

Smashing the Mirror by Suzanna Yahya Nadler 8/7/17

How do YOU envision yourself? In the rock opera Tommy, the deaf, dumb and blind boy who isolated himself from the world after traumatically witnessing his father kill his mother's lover, uses a mirror to reinforce his remote cocoon existence. Isn't this what we are all doing, each with our own traumas, as we hold onto our old, powerless, something-is-wrong-with-us identities, as though they are more sacred than the vast possibilities of what we have to contribute?



Just home from doing a presentation at Santa Fe's Creativity & Madness Conference, I am face to face with a new perspective of myself. Perhaps something has morphed inside or maybe I am suddenly more open to others' impressions? Or is this the beginning effects of this morning's solar eclipse? Like in Tommy, my mirror has been shattered. As Rumi says, "*There is a worm, addicted to eating grape leaves. Suddenly she wakes up, call it grace, whatever, something wakes her and she is no longer a worm. She is the entire vineyard...*" Like that worm I am addicted to seeing myself as not being valued for who I am. If I had only been nicer, or funnier, or if I had been more intelligent, I would be noticed and even notable!

In our recent Cannabis, Consciousness and Culture presentation I was not "sweet and nice"; I played a demon, which I do very well, by the way. This dramatic enactment gave me full reign to convey my passionate stance

against the greed of big growers who forgo the environment for money and to demonstrate the link between racism and the vilification of cannabis. Not only was I beheld as a “**dancer**” by the many people who spoke to me, but the rantings of my demon-self were enlivening, making my radical pronouncements more digestible.

The less-than identity of the amateur was astounded at the response! Yes, after hearing so many people acknowledge me as a dancer/performer, my true underlying soul expression is breaking apart the old patterning. This is what we all have in store as the first of the eclipses dawns. With the Leo sun in opposition to the Aquarius full eclipsed moon, daring to share our gifts with the world is the focus as we unload our old limited versions of self.

How truly different to applaud and enjoy my own performance as a passionate sharing of my soul.