

INTRODUCTION:

The following text in nine Parts formed the basis for the March 2024 premiere performance of KNOWING / NOT KNOWING at the Park & Market facility in downtown San Diego.

Several orienting observations:

- The italicized red text at the beginning of each Part constitutes a brief characterization of the meaning/function of this portion of the text. It is not presented in performances.
- In later stages, this libretto will feature two vocal soloists in addition to the *a cappella* choir: a soprano (SOP) and a tenor (TEN). Additionally, there is a narrator role (NAR).
- For the March 2024, Stage 1, performances, these roles were managed by recorded and video-taped actors directed by Robert Castro.
- Finally, it must be noted that the words of the text are not mine, but have been assembled by me from over two-dozen different sources that span millennia and cultures.



I. INFANCY / INDIVIDUATION

*To begin, establish an “innocent”, a touching foundation: the fragility and tenderness of life itself.
How does as individuality arise as a new being interacts with their world?*

NARRATOR

A newborn baby is an extraordinary event ...
this breathing miracle who could not live an instant without you,
with a skull more fragile than an egg,
a miracle of eyes, legs, toenails and ... lungs.
It gropes in the light like a blind thing –
it *is*, for the moment blind ...
You watch it discover it has a hand;
then it discovers it has toes.
Presently, it discovers it has *you* ...
it gurgles and giggles when you pick it up,
holds you tight by the thumb, ...
[it] howls when you put it down. ...
You know the sound – the meaning – of one cry from another ... BALDWIN, No Name in the Street

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SOPRANO Then who is the “I” that has the sensation of feeling ... ? ROVELLI *Helgoland*

TENOR No one knows precisely how identities are forged ...

NAR ... an identity would seem to be arrived at ...
by the way in which the person faces and uses ...experience. BALDWIN

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TEN It is a long ... bewildering ... process. BALDWIN

NAR For a new-born child the father makes babbling sounds,
Though his intellect may make a survey of the whole world. RUMI *Mathnawi, Book I* 3315

CHORUS [MIXED] **Identities are formed by the way a person faces
and uses experience.** BALDWIN

NAR For the sake of teaching that tongue-tied child,
One must go outside one's own language. RUMI *Mathnawi, Book I* 3315

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SOP When we look around ourselves, we are not truly "observing":
we are instead dreaming an image of a world
based on what we know ... ROVELLI *Helgoland*

CHO [MIX] **We dream an image of a world ... based on what we know.** ROVELLI *Helgoland*

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SOP What I see ... is not a reproduction of the external world.

TEN What I see ... is what I expect, corrected by what I can grasp.

NAR So, the relevant experience, the relevant input is not that which *confirms* what we already know,
but that which *contradicts* our expectations. ROVELLI *Helgoland*

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SOP Every human being is an unprecedented miracle. BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE *Begin Again* p.66

CHO [MIX] **Every human being is a miracle** BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE *Begin Again* p.66

II. NATURE / EXPERIENCE

Human life is a wonder, as is the natural world. How do we learn to parse this world's components? Consider the interconnectedness implied by observed "resemblances": how does experience with nature shape our existence? Understanding requires continual reorientation.

NAR Let us consider the resemblance between things in nature ...

SOP Take ... a beach extending as far as the eye can reach,
bordered, on the one hand, by trees and, on the other, by the sea.

TEN The sky is cloudless and the sun is red. ...

SOP There is enough of the sky reflected in the water to create a resemblance ...
between them.

TEN The sand is yellow between the green and the blue. ... STEVENS (From *The Necessary Angel*) p.71

NAR That which only bears a resemblance is a loan:
 a loan is impermanent in the end. RUMI *Mathnawi, Bk 1* 894
 When the pen is of wind and the scroll of water,
 whatever you write perishes speedily ... RUMI *Mathnawi, Bk 1* 1096

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NAR Human beings are part of nature ...
 CHO [MIX] Every human being is a miracle BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE *Begin Again* p.66

CHO [MIX] **Every human being is a miracle**

NAR Human beings are a particular case among innumerable ... phenomena
 ... none of which can escape the laws of nature ... ROVELLI *Helgoland*

NAR And still ...
 CHO [KALEID] We dream an image of a world ... based on what we know. ROVELLI *Helgoland*

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SOP ... *here* are trees,
 TEN and ... I know their gnarled surface,
 SOP water
 TEN and ... I feel its taste
 SOP On ... certain evenings when the heart relaxes – CAMUS

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TEN As kids we sat in the grass, Fished our hands into the dirt,
 We felt the damp brown Universe writhe, alert & alive,
 ... Our eyes waxed wide with wonder. GORMAN *Call Us What We Carry* p.220

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SOP Sunk in the grass of an empty lot on a spring Saturday,
 I split the stems of milkweed ...
 and thought about ants and peach pits and death ...
 ... and where the world went when ...
 I closed my eyes. MORRISON

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NAR The world is like a Mask, dancing.
 If you want to see it well ... ACHEBE *Things fall apart*

CHO [MIX] If you want to see the world well ...
 you do not stand in one place ACHEBE *Things fall apart*

CHO [MIX] **If you want to see the world well ...**
you do not stand in one place

III. IMAGINATION / REALITY

As we try to accommodate our internal perceptions to the reality of the world around us, the power of imagination is fundamental. The vitality of the imagination requires that we confront the sometimes menacing darkness of contemporary circumstance.

SOP We say that the sea, when it expands in a calm and immense reflection of the sky,
 resembles the sky,
 and this statement gives us pleasure. ...

When we think of arpeggios, we think of opening wings ...
and the effect of the resemblance is pleasurable. STEVENS (From *The Necessary Angel*) p.80

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SOP In fact ...
CHO [MIX] **The imagination is one of the great human powers. ...** STEVENS (From *The Necessary Angel*)

TEN The imagination is the liberty of the mind.
 It is intrepid and eager ...

... and the extreme of its achievement lies
in abstraction. STEVENS (From *The Necessary Angel*)

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TEN But the imagination loses vitality as it ceases to adhere to what is real... STEVENS (From *The Necessary Angel*)

CHO [MIX] We have visions of the world,
 and if they don't work, we change them. ROVELLI *Helgoland*

CHO [MIX] **We have visions of the world,**
 and if they don't work, we change them. ROVELLI *Helgoland*

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NAR ... the pressure of reality [involves] ... external ... events ...

For ... years ... there has been an extraordinary pressure of news ...
of a ... world so uncertain that one did not know ... its nature ...

CHO [MIX] **We confront ... a set of events ...**
 beyond our power to tranquillize them in the mind ... GUTI'EREZ

CHO [MIX] We confront ... a set of events ...
 beyond our power to tranquillize them in the mind ...

NAR ... but events that are immediate and real ... GUTIEREZ

The fertile and wind swept world stands witness
A witness is not a bystander, but rather a perceiver whose presence makes a difference KUREL 245

CHO [MIX] Make a difference.

IV. SCIENCE / DOUBT / AUTHORITY

The objectivity of science builds on the collaborative examination of reality. Science examines experience; it welcomes doubt. Trust in science rests on the authority of a collective community of skeptics endlessly asking how and why ...

SOP/CHO[W] Science is ...

TEN ... a brick wall.

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NAR Scientists put bricks in the wall on top of other bricks. ...
 if one of those bricks is not stable, ...
 the people who built their research on that brick
 are ... not on stable ground.

SOP/CHO[W] Science builds... on the work of previous generations ...

TEN it is about finding the truth ... BIK 'Finding the truth': A biologist's quest for scientific integrity

NAR What do we call truth –
 Speech free of all evil. KURAL 291

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NAR Science ... is ... an extension of the way in which we see. ...

CHO [MIX] **We have visions of the world,
 and if they don't work, we change them.** ROVELLI *Helgoland*

CHO [MIX] We have visions of the world,
 and if they don't work, we change them.

NAR The whole of human knowledge is constructed in this way. ROVELLI *Helgoland*

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TEN You don't have to understand it all ...
 But you need to find parts that you trust, okay?
 and then it actually becomes easier ...
 so you throw out all the things you don't trust.
 You rip out things that have complicated overlaps.

And you're not trying to figure out how it worked a billion years ago,
or a million years ago, or yesterday;
you're trying to figure out how it's going to work ... tomorrow. CHURCH

CHO [MIX] **You don't have to understand all ...
but you need to find the parts you trust.** CHURCH

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CHO [KALEID] Trust ... implies a willingness to depend on another.
NAR ... without control over them RAND The Drivers of Institutional Trust and Distrust

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NAR Why should we trust scientists?
 ... how do they decide what's right and what's wrong? ...
 They scrutinize ... evidence ... in a way ... called "organized skepticism." ...

TEN they do it as a group ...
 from a position of distrust. ...

CHO [MIX] **Scientists scrutinize evidence with "organized skepticism".
They do it collectively.** ROVELLI *Helgoland*

NAR The burden of proof is on the person with a novel claim.
 And in this sense, science is ...
 ... intrinsically conservative. ORESKES "Why should we believe in science?"

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NAR ... science is the appeal to authority,
 but it's not the authority of the individual ...
 it's the authority of the collective community. ORESKES "Why should we believe in science?"

TEN Let's take cars, for example.
 Ford had the idea of making a lot of them cheaply, and
 He couldn't do that by himself, right?
 Think about it.
 Everyone who has ever worked on one, used one ...
 Their efforts all played a part in what we drive today...
 You don't worry when you climb behind the wheel.
 You trust all those decades of attention.
 You can move easily from place to place. It's not a problem. REYNOLDS
 Adapted from: "The modern automobile is the product of the collected work and wisdom of experience of every man
 and woman who has ever worked on a car, and the reliability of the technology is the result of that accumulated effort."
 <https://www.loc.gov/coll>

CHO [MIX] **Knowledge is ... achieved in a network of exchanges ...
by collaborating.** ROVELLI *Helgoland*

V. STORIES / SUFFERING

Shared stories can help us to grow. They are repositories of what we have learned as societies. They may involve cautionary suffering that informs our actions. They allow the weighing of contrasts between body and soul as regards needs and their satisfaction. Stories help us to use our histories and to manage sorrow.

CHO [MIX] **We need ... to tell ... stories about ourselves ...** BROOKS
 CHO [MIX] We need ... to tell ... stories about ourselves ...

NAR stories in which opposing characters can each possess pieces of the truth ...
 stories rooted in the complexity of real life
 ... not the dogma of ideological abstraction.

... nations thrive by constantly refreshing two great reservoirs. ...

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The first contains the ... stories we tell ...
 about what we find admirable and dishonorable,
 what kind of world we hope to build together.

It is a moral framework from which to see. BROOKS "America has a great story to tell, if we tell it honestly"

CHO [MIX] Thinking is learning all over again how to see ... CAMUS *The Myth of Sisyphus*, p.32
 CHO [MIX] **Thinking is learning all over again how to see ...**

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NAR The second reservoir ... is ... knowledge we acquire
 through reason, logical proof and ... analysis.

If a country can't tell narratives in which everybody finds an honorable place,
 then righteous rage will drive people toward tribal narratives ... BROOKS America has a great story to tell, if we tell it honestly"

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SOP Story telling is the way that unarticulated memory...
 becomes art,
 becomes artifact,
 becomes fact,
 becomes felt, again,
 becomes free ... GORMAN *Call Us What We Carry* p.78

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CHO [MIX] **You don't need to understand all ...**
 but you need to find parts that you trust. CHURCH
 CHO [KALEID] You don't need to understand it all ...
 but you need to find parts that you trust.

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SOP What good is knowledge if one doesn't see the suffering
 Of another as one's own. KURAL 315

NAR It is strange to encounter ... a philosopher
 who drowns her learning in the waters of human suffering ...
 Her language troubles the mind,
 bringing always something new and unlikely ...
 into the bright light. HARDWICK [[the "Her" is Simone Weil]]

TEN She says, for example ... that ... REYNOLDS

CHO [MIX] There is an eternal obligation towards the human being ...
 not to let him suffer. WEIL

CHO [MIX] **There is an eternal obligation towards the human being ...**
 not to let him suffer. WEIL

TEN She says that ... REYNOLDS

SOP ... man requires food,
 but also an interval between his meals;
 he requires warmth and coolness,
 rest and exercise. HADWICK

TEN Likewise in the case of the soul's needs.
 There are different, but equivalent paths. WEIL *The need for roots*

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SOP What good is knowledge if one doesn't see the suffering
 Of another as one's own? KURAL 315

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SOP To accept one's ... history – is not the same thing as drowning in it BALDWIN *The fire next time*

CHO [MIX] **To accept one's ... history**
is learning how to use one's past. BALDWIN *The fire next time*

CHO [MIX] To accept one's ... history
 is learning how to use one's past.

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TEN The mind is a strange ... vehicle,
 moving to rigorous rules of its own ...
 my ... mind ...has moved backwards in time,
 to places, people, and events I thought I had forgotten.
 Sorrow drove it there, I think, sorrow ... BALDWIN

VI. DARKNESS / JUSTICE

Darkness – metaphoric and real – impedes knowing, invites sorrow. Impenetrable, it can inflect, even deny the continuing existence of an individual. Darkness faces us with an abyss requiring humility. Justice needs the miracle of compassion, not hubris. Its ferocious enemy is ignorance allied with power that must be resisted.

CHO [MIX] **Impenetrable ... darkness ...** ARENDT
 CHO [MIX] Impenetrable ... darkness, darkness, darkness, darkness,

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TEN The night was ...
 as black as charcoal. ...
 a ... lamp gave out yellowish light.
 Without it, it would have been impossible to eat ...

One would not have known ...
 where one's mouth was ...
 in the darkness ... ACHEBE *Things fall apart*

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SOP ... and ... sorrow was there ...

SOP People pay for what they do. BALDWIN *No name in the street*

TEN We become what we flee and what we fear. GORMAN *Call us what we carry*

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TEN Who can pay the price of light. GORMAN *Call Us What We Carry*.33

CHO [MIX] **... sorrow sat in the darkness and did not stir ...** BALDWIN, *"Down at the Cross"*

SOP ... there seemed ... no way ... to remove the cloud
 that stood between them and the sun ... BALDWIN
 There was ...

CHO [MIX] **Impenetrable ... darkness ...** ARENDT

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SOP In the darkness ... REYNOLDS
 some ... imitate nothingness ...
 – running the risk of being reduced to nothing ...
 in a single instant –

Pushed, they fall.

Fallen, they lie where they are,

... unless ...

chance gives somebody the idea of raising them up again. WEIL *The Iliad, or a poem of force*

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TEN The force that enslaves man ...
is that x that turns anybody who is subjected to it into
a thing. ...

CHO [M] *a thing ... a thing ...*
(individual staggered voices)

TEN Somebody was here, and the next minute there is nobody here ...
SOP nobody at all ... WEIL *The Iliad: or The poem of force*

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CHO [MIX] **We are on the edge of an abyss.** GUTIEREZ

CHO [MIX] We are on the edge of an abyss.

NAR - and moving in the wrong direction. ...

warning signs in every continent and region.

Scorching temperatures.

Shocking biodiversity loss.

Polluted air, water and natural spaces. ...

the climate crisis has exposed profound fragilities ...

Yet instead of humility in the face of these epic challenges,

we see hubris. GUTIEREZ

SOP Whether we prevail is not determined
By all the challenges that are present
But by all the change that is possible. GORMAN *Call Us What We Carry* p.156

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CHO [MIX] **If one wants to know how justice is administered,
[one] asks the unprotected ... how they fare in the halls of justice.**

BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE *Begin Again* p.178

NAR ... then ... you will know. BALDWIN

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SOP Having a sense of human misery is the pre-condition of justice and love. WEIL

CHO [M] On the path of goodness, achieve compassion –
It alone sees one to the end of every path. KURAL 242SOP ... when compassion truly produces itself, ...
it is a miracle ... WEILCHO [MIX] **Compassion ... is a miracle
more astonishing than walking on water.** WEIL "The Love of God and Affliction"CHO[W] Lost as we feel, there's no better
Companion than compassion. GORMAN *Call Us What We Carry* p.48TEN ... whereas ...
it is certain ... that ignorance allied with power,
is the most ferocious enemy justice can have. • BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE *Begin Again* p.178

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TEN In the midst of winter, I found ... within ... an invincible summer. CAMUS

For no matter how hard the world pushes against me,
Within me, there is something stronger ... pushing ... back. UNKNOWN**VII. DETERMINATION***We long for illumination and justice. But these ideals can feel remote. They ask us to summon the
determination and courage to escape the darkness of shared shadows. Even painful stories need to be told.
The body and the soul both have needs. Whatever the barriers, we must persist. With arms flailing, like
grounded birds, we remain intent on rising into the blue void above.*TEN A horizon is ... an imaginary line that recedes as you walk towards it ...
So you can never reach it. BREZEZINSKI

SOP Some persist ... hoping. REYNOLDS

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TEN The questions which one asks oneself ...
become one's keys to the experience of others.

CHO [M] what experiences?

TEN And one can only face in others what one can face in oneself. BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE
Begin Again p.101

CHO [M] face what?
(Solo voice)

TEN Fixed identities and static categories ...
deny the complexity of who we are ...
block the way ... to ... new creation. GLAUDE

CHO [M] new creation?

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CHO [MIX] **All of us are standing in the same deep shadow** BALDWIN, *No Name on the Street*
TEN a shadow which can only be lifted
by human courage and honor. BALDWIN, *No Name in the Street* p.137

CHO [M] lifted how?

TEN Responsibility cannot be lost, it can only be abdicated.
If one refuses abdication,
one begins again. BALDWIN via GLAUDE

CHO [M] begins again?
(Solo voice)

TEN To begin again isn't to go backwards,
But to decide to go. ... Shifting inward & outward. GORMAN *Call Us What We Carry* p.200

CHO [M] inward? ...
(Solo voices) ... outward?

TEN Some ... begin to manifest ... a ... terrifying single-mindedness.
... something implacable in the set of the lips,
... something farseeing ... in the eyes,

CHO [M] seeing what?
(Solo voice)

TEN ... some new and crushing determination in the walk,
... something preemptory in the voice. BALDWIN

CHO [M] beginning again ...
(solo voices) ... to do what?

CHO [MIX] Manifest ... a new and crushing determination ... BALDWIN
CHO [MIX] **Manifest ... a new and crushing determination ...**

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TEN In the midst of winter ...there was ... an invincible summer. CAMUS, *The stranger*

SOP For ... no matter how hard the world pushes against me,
within me, there's something stronger – something better, pushing ... back UNKNOWN

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CHO [KALEID] We need ... to tell ... stories ... BROOKS
 CHO [MIX] **We need ... to tell ... stories**
... about ourselves ...

SOP And, in doing so, to recognize the needs ... of the soul ... REYNOLDS / WEIL
 Needs ... combine together to form a balance. WEIL

NAR We ... eat for satisfaction ... and to avoid starvation,
 heat our homes to feel warm ... and avoid pneumonia;
 we buy fire and police protection ... to save economic loss... SCHELLING

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SOP And ... beyond this, REYNOLDS
 CHO [MIX] **There is an eternal obligation towards the human being ...**
 CHO [W (Solo voice)] **...not to let him suffer.**
 CHO [MIX] There is an eternal obligation towards the human being ...
 ...not to let him suffer.

SOP ... when one has the chance of coming to his assistance. WEIL

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TEN Know that a word which suddenly shot from the tongue
 is like an arrow shot from the bow
 ... that arrow does not turn back on its way:

NAR You must dam a torrent at its source. RUMI, *Mathnawi*, Bk 1, 1658

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SOP We must recognize the different, but equivalent, paths ...
 to the satisfaction of needs... WEIL
 TEN Never forgetting that ... REYNOLDS

CHO [MIX] **Every human being is ...**
 CHO [M] (Solo voice) **... a miracle.** BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE *Begin Again* p.66

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SOP She spent her days ... walking up and down, up and down ...
 elbows bent, hands on her shoulders,
 she flailed her arms like a bird ...
 in an eternal, grotesquely futile effort to fly.

Beating the air,
a winged but grounded bird,
CHO [MIX] **A winged bird ...intent on the blue void above**
CHO [MIX] ...intent on the blue void above
SOP ... that it could not reach –
CHO [W] could not even see ...
SOP but which filled
 ... the valley of the mind. MORRISON *The Bluest Eye*

VIII. TRUTH / INTEGRITY

To reach the privileged space of truth we must continue learning, not become complacent. We must embrace facts and data, depend upon others, reject disagreement and distortion. Truthfulness is an earned state. Integrity involves that which is pure, remains “not-touched” and whole. To nourish it, listen to alternative viewpoints, embrace dialogue, compromise, and build consensus. Exemplify human agency, being consistent, unified, and whole.

CHO [MIX] **Thinking is learning all over again how to see ...**
TEN ... making of every image a privileged place. ... CAMUS *The Myth of Sisyphus* p. 12)

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SOP From the evening breeze to this hand on my shoulder ...
 everything has its truth. CAMUS *The Myth of Sisyphus*, p.32

CHO [MIX] **We shall always see truth in... frag ... ments ... GANDHI**

CHO [MIX] **You don't need to understand all ...**
 but you need to find parts that you trust. CHURCH
 When language ... is disjoined from truth ...
 horrors can descend ... ACHEBE *Things fall apart*
CHO [MIX] When language ... is disjoined from truth ...
 horrors can descend ...

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NAR Truth Decay ... suggests ...
CHO [M] disagreement
NAR ... about objective facts and data ...
CHO [M] blurring
NAR ... the line between fact and opinion ...
 the relative volume of ...
CHO [M] opinion ... compared with fact ...
NAR declining trust ... in institutions. RAND “The Drivers of Institutional Trust and Distrust”

CHO [M] To the contrary, ... REYNOLDS
CHO [MIX] **Trust ... implies a willingness to depend on another. RAND “The Drivers of Institutional Trust and Distrust”**

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CHO [MIX] **When language ... is disjoined from truth ...
horrors can descend ...**

TEN ... on mankind. ACHEBE *Things fall apart*

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SOP "Integrity" is a term of Latin etymology
meaning ...

CHO [W] "totality." ...

SOP meaning ...

CHO [W] "complete,"

SOP meaning ...

CHO [W] "perfect,"

SOP or ...

NAR "not-touched" STANFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY

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CHO [F] Modesty

SOP Truth

CHO [F] Compassion

SOP Love

CHO [F] Kindness –

SOP These five are the bedrock of integrity KURAL 983

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SOP Having the "not-touched" ... character ...
entails the rejection of any external intervention NEVES

CHO **Having the "not-touched" ... character implies
the completeness and unity of the person.** NEVES

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CHO [MIX] **Something that might last ... must be rendered
through ... our collective consciousness.** MORRISON

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NAR If we fail

CHO [F] ... to live ...

NAR with integrity... then ... we fail ...

CHO [F] to be ...

NAR a self ... we...

CHO [F] become ...

NAR a collection of strivings; we ...

CHO [F] fail ...

NAR to exemplify ... human agency.

CHO [F] Consider what is spent, what made, and what gained –

CHO [M] Then act. KURAL 461

SOP ... the way to make yourself into an agent ...
 who can interact well with herself and others,
 is to be consistent and unified ... KOSGAARD

CHO [MIX] **Make yourself into an agent ... consistent ... unified and whole.** KORSGAARD

SOP The drive to taste,
 TEN discover,
 SOP and express
 TEN that thrills and chills the soul
 That ... is ... the ... point BOGART *and then, you act* p.109

IX. COMMUNALITY / KNOWLEDGE

Although we cannot all think alike, we can strive to reach a collective consciousness, to seek a durable consensus forged from fragments. We must recognize and reject false promises, seek paths that do not divide us, paths that avoid the darkest impulses of humanity.

But we cannot expect certainty. Knowledge is born of curiosity, revolt, and change. In infancy, we are alive yet without having acquired the habit of thought. And, as we grow, every vision that comes to us remains partial. ... No perspective, no point of view can remain absolutely reliable ... Knowledge is rather a dialogue with changing reality. Varied perspectives modify, enrich, and converge with one another, and our understanding deepens.

NAR What did the 33-year-old Thomas Jefferson mean ...
 when he wrote, "all Men are created equal?" ...

In 1776, "Men" did not include people of color or women. George CHURCH

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CHO [KALEID] Every human being is a miracle. BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE *Begin Again* p.66

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CHO [MIX] **We have visions of the world,
 and if they don't work, we change them.** ROVELLI *Helgoland*

NAR as we ... mature, our unequal rights change dramatically.
 SOP Embryos,
 TEN infants,
 SOP children,
 TEN teens,
 SOP adults, patients,
 TEN felons,
 SOP gender identities ...
 TEN the very rich
 SOP and very poor –

CHO [M] (Solo) **As we ... mature,**

CHO [MIX] **we all face different rights.**
 CHO [MIX] As we ... mature ...
 we ... mature, we all face different rights.
 TEN And ... variation in rights explodes into a riot of inequality
 when we move to the full spectrum of humanity. ... CHURCH

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SOP We will never all think alike

CHO [MIX] **We shall always see truth in fragments ...**
 CHO [MIX] ... truth in fragments ...

SOP ... and from different angles ... GANDHI

TEN Our wounds, too, are our windows.
 Through them we watch the world. GORMAN *Call Us What We Carry* , p. 43

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NAR We get in the habit of living ...
 before acquiring the habit of thinking.
 And ...

CHO [MIX] **Thinking is learning all over again how to see ...** CAMUS *The myth of Sisyphus* p.32
 CHO [MIX] ... all over again how to see ...
 If you want to see the world well ...
 you do not stand in one place. ACHEBE *Things fall apart*

SOP Grace fills empty spaces,
 But it can only enter where there is a void to receive it. WEIL, *Gravity and Grace*

TEN Cultivate a way of looking ...
 Without preconceived ideas ...
 Practice it daily. BOGART, *and then, you act* p.125

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SOP Let things be,
 And then let them speak. BOGART, *and then, you act* p.125

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SOP To create something that might last ...
 Whatever that "something" was,
 it would have to ...
 SOP/TEN be rendered ... collectively. MORRISON

CHO [MIX] **Something that might last ... must be rendered**
 CHO [W](Solo) **through ... our collective consciousness.** MORRISON

CHO [MIX] Scientists scrutinize evidence with “organized skepticism”.
They do it collectively. ROVELLI *Helgoland*

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NAR We need to fortify the institutions that ... teach ...
how to weigh evidence and commit to truth; ...
how to ... learn to doubt your own opinions. BROOKS

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CHO [MIX] **You don’t need to understand it all ...
but you need to find parts that you trust.** CHURCH

CHO [MIX] Trust ... implies a willingness to depend on another. RAND

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CHO [MIX] **Trust ... implies a willingness to depend on another.**

NAR Promises ... are worthless if people do not see results in their daily lives.

Failure to deliver creates space for ...

the darkest impulses of humanity. GUTIEREZ

CHO [MIX] **We are on the edge of an abyss.** GUTIEREZ

CHO [MIX] We are on the edge of an abyss.

Impenetrable ... darkness ...

CHO [MIX] There are no clear images. **Impenetrable ... darkness ...** ARENDT

+*+

CHO [MIX] **There ... are ... no ... clear ... images.**

NAR/SOP/TEN There are no clear images.

Everything seems superimposed on, at war with, something else. BALDWIN,
No Name in the Street, p.178

+*+

CHO [KALEID] All of us are standing in the same deep shadow. BALDWIN, *No Name in the Street*

CHO [MIX] **All of us are standing in the same deep shadow.**

CHO [MIX] We confront ... a set of events ...

beyond our power to tranquillize them in the mind. GUTIÉREZ

CHO [MIX] **We confront ... a set of events ...
beyond our power to tranquillize them in the mind.**

+*+*+

NAR Delivering the complex simply ...
And discerning ... What others say – that is knowledge. KURAL 424

+*+

TEN ... one of the greatest mistakes made by human beings ...
is to want certainties ... ROVELLI *Helgoland*

+*+

TEN The search for knowledge is not nourished by certainty. ...
CHO [M] not by certainty
TEN the strength of scientific thinking is born of
TEN/CHO [M] curiosity,
 revolt,
 change.

TEN What we have accomplished over the centuries has been achieved in ...
CHO [F] a network of exchanges

CHO [MIX] **Knowledge is ... achieved in a network of exchanges ...
by collaborating.** ROVELLI *Helgoland*

+*+*+

TEN Our mind ...
 remembers,
 anticipates,
 reflects,
 deduces,
 is moved,
 is angered,
TEN/SOP/NAR dreams, ... ROVELLI *Helgoland*

CHO [MIX] We dream an image of a world ...
 based on what we know. ROVELLI *Helgoland*

The imagination is one of the great human powers. ... STEVENS (From *The Necessary Angel*)

+*+

SOP Our mind ...
 hopes,
TEN/SOP/NAR sees ... ROVELLI *Helgoland*

CHO[W] Hope is the soft bird ... GORMAN *Call Us What We Carry*
 SOP A winged bird intent
 On the blue void above ... MORRISON *The Bluest Eye*
 CHO[W] **A winged bird intent**
 On the blue void above ...
 CHO[W] ... We send across the sea
 To see if this earth's still home. GORMAN *Call Us What We Carry* p.39

+*+

SOP Our mind ...
 ... expresses itself,
 creates,
 recognizes,
 knows,
 TEN/SOP/NAR is self-aware ... ROVELLI *Helgoland*

+*+

TEN Although your intellect is flying upward,
 the bird of your conventional notions is feeding below RUMI MATHNAWI, *Bk 2, 2326*

+*+

CHO [MIX] **We need ... to tell ... stories about ourselves ...** BROOKS
 CHO [MIX] We need ... to tell ... stories about ourselves ...
 CHO [MIX] **To accept one's ... history**
 is learning how to use one's past. BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE *Begin Again* p.26

+***+

TEN ... if the world is made of ... particles moving in space,
 how is it that ...
 SOP thoughts,
 TEN subjectivity ...
 SOP colors,
 TEN emotions,
 SOP/TEN/NAR and the burning, lively sensation of existing ... ROVELLI *Helgoland*

TEN ... how is it that such complex sensations come about?

+*+

TEN For example, let us consider that ... REYNOLDS
 CHO [MIX] **Compassion ... is a miracle**
 CHO [MIX] Compassion ... is a miracle ... more ...
 ... astonishing than walking on water
 CHO [MIX] **more astonishing than walking on water.** WEIL "The Love of God and Affliction"

+*+

CHO [W] (*Solo*) **We shall always see truth in fragments ...** GANDHI
 CHO [W] We shall always see truth in fragments ...

CHO [W] **There ... are no ... clear ... I ... ma ... ges.** BALDWIN, *No Name on the Street*, p.178

TEN Every vision is partial. ROVELLI *Helgoland*

SOP Still ... People can share
 newspapers,
 sandwiches,
 umbrellas,
 and the scales began to fall from their eyes. ...
 they can realize ... that they shared
 a common humanity,
 that race,
 ethnicity,
 skin color
 are really irrelevancies. TUTU

+*+*+

TEN Without facts, you can't have truth.
 SOP Without truth, you can't have trust.
 CHO [MIX] Without trust, we have no shared reality.
 CHO [MIX] **Without trust, we have no shared reality.** RESSA

+*+

SOP/TEN Knowledge is a dialogue with itself and with reality.
 In the dialogue, ... points of view ...
 SOP modify,
 TEN enrich,
 SOP converge ...

CHO [MIX] **Knowledge is ...**
 CHO [MIX] Knowledge is a dialog with reality.
 CHO [MIX] ... **a dialog with reality.**
 CHO [MIX] In it ... our understanding ... deepens. ROVELLI *Helgoland*

+*+

CHO [MIX] **Identities are formed by the way a person** **MUSIC**
faces and uses experience.

SOP/TEN Your life is ... defined by
 How you make use of your moment of greatest adversity. BROOKS
 CHO [MIX] Make yourself into an agent ... consistent ... unified and whole.
 CHO [MIX] **Make yourself into an agent ... consistent ... unified and whole.** KORSGAARD
Manifest ... a new and crushing determination. BALDWIN *Letter from a region in my mind*

+*+*+

CODA

- NAR On the beaches ... every summer morning seems to be the first in the world.
 Each twilight seems to be the last ...
 ... announced at sunset by a final glow that darkens every hue.
- TEN The sea is ultramarine,
 the road the color of clotted blood,
 the beach yellow.
- NAR Everything disappears with the green sun;
 an hour later the dunes are bathed in moonlight.
- SOP` Then there are incomparable nights under the rain of stars. CAMUS *The Myth of Sisyphus*, p.131
- NAR I know that I do not become better
 ... by making another worse. BALDWIN
- CHO [MIX] Every human being is a miracle, a miracle, a miracle, a miracle ...
 (*individually staggered voices*)
- CHO [MIX] **Every human being is a miracle.** BALDWIN VIA GLAUDE *Begin Again* p.66