

John is a participant in the '77-'78 Midlife Exploration group, a man mountain with a red beard, an art professor in a college up-Hudson, a lay preacher in the Methodist Church. A gentle, agonizingly difficult ministry the Lockes are into is foster-parenting batches of children society considers incorrigible....In Midlife Exploration I meet such wonderful people it almost seems sinful for NYTS to lift money from them, but we all have the survival problem!

For Midlife Exploration Bible studies last session, Jn. put up a silkscreen red-and-orange applecore whose leftside teethmarks were his profile and rightside his wife's! Apparently, they sin together, and do not present themselves to their problem children as nonproblem adults. Martin Buber says the best way into the Bible is to know and feel yourself a traitor to life, to the world, to yourself, to God: the Bible story is the story of The Way Out Of Betrayal: the One whom we betray does not betray us, but saves us. Denying Peter is asked only "Do you love Me?"....As to the form, Jn. here humorously and profoundly exploits the Gestalt attentional insight that ground and figure, separately attended to, deliver different messages, but together a single message....a tremendous help in understanding the holistic, right-brain-hemisphere, paradigmatic consciousness of the Bible and therefore of the Jewish and Christian way of seeing and living in the world.

Jn. gave Loree and me "Genesis 1," which is hanging in NYTS rm.#803. [As in the case above and the case below, these verbal interpretations are purely mine, and as yet unchecked with John; be free to run your critique of my words, and use your own.] Never before have I seen a painting of the situation before God said, "Let there be light!" The nude woman--Eve-Lilith, Mother Earth--is looking up expectantly in the direction from which the Light will come to complete the original creation before flora and fauna--on which a storefront-minister student of mine said, "Keep looking up, because God is always looking down." Is that the woman's hair, or a waterfall, or a willowtree--and why not all three? And is she pregnant--why not? Arms up in awe, amazement, adoration, as well as expectation....All black, but all dark? Function precedes form, but form precedes light. At the end of "Equus" the psychiatrist soliloquizes that the darkness of transcendence in which his 17-year-old psychotic patient is living is superior to the flat, unidimensional darkness in which he himself is barely existing. The Cry of Dereliction from the Cross sheds more light than the impressive, polished symbols of Rome's power at the foot of the Cross.

Jn. painted that beginning of the Bible to envelop his painting, for a Midlife Exploration session, with the Bible's ending: "Revelation 21f," a gift to NYTS, hangs just outside the Library. Bridging these paintings of the Bible's first and last books are (1) the overall verticality of style, indicative of the biblical conviction of the divine initiative in our origin, maturation, and destiny, (2) nudity, in creation and openness, in penitence and simplicity, and (3) the upward look.... BACKGROUND: increasingly rough and dynamic texture from top to bottom.

PERSPECTIVE: in the lower right is the observer, at rest except for eye-action, as apocalyptic is, literally, "revealing" or "unveiling" so that the previously unseen may be seen. This nude woman is the first verse of Rev.21f, the Bible's last two chapters: "I saw...." She is looking up: help comes not from history but from history's Lord.

INVOLVEMENT: in contrast to the Il Penseroso woman on the right is the L'Allegro woman on the left--holding her hair in mimesis of the three women --Siamese!--who represent the New-Jerusalem-as-bride-community....

* Double contrast: in Ezekiel (40:47), we have a square temple. they within-againstgestalt the cube*city seen from below (on my teaching cube, "Nature-Society-History," on axis with "God: divine/demonic"; the other axes being the human energies: Spirit/Body and Mind/Psyche). [And try Jung's 3/4, and the Greek's 3 "Graces".]

DOMINANT COLOR: Apocalyptic red of destruction and NEW CREATION.