

Visible

Something that is visible is something that can be seen. People, as well as things, can be visible, and in more ways than one. A person can literally be visible: you can see him or her. He may be partly visible, as in a cropped photo where part of his body was not caught by the camera, or he may be super up-close, as in a real big guy who's standing in front of you and about to hit you in the face. A person can also be visible on the social (or political, or intellectual) scene, notable for ideas or achievements.

Examples

1 The visible Rockies

The Rocky Mountains are often sharply visible from Boulder, Colorado. This visibility is at its sharpest when cloud formations are rapidly passing across the mountain range, at one time concealing, at the next revealing it. The transitory covering of the range, frequently cutting into the solar brilliance, seems to intensify the visibility of the range when the clouds have passed. Is the range actually more visible when the clouds have passed over, and then left it? Or is the range of the same visibility, and the difference in clarity solely in the perceiver? Is the perceiving eye shocked and startled by the return of a clear vision of the mountains? Are the mountains like an old friend, whom you see at the far end of the Airport for the first time in twenty years, and consume with your eyes as you walk rapidly toward her?

2 Visible me

I live as something visible, and will in fact die visible too, and be visible until my cremated ashes have been dispersed. (Won't even those ashes, which will become grains of earth, maintain some form of my visibility?) From the inside, however, I am not visible as a whole living being. I may see my hand, or my knee, but I can barely see the tip of my nose or the skin of my lower back. What evidence have I that I am visible in the round? For evidence I turn to my experience of other people. I look at my wife who is visible in front of me. Am I visible like her? I cannot see her back when I am looking at her front. Does she have a back? Does she have a front? What kind of evidence can I take, from looking at my wife, for a visibility of myself as a whole?