

I didn't, don't think that you did, do

A Brief Look at a Purgastory

BINGO

The game BINGO is played on a 5x5 grid. Like the name BINGO, which is five letters long. 5 is the third prime number.

The game tic-tac-toe, meanwhile, is played on a 3x3 grid.

Like the pound signs that divide stanzas in the stoem, “The Leap from the Bridge is Ungainly.”

If you are, like James, interested in getting to the kingdom of heaven, you can follow Christ’s advice, become like a child, and play a game. Arrange the first letters in each word in the title on the grid formed by the pound sign/tic-tac-toe board, and you uncover a secret.

T	L	F
T	B	I
U		

Travel like James. Vertically. Inspect each column.

There’s a “TUT.” As in King Tut. An Egyptian Pharaoh.

And a “LB” = An abbreviation for pound, like the pound sign itself, representing weight.

And an IF. Like a condition.

The *weighing of the heart* in Egyptian mythology is something that happens in the in-between moment between life and death, which determines the eternal fate of an individual. The heart of the newly dead person is compared to the weight of a goddess’ feather (the goddess is named Ma’at, she’s important later).

If the heart is no heavier than that feather, the deceased is allowed entry into the afterlife with Osiris. If not, the person’s soul gets devoured by Ammt (as in “dammit,” something James says *to himself*), a different goddess, and ceases to exist.

This is analogous to Christ’s teaching on poverty of spirit and purity of heart. (Immediately after his birth, Jesus’ family fled to Egypt for at least a couple of years)

In the story, James IS pure of heart. We can tell because the pure of heart see God, and James sees his God. his love, Kim, in the water, like a reflection of himself. The stoem is quite clear on that.

But he is not poor in spirit, He is still plagued by



Route 26



18 wheeler

So his soul is not devoured, because his heart is in the right condition. He persists.

But he cannot get to Kim yet, because he is still haunted by the host of people in the water, who each represent an entity in his own mind with their own standards and ideas about what James should be, or is: his mother, his father, co-workers, etc. James derives much about his morality, his lifestyle, his abilities, and his worthiness from these folks.

So, James is in purgatory. An in-betweenner, unsure of his fate.

The fear stems from doubt and judgement, both moral and in terms of his value.

The voice tells him a “story.” It’s “fictional.” Apparent. Imaginary. *Pseudo*. Strange. Hallucinogenic, making him doubt his own perceptions, beliefs and ideas. He believes it, but not fully. Because he has been taught by experience to doubt himself. Is he smart enough, wise enough, capable of knowing what he thinks he knows, what he seems to have learned from reading Kim’s books? Maybe he thinks the author of *Gateways to Other Realities* is fucking brilliant, but is he, James, even capable of rendering such a verdict? Why isn’t it a bestseller, for instance, if it’s so full of wisdom? Who is James to even be allowed to express an opinion?

Furthermore, when James says “dammit,” it is in a context where he is saying that he “knows” that something is “wrong.” He is still eating from the berries of the tree of “knowledge” of good

and “evil.” He is, again, unsure of himself, of whether his own heart is in the right place, again because of what he has been *taught* (the tautness of the cord) by experience.

I didn’t, dont, think that you did, do is an awkward, ungainly answer to the question, “Do you love?”

Do you see the confusion? Someone, say it’s Kim, asked James that question, or something similar, and his response has to do with whether *that* person loves *him*. He is afraid of rejection, afraid of being deceived, of looking like a fool. He admits it, but in a roundabout way.

I - mumble mumble, blah blah - do.

Except he is missing two truths. First, that awkwardness and ungainliness makes James even more lovable. It means he cares about what others think. And it’s adorable. Second, the answer he gives reveals the actual question he is being asked, which should ease at least some of his concerns.

“I...do.”

Another thing James is confused about is thinking that the river is outside of himself. The kingdom of heaven, as Jesus said, is within. What he needs to find the courage to get to the Kim outside of himself is to locate the Kim within himself, and roll the stone away from the tomb in which she has become imprisoned.

JAMES is BINGO, a game played by old people. Five.
KIM, by contrast, is tic-tac-toe, a game played by children. Three.

Kim is his Inner Child. Literally James’ better half. Like an imaginary fetus inside of him, to which he is a parent, and for whom he needs to provide a nurturing environment in which she gets to play. See? Here they are? James’ journey is into the core of his own heart. The God he sees is a reflection, because it is him.

J	A	M	E	S
K	I	M		