

1. THE WORLD

Olivier's world represents the world of the young. It is a simple world, in which everything revolves around the search for happiness in love and the suffering of unrequited infatuation. Although Olivier is portrayed as a narcissist, behind this lies a real problem of adolescents, the mistaken belief that one can perfect one's own world by constructing facades. In this period of life, we often believe that we can impress another person with facades. But in doing so, we most often encounter worlds that seek only admiration for their own facades. This does not lead to true love, for love always requires truth, not lies. Fabricated worlds are often self-oriented, constantly striving for self-perfection, unaware that they can only be perfect without facades. In case of failure, the rejection of one's own world only intensifies, which leads to a lack of acceptance.

Olivier does not understand why his unhappy story repeats itself time and again. He does not realize that he himself is to blame for everything, and he always blames others. This first world is simple, and the story almost threadbare. But at this point, the reader must be acquainted with the book's conception, and too many complications would obscure the essence. The inner world, described in allegories, is not equally accessible to everyone, so it is important for the reader to gradually realize that a literal understanding of the story makes less and less sense. At the same time, those who are prepared to abandon the notions and patterns they have believed in their entire lives are richly rewarded with new insights.

Olivier's most important reason is Emocio. The story therefore outlines several characteristics of this reason. His world is open—even a complete stranger can enter the young man's house, and Olivier will feel no discomfort. Emocio sees everything as rosy and believes everything, so he will not think that anyone would wish him harm. The polished dancing shoes, the ball, the chessboard, and other objects in the house hint at what Emocio is good at. The photographs on the wall show his way of thinking; an unfinished poster on the table reveals where the young man works. One need only connect the picture on the poster with one of the subsequent stories. All of this reveals how the reader should understand the allegories in this book. Most of the details, of course, can only be noticed and connected upon a second reading, which is why one will then also get the feeling of reading a different book.

One of the more important lessons of this story is the realization of the possibility of abusing the knowledge that [psi] offers to humanity. Eros thoughtlessly uses his understanding of infatuation because he wants to help his friend. There is an effect, certainly, but it is short-lived, and the abuse is punished. For Life presides over coincidences, because the meaning of life is not the fulfillment of all our

desires, but a school from which we must learn. Happiness is merely the reward for success.