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**Intimate stories of migration and
other important departures**

a research using tools of narrative analysis



**A project on the border of scientific
and artistic investigation**

**I analyze stories of migration
experienced by some of my best
friends and some of my relatives,
including my own daughter**

These characters belong to different generations:

Silent Generation

Baby Boomers

Latchkey Generation

Millennials

Stories take place in different historical periods: communist era, the '90s and the recent era

Subjective point of view of a person

- who never wanted to emigrate**
- who is getting old far away from important people who left the country**
- who seeks for meaning in his decision to stay in Romania**

The narrative material:

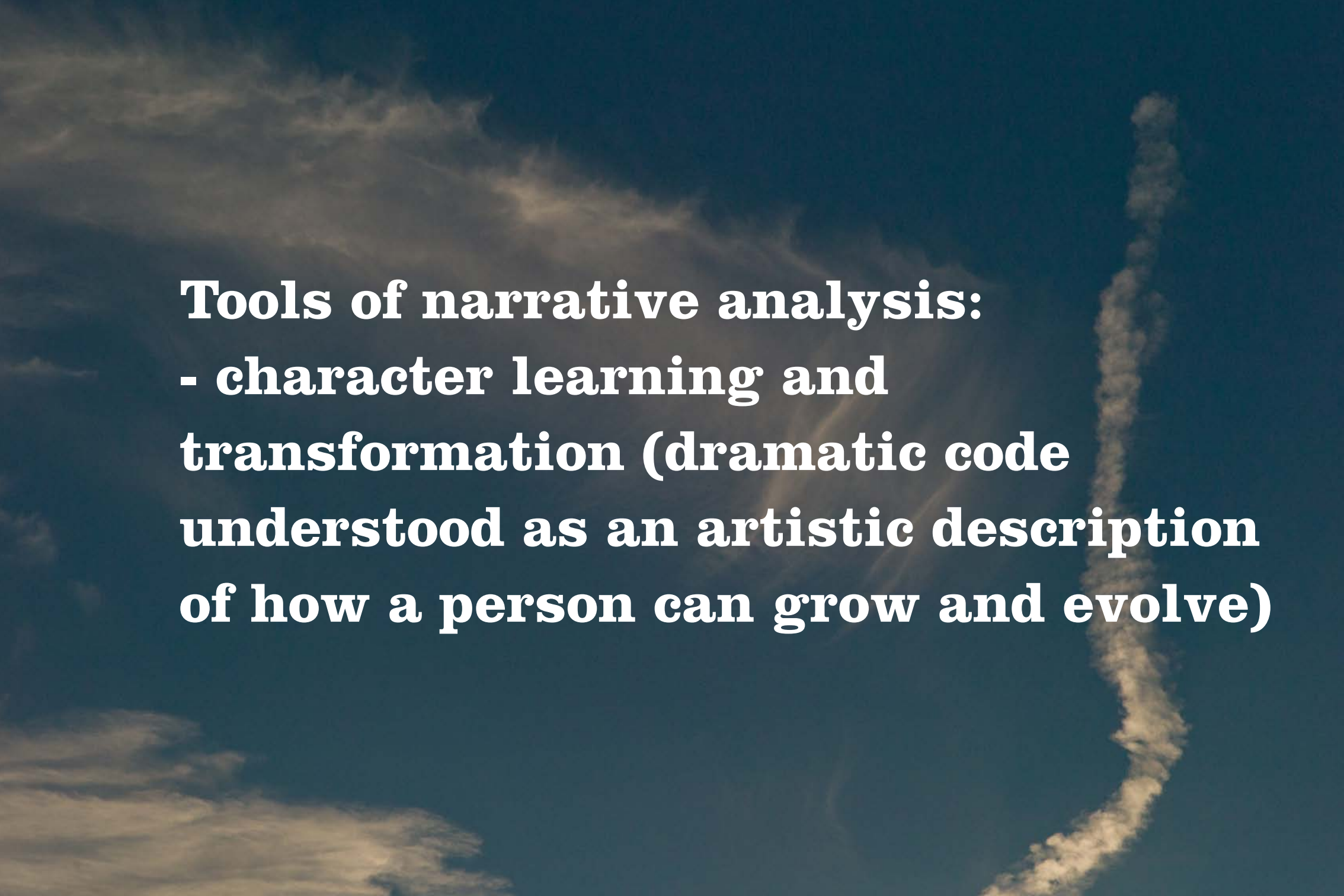
- **stories of migration constructed from in depth interviews**

- **my own life story connected to these people who emigrated, but also to a reference group of friends who stayed in the country**

- **my subjective recollections of important departures in my life**

Basic elements of a story:

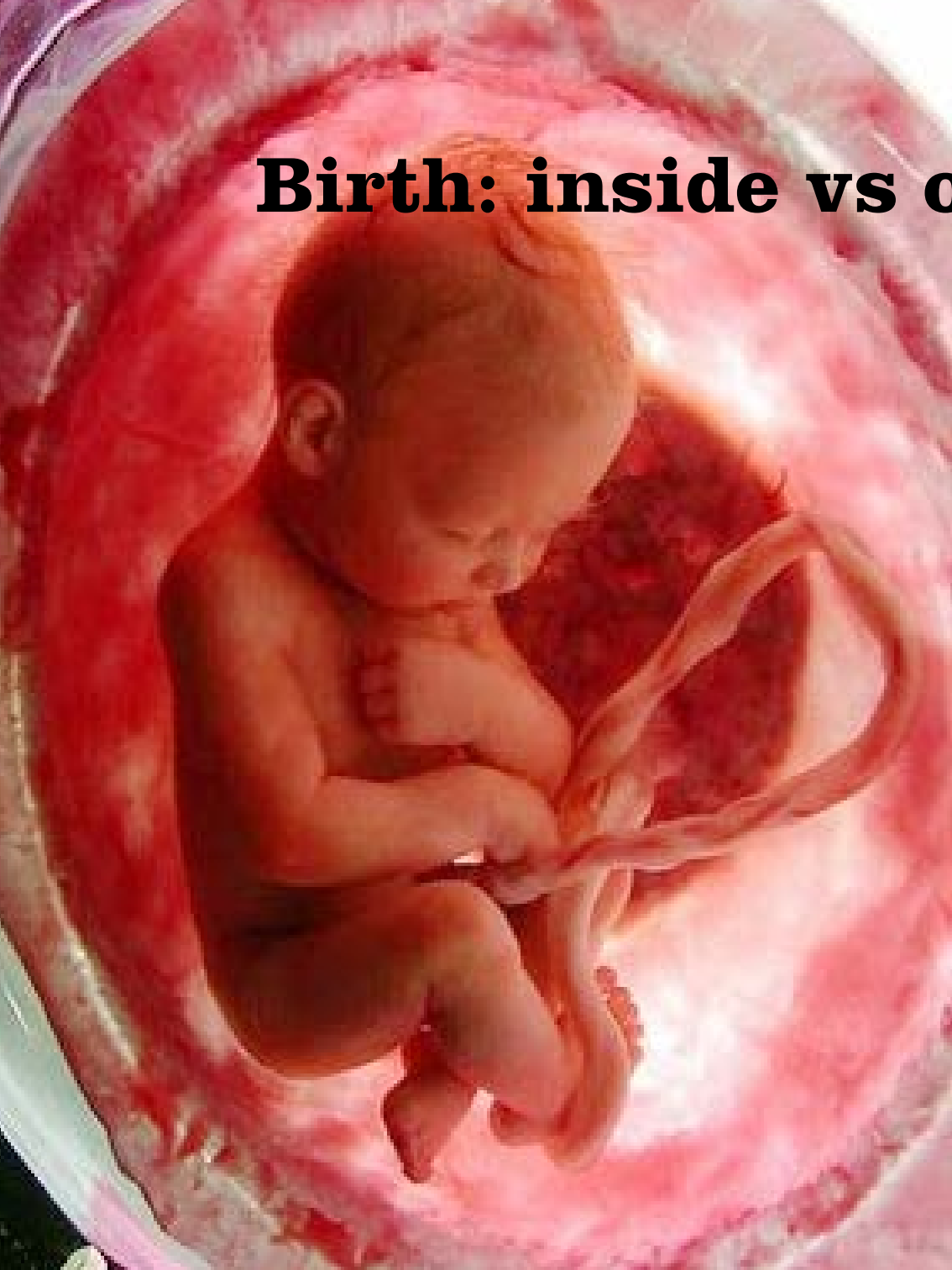
- story world, protagonist, weakness and need, problem, desire, opponents, plan, battle, self revelation, new equilibrium



Tools of narrative analysis:
- character learning and transformation (dramatic code understood as an artistic description of how a person can grow and evolve)

As a person who never wanted to emigrate and never had this experience (but of the one left behind in the country), I try to compare these migration stories with important departures that I have experienced in my own life to discover some working useful concepts for analyzing these stories

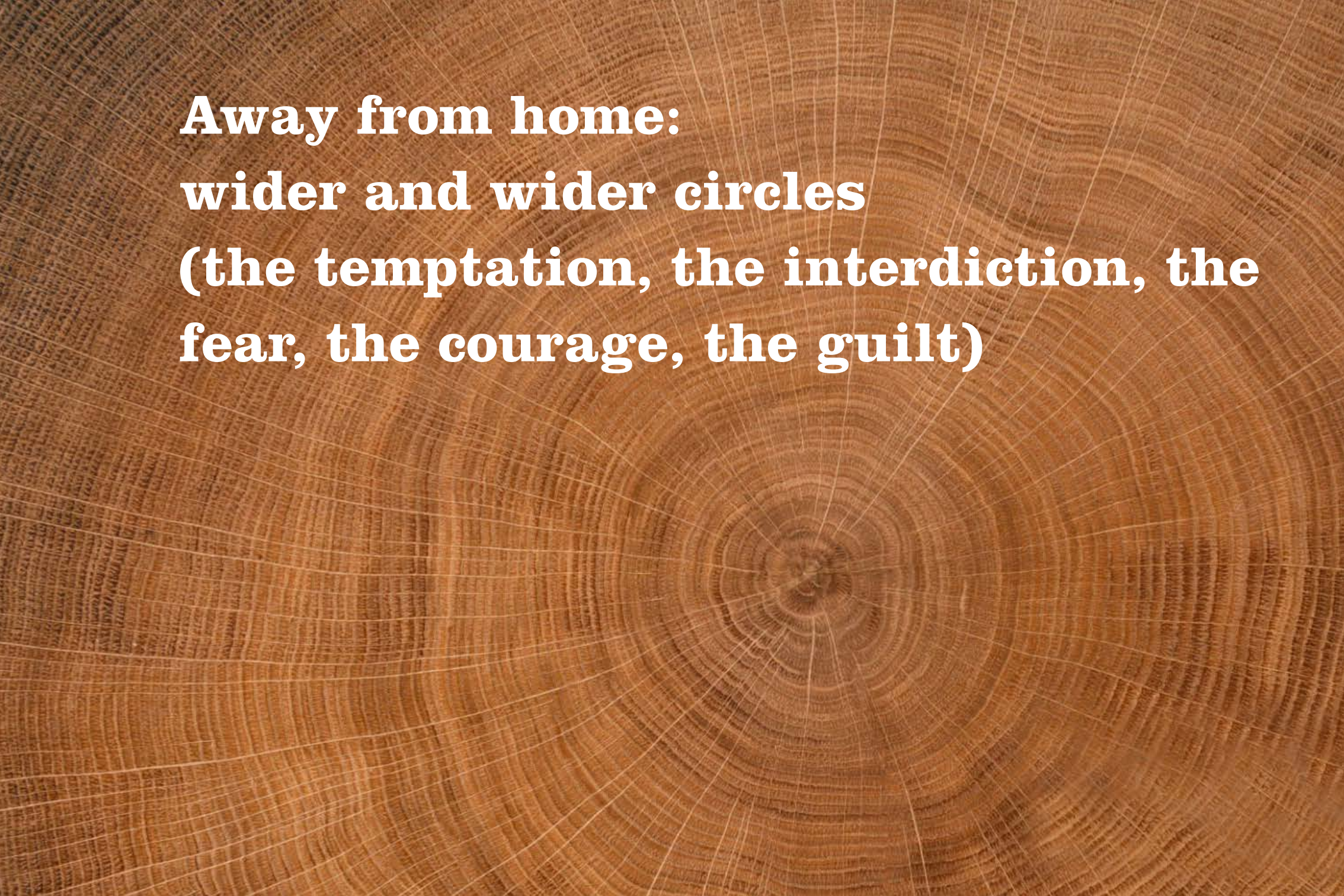
Birth: inside vs outside



House: inside vs outside

Country: home vs abroad



The background of the image is a close-up, top-down view of a tree trunk's cross-section. It shows a dense pattern of concentric growth rings, with a central pith area. The wood has a warm, brownish-orange hue. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of this background.

**Away from home:
wider and wider circles
(the temptation, the interdiction, the
fear, the courage, the guilt)**

The window:

the dream for departure



**Leaving:
the gap between
anticipation
and result**






**Returning:
ruins and nostalgia**

A close-up photograph of an elderly person's hands. The skin is wrinkled and aged. The right hand is holding a white medical device, possibly a pulse oximeter, with a white cable extending from it. The left hand is resting on a white fabric surface, and a clear plastic IV drip chamber is visible on the wrist. The background is a white, textured fabric, likely a hospital gown or bedsheet.

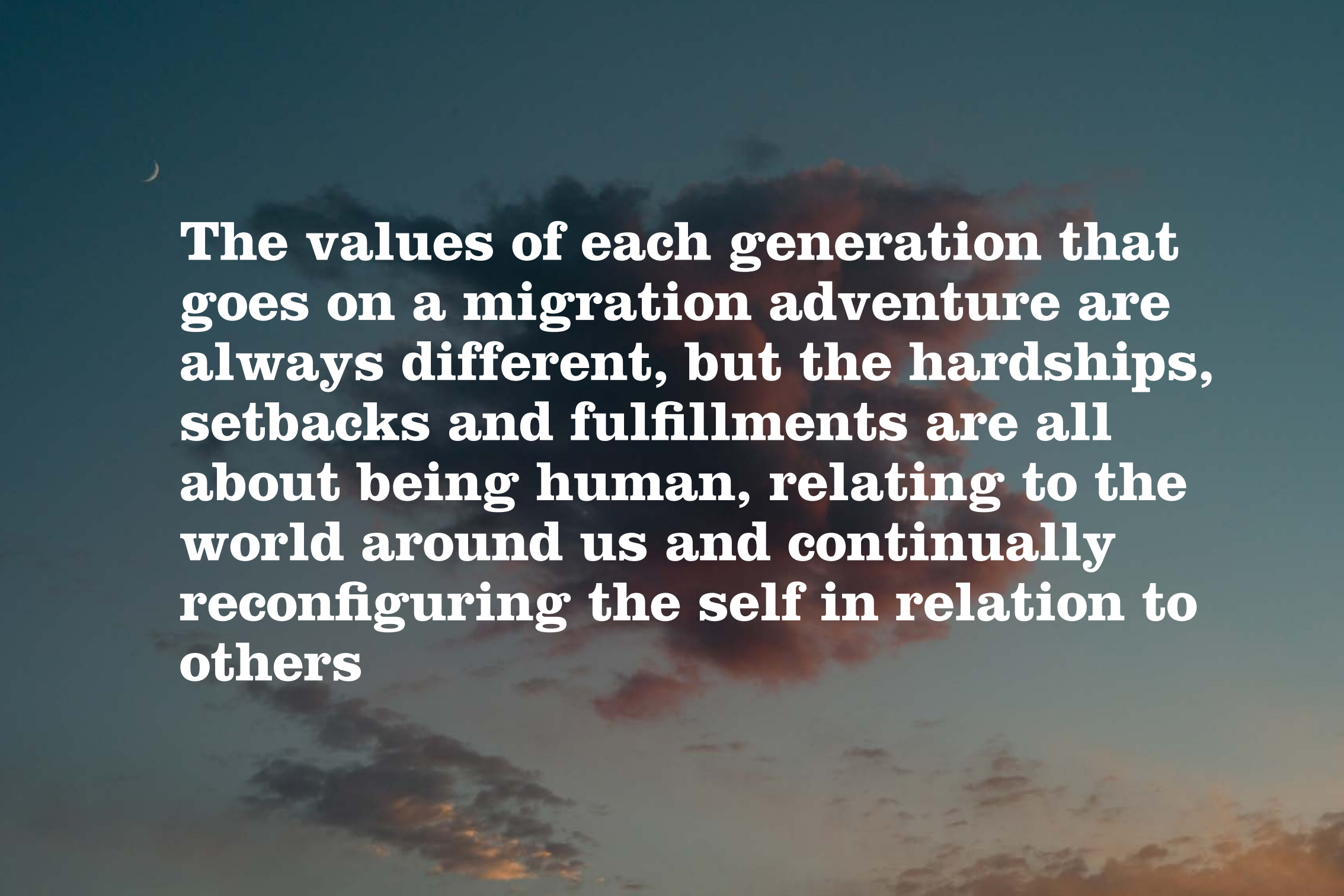
**Getting old:
experiencing loneliness**



I place migration in the class of other important departures we experience in our lives: birth, childhood explorations, adolescent quests, leaving home, estrangement from friends and death

All of these stories, that seem to have important departures at their core, define a class of primordial spaces (inside versus outside or home versus abroad) which configure pairs of concepts such as safety and challenge, belonging and separation, communion and solitude, renunciation and reconfiguration.

The dilemma of migration, the search for the self, breaking away from the community you came from in the hope that shock will take you out of your routine, the self revelation far from home, the return and synchronization in time - these are recurring themes in these stories.

A background image of a sunset sky with a crescent moon in the upper left corner. The text is overlaid on this background.

The values of each generation that goes on a migration adventure are always different, but the hardships, setbacks and fulfillments are all about being human, relating to the world around us and continually reconfiguring the self in relation to others

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