

Versions of the defining relation

- 1 **Makes you an individual.** Defines who you are. Gives you an identity (p. 70)
- 2 **Gives you a world.**
Your whole world is organized in terms of this concern.
Makes meaningful distinctions: serious/trivial, relevant/irrelevant, meaningful/meaningless.
That is, what is taken to be relevant, significant in your experience gets its determination as important or unimportant by being referred back to this relation.
- 3 **Cannot be mediated, i.e. put into concepts**
Cannot be made intelligible
- 4 **Your passion produces its object. The *how* produces the *what*.**
[Concluding Unscientific Postscript]
- 5 **The accidental becomes necessary.**
The *defining* relation has the peculiar quality of being both accidental and necessary.
- 6 **The temporal is internalized. Re-structures the temporal field in which you live.**
“The desire...now bends inwards but is not lost thereby not forgotten... He is too proud to want to let the whole content of his life seem to have been a fleeting affair of the moment. He keeps his love young, and it grows with him in years and beauty. On the other hand, he needs no finite occasion for its growth. From the moment he made the movement the princess is lost,... for his memory of her is an eternal one.” (p. 73)
- 7 **Eternity in time**
Such a relation does not determine how you are going to behave in the future, but you do know that whatever you do will derive its significance from the relation.
- 8 **Irreversible.**
The violence will destroy you, for you will be tearing out your own content.
“He is not afraid to let his love ... twine itself in countless coils around every ligament of his consciousness—if the love becomes unhappy he will never be able to wrench himself out of it.” (p. 71)
- 9 **Vulnerable. Risky**
It has to be concrete enough to give your life day to day meaning and make certain actions significant