

Join us for our 4th Annual Conference  
Friday, Feb 28th and Saturday, Mar 1st, 2014  
at the University of Houston

*In the Interstices: Liminal Spaces, Liminal Selves*

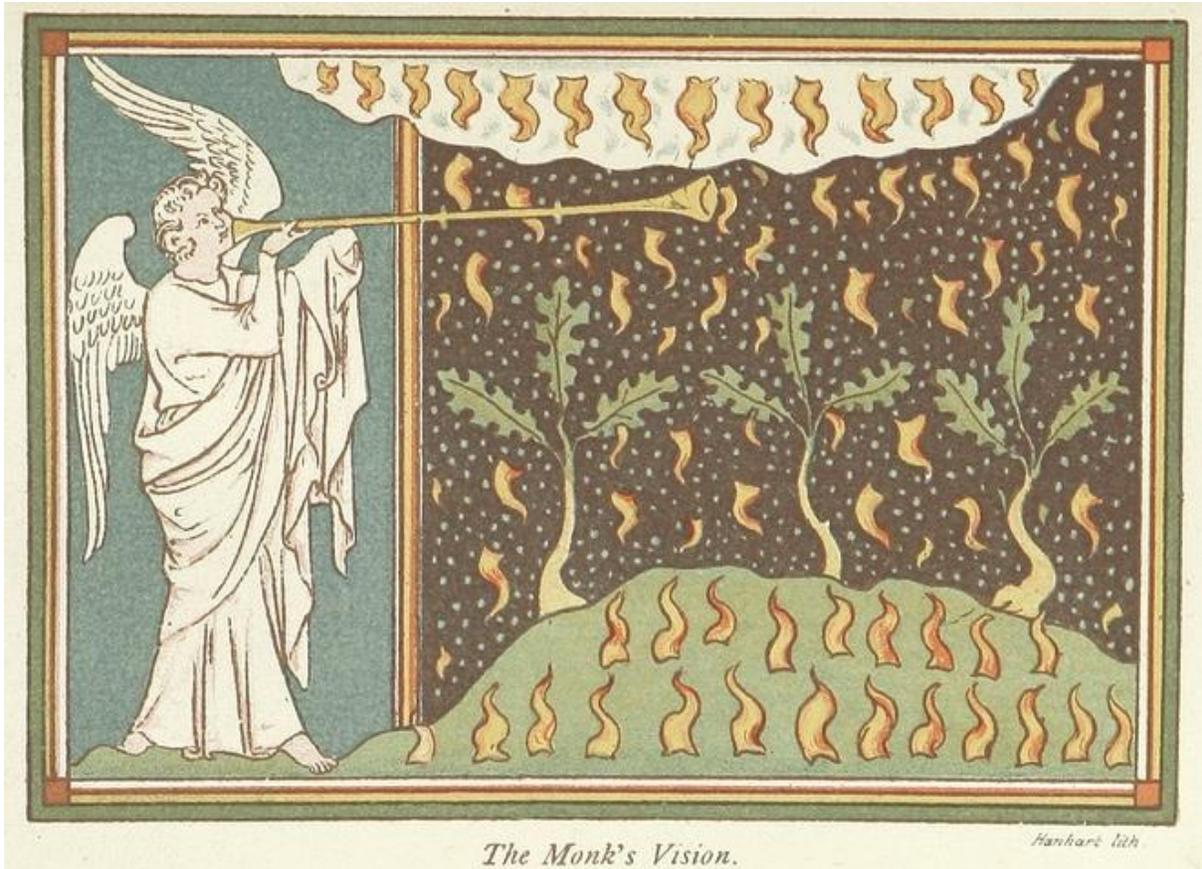


Image taken from page 271 of 'Border Lances. A romance of the Northern Marches in the reign of Edward the Third. By the author of "Belt and Spur" [i.e. Emma Louisa Seeley] ... With many illustrations' from The British Library.

*"The attributes of liminality or of liminal personae... are necessarily ambiguous, since this condition and these persons elude or slip through the network of classifications that normally locate states and positions in cultural space. Liminal entities are neither here nor there; they are betwixt and between the positions assigned and arrayed by law, custom, convention, and ceremon[y].... Thus, liminality is frequently likened to death, to being in the womb, to invisibility, to darkness, to bisexuality, to the wilderness, and to an eclipse of the sun or moon." -Victor Turner*

Liminality is a state of being on the threshold, of being “both” and “neither,” of hovering between two different planes of existence, of straddling the line between inside and outside. Liminal people are tricksters, shape-shifters, border-crossers, part of society and yet held apart. Yet, as Gloria Anzaldúa states, “...we cross into each other’s worlds all the time. We live in each other’s pockets, occupy each other’s territories, live in close proximity and in intimacy with each other... We are mutually complicitous – us and them, white and colored, straight and queer, Christian and Jew, self and Other, oppressor and oppressed.” Contemporary identity relies on such ambiguity and hybridity. Indeed, as Anzaldúa concludes, “the future belongs to those who cultivate cultural sensitivities to differences and who use these abilities to forge a hybrid consciousness that transcends the ‘us’ vs. ‘them’ mentality.” We are thus always already living in liminal spaces, constructing liminal selves, existing “betwixt” and “between,” containing the “both” and the “neither.”

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### **Publication**

Completed papers of publishable academic depth will be invited for inclusion in the graduate literary journal, *Plaza: Dialogues in Language and Literature*.

<https://journals.tdl.org/plaza>