

## THE CASE OF SOSIA VERSUS SOSIA

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A somewhat more specific aspect of human experience is suggested by Sosia's meeting up with his double upon his return home after a prolonged expedition abroad. For anyone who has made an abrupt break in the course of his life, who has gone away and changed as the result of new experiences, who has developed hitherto unsuspected facets of his character – for any such person Sosia's position should be familiar.

(first paragraph): Sosia is the real tragic character because of his struggle with his double.

Let us forget Mercury for a moment and look at what Sosia would have experienced without him. For the slave returning from the great adventure there would certainly be a brief moment when he would not quite be ready to step into the old role, when he might well insist, "I'm not that same old Sosia you used to know."

(second paragraph): Sosia versus Sosia

For any person picking up an old way of life after distance in time or space, it is easy to feel that there is a familiar self waiting to claim one, a self which has been there all the time and which is presently so real as to seem to deny the reality of anything experienced away from it.

(third paragraph): It is dangerous to leave the usual time or space.

**Commento [E11]: GRAMMAR FOCUS:**  
The indefinite pronoun

**Commento [E12]:** From that moment on

**Commento [E13]: GRAMMAR FOCUS:**  
Past conditional

**Commento [E14]: GRAMMAR FOCUS:**  
Modal verbs

**Commento [E15]:** Moment of crisis

**Commento [E16]: GRAMMAR FOCUS:**  
The indefinite pronoun

**Commento [E17]: GRAMMAR FOCUS:**  
The indefinite pronoun

This sense that an established system of **patterned** reactions and habits exists almost as a separate self which one must decide **whether** or not to recognize may appear either as **threat** or temptation, but I believe that the experience is universal.

**Commento [E18]: GRAMMAR FOCUS:**  
Indirect question

(fourth paragraph): Threat or temptation in recognizing the old self.