

- What is meant by the “death of the author”?
- How might the meaning of a text be affected by **who** is reading it?
- What is “logocentrism” and how does Derrida feel about it?

1

## Course Stuff

- Talking in class
- Online discussion: 2nd comment due **tonight**
- Field Research Contract due **Friday**
  - ➔ Can make changes afterwards
- TA office hours next week
- Remember: ask for help if you need it!

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- ▶ Walk-in Clinic on campus
- ▶ Davis Building 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- ▶ Open to all UofT students
- ▶ Doctors
- ▶ Nurses
- ▶ Counselors
- ▶ Nutritionist
- ▶ Flu Shots
- ▶ Medications and Vaccination

## 5. “Texts”

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# Today

- Finish: Ritual!
  - ➔ Rites of passage
- Film Paragraph + Film Analysis
- “Texts”
  1. What do (sacred) texts **mean**?
  2. **Which** (sacred) texts do we study?
  3. **Why** study (sacred) texts?

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# Ritual

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## Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City



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- How does Nye define “ritual”? How can the same action be a ritual sometimes but not others?
- What shift took place in ritual studies during the 1990s? How is this relevant to your film essay?
  - ➔ What was the old question about actions? What is the new question?

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Old question:  
“Is this action a ritual?”

New question:  
“What does this action **mean**?”

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## Rites of Passage

- Examples?
- Indigenous rites of passage:
  - ➔ Pondo healers
  - ➔ Anishinaubae vision quest
  - ➔ Wiradjuri boys

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## Arnold van Gennep

- Rituals and transformation
  - ➔ Space, time, social relations, etc.
  - ➔ Boundaries
  - ➔ Rites of passage



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## Arnold van Gennep

Rite of passage = literal / symbolic **journey**

1. Separation
  - ➔ Death of old self; leave home
2. Liminality
  - ➔ “Threshold” or barrier; anti-structure
3. Incorporation
  - ➔ Birth of new self; go home (new/old); physical change?

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## Pondo Rite of Passage (liminal stage)



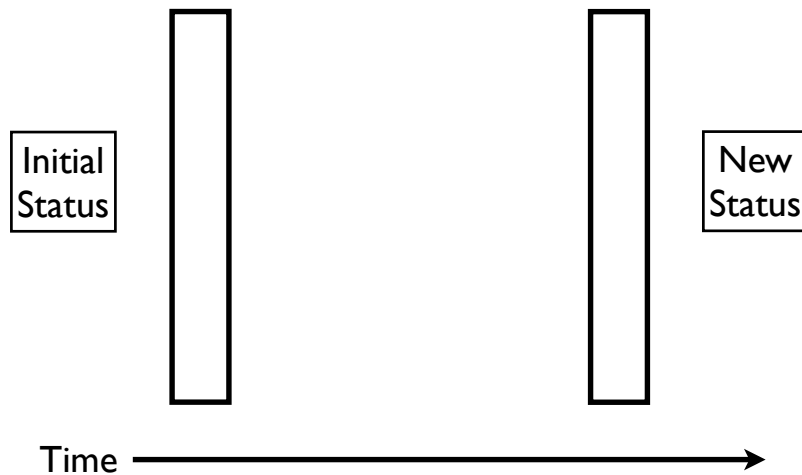
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## Rite of Passage

- Limin = “threshold”
- Liminal stage (from Nye, p. 147):
  - ➔ Inversion of “normal” life
  - ➔ Different dress/place/behaviour
  - ➔ Bizarre, upside-down
  - ➔ Anti-structure, opposite of normal

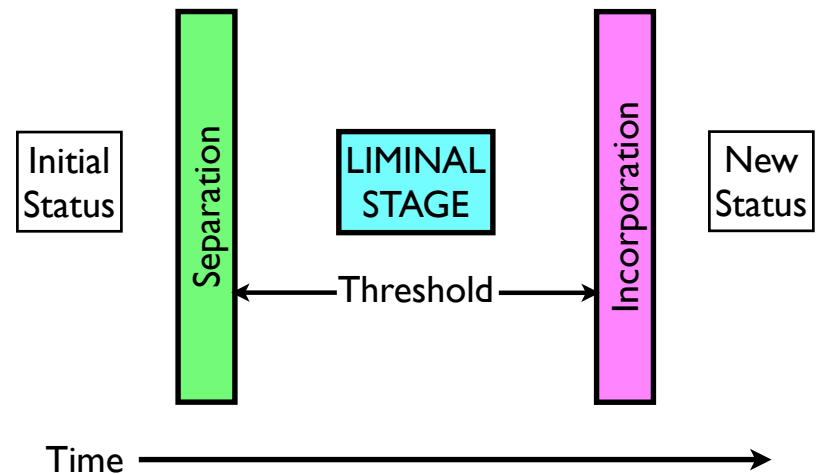
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## Rite of Passage



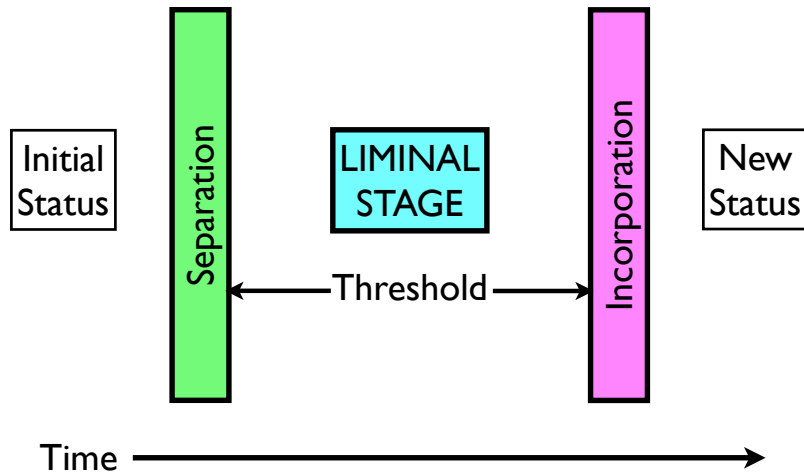
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## Rite of Passage



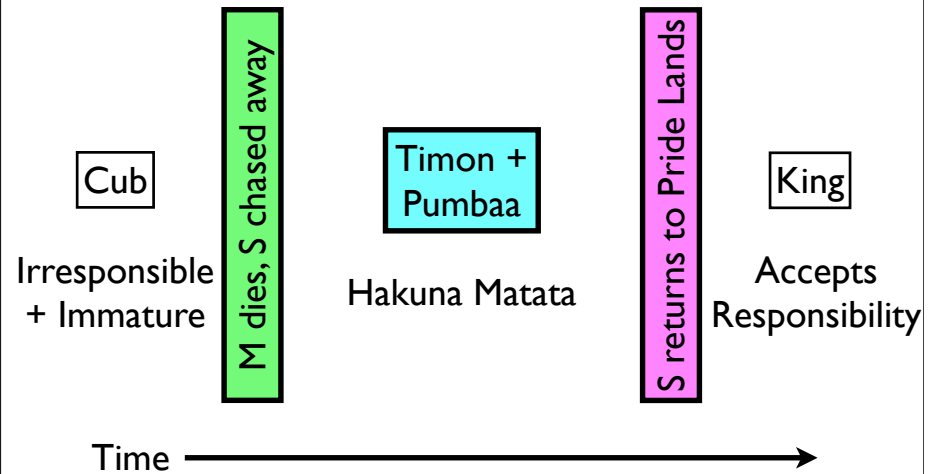
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# Rite of Passage: Simba



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# Rite of Passage: Simba



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# Separation



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# Symbolic Death



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# Liminality



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# Incorporation



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Star Wars - A New Hope www.desktopextreme.com



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## Film Analysis!

## Film Analysis

- Value:
  - ➔ Learn by doing (=use of theory)
  - ➔ Original research
  - ➔ Critical analysis
  - ➔ Difficulty
  - ➔ Surprise? (Change your perspective?)

# Film Paragraph

- Grades + assignments posted
  - ➔ Thanks for not emailing us!
- You  $\neq$  your grades
- First assignment only worth 5%
  - ➔ Chance to learn and improve
- Overall: well done
  - ➔ Yay!!

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# Film Paragraph

- Grading process + appeals
  - ➔ See announcement from this morning
  - ➔ Not graded to achieve certain average
  - ➔ Remember: C = adequate

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# Film Paragraph

- Learning and improving
  - ➔ Education!
  - ➔ Please look at feedback from TA
  - ➔ Students who met with me or the TAs improved their work

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# Film Paragraph

- Ask for help!
  - ➔ Me / your TA
  - ➔ RG Academic Skills Centre
  - ➔ AccessAbility Resource Centre
  - ➔ Health + Counselling Centre

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# Film Paragraph

Common issues:

1. Not following instructions
  - ➔ Bottom portion of grading rubric (quantitative)
2. Quality of work
  - ➔ Top portion of grading rubric (qualitative)

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# Film Paragraph

Anonymous:

“Not happy that you had to lower our film paragraph grades. How is this fair marking?”

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# Final Film Analysis

- 4 paragraphs in total:
  1. Belief (revised)
  2. Ritual
  3. Text
  4. Reflection

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# Final Film Analysis

- Documents:
  1. Instructions
  2. Rubric
  3. Theories
- Deadline: Friday, February 16
  - ➔ Extension?

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# “Texts!”

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## Film Analysis

- Apply theories to “texts” WITHIN the film
  - ➔ “Text” = anything in the film that is spoken, sung, written, named, signed, etc.
  - ➔ “Author” = character who writes or speaks
  - ➔ “Reader” = character who reads or listens
- Example: “Hakuna Matata” as text
  - ➔ Who is the author? Who is the reader?

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## Film Analysis

- Do NOT follow
  - ➔ “Text” = screenplay of the film
  - ➔ “Author” = writer of the screenplay
  - ➔ “Reader” = viewer of the film

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## “Texts”

What do (sacred) texts **mean**?

**Which** (sacred) texts do we study?

**Why** study (sacred) texts?

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## Meaning of Texts?



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## Meaning of Texts?

- Texts have **many** possible meanings
  - ➔ But not infinite meanings
  - ➔ Like rituals!
- Lots of disagreements!
  - ➔ Sacred text disputes
- Language is complicated
- Literal vs. metaphorical meanings

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“I am the gate for  
the sheep.”

– Jesus (in John 10:7)

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## Meaning of Texts?

- Indigenous stories! (e.g., afterlife, tricksters)
  - ➔ Meaning of “Red Willows”?
  - ➔ Literal (history) vs. metaphorical (ideas, values, etc.)
  - ➔ Messages: relationships; how to live
  - ➔ Stories AS interpretations (of life, death, etc.)

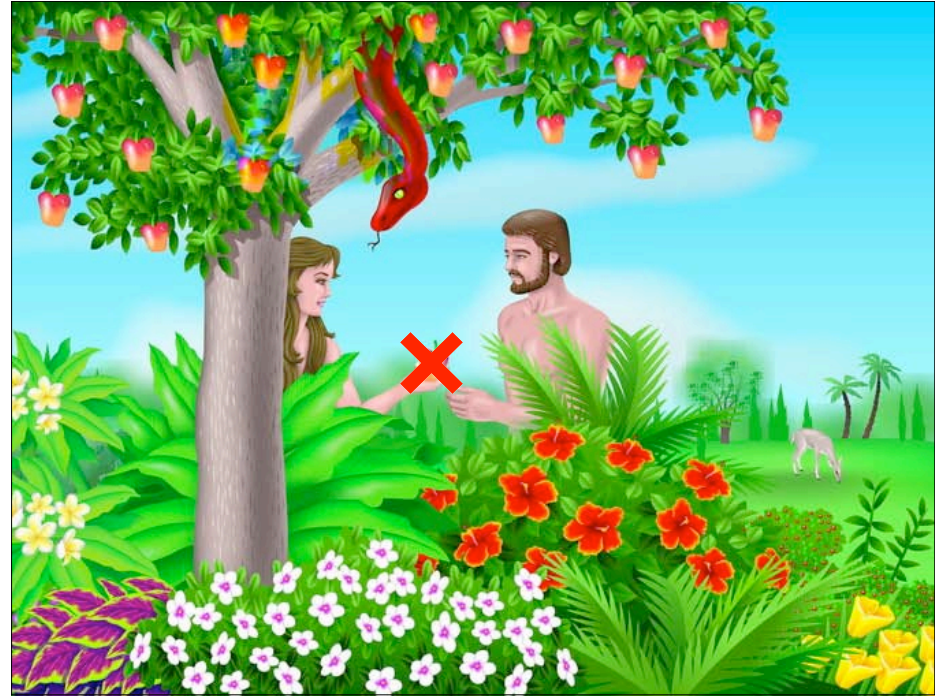
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# Meaning of Texts?

Meaning beyond words/content:

1. Physical text
  - ➔ e.g., Judaism, Sikhism
  - ➔ Preservation / destruction
2. Understanding vs. actual content
  - ➔ e.g., Garden of Eden (Genesis 2-3)

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# Theories of “Text”

- **Authorship** (p. 169–71):  
Michel Foucault + Roland Barthes
- **Readers** (p. 176–8):  
Wolfgang Iser + Stanley Fish
- **Gender** (p. 178):  
Judith Fetterley + Julia Leslie
- **Language + interpretation** (p. 158–9):  
Jacques Derrida

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# Authorship

- Two issues re: meaning of a text:
  1. Barthes: “Death” of the author  
(author’s **intent** is NOT important)
  2. Foucault: author’s **identity** IS important  
(status, expertise, gender, etc.)

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## Author's Intent is NOT Important?

“You know this is your  
master, eh?  
Do you feel the lash?”

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## Song

- “Shake It Off” by Taylor Swift (2014)



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## “Shake It Off”

I stay out too late  
Got nothing in my brain  
That's what people say, mmm-mmm  
That's what people say, mmm-mmm

'Cause the players gonna play, play, play, play, play  
And the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate  
Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake  
I shake it off, I shake it off

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## “Shake It Off”

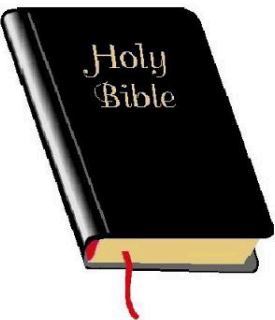
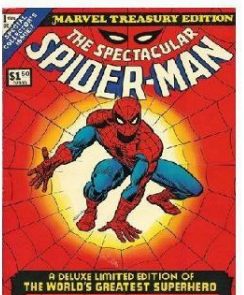
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That's what people say, mmm-mmm  
That's what people say, mmm-mmm

'Cause the players gonna play, play, play, play, play  
And the **haters gonna hate**, hate, hate, hate, hate  
Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake  
I shake it off, I shake it off

author's identity IS important

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# Author's Identity IS Important

<p><b>Proof that god exists</b></p> <p>↓</p> 	<p><b>Proof that Spider-man exists</b></p> <p>↓</p>  <p><small>Illustrated by Vicki Wick</small></p>
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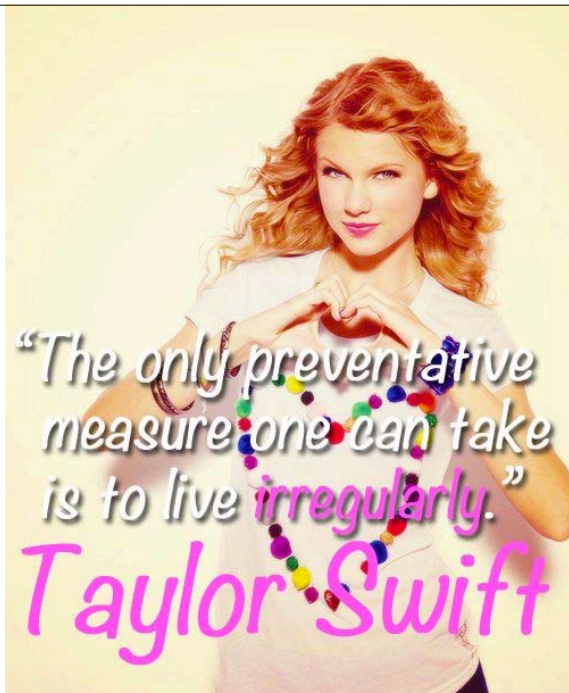
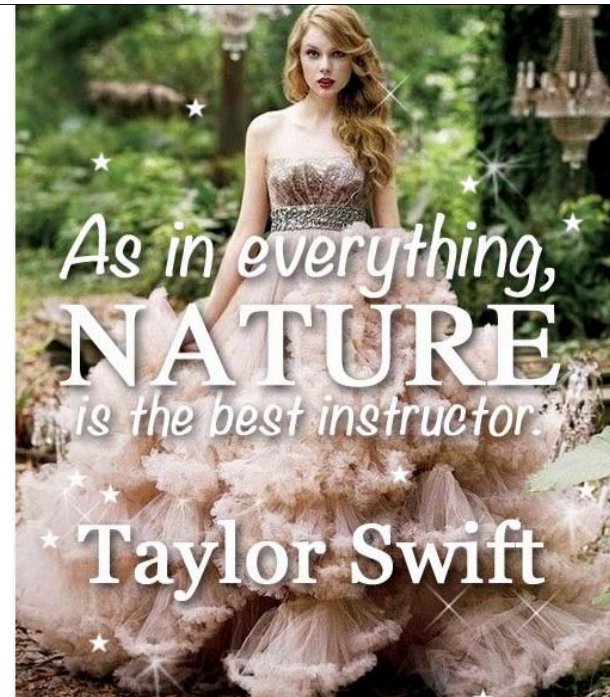
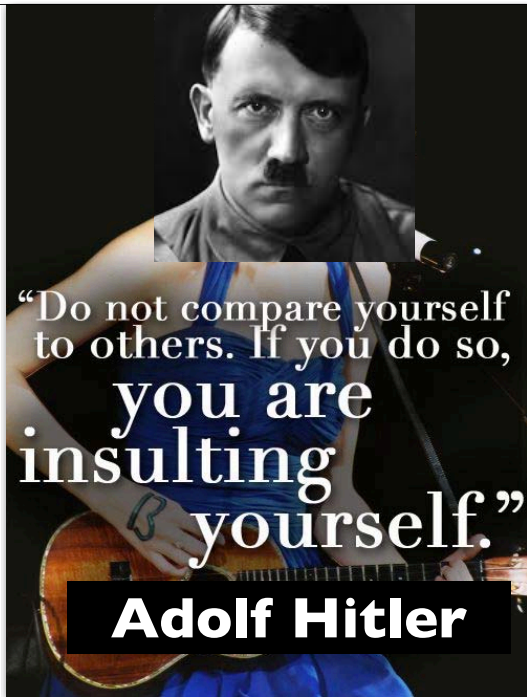
# Hakuna Matata



# One True King

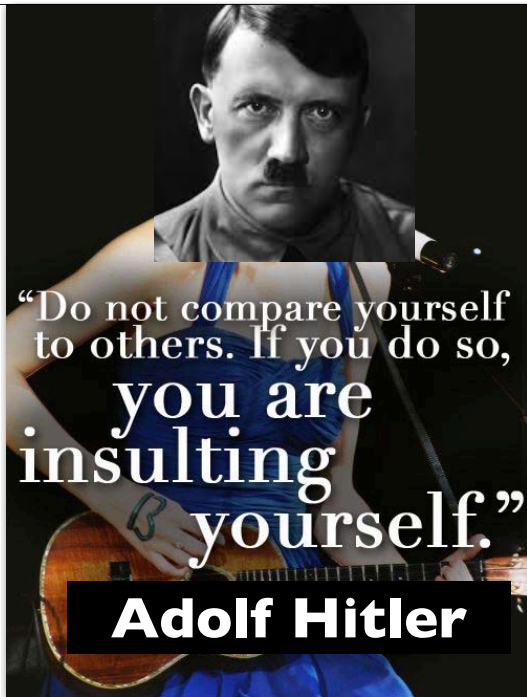


How does the author's identity affect the meaning of the following texts?



## Readers

- Iser: meaning produced by relation b/t reader and text
- Fish: identify of reader affects how they read a text
  - ➔ Science book read by scientist vs. artist
  - ➔ Bible read by Christian vs. Hindu
  - ➔ Nye’s book for you now vs. last month
  - ➔ Reader’s view of an author



## Gender

- Fetterley: “important” texts written by, for, and about men
  - ➔ Most often male “voice” is heard
  - ➔ Sacred texts?
  - ➔ *The Lion King*?
- Leslie: gender of reader may impact how a text is read
  - ➔ See Iser + Fish

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## The New Testament

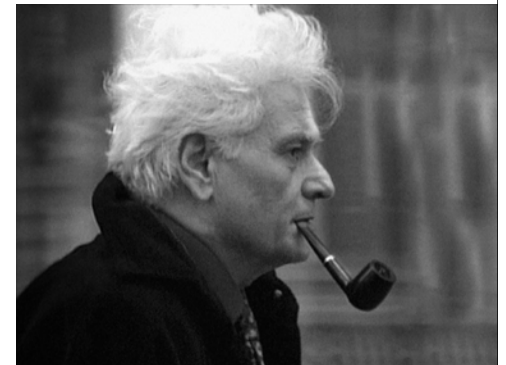
“Wives, be **subject to your husbands** as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church.” (Ephesians 5:22)

“Let a woman **learn in silence** with full submission. I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she is to keep silent.” (1 Timothy 2:11-12)

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## Jacques Derrida

- Logocentrism (X)
- Belief that words are a window to the world





## Logocentrism: *The Office* S04E04



I ... DECARE ... BANKRUPTCYYYYY!

## Jacques Derrida

1. Texts are **important**
2. The meanings of texts are **variable**

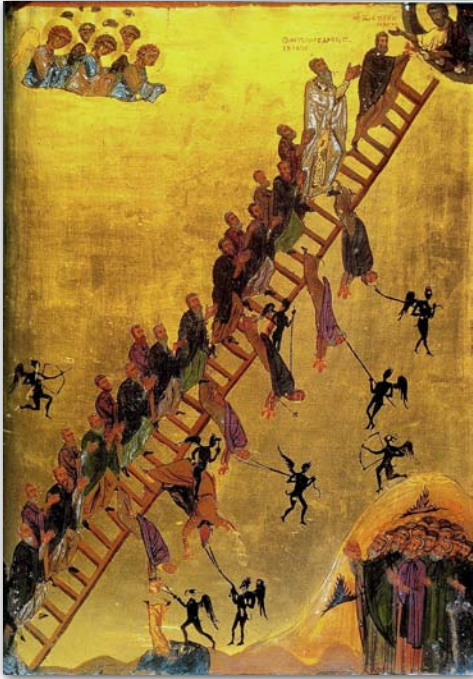


## Jacques Derrida

1. Texts are **important**
  - ➔ We live in worlds **shaped** by texts
  - ➔ Course syllabi, essay instructions
  - ➔ Sacred texts!
  - ➔ *The Lion King*

## Jacques Derrida

2. The meanings of texts are **variable**
  - ➔ Unstable links between words + reality
  - ➔ Meaning affected by changes in history, context, author, reader, etc.
  - ➔ Meaning of words not fixed
  - ➔ Icon



Icon:  
The Ladder of Divine Ascent  
(12th C)



“Fuggetaboutit”

agree disagree the greatest



go to hell forget about it