



“ WHEN WE SEE THINGS
AS THEY REALLY ARE,
WE IMMEDIATELY EXPERIENCE
THE IMPERATIVE: *Rejoice.* ”

– Colin Wilson

...a very short interview with

COLIN WILSON

Colin Wilson has published over 80 books since *The Outsider*, his seminal work released in 1956. Covering an astonishing range of subject matter, nearly all of his writings essentially explore a singular idea: the implications for human consciousness of the fact that we sometimes spontaneously experience those peak moments of inner freedom and sheer delight that G.K. Chesterton called "absurd good news." And, by contrast, the frustration, if not agony, of feeling stuck in our ordinary point of view, or the "triviality of everydayness." (The following exchange was conducted via e-mail nearly five years ago!)

WHJ: *Please elaborate on the connection between the artist's impulse toward creativity and expression and the religious person's yearning for spiritual freedom or union.*

COLIN: Ooof! I don't feel like writing you an essay to answer that question. Norman Mailer once said to me that he got fed up with people who, after a lecture, asked ten-cent questions that required ten-dollar answers, and this is an example. I just don't have time to write you pages and pages on religion and creativity. Ask more down to earth questions, like how old are you, have you ever had syphilis, etc. and I'll answer. (The answer to those is 67 and no.)

Editor's Note: Presumably Colin is closer to 72 by now.