

An Instant Message Conversation Between Socrates and Tito

Socrates470: Tito, my son, you worry me. Are you still awake? If so, let us have a chat.

Intelligentjunk: After every battle the defeated worry, the victors rejoice.

Socrates470: It is precisely that tongue which worries me my son. You have a natural love and gift for knowledge, which makes you philosophical. Yet you waste this gift by participating in the act of imitation.

Intelligentjunk: One man's trash is another man's treasure. Am I your trash, Socrates? Or your treasure?

Socrates470: Let me put it this way: the imitative art is an inferior who marries an inferior, and has inferior offspring. I blame your parents.

Intelligentjunk: My mother was the soil from which I grew. She was the breath of words that filled my struggling lungs. Through her breaths, I was able to breathe. I can now breathe words back. My own breaths teach the world about the people they choose to ignore.

Socrates470: Tito, imitation is dangerous. It delivers falsehoods and disillusionment. It changes history. It hides the truth. You do not breathe words my dear boy, you read and write, and hear them. Your mother is not composed of soil, she is composed of skin cells and blood vessels and bones and a brain. You did not grow like an olive tree in the field. You grew as an embryo in the womb.

Katherine Berko

Intelligentjunk: Socrates, I am the mirror in a funhouse. I reflect but I reflect something different from what you are used to. I reflect what I hear and see.

I live in the funhouse reflections. This is me. This is what I do.

Socrates470: I acknowledge that you are *exceptionally different*. The core of what you say is true. But why must you say it in such a way? Speak the truth.

Intelligentjunk: I am like the fly that sees the world times a thousand. I am like the cat that hears everything magnified. I am the little shrimp under the sea that sees colors nobody else can see. This is my life-I cannot help it.

Socrates470: You are Tito and you are a human and you have autism. You do not see more colors or see one thousand of everything or hear at a higher volume. Your brain just processes differently.

Intelligentjunk: Like Adam and Eve, if you know what eating the apple will do why do you continue to eat it? The result is not good.

Socrates470: My number one philosophy has always been: I know that I know nothing. Please explain what you mean.

Intelligentjunk: I am a solar eclipse. The double rainbow. The meteor shower. My type is rare but we exist. We have our own beauty that can dazzle you if you let us. If you've seen a blue moon or a solar eclipse or a meteor shower you will understand. They are rare but when they happen they are beautiful.

Socrates470: Ah my dear Tito you have a point. You are rare. That is why I care so much about warning you about the danger of imitation. The books you write are imitations and therefore, falsities.

Katherine Berko

Intelligentjunk: We call the color that contains everything but white, white. Is that not a falsity? Life is full of falsities. Who is to say my way of seeing the world is better or worse than yours? Touch me and I see colors. Touch you and you flinch. One is not better than the other. They are different. If I am blue and you are pink and he is red and she is orange that is much more interesting than if only your pinks were here or only my blues. In the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, a world that casts out others is Dorothy's bleak, gray, dusty world in Kansas. Stop casting the others away and the world will be like Dorothy's house when it lands after the twister---you will have to blink your eyes to adjust but suddenly there will be a vibrancy of color.

Socrates470: Dearest Tito. I knew you were a philosopher. You have opened my eyes and my ears. You make an excellent point. I knew that I knew nothing and now you have taught me something. I applaud you dear boy, I really do. There is much for me to consider now.

Intelligentjunk: The sun is setting now and will rise again in the morning.

Socrates470: Yes my dear boy, the same here! We've been doing a great deal of philosophizing. Goodnight!