

Early Twentieth-Century Fiction
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Office hours: Monday 2 p.m., or by appointment

February 8, 2021. Joyce (3).

review: quotation

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direct —I have amended my life, have I not? he asked himself.
(129)

indirect The priest had answered that Victor Hugo had never written half so well when he had turned against the church as was he had written when he was a catholic.
(132)

free indirect He had sinned. (115)

U.C.P. His blood began to murmur in his veins, murmuring like a sinful city summoned from its sleep to hear its doom. Little flakes of fire fell and powdery ashes fell softly, alighting on the houses of men. (119–120)

difficulties: irony

Verbal irony consists in echoing a tacitly attributed thought or utterance with a tacitly dissociative attitude. (272)

Deirdre Wilson and Dan Sperber, “[Relevance Theory](#),” in *The Handbook of Pragmatics*, ed. Laurence Horn and Gregory Ward (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004), 272.

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[representation](#) He would kneel and pray with others and be happy.
(120)

[metarepresentation](#) Stephen believes that he will pray with others and be happy.

[2nd-order metarepresentation](#) Joyce intends us to be skeptical of Stephen’s belief that he will pray with others and be happy.

irony as critique

Every thought, word and deed, every instance of consciousness could be made to revibrate radiantly in heaven: and at times his sense of such immediate repercussion was so lively that he seemed to feel his soul in devotion pressing like fingers the keyboard of a great cash register and to see the amount of his purchase start forth immediately in heaven, not as a number but as a frail column of incense or as a slender flower. (124–25)

epiphany

By an epiphany he meant a sudden spiritual manifestation, whether in the vulgarity of speech or of gesture or in a memorable phase of the mind itself. He believed that it was for the man of letters to record these epiphanies with extreme care, seeing that they themselves are the most delicate and evanescent of moments....

—Then all at once I see it and I know at once what it is: epiphany....It is just in this epiphany that I find the third, the supreme quality of beauty [*claritas*].

(*Stephen Hero* [Portrait draft, ca. 1906], 211)

what is epiphanized?

A skull appeared suspended in the gloom of the doorway. A feeble creature like a monkey was there, drawn thither by the sound of voices at the fire. (56–57)

Short break, then discussion

Compare the early “epiphany” with the related passage from *Portrait*. How does the novel version differ from the free-standing vignette? What is revealed or “radiant” in either version? What kind of beauty is this?

on the shore

A girl stood before him in midstream, alone and still, gazing out to sea. She seemed like one whom magic had changed into the likeness of a strange and beautiful seabird. Her long slender bare legs were delicate as a crane's and pure save where an emerald trail of seaweed had fashioned itself as a sign upon the flesh....

The first faint noise of gently moving water broke the silence, low and faint and whispering, faint as the bells of sleep; hither and thither, hither and thither: and a faint flame trembled on her cheek.

—Heavenly God! cried Stephen's soul, in a outburst of profane joy.

...

A wild angel had appeared to him, the angel of mortal youth and beauty, an envoy from the fair courts of life, to throw open before him in an instant of ecstasy the gates of all the ways of error and glory.

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next

- ▶ finish the novel
- ▶ think about structure