

The Trialogue

My self: To want is not enough. To be wanted is insufficient. To desire and be desired is to experience love in its fullest.

My soul: How unholy to be filled with desire! What can quench its fiery thirst? Lose the “I” that was never there. Then you will no longer have any desires.

My self: I strive to make things better. I am satisfied only with dissatisfaction. Here is the way things are. But this is how things could be.

My soul: What a dreamer you are! To strive where there can be no striving, to want when there is nothing to want, to think that it is *you* who is living your life instead of life that is living you!

My self: I desire nothing for myself. I am selfless. I think only about others. I do not need them. It is they who need me.

My soul: How presumptuous! As if all humankind cries out for your mercy. You have yet to find your humble niche in the grand scheme of eternity.

My self: Stop speaking so abstractly. I am repelled by my own existence. It is the whole I love. I must make amends not with myself but the universe.

My soul: An ocean is composed of many drops. You are but one of them. Do you really think that you can calm a tumultuous sea without first calming yourself?

My self: How could I ever be the object of my own love? If I am flexible and magnanimous, I will satisfy my neighbor’s needs and give no thought to my own.

My soul: Why allow yourself to become a puppet, pulled by the strings of a power greater than yourself? If you seek always to love your neighbor, but never to love yourself, how shall you endure?

My self: Indeed, I must give him all I have. It is not that he needs what I give him but that he knows he is needed.

My soul: And should he give you nothing in return?

My self: There is nothing I myself need. I am self-sufficient. I do not even need to be needed.

My soul: So now, instead of one joined together in harmony, we are two at discord with each other. Once a placid lake, now we are churning with hunger, thirst, and craving.

My self: Indeed, even the entire universe could not satisfy my desires.

My spirit: O selfless soul and soulless self. What gift can either give?