

Theory Four of the Good Life: Home, Leaving, and Back Again

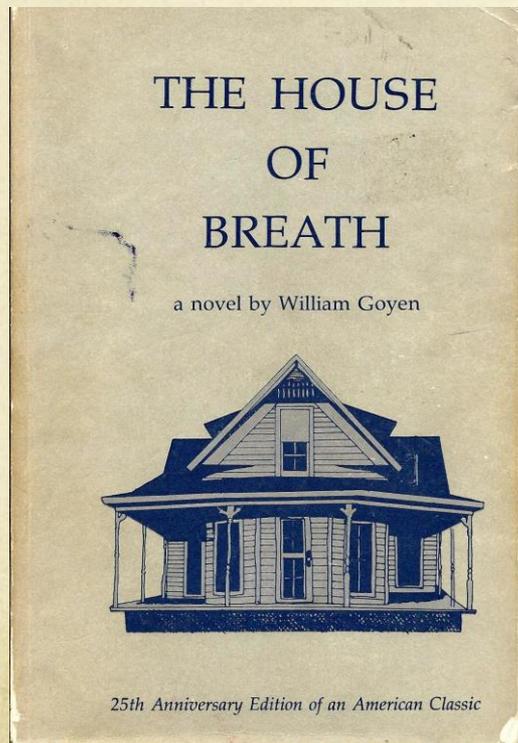
“If you don’t know where you are, you
don’t know who you are.” –Wendell
Berry

“The essence of travel is not seeing
new sights, but looking with new eyes”
–Marcel Proust



*Ganesha
&
Kartikeya*

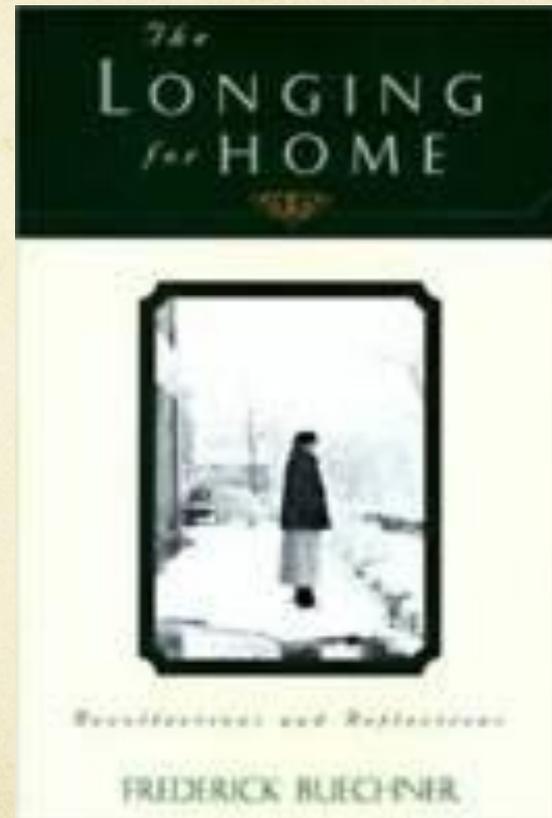
William Goyen



- “That people could come into the world in a place they could not at first even name and had never known before; and that out of a nameless and unknown place they could grow move around in it until its name they knew and called with love, and call it HOME, and put roots there and love others there; so that whenever they left this place they would sing homesick songs about it and write poems of yearning for it, like a lover...”

"The word *home* summons up a place which you have rich and complex feelings about, a place where you feel, or did feel once, uniquely *at home*, which is to say a place where you feel you belong and which in some sense belongs to you... that you spend the rest of your life searching for even if you are not aware that you are searching. I suspect that those who as children never had such a place in actuality had instead some kind of dream of such a home, which for them played an equally crucial part."

○ *Frederick Buechner*



“Sometimes, I suspect, the search for home is related also to the longing of the flesh, to the way in which the sight of beauty can set you longing with a keenness and poignancy and passion, with a kind of breathless awe even, which suggest that beneath the longing to possess and be possessed by the beauty of another sexually there lies the longing to know and be known by another fully and humanly, and that beneath that there lies a longing, closer to the heart of the matter still, which is the longing to be at long last where you fully belong... When I think of all the beautiful ones whom I have seen for maybe no more than a passing moment and have helplessly, overwhelmingly desired, I wonder if at the innermost heart of my desiring there wasn't, of all things, homesickness.”

(The Longing for Home)

Phenomenology

Martin Heidegger

- “Man is thrown into existence, cast into the world.”

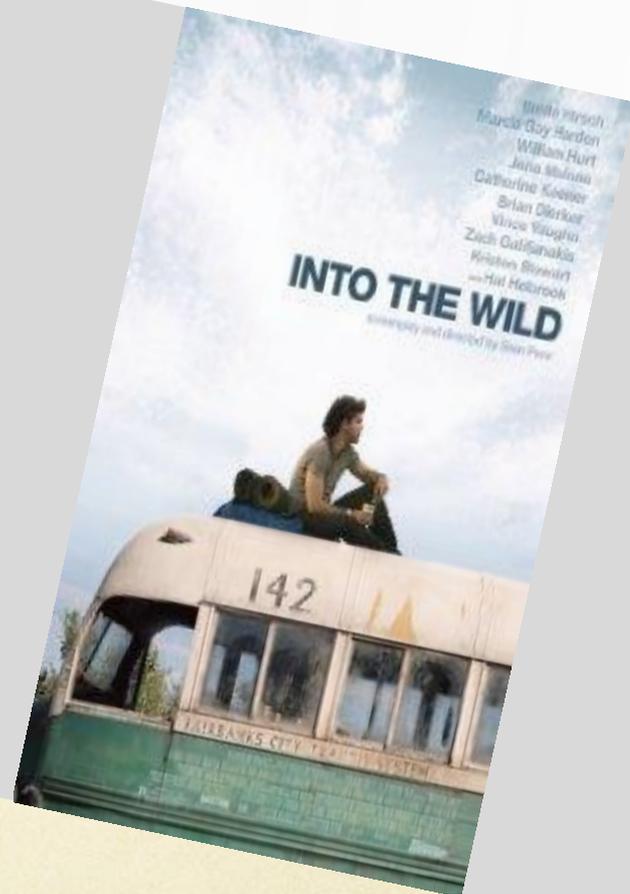
Gaston Bachelard

- “Others have too hastily concluded that we are ‘Thrown into existence’. Man is not initially ‘cast into the world,’ he is laid in the cradle of a home... Without home, we would indeed be dispersed beings. Home maintains us through the storms of the heavens and through those of life. Home is body and soul. Home is the human being’s first world... Home is the soil in which Chance sows the human plant.”



Midnight in Paris, Indiana Jones, Sideways, Under the Tuscan Sun, Lord of the Rings, The Guilt Trip, Due Date, Dumb and Dumber, the Life of Pi.

Motorcycle Diaries, The Way, The Wizard of Oz, Thelma and Louise, Seven Years in Tibet, Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, The Darjeeling Limited, Lost in Translation, The Beach, Cast Away, Apollo 13, Gravity, A Walk in the Clouds, Almost Famous, Back to the Future, 'Y Tu Mamá También', Groundhog Day,



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The Chris McCandless Obsession Problem

Every year, scores of *Into the Wild* fans tackle a dangerous river crossing to visit the last home of Alaska's most famous adventure casualty. Why are so many people willing to risk injury, and even death, to pay homage to a controversial ascetic who perished so young?

By: DIANA SAVERIN









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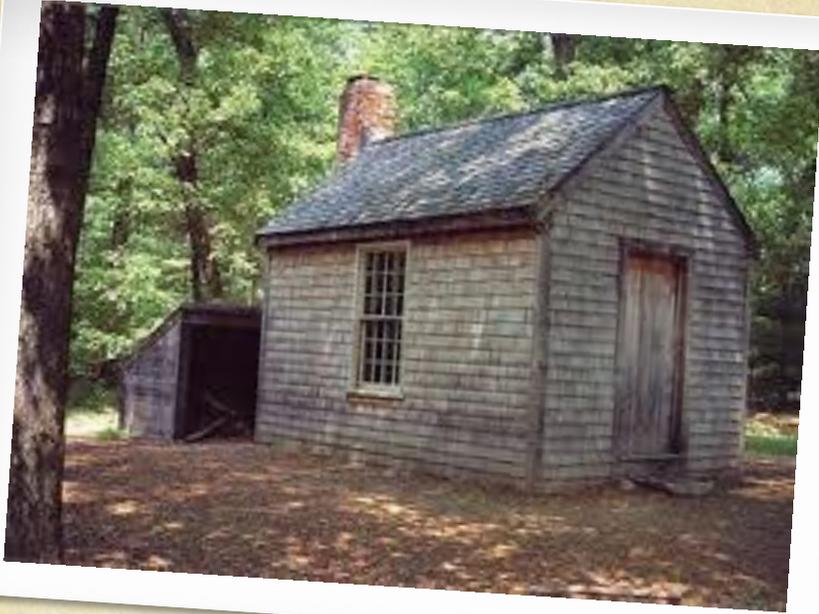
Taxes!



James Tuedio

*Thinking About Home: An Opening for Discovery
in Philosophical Practice*

“An interesting aspect of homemaking lies in the tenuous friction between our desire to have a place, a home, or a ground, and our desire to go beyond these structures, to leave our home, to be free for travel, adventure, and the experience of wildness. This friction reflects a kind of estrangement within the existing confines of familiarity. Sensing the trappings of immanence, we aspire to step outside and ‘transition’ to a new sense of home, one that can only be framed within an awareness of strangeness, otherness, or the wild.”



“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear... I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life.”



Clare Cooper Marcus

House as a Mirror of Self

- “The human spirit is constantly on a journey of self-discovery, of leaving the familiar home and of exploring fearful, sometimes dangerous dimensions of life. Like Odysseus, we all take a journey. And like his son, Telemachus, we all have portions of our psyche that long for the return of the adventurous spirit so that life can be restored in the image of home. Without the journey, there may be stagnation, frustration, disempowerment. Thus, like it or not, we all have to leave home to find ourselves. We are each and everyone of us always and never leaving home. Both are necessary—leaving and staying, security and danger, stillness and movement, at home and away. The secret is to find the balance and recognize when to leave and when to stay.