

THE PSYCHE PICKLED IN FORMALDEHYDE



KATHLEEN RAINE

Thomas Merton.

"I stand among you as one who offers a small message of hope. . . there are always people who dare to seek on the margin of society, who are not dependent on social acceptance, not dependent on social routine, and prefer a kind of free-floating existence under a state of risk."

One could suggest that applying the archetypal material to immediate practical problems – in whatever context, will assist in helping to avoid the psyche from being pickled in formaldehyde!

Organizations are not 'organic' enough –
Conceptual graveyards

What I suggest is a 'bosberaad' - *indaba* . . . which speaking esoterically, tempers the fixed lead with the conductive copper.

Selling a product – betrays the greater vision of C.G. Jung – and having abandoned social therapy in favour of individualistic analysis – not contributing anything to nation building . .

1946 Zurich programme

Feeding off their struggle credentials – and their credit cards –

Not only have I been a 'Fly on the Wall' in regard to the C.G. Jung Centre – but a microdot of fly shit on the wall . . Fly on fly paper – the more it thrashes the more it sticks to the paper –

So there are ideas out there. In any event BLOGS are free - websites are free - and you have a mailing list - so you can go virtual - - digital . . And there is the problem of Lulu - I think she should resign - and we should have a Minister of Culture from WITHIN the cultural sector . . .

So there is work to do - Samten de Wet

I have always maintained that the major process in our present evolution is to blow the shit out of the tubes . . . as in Plutocracy . . . a lot of debris gathers in the folds of the colon and that is why an enema is sometimes necessary . . . birds apparently transfer seeds across the planet in their bowels, when migrating - so the idea that Pluto meant riches, and is usually associated with stored underground wealth is not so bad . . . the gnomes of Zurich too . . .

A sense of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of
the setting suns.

William Wordsworth

1st March - negotiating water. A trillion suns! Colliding galaxies. Planets being formed: *Jupiter Ascending; Interstellar; Gravity; The Matrix Trilogy; Cloud Atlas; . . . Nat. Geographic* - the universe originating in a bindu. The sheer scale of galactic space etc. This line of thought started with the Andromeda Constellation - then by what utter ignorance do we think GOD speaks to us?

14th March - Maureen buying R42,000 worth of luxury perfumes: 22 Caves or Places with drop-down menus or side bars &c. Visual codes for the Arcana - e.g. IBIS for the Magus. . . = 1 and A. Amazing how even in dreams the Hermetic correspondences are operating.

Glad-wrap/*psyche/techne*. Breton on the un-conscious = really means the sub-conscious - hit on the head with a frying pan - BLACK OUT - Plutonic - even in dreams we are conscious. Clouds - digital.

LANGUAGE AND THE UNCONSCIOUS IN SURREALISM

"Pure psychic automatism, by which one seeks to express, be it verbally, in writing, or in any other manner, (is) the real working of the mind. Dictated by the unconsciousness, in the absence of any control exercised by reason, and free from aesthetic or moral preoccupations."

Quote from '*Manifesto du Surréalisme*', André Breton, Paris, Editions KRA, 1929 [[ONLINE HERE](#)]

Gerald Mead, *The Centennial Review*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (Summer 1976), pp. 278-289

Ostensibly - to stretch out to view . . . my mother had her 'Golden Rules' - the Daumal *Mount Analogue* - leave a place in a better state than you found it - her washing out the bath at a boarding house in Keurbooms River. A Bodhisattva idea and action . . . cleaning the bath after use - 3 people betrayed this rule - Jan and Hardy [Rehad] Desai and one ongoing in my own home. Though my mother was no intellectual she had a collection of 'big words' that she enjoyed using in suitable circumstances - also she played with words - and created an affectionate child's language that she used on my father and me - for which she would put on a special voice. Influences might have been Fanny Brice [*hunky dory*] and Jimmy Durante [*Inka Dinka Do*] for example.

DISCIPLINE THE PSYCHE

What I have discovered in my own work, is that the more disciplined the symbolic work, paradoxically - the more activation takes place in the psyche.

The archetype produces from purity, and decomposes into stereotype through impurity.

We would think that it is impossible to discipline the psyche.

This is an essential theme to many alchemical texts - to fix to volatile.

Or, to volatilize that which is fixed.

There is no static state, according to certain philosophical systems, existence is a state of eternal impermanence.

The Tarot, by its very, unfixed Nature - confirms these Teachings.

And - for a definition of psyche - watch this space!

"For before this I was born once a boy, and a maiden, and a plant, and a bird, and a darting fish in the sea."

Empedocles, "*On Purifications*", line 383; p. 207. [[WIKIQUOTE](#)]

THE BABY, THE BATHWATER & THE PILE OF SHIT

"...my heart a lump of lead..."

J.B. Priestly, *Bright Day*.

Religion is a pile of shit said the man, echoed by his daughter. Here I would say that I agree with this friend's view that religion is a pile of shit, but we should not throw the baby out with the bathwater, and remember, that some babies do not even have water to bath in, led alone drink.

Firstly, in South Africa we have a constitution which defends the rights of its citizens of whatever cultural background. We are also concerned not to allow hate speech to be spread through the public channels of the media and so forth. Therefore, when, in a public space, or at least semi-public, such as a Supper Party, where people of religion are present, I think it is a violation of my constitutional rights that my religious beliefs should be trampled on and insulted.

Let me say that I have no problems with my religion being a pile of shit. I have no problems, either, with shit. Shit is manure, organic, part of the natural cycle of nature, a valuable resource in the ecological cycles, it is returned to the Earth and enriches the soil. It is biodegradable and rich in natural gas, as we well know.

So, I have no problem with a religion of shit.

I think that the shit is not actually in the religion, but in the mind of the person who made that statement.

Besides, it is not only our constitutional rights that have to be defended, but also a matter of common decency. I presume that major Universities such as Harvard, Stanford, Yale, Oxford, Cambridge, Bologna, Turin, Rome, Padua, Paris and London, which have Departments of Religious Studies, are all purveyors of piles of shit. Now we also must ask if all the culture that has been produced in the name of Religion, over say roughly the past 7,000 years, is also a pile of shit.

One wonders whether the person who says religion is a pile of shit is not very far removed from the Taliban in their destruction of civil rights. In this case it is not religion per se, that is a pile of shit, but other religions, that are excremental, and to be demonised and hated.

This type of religion, is a pile of shit, and deserves to be re-cycled via the manure process to the Earth that sustains us. To the right-wing Fascists in India, Christianity and Islam is a pile of shit. To right wing Judaism, the Palestinians are a pile of shit, and to be treated as such. To the Red Guards, Tibetan Buddhism was a pile of shit, and the monasteries were blown up, like the Taliban, blew up the Buddhist statues, but very different reasons. To Christianity, all other religions were a pile of shit, and to be liquidated as soon as possible. A brief survey of the genocides in the Name of Christ, does not make pleasant reading. Buddhism, in its turn, has produced some extremely ugly forms in Sri Lanka, Burma, and Cambodia. Catholics, of course spent a few centuries murdering Protestants, who were a pile of shit as well, and Protestants too, washed themselves in the blood of Catholics. From the above one can conclude, logically, that religion is a pile of shit.

But this is where I aim to differ.

Proportions in Buddhist statues

Christian Art . . . Christian music . . .

"Cool things become warm, the warm grows cool; the wet dries, the parched becomes wet."

Heraclitus

According to legend, Oscar Wilde's last words on his deathbed were "Either that wallpaper goes - - or I do." He actually said, "This wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. Either it goes or I do," and he lived a few weeks longer.

Spike Milligan adds:

"We have some medicated wallpaper here, perhaps you'll like to choose a pattern for your womb?"

The One remains, the many change and pass;
Heaven's light forever shines, Earth's shadows fly;
Life, like a dome of many-coloured glass,
Stains the white radiance of Eternity,. . .

Percy B. Shelley

Faith is an ever-widening pool of clarity, fed with springs beyond the margin of consciousness.
We all know more than we know we know.

Thornton Wilder, *The Eighth Day*.

Here you have **THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT!** True!

THE SAN AND THE ELAND

"Let me say, with the risk of appearing ridiculous, that the true revolutionary is guided by strong feelings of love" - Che Guevara.

Lenin is reported to have said: 'I'm no good at art, art for me is something like an intellectual appendix. And when its use as propaganda, which we need at the moment, is over, we shall cut it out, as useless - snip, snip.'

Norman Kaplan, 1st September 2020

"I think this is a load of rubbish. Lenin was not a philistine with no appreciation of the arts. I have a book of his writings and speeches on the subject and can find no reference to such a statement. After the revolution of 1917 he prohibited the destruction of "bourgeois" art and architecture recognizing its historical value and the epoch it was created in. He also identified cinema as the greatest of the arts post revolution. He enjoyed classical music but could not listen to it as he said he had so much to do (and because of ill health so little time) that required his utmost attention and when listening to music he could not concentrate on anything else. This was his personal situation, he did not apply it to society by banning music or any of the creative arts."

ORDER & [DRALA](#)

The Inner geography, or meta-geography.

"Order is the vehicle of the world itself,
and the whole consists of order."

Asclepius [39]

What, if any, is the difference between Order and Sequence? I would say "time" - because a Sequence of Events, takes place in an Order of Time. This entire cluster of procedures and Actions is embedded in Ritual.

DRALA

Most people suffer from a deficiency of *drala*. I think that the popularity of *feng shui* in the mass media will help to rectify the situation. Also a dose of ikebana. To qualify, this is evidence of the repression of aesthetics in our culture, or lack of culture. The lack of *drala*, is a lack of aesthetics. Again, this can be termed: the unconscious - we are unconscious of the way we arrange our domestic space.

Less is more! But excessive clutter can also have its qualities. Baroque versus a Zen dojo, Japanese Tea House. These represent two polarities. For example. the studio of Piet Mondrian and the studio of Francis Bacon.

Order is necessary, but chaos can be creative as well.

To Gaze at The Conditions, but not to acquiesce in their maintenance, she said, as a pseudo-Venetian facade emerged from the mist.

Otherwise it is Back to the Quicksand and the glazing of analogical layers...
PECCANT?
THE ARRANGEMENT. RANSKIKING
THE CONDITIONS. THE SEQUENCE.

The Arrangement as in Ikebana, or Flower Arranging is not possible without sequential action,

KATHLEEN RAINE

Kathleen Raine:

"So we have a revised prayer-book, a Good News Bible rewritten in the language of a chat-show, we have productions of Shakespeare which deliberately flatten out his verse to be read as a paragraph of prose, not to elevate but to depress a rhyme. The "high horse" Pegasus on which, in the Greek myth, the poet ascends, has withdrawn to the world of dreams. David Gascoyne described this school of poetry as "celebration of the commonplace"—not as Vermeer and Traherne celebrated the commonplace, illumined by celestial light, . . . "

"The Vertical Dimension"; in part that is what, for me, is essentially what poetry and all the arts of the Imagination represent in our lives—a scale of values, call it Jacob's Ladder, on which spirits of higher mental regions descend to earth, and on which we, from the realities of this world ascend in vision. And in the second place because, having lived a long life in this changing world, "the vertical dimension," in this sense, is what I feel has come to be neglected, not to say altogether lost, from much of the poetry now being written and from our expectation of it. But when I came to put pen to paper I found such a flood of thoughts pressing in on me that it seemed I could not even begin; for the theme involves so much, involves the very oldest of questions, "What is man?," the question of the Sphinx, the question of the Psalmist, the question my own Master, William Blake, asked again in an emblem depicting a chrysalis with the face of a sleeping child: into what state of consciousness will that sleeper, in metamorphosis from the caterpillar to the winged life, awake? An ancient emblem of the classical world, implying, again, a change of state, a transmutation of consciousness itself. We live in a world to which the very notion of a hierarchy of states of consciousness, is alien. Yet this is the theme which has, in various forms, been central to my life-work, both as a poet and a scholar.

Kathleen Raine, "The Vertical Dimension," *Temenos* 13, pp. 195-213.

Are We Heading Towards Perpetual Adolescence?

Roar Bjonnes reviews Robert Bly's best-selling book, [The Sibling Society](#)

According to Bly, the peer culture has only one kind of vision: a "horizontal gaze," resulting in a flat, one-dimensional, hollow form of culture and consciousness. The family is replaced by the gang down in the dark alley, or the talk-show on TV. A sense of community is replaced by joining the material crowd whose unlimited desires are running up huge credit card bills at the shopping mall. Instead of well-crafted art, rich in symbolism and spiritual depth, we have hedonistic surrealism on MTV. Instead of expressing a longing for the good society, we all dream of becoming rich. Instead of cultivating wisdom to map out a greater understanding of the forces of evil, American politicians want to put all the "bad people" in jail and throw away the key.

These superficial sibling values, now beginning to influence the most remote parts of the world, are brutal and terroristic in their attempt to "flatten" our consciousness. As advertising,

celebrities, and popular music have become the main transmitters of values, a young person's conscience can no longer "rely on outward authority in its battle against impulse," says Bly. "Having to resist without help from parents or teachers, it has to do it all alone, and so it naturally moves toward a primitive, humourless savagery, well expressed in grunge rock, action movies, and piercing of body parts."

“. . . we need to change our lives; we need nothing less than a cultural awakening. This awakening must arise from within by invoking a balance between a positive expression of our horizontal and vertical consciousness, between our vertical and horizontal gaze.”