

“The World That Shines with Love”

(T-13.VII)

What is the real world?

*The real world is not like this.
It has no buildings, and there are no streets where people walk alone and separately.
There are no stores where people buy an endless list of things they do not need.
It is not lit with artificial light, and night comes not upon it.
There is no day that brightens and grows dim.
There is no loss.
Nothing is there but shines, and shines forever. (Paragraph 1)*

The real world doesn't have: buildings, streets, separate people, stores, things you buy at stores, artificial light, night, day, changing light, loss.

In other words, it has nothing that our physical eyes can see.

It is made up of the things that are real here—the minds of all living things and the loving thoughts in those minds—all of which shine, and shine forever.

We cannot see both worlds.

You cannot see both worlds, for each of them involves a different kind of seeing and depends on what you cherish. The sight of one is possible because you have denied the other. (Paragraph 1)

We will see whichever world we want to see.

Either one will seem as real to you as the amount to which you hold it dear. (Paragraph 2)

But we don't really want to see this world. It has disappointed us since time began.

You do not really want the world you see, for it has disappointed you since time began. The homes you built have never sheltered you. The roads you made have led you nowhere. And no city that you built has withstood the crumbling assault of time. Nothing you made but has the mark of death upon it. Hold it not dear, for it is old and tired and ready to return to dust even as you made it. (Paragraph 2)

We already truly love the real world.

But the real world has the power to touch you even here because you love it, and what you call with love will come to you. (Paragraph 3)

The world about him shines with love, because God placed him in Himself, where pain is not and love surrounds him without end or flaw. Disturbance of his peace can never be. In perfect sanity he looks on love, for it is all about him and within him. He must deny the world of pain the instant he perceives the arms of love around him. (Paragraph 6)

Exercise

Sit quietly and look upon the world you see, and tell yourself:

The real world is not like this.

It has no buildings, and there are no streets where people walk alone and separately.

There are no stores where people buy an endless list of things they do not need.

It is not lit with artificial light, and night comes not upon it.

There is no day that brightens and grows dim.

There is no loss.

Nothing is there but shines, and shines forever. (Paragraph 1)