

The conclusion of the passage: "What is the Burning Bush? It may be any one of many things that will not fit the view of life which one has worked out....(1) monotony when one had reckoned on a life filled with interesting experience....(2) catastrophe, sharp, crushing, terrifying....(3) adversity when one had counted on comfort....(4) discovering to one's dismay that the self does not fit the role....or (5) that God doesn't fit one's theology."

Exodus 3 is used in this thinksheet as a followup on thinksheet #652, the first section of which is on case selection. The question there and here is, How do I select, from my past or present ministry, a case that (1) promises educational payoff for the group and (2) will advance my own understanding of and skill in ministry?....The biblical text I have chosen for processing this question is one I often use in midcareer counseling, and so is appropriate to those in NYTS seminars, most of whom are in midcareer. The process-outline below is adapted from an exposition of the text in Lewis Sherrill's masterwork, THE STRUGGLE OF THE SOUL (Mac/51), pp.185-7,.

*Does the case I'm considering for group processing pass muster in the light of Judaism's generative experience, viz. Moses and the burning bush?*

1. *In the light of the fact that my degree of maturity is revealed partly in my capacity to deal with unanticipated reality, does this case involve a tension between my doing my job [sheep tending, in Moses case] and my continuous critical defining of what my job is?*

2. *In this case, was I confronted by some significant fact that did not fit-- enough so that I was tempted to evade the intrusive disturbing factor, and indeed perhaps the whole case?but managed to resist the temptation? [No Jewish religion if Moses had not hung in with the burning bush.]*

3. *In this case, did I know myself to be somehow up against God--"invited to plumb a depth of reality which hitherto...[I] had never known"["I Am That I Am." ]?*