

The Wheelspin of the Mind

Toned gelatin silver prints

6" x 9"

July 2021

Response to Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig

Question #5 from *Questions for Discussion*:

5. In setting out the topic for his Chautauqua, Pirsig compares the current consciousness to a stream overflowing its channels, causing destruction and havoc as it searches for new ones: "There are eras of human history in which channels of thought have been too deeply cut and no change was possible, and nothing new ever happened, and 'best' was a matter of dogma, but that is not the situation now. Now the stream of our common consciousness seems to be obliterating its own banks, losing its central direction and purpose...Some channel deepening seems called for" (p. 8). Can you explain this metaphor? What sorts of change is he referring to? What does he mean by "channel deepening?"

My answer to question #5 from *Questions for Discussion*:

Overflow of information. Ask more questions aka channel deepening. Getting into your own mind.

Relatable to the pandemic in that the flood of information became confusing and some broke rules while others made up their own. Some tried to follow the guidelines, but got lost while the guidelines were also getting lost downstream. And now, as the pandemic is receding (or is it?) guidelines and rules are still confusing while so many want to just forget any of it happened at all.