

YANCEY GATES GUEST POST-2

To better understand the natures of things, the West separates the various qualities, experiences, and mental vibrations of the person into separate and distinct categories. This may have begun with the Greek thinker Aristotle, called the father of categorical logic. But the East has a different history and a very dissimilar philosophy: there are no real distinctions, all the qualities of the Self being of the mind. Both sides certainly do have merit, there is truth in both concepts.

Yancey Gates is kind of sitting on the fence, versed in Eastern philosophies but living and dealing with Western beliefs on a daily basis. He's pretty much alone, something of a kook in our 9-5 business climate, yet would be very much at home in Eastern society.

I had actually begun writing a novel I would call "World's Faire", about a contractor who was hired to plan construction of some of the elements of a Fair that would reach beyond the boundaries of such a typical happening, encompassing the entire region. It was to have a spiritual theme, and our protagonist, the contractor, would be forced to deal with the spiritual connections to the fair: a Buddhist monastery and a tribal Indian chief. But the book stalled after I had written just a couple of chapters and I put it aside.

Along comes a new idea, and a fresh start on a new novel, Yancey Gates, about a very spiritual person. And I realized I could put these two books together; Yancey Gates and World's Faire. But I had a problem to overcome, for both books had begun in first person present – a writing style and tense that I've come to favor; it brings immediacy and some tension the moment. And besides, spiritualism focuses on the Self, so making the Self paramount aids in conveying the metaphysical information central to this book.

I solved the problem of two first person characters (usually a no-no in writing), by dividing the book into several "parts", a new part beginning whenever there is a change in lead characters. Now readers can experience the mind and thoughts of persons of varying degrees of spiritual awareness. And there is a yet bigger similar type change in a later part of the book which I'll not get into here.

The purpose of Yancey Gates, the novel, is to bring readers into the experience of a man who is seeking to overcome the world, putting all of his mental resources into it. If this book succeeds, it will help readers to identify the various states of awareness, and to progress in awakening the mind, and to measure his progress in doing so by putting a yardstick up to his various past and present perceived states of awareness.

The World's Fair is a sidebar, a project dropped into Yancey's lap in his capacity as an employee at the Planning Department, in San Francisco where the new World's Fair will be headquartered. It comes out of the author's imagination; a grand World's Fair unlike any other Fair that has ever been known. The spiritual theme offers great opportunity for Yancey to progress in his spiritual role, but similarly turns up the worst in his superiors at Planning, who are bent on finding influence with the Governor, who is driving World's Fair project.

The cast of characters, with their human failings and strengths, who enter and interact in Yancey's world will spur him on, helping him to complete his final journey one day, and if readers feel so similarly motivated, this book will have been a success.