

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS - “WHO ARE YOU, THAT YOU FILL MY HEART WITH YOUR ABSENCE?”

“We are buried alive in the images of perfection that adults and friends make for us” (GS Triduum–Introduction 1). We report here an example of one of these images of perfection, an episode from daily life: an exam gone wrong with a lot of scolding from the professor. Each of us can add other examples of how we feel suffocated by our own errors and others’ disappointed expectations.

Luca, though, in front of this situation, did not close himself in an angry reaction, nor did he isolate himself in desperation. This episode was the occasion for asking an even more radical question: “What really interests me in life? What do I want to live for?”

Would it have been better for him to cut himself off or answer back to the professor? Is it worth it to ask ourselves these kinds of questions?

This week, after taking a physics exam, my professor gave a speech to the whole class. He said that the students divided up into three groups. First of all, there were those who got the best marks (intelligent, engaged), who will get great jobs in their life and do what they want. Then, there are those in the middle, who will get by and be able to get a modest job. Finally, he said my name, explaining that those like me (who don’t study, who are not engaged, who are not interested) will not do anything in their lives and will live under a bridge, unless they get help from their parents.

After these words, I was so upset and sad, and just sat there. But later I reflected on it and said to myself: “Am I really what he says I am, or am I something else?” Trying to go deeper into this question, I remember that for a while now I have been living my life passively, letting things pass over me, and not taking interest in anything. Besides, next year I am going to another school, because I am struggling in the place where I am now.

This whole episode left me with a question: “What really interests me in life? What do I want to live for?”

Luca