

DISSOCIATION OF SENSIBILITY

Separation of the dominant head from the heart in vertical consciousness, personified in the extreme as a mad scientist, a sociopath, or a Nazi. Dissociation is dramatized by Herman Melville in *Benito Cereno*, Henry James in “The Beast in the Jungle,” Stephen Crane in “An Episode of War,” T. S. Eliot in “The Waste Land,” Ernest Hemingway in “Indian Camp,” William Faulkner in “That Evening Sun,” John Steinbeck in “The Snake,” and Flannery O’Connor in “A Good Man Is Hard to Find.”

Michael Hollister, “Model of Metaphors” (1995)

“What is the Unpardonable Sin?” asked the lime-burner...
...replied Ethan Brand... “The sin of an intellect that triumphed over the sense of brotherhood with man and reverence for God, and sacrificed everything to its own mighty claims! The only sin that deserves a recompense of immortal agony!”

Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Ethan Brand” (1851)

In the seventeenth century a dissociation of sensibility set in, from which we have never recovered...

T. S. Eliot, “The Metaphysical Poets” (1921)

We moderns are faced with the necessity of rediscovering the life of the spirit... The ego is ill for the very reason that it is cut off from the whole, and has lost its connection with mankind as well as with the spirit.

Carl Jung, *Modern Man in Search of a Soul* (1933)

At some point my neck must have closed over, pond freezing or a wound, shutting me into my head... I’d allowed myself to be cut in two... I was nothing but a head... David is like me, I thought, we are the ones that don’t know how to love...atrophy of the heart.

Margaret Atwood, *Surfacing* (1972)

Michael Hollister (2015)