

Andrey Tarkovsky's *Stalker* (1979)



With our two hands we cover time and space,
Floating as if on high, but yet aware
That on the crown of power in pride of place
Sit poverty and vanity, and care
About our miserable daily crust.
We cast accounts with galaxies out there,
Grounded on earth among our native dust.

Discussion Questions

1. *Stalker* is preeminently a film of visually rich images and subtle sounds. What do you notice about the film's various patinas and shots? About its soundtrack?
2. Why are so many shots long takes? How does this contribute to the meaning of the film?
3. What exactly is the Zone? What does it mean to the various characters?
4. Is being a stalker (perhaps a better English translation would be "tracker") a spiritual vocation?
5. Does Stalker have faith? Piety? Can one stalk (track) the Truth?
6. What does Writer want? What drives him? What does Professor want?
7. Why are Writer and Professor resistant to Stalker's methods?
8. Why is weakness important to survival and faith?
9. What is the meaning of the tunnel and the door?
10. Why does neither man enter the room?
11. Is the daughter a miracle? Is she actually telekinetic?
12. What does it mean to have hope?