

I am aware of this tendency in myself, and shall note it as we continue. When I've turned away from situations where others have said I had it made in favor of a risky venture, is there not a tendency to make a virtue of necessity, given that I've reached a point of no return? So we put the best possible construction on our view of the new, which fortunately, as often as not, becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

If your impression resonates with mine, how then, do we construe the concept of role fatigue? Perhaps the wish for a change of pace, novelty and adventure invite role fatigue, making what stimulated us yesterday, as we were mastering it become tedious.

Our role transition analysis must look beyond the individual to relationships. In two instances I have returned to a place where I've been before. It seems that significant time breaks between the first and the second stays minimize the effect of one upon the other. The saying, *You can never go home again* remains, thankfully, a bit of an exaggeration, but it points to the obvious fact that no one is exactly the same the second time around.

Relationships are unrepeatable, and relationships are the key to construing life as theater. Besides, our model includes one's relationship with oneself. Whether you analyze from an interpersonal or intrapsychic perspective, you can find a point of contact. I've learned a lot about myself here, and offer this model to encourage you to identify role transitions in your own life, so that you may recognize them more readily in the lives of others, to serve them better.

I recommend earliest memories as group warmup. When we go round the group asking people to tell who they are, they are inclined to mention job, address, or group affiliation. This reflects and reaffirms the stereotypes people have brought with them, and contributes to pecking order reruns. One may sink into a habitual comfort zone without risking self-disclosure. But early memories circumvent status trappings, are fun to hear, and open the door to being who we really are. This invites sharing, the *sine qua non* for workshops that do anything worthwhile.

I've outlined my self-presentation of a life time spiritual odyssey below in the hope that you may find a sufficient basis for identification to justify your effort. What occurs to you as strange may offer insight into others who have puzzled you. I believe every human being is unique, and at the same time has something in common with every other human being.

My own personal life cycle role transitions consist of ten periods, four major transitions, four minor transitions, and five minor transitions, from point of origin to date.

#### **The Formative Years**

1. Childhood in McKeesport, PA. 12 years. + transition
2. Teenager in Greenock and at McKeesport High, 5 yrs.

FIRST MAJOR TRANSITION: Asbury College, 1 year.

#### **The College Years**

3. Accelerated Maturation at Louisiana State and the University of Washington, Seattle. 5 years + transition

#### **Professional Preparation**

4. Yale University Divinity School. 4 years

SECOND MAJOR TRANSITION: Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut. 1 year part-time while attending Yale.

5. Louisiana State University, 1 year on campus, and 2 years clinical psychology fellowship at Southeast Louisiana State Hospital, Mandeville  
1 year dissertation research

THIRD MAJOR TRANSITION: Wesley Foundation at Ohio University in Athens, while studying philosophy, 1 year

Inasmuch as I have not intended submitting a whole resume, perhaps the above is sufficient to indicate the direction your own personal account may take. My purpose is to raise your consciousness that you too may have gone through significant transitions. Surely they didn't escape your notice, especially if they were associated with the changes in vocation and in residence which accompanied them. Note how each change brings with it a new perspective both on the past and on the future.