



THE TRANSFORMATION OF MEANING

AN EXPLORATION *of* IDEAS

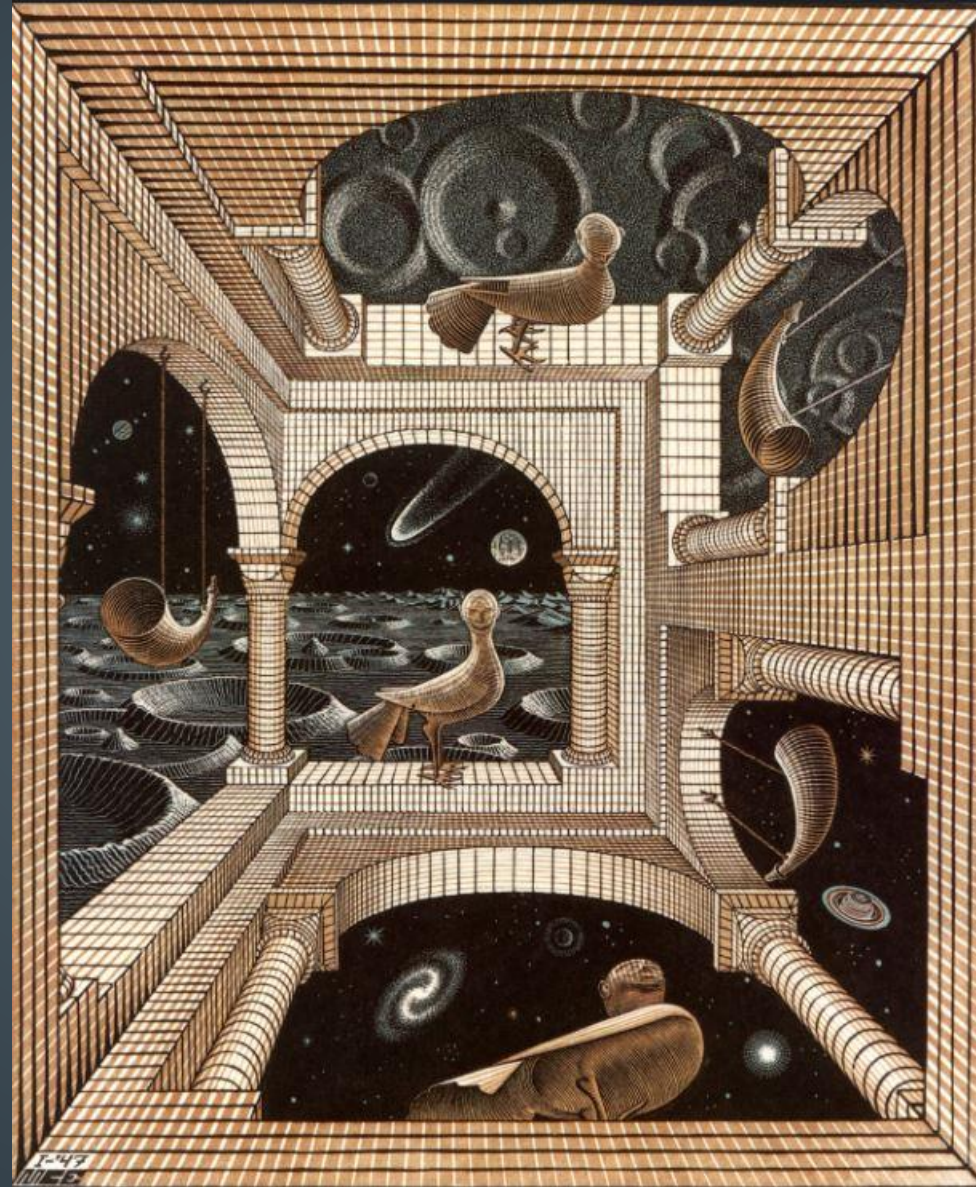


MEANING

- Something we ascribe to ... anything and everything
 - An object, memory, event, feeling, thought, dream, sensation – any ‘input’ or impression
- Personal – not universally shared
- Subjective – not absolute, not Truth
- Malleable – can change over time



PERSPECTIVE





Meaning and level of Being



MAURICE NICOLL

“The descent of meaning, from level to level, from higher to lower successively, never ceases, and is different at each level. Because of this the *transformation of meaning* is possible, and can be experienced as our level of being changes* .

As we are raised in being, so is meaning transformed.”

* i.e., as our consciousness evolves



MAURICE NICOLL

“Meaning at a higher level is not
comprehended by a lower level.

The mind must be given new ideas from
which to think.”



“The ideas of the Work are new. To think *from* them changes the mind. ...



MAURICE NICOLL

It is this Work, deeply pondered and gradually penetrating into our own living of life, that raises being so that it sees another level of meaning. ...

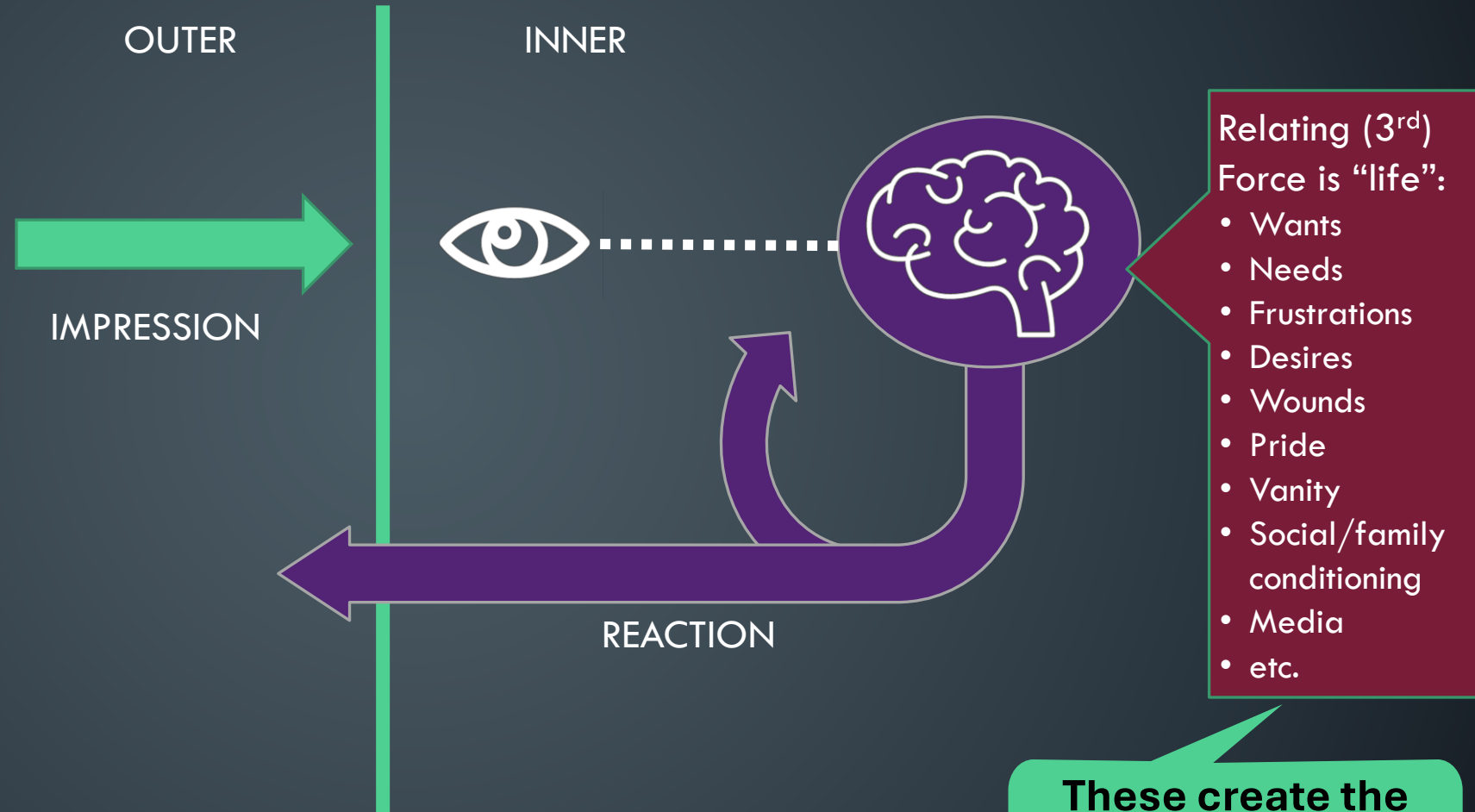
Change of being begins with change of mind. ...

Change of mind is when you really think in a new way and it means something.”



Life as Third Force

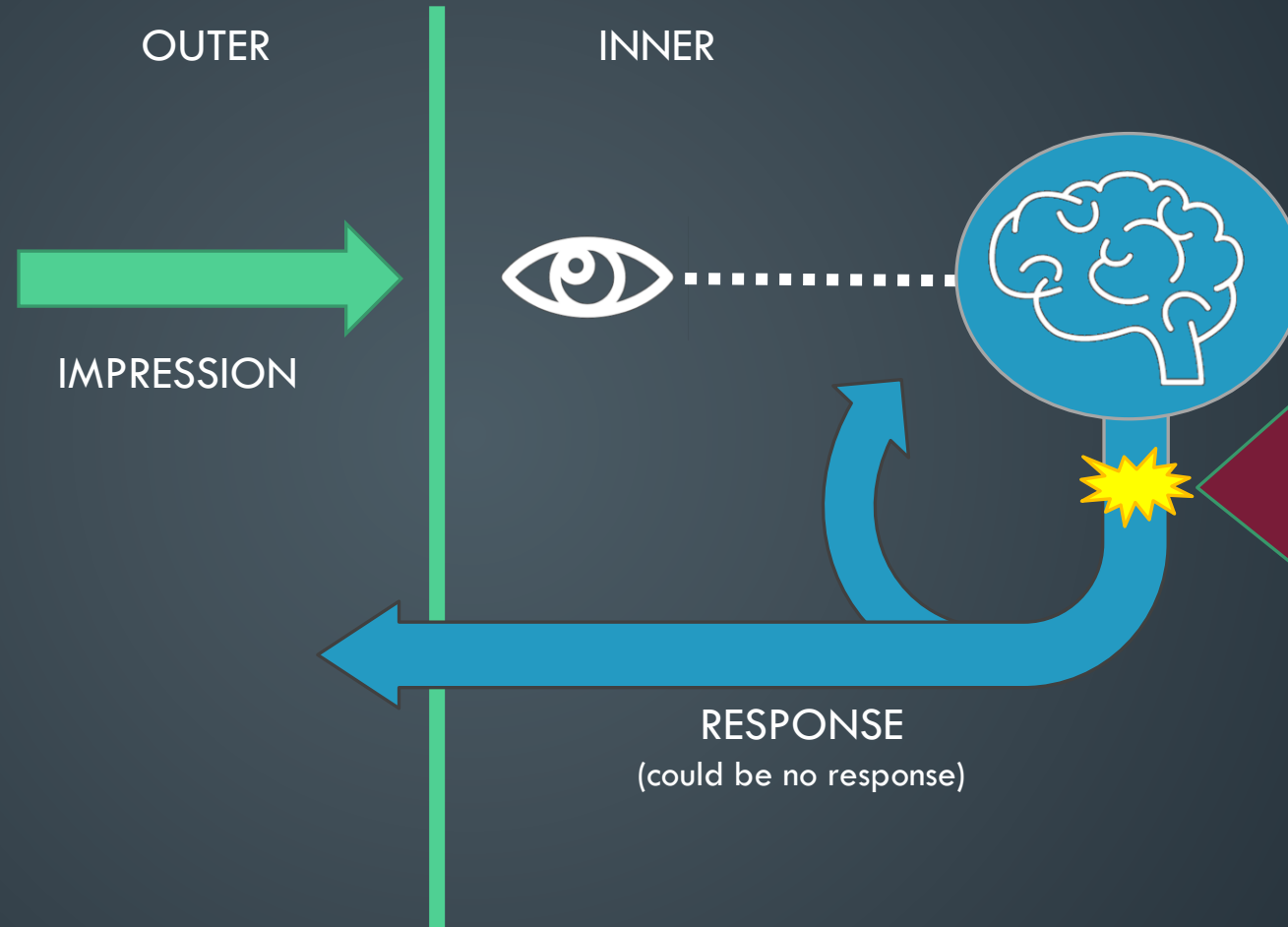
MEANING AND
THE FIRST
CONSCIOUS
SHOCK





The Work as Third Force

MEANING AND
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Relating (3rd) Force
as Work Principles:

- Self Remembering
- External Considering
- The Beatitudes
- B Influences
- Real Wish
- Aim
- Is this true? (4 Q's)
- Holy Unknowing
- ...

Remember: Meaning is Personal, Subjective, and Malleable

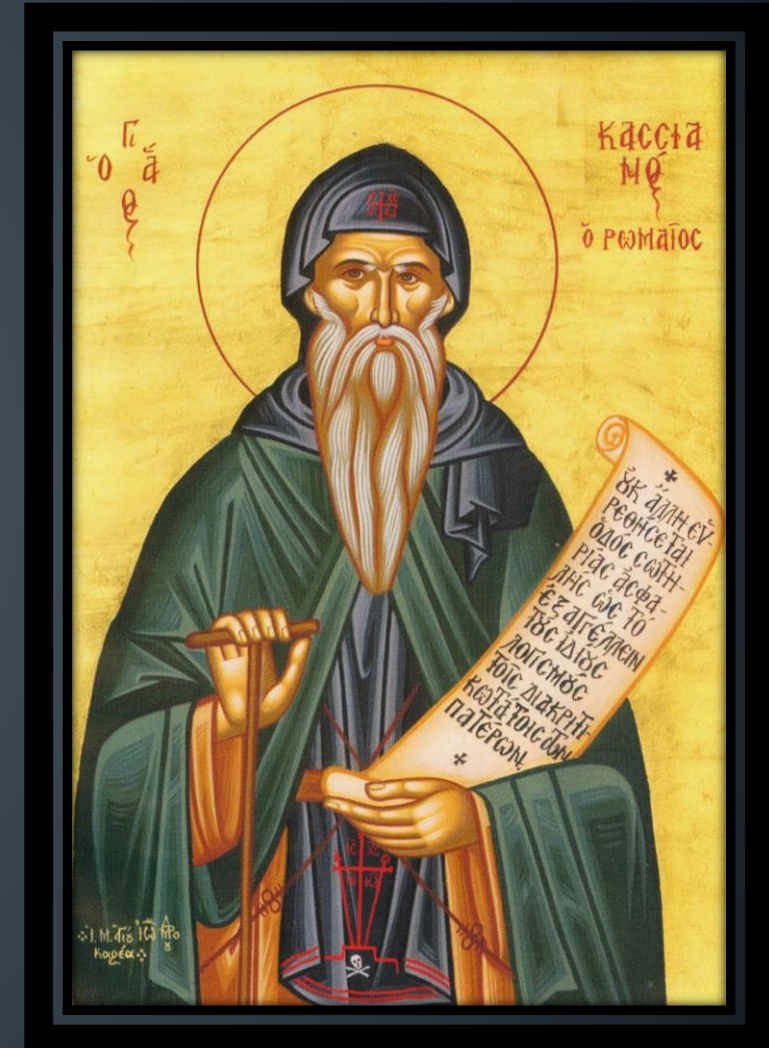
The Transformation of Meaning



The “Four Senses”

- Anagogical / Mystical
- Moral / Ethical
- Allegorical / Symbolic
- Literal / Historical

The magic of praying Lectio Divina



John Cassian

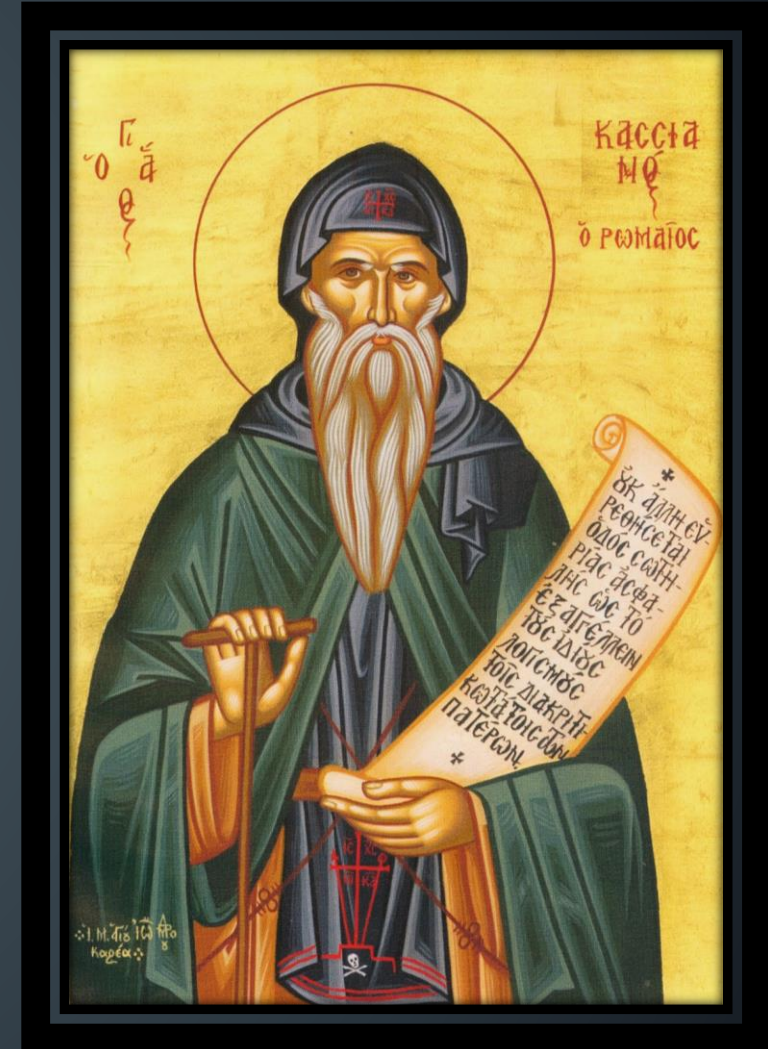
LEVELS OF
MEANING IN
SCRIPTURE



Four levels of engagement...

- Receptive silence
- What does it mean for me?
- What does it mean?
- What is it saying?

The magic of praying Lectio Divina



John Cassian

LEVELS OF
MEANING IN
SCRIPTURE

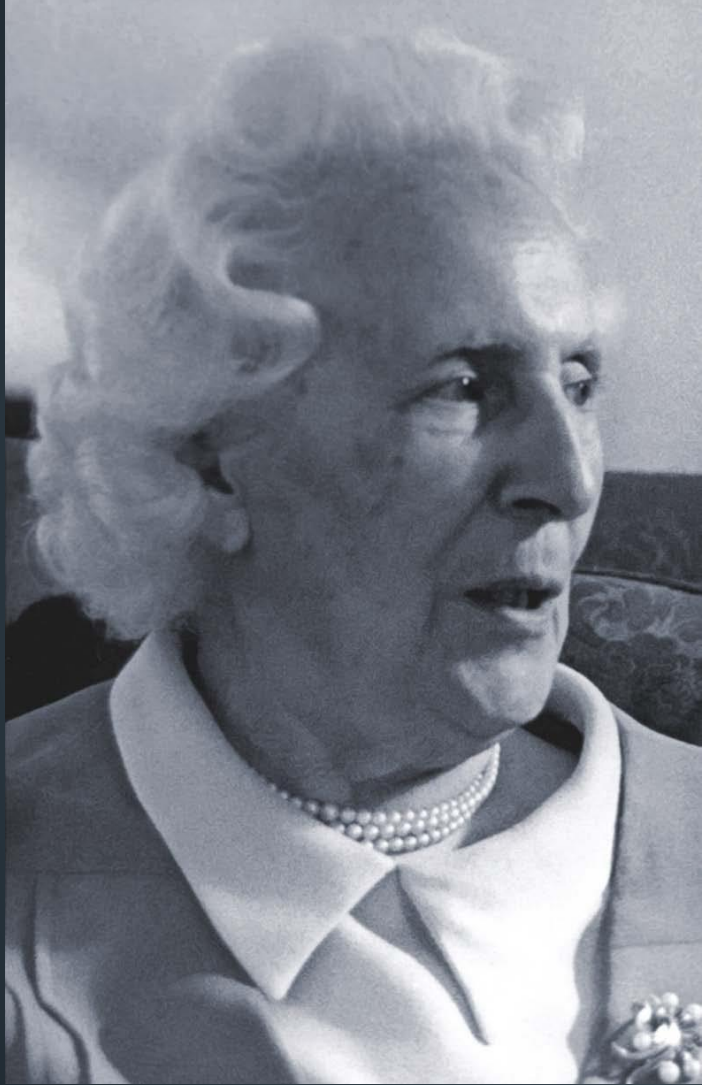
On the MALLEABILITY of Meaning

1. Is _____ true?
2. Do I absolutely know _____ is true?
3. How do I react, what happens, when I believe this thought?
4. Who would I be without this thought?

Turnarounds ... playing with the opposites of our beliefs.



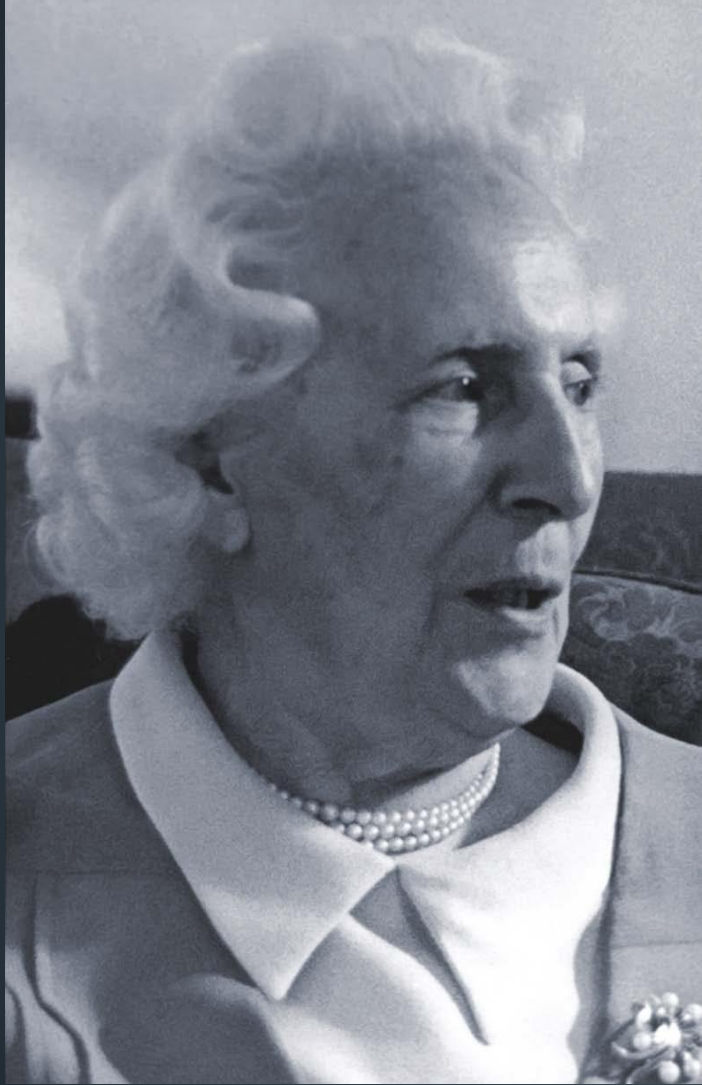
BYRON KATIE



JEANNE de SALZMANN

A different kind of Work...

“The effort I can make with my ordinary means, the only effort that is incumbent on me, is one of voluntary passivity – a conscious effort.”



JEANNE de SALZMANN

“What is important is to develop another thinking, a vision. For this we have to liberate a certain energy that is beyond our usual thought. I need to experience “I do not know” without seeking an answer, to abandon everything to enter the unknown. Then it is no longer the same mind.

I learn to see clearly. All things have the same importance, and I become fixed on nothing. Everything depends on this vision.

When I see that my thought is incapable of understanding, that its movement brings nothing, I am open to the sense of the cosmic, beyond the realm of human perception.”



Meaning is a story. It's something we add to 'what is.'

Perhaps 'no meaning' is the ultimate transformation of meaning.

Things simply 'are' when the reflective mechanism relaxes.

And we become quiet Awareness,
Witnessing Presence.

IS MEANING
REQUIRED?



Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your
mind. (NIV)

ROMANS 12:2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this
world, but let God transform you into a new
person by changing the way you think. (NLT)