

Encountering the Rabbit as Other: Exploring Levinas' Rupture

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Abstract: This paper seeks to explore the rupture from the Other as seen in the relationship between a human and her pet rabbit. How are each of our worlds transformed in this relationship? How does encountering otherness radically alter our worlds? After living alone for 6 years, it is difficult to begin to share one's space with someone else even if that someone else hops on all fours, has a fluffy cotton ball tail, and has ears 4 inches tall. My space transforms into our space with a reorientation of my abiding concerns previously focused on myself to now us: bunny and human. The rabbit as Other ruptures my world bringing me out of my solipsism into a shared communal world - a world I am now called to embrace and share with my rabbit. Drawing on *Totality and Infinity* and *Otherwise than Being*, the rupture from the rabbit as Other will be explored in terms of Levinas' discussion of enjoyment, the Face, and substitution. Implications of these insights gained from this analysis into the rabbit Other will be discussed in terms of its relevance for psychology.