

I'm not a bot



Hi everybody, Would you please help me understand the bold part: "I took a seat in the dim balcony, far from the stage. I'd been writing for more than a decade, and during the past year my first stories had found homes in nationally respected literary journals. Nevertheless, the chasm between the podium and myself seemed unbridgeable. It was as if the writers who would occupy the stage's empty chair had pierced a literary dimension in space-time and had returned simply to pass along wisdom, be applauded, and collect an honorarium. I feared that I would never join their ranks." from Mentor by Tom Grimes Thanks I understand it as some "extraordinary status" (= literary dimension) whereby it isn't necessarily to be longed for, if that makes sense, but then again, the writer fears he/she won't join their ranks. Hmmm. Just my opinion from what you posted. Could you tell us more precisely which words or phrases you need help with? Cross-posted. Our world is said to be embedded in a four-dimensional* space-time continuum and every event, action has its location in it. So the author probably tried to express that when the character in his book, sitting in the balcony, watched speakers at the podium, it was as if these speakers / writers formed some literary dimension in a space-time (added the fifth dimension to existing four dimensions, through which they moved during their speech) and after their speech they "returned" from this literary "dimension" for applause, honorarium. And the character, sitting in the balcony, who presumably desired to be like them, feared that he would never become part of these writers (he would never be able to form this "literary dimension"). That's how I would interpret it. * Some say there are more than four dimensions in the space-time continuum. literary /literari; literari/ adj of, relating to, concerned with, or characteristic of literature or scholarly writing: a literary discussion, a literary style Hi, Preprend, thanks for the comment. What's your opinion about the meaning of "pierce a dimension"? Does it mean to develop a dimension or something else? Hi Elwintee, I don't understand the relation between "pierce" and "dimension", the meaning of "simply" (easily, frankly, merely...?), and I don't know wether the word "simply" is connected to "return" or "pass along wisdom". Hi morior_invictus, Thank you for your complete help. What you have said seems to be rational. Do you think these writers had formed the literary dimension by giving that special speech (which the author is taking about) or by writing great hits, before attending that speech? Hi, Preprend, thanks for the comment. What's your opinion about the meaning of "pierce a dimension"? Does it mean to develop a dimension or something else? I think the "pierce" means that they broke into another dimension, or catapulted themselves into another dimension. That said, the I agree with morior's #4 explanation. I think it's thorough and captures the meaning. Hi Elwintee, I don't understand the relation between "pierce" and "dimension", the meaning of "simply" (easily, frankly, merely...?), and I don't know wether the word "simply" is connected to "return" or "pass along wisdom". I don't think we have answered your specific query about the meaning of 'simply'. In your context it means 'just to [do those things mentioned]', merely to receive the applause etc and not for any other or better reason. Elwintee, great help, thanks Sure morior_invictus, your help is complete, thanks please tell me how should I understand the literary B-sides and rarities.? In contrast to Wikipedia's crowd-sourced objectivity, twentieth-century encyclopedias turn out to be storehouses of literary B-sides and rarities.

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