

# ALL THE WORLD'S A SCREEN

SHAKESPEARE & SOCIAL MEDIA

# GREATEST SOCIAL ISSUE?

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**50% of students in my class said...**

Depression, anxiety, shame, feelings of inferiority, etc. caused by social media usage.

# THE EFFECTS

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- ✦ Decreased attention span
- ✦ Decreased interest in reading (and movies/television)
- ✦ Exposure to harmful material/temptations
- ✦ Exposure to predators
- ✦ Increase in (cyber)bullying
- ✦ Increase in dissatisfaction
- ✦ Increase depression and anxiety

# IDENTITY

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“Who Am I?”

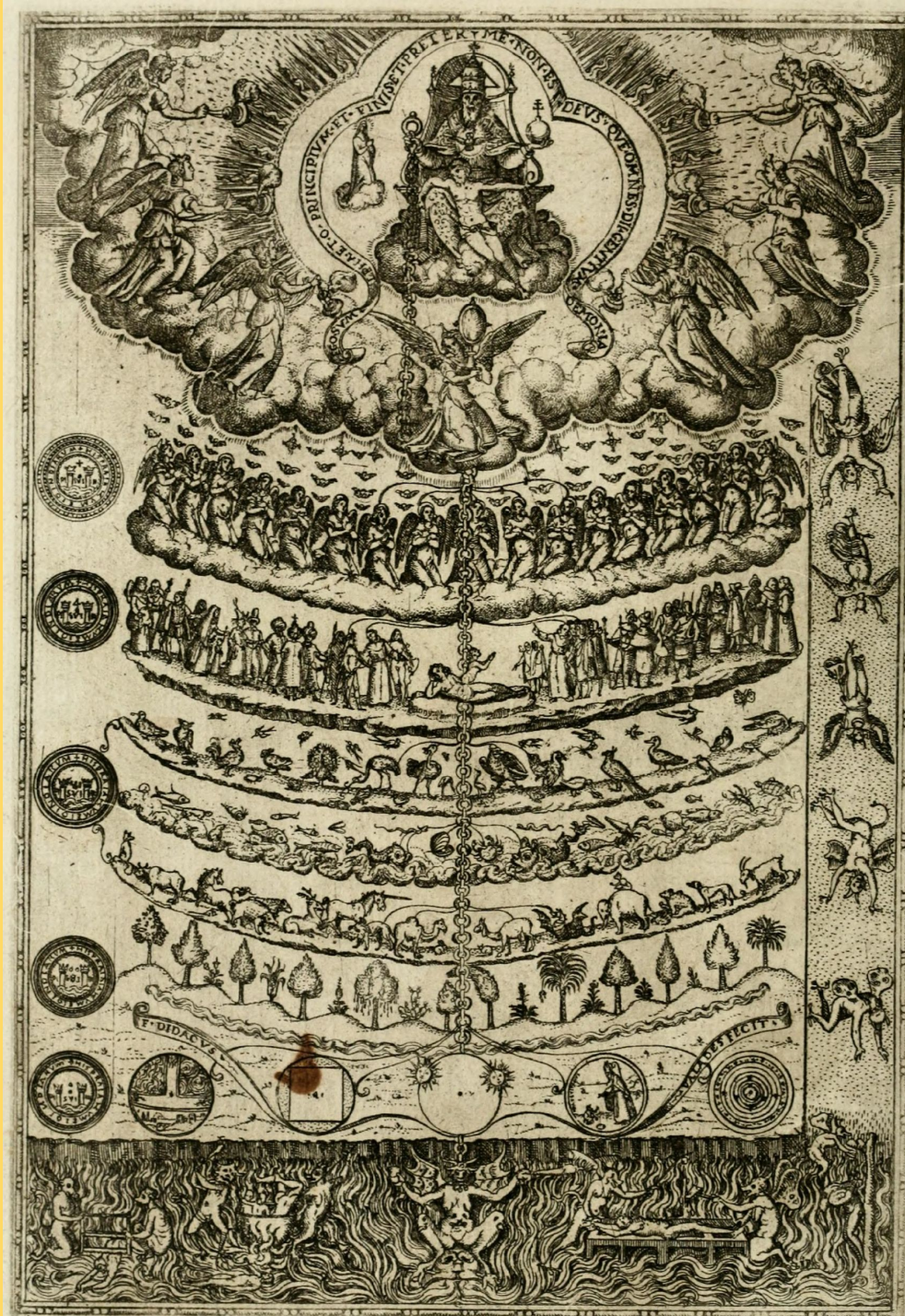
# PREMODERN ERA

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## The Enchanted World

“In the enchanted world, the meaning exists...outside of us, prior to contact; it can take us over, we can fall into its field of force. It comes on us from the outside.”

— Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age*



**Didacus Vilades**  
The Great Chain  
of Being  
(1579)

# PREMODERN SELFHOOD

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- ✦ We **discover** our identities
- ✦ We **conform** to reality
- ✦ We **accept** our place in the order of things

# MODERN ERA

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## The Disenchanted World

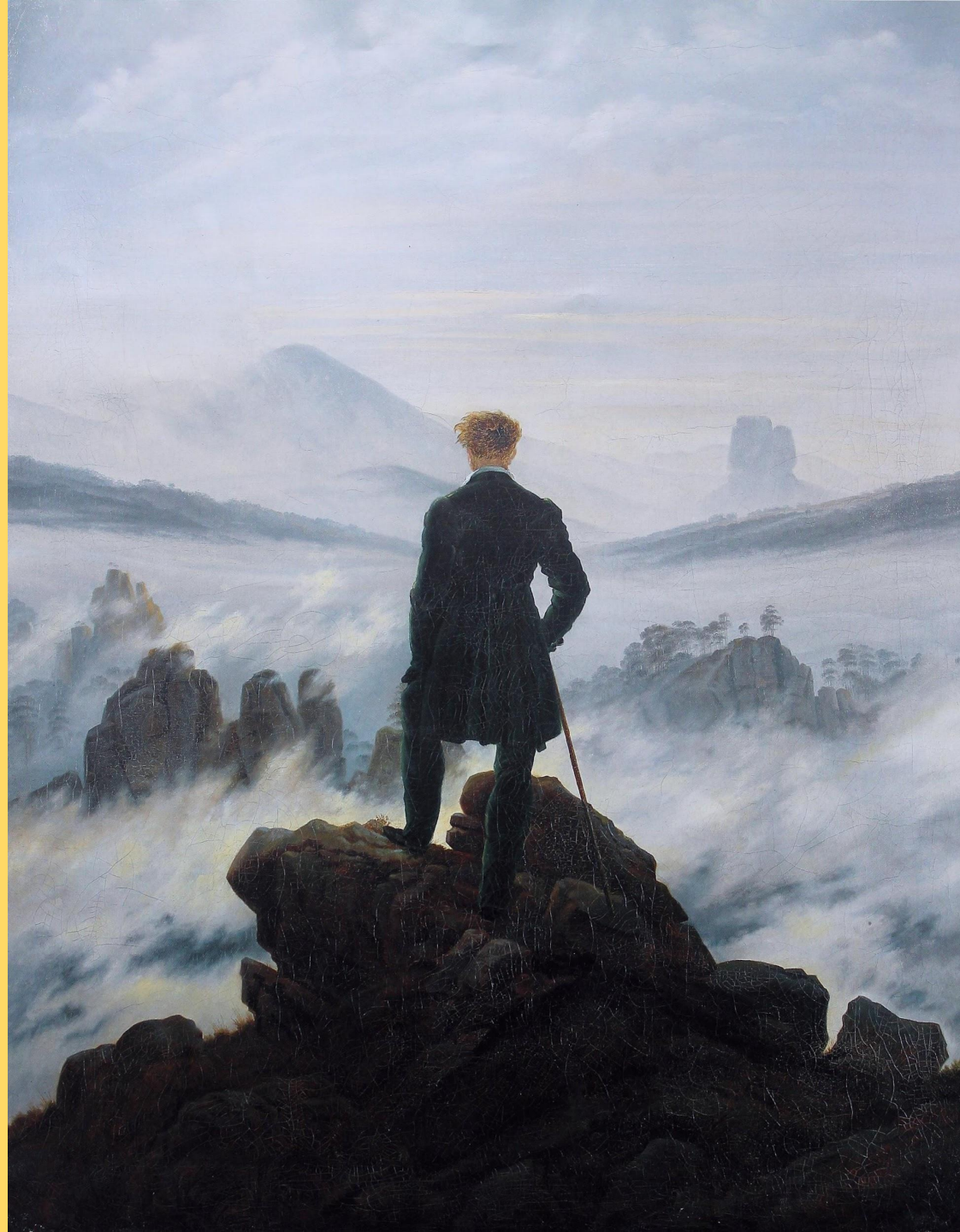
“[Meanings] are ‘in the mind,’ in the sense that things only have the meaning they do in that they awaken a certain response in us.”

— Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age*



**Caspar David  
Friedrich**

*Wanderer Above  
the Sea of Fog*  
(1888)



"The artist should  
paint not only  
what he has in  
front of him but  
also what he sees  
inside himself."

— Friedrich

# MODERN SELFHOOD

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- + We ***design*** our identities
- + We ***control*** reality
- + We ***create*** a new order of things

# MODERN IDENTITIES

Carl Trueman, *Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* (2020)

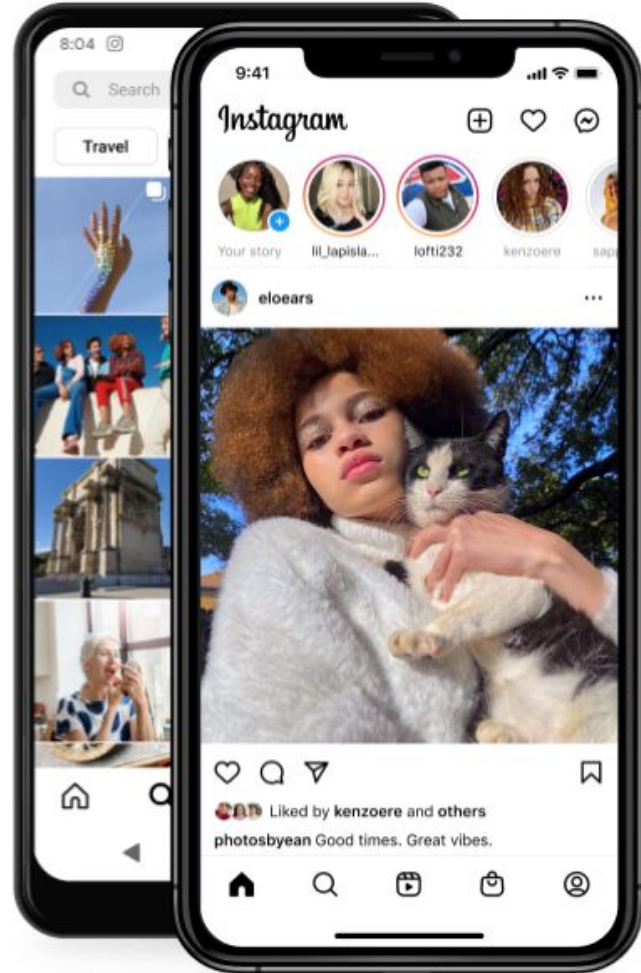
Expressive individualism

- 1) Internal Person
- 2) External Performance





Tik Tok



# SOCIAL MEDIA





"Be Real"

# THE EARLY MODERN ERA

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- ✦ The Renaissance
- ✦ The Reformation
- ✦ The Scientific Revolution
- ✦ The Discovery of the “New” World

“[Man is not great because] he is the intermediary among all creatures, a servant to those above him, the superior of those below him...God made man a creature of indeterminate form, and placed him at the midpoint of the world, and addressed him thus: ‘Adam, you have been given no fixed place, no form of your own, and no particular function, so that you may have and possess, according to your will and inclination, whatever place, whatever form, and whatever function you choose. Divine law assigns to all other creatures a fixed nature. But to you, constrained by no laws, by your own free will, in whose hands I have placed you, will determine your own nature. I have placed you at the center of the world, so that you may easily survey all that is in the world.’”

— Pico della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man* (1486)

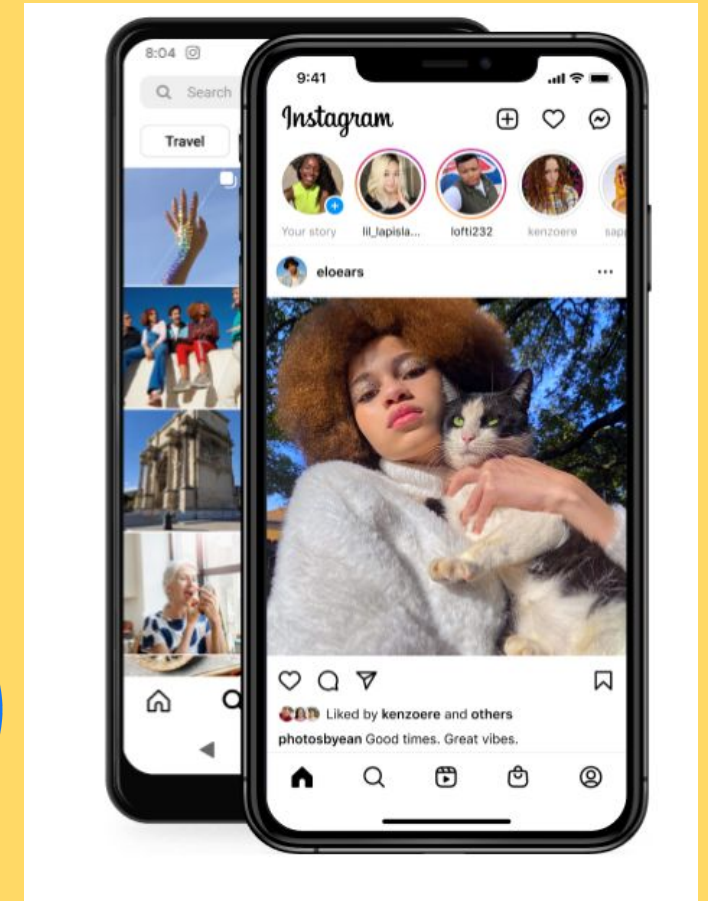
# SHAKESPEARE & SELF-FASHIONING

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“ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE...”

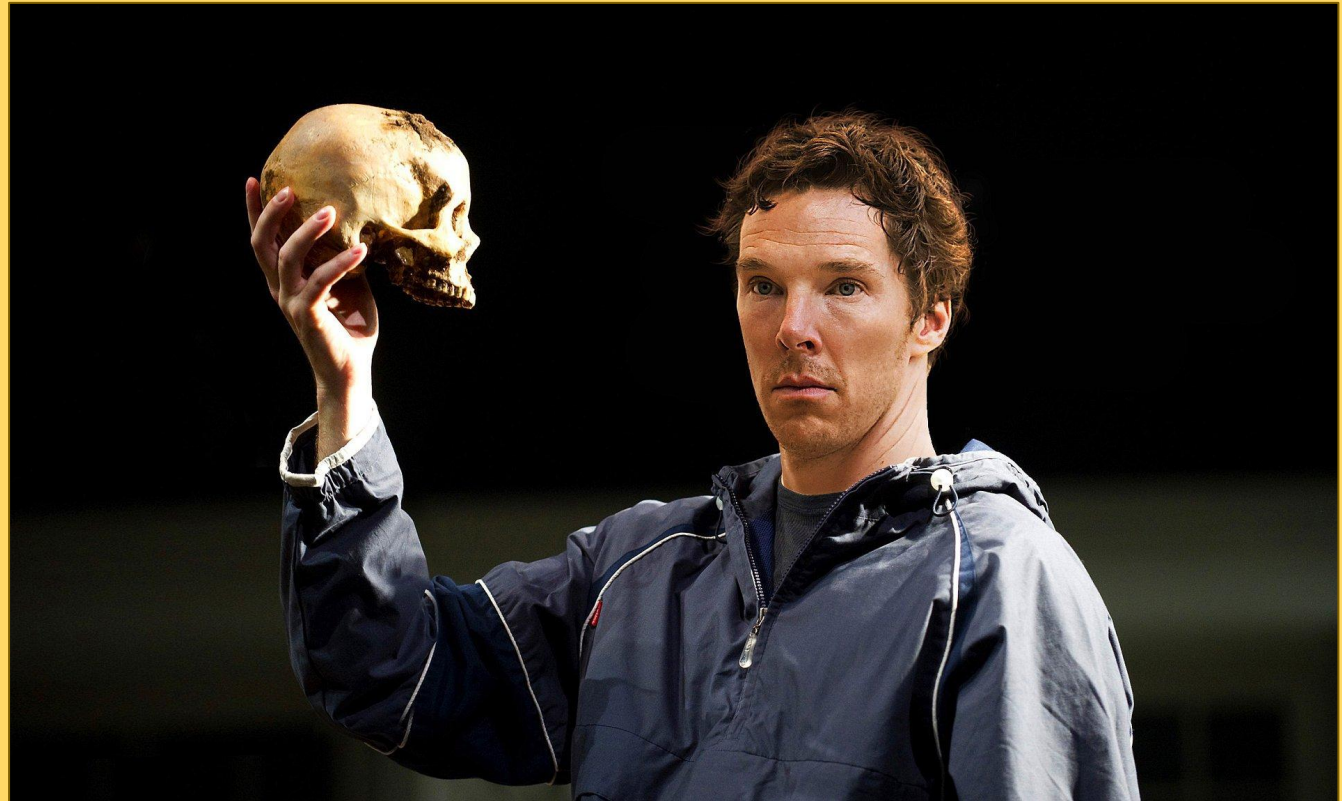


# 1. HAMLET & PERFORMATIVE CULTURE

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**“One may smile,  
and smile, and be  
a villain.”**

Performative  
cultures destroy  
authenticity,  
certainty, and  
meaningful  
connections.





## 2. JULIUS CAESAR & POPULARITY CULTURE

**“The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones.”**

Popularity culture empowers evil, manipulative leaders and fickle followers.



# 3. OTHELLO & INFLUENCER CULTURE

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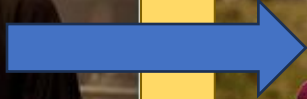
**“Our bodies are  
gardens, to which  
our wills are  
gardeners.”**

What we “see” is  
determined by  
who we listen to.





# 4. HENRY V & REPENTANCE CULTURE



# PROVERBS 18:21

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”