

Into the Fold

Scott Merrow

Multimedia Undergraduate

Nominated by Bradley Herzog, Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Professional Writing



Scott will be entering his fourth year at SVSU in fall 2012. He is seeking a B.A. in Professional and Technical Writing with a minor in Political Science. He resides in West Branch with his wife, Heather, and two sons, Jack and Luke, and also has a daughter, Frances, who resides in Saginaw with her mother. Upon graduation, Scott hopes to work with non-profit organizations in the greater Saginaw area to promote community development and social justice.

Note: This video, *Into the Fold*, may be viewed at the following link: <<http://vimeo.com/76265917>>. An overview and bibliography are provided below.

Into the Fold is a pastiche of writing and publicly available video files, animations, and music that critically examines and celebrates Kenneth Burke's "Epilogue: Prologue in Heaven," a selection published in Burke's book *The Rhetoric of Religion: Studies in Logology*. Burke's "Prologue" is a satirical version of a Socratic dialogue featuring as characters the Lord and Satan. Via the discussion between the Lord and Satan, Burke examines the possibilities and limits of language as if from a perspective beyond time and space. In doing so, Burke reveals the epistemological function of language: it constitutes the only realities that we can share and know, and thus serves as a basis for human motives and actions. Despite its inherent limitations, language nevertheless sets us free in the sense that any question or command articulated in language permits a range of responses, or choices.

Into the Fold examines these and other key concepts from Burke's "Prologue," but also incorporates the analyses and interpretations of scholars such as C. Allen Carter, Noam Chomsky, James L. Kastely, and Robert McMahan. Moreover, animations, music, and video selections are juxtaposed to amplify and extend the possible interpretations of Burke's work. The result is a digital parataxis that goes beyond the traditional text driven narrative.

Works Cited

- 3D Animation Paper Aeroplane Folding Itself*. Video. *YouTube*. animrshaw, 4 October 2008. Web. 1 March 2012.
- Animated Maze Solution*. Video. *YouTube*. FinishTheShot, 20 June 2011. Web. 1 March 2012.
- Burke, Kenneth. *The Rhetoric of Religion: Studies in Logology*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1970. Print.
- Cagle-Smith, Parker, and Andrew Gingerich. *two minutes with God*. Exploding Goldfish Films. Video. *Internet Archive*, 2006. Web. 1 March 2012.
- Carter, Allen C. "Logology and Religion: Kenneth Burke on the Metalinguistic Dimension of Language." *The Journal of Religion* 72.1 (1992): 1-18. Web. 1 March 2012.
- Chomsky's View of Language Development*. Video. *YouTube*. MichaelDBaker, 16 December 2012. Web. 1 March 2012.
- Flying Through Clouds*. Video. *YouTube*. antondy, 21 April 2008. Web. 1 March 2012.
- God and Satan Feed the Ducks*. Video. *YouTube*. KRAnimationsUK, 22 December 2011. Web. 1 March 2012.

Kastely, James L. "Kenneth Burke's Comic Rejoinder to the Cult of Empire." *College English* 58.3 (1996): 307-326. Web. 1 March 2012.

Kenneth Burke: Two Minute Thinker. Video. *YouTube*. 2MinuteThinker, 28 May 2011. Web. 1 March 2012.

McMahon, Robert. "Kenneth Burke's Divine Comedy: The Literary Form of the Rhetoric of Religion." *PMLA* 104.1 (1989): 53-63. Web. 1 March 2012.

Noam Chomsky: Language's Great Mysteries. Video. *YouTube*. bigthink, 3 June 2011. Web. 1 March 2012.

Ohba, Yasuo. *Anjyu*. Namco Ltd. Video. *Internet Archive*, 2001. Web. 1 March 2012.

Sims, Karl. *Particle Dreams*. Siggraph. Video. *Internet Archive*, 1990. Web. 1 March 2012.

The Willow Tree. Video. *YouTube*. jchanger1, 15 August 2007. Web. 1 March 2012.

Wheeler, Mark. *Airheads*. Ringling School of Art and Design. Video. *Internet Archive*, 2001. Web. 1 March 2012.