

Title: “Dying to Oneself” (No, Not Literally)

Synopsis:

In *Dying to Oneself (no, not literally)*, the Snark dives into the ancient-but-still-inconvenient idea of ego-surrender, sparked by the hauntingly beautiful hymn “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind.” But rather than calling readers to cloister themselves in a monastery or delete their social media (okay, maybe a little of that), the piece focuses on the micro-sacrifices of daily life: not needing to be right, resisting the urge to narrate your virtue, and letting go of that heroic little voice inside your head who’s always auditioning for sainthood. With its blend of poetic reverence and pointed snark, the blog asks readers to stop striving so hard to be seen, and instead – maybe just... be.

The Snark’s Blog: [here](#)

Discussion Questions

Use these questions to spark conversation and reflection in the classroom:

- What does the phrase “dying to oneself” mean in this blog, and how does it differ from more dramatic or religious interpretations? Consider the words of the hymn, “Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire.”
- Why do you think the blog leans on humor and sarcasm to explore a spiritual topic?
- The hymn speaks of “still dew of quietness.” In our modern world, what does true quietness even look like?
- How does ego show up in daily life, and how might one begin to let it go – without turning into a doormat or an influencer?
- Is there a connection between “self-death” and humility? How is that different from self-hatred or self-erasure?
- Can surrendering ego be an act of strength? Why or why not?

Writer’s Prompts

Creative exercises to help students apply the themes of the topic:

- **Prompt 1:** The Hero Who Fails Quietly. Write about someone who saves the day – and doesn’t tell a soul. How do they process it internally? What’s the cost of anonymity?
- **Prompt 2:** Instagram vs. Inner Peace: Create a monologue from the perspective of a character who’s trying to meditate while also live-streaming their “journey toward stillness.” Let’s assume it doesn’t go too well.
- **Prompt 3:** The Self That Had to Go. Write a dialogue between a person and the part of themselves they need to let go – a kind of inner breakup scene.
- **Prompt 4:** An Act of Undisclosed Grace: Write about a character who lets someone else win, take credit, or be heard. What changes in them as a result?

- **Prompt 5:** The Anti-Influencer Gospel. Draft a satirical blog post from a fictional influencer who's gone full minimalist monk – and is now monetizing the art of not caring.
- **Prompt 6:** Sacrificing the Spotlight: Write about a person who always believed they were destined for greatness – until they find something more meaningful in obscurity and humility.

Class Activities

These activities will help expand on the themes of the topic:

- **Group Discussion:** Ego Isn't a Villain... But It's Loud. Discuss: Is ego always bad? Can it be useful? When does it get in the way? Use characters from fiction, history, or your own life to make your case.
- **Design Exercise:** The Museum of Quiet Things. Students design an imaginary museum exhibit titled "The Museum of Quiet Things." What goes in it? What kind of silence does it honor – peaceful? Awkward? Sacred?
- **Debate:** The Death of Self vs. the Celebration of Self. Split into two teams and debate. Pro Position: Dying to oneself leads to clarity, compassion, and actual spiritual depth. Con Position: That sounds nice, but let's be real – confidence, pride, and performance are how you get ahead in life.
- **Collaborative Story-Building:** The World Without Striving. As a group, build a fictional world where striving, self-promotion, and ego have been eliminated. What replaces them? Is it utopia... or eerie silence? What tensions emerge?

Closing note from the blog's writer, The Snark

Ah, the gentle art of not making everything about you. Almost a lost craft, really. This blog is for those brave souls who've realized that maybe, just maybe, life isn't an audition, and sainthood isn't a brand. Letting go of your ego doesn't mean becoming less – it means making space. Space for wonder. Space for others. Space for something deeper than that internal PR agent screaming "make it a moment!" So here's to the quiet, the overlooked, the unposted. May your striving cease. May your chaos hush. And may your next great act of self be the choice to die to it – non-literally, of course.