driven by the results of the Big Bang, billions of years ago, which eventually produced life, which eventually produced human beings, and so on. But *me?* I'm an accident — a result — and therefore a victim”

23



24



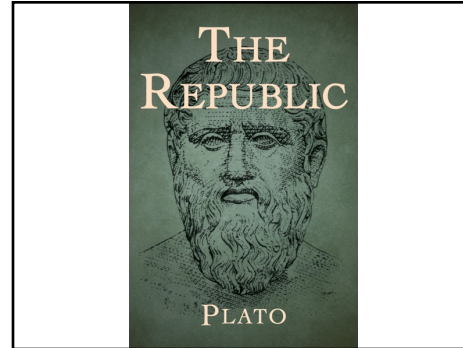
25



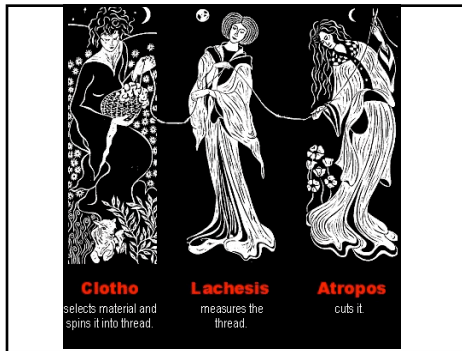
26



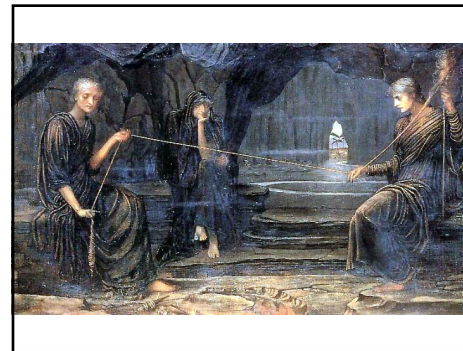
27



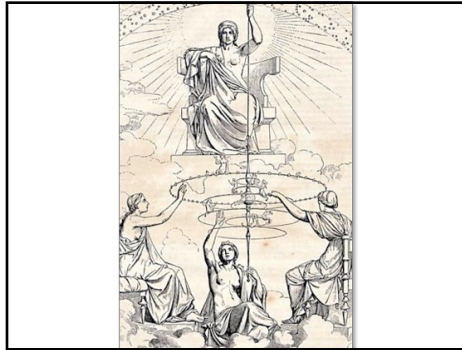
28



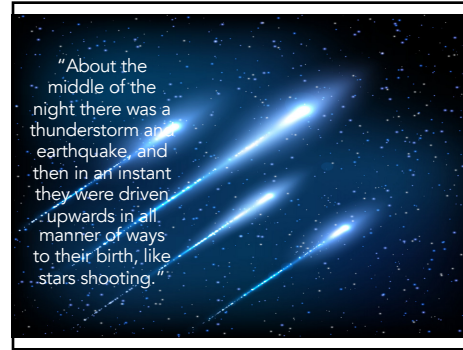
29



30



31



"About the middle of the night there was a thunderstorm and earthquake, and then in an instant they were driven upwards in all manner of ways to their birth, like stars shooting."

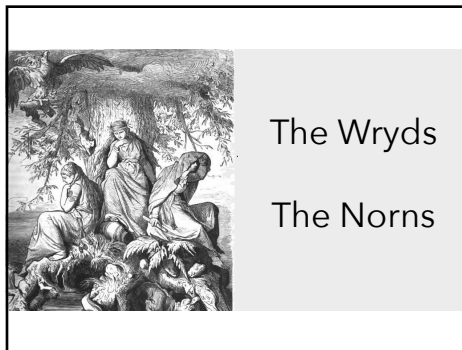
32



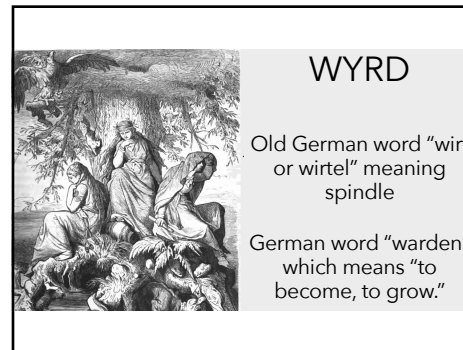
33



34



35



36

The Wryds
The Norns

WYRD

Old German word "wirt or wirtel" meaning spindle

German word "warden" which means "to become, to grow."

“We dull our lives by the way we conceive them”

“We have stopped imagining them with any sort of romance, any fictional flair”

~James Hillman

37

“That’s the belief of the myth, and we have to make it clear that this is a myth, not a truth. It doesn’t have to be believed, and it’s not a theory that has to be proven. It’s a worldwide myth, and it’s a way of thinking or reflecting about life. **It’s something you entertain to see what the story does for you.** Plato said that those who think this way may find that their lives will prosper, meaning it’s not a bad way to think.”

~James Hillman

38

“The Romans believed that a child is born with his daimon, or in their language, genius. It’s a fertile idea: that the deep passion and drivenness that stays with us all our lives is there from the beginning.”

~Thomas Moore

39

“A genius belongs to everyone. No person is a genius or can be a genius, because the genius or daimon or angel is an invisible nonhuman escort, not the person with whom the genius lives.”

~James Hillman

40

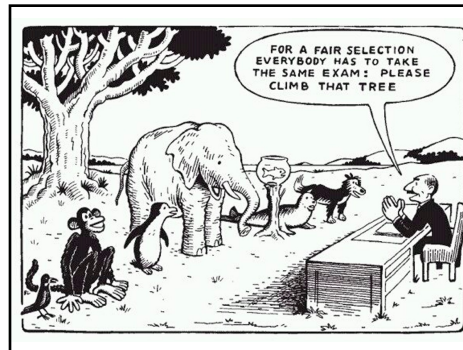
“The point is not that each person is a genius, but that each one born has some innate genius. Not simply that some are gifted with genius; but that genius names the giftedness in each and every one. For each of us enters the world bearing an inner arrangement of talents and gifts intended to be revealed and be given in the course of our lives. Seen this way, genius is not just the exceptional person amongst us, but also an exceptional presence within each of us.”

~Michael Meade

41



42



43

**EUDAIMONIA v.
DYSDAIMONIA**

Eudaimonia—living in harmony with the daimon, with one’s inner genius or soul’s calling. (Flourishing)

Dysdaimonia—not that. (Languishing)

44

Wants “to show up in their important worlds of work with more of their identity and integrity in hand, with more of their selfhood, with more of their true values and true gifts, who don’t want to wear that mask any longer, who don’t want to play the game of the divided life, and who know if they’re able to do that, not only will they become more fulfilled in the work they do, but they’re much more likely to serve the people they want to serve better.”

“...bring their inner truth and their outward work in the world closer together.”
~Parker Palmer

45

THE TRAGIC GAP

“the gap between the hard realities around us and what we know to be possible.”

“a gap between the way things are and the way we know they might be. It is a gap that never has been and never will be closed.”

Parker Palmer

46

Divided Self versus Whole Self

Real Self versus False Self or the Persona

The gap between our role and our soul

How much of yourself are you able to bring to your work in the world? How much of yourself are you able to be in your work in the world?

47

Choose a problem area in your vocation/individuation, a place of stuckness or suffering or insecurity or displeasure or overwhelm or fear, etc.

How I feel in my current vocational life	What qualities do I need to close the gap?	How I want to feel

48