

LETTER XVII

The Star, Arcanum of Growth

Quotations for Reflection

Growth is flowing, whilst construction proceeds by leaps and bounds. (page 464)

For just as there is a mysterious intermediary agent which effects the passage from imagination to reality, so there is also a no-less mysterious agent which effects the passage from the potential state of a seed to that of maturity, i.e. the passage from what is only potential to its realisation. *This is the agent of transformation from the ideal to the real.* (page 464)

Angelic inspiration and the agent of growth have this in common that they flow—that they do not act through shocks and discharges, but in a continuous way. Continuous transformation is the essential manifestation of the agent of growth, just as creative lightning is that of the magical agent. (page 465)

The great central star of the Card—as, moreover, the whole constellation of eight stars—invites us to an effort of consciousness to unite contemplative justice (the yellow star with eight rays) with active justice (the red star with eight rays), i.e. to unite the guiding principle of understanding with the guiding principle of the will. In other words, it invites us to overcome dualism through the magical and alchemical operation of nailing opposites to one another—that which one calls the “marriage of opposites”. The “marriage of opposites” makes that light-force radiate into the world which renders the future not only acceptable but also desirable, which transforms the future into promise, and which is the antithesis of the thesis of the author of Ecclesiastes, the son of David, king of Jerusalem, who said: “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes i, 9). (page 471)

The light-force which emanates from the star—constituted through the marriage of contemplation with activity, and which is the antithesis of the thesis that “there is nothing new under the sun”—is *hope*. (page 471)

Because every mother professes a double faith—the faith of celestial hope that the future will be more glorious than the present and the faith of terrestrial continuity that the flow of succeeding generations will go forward—in the direction indicated by hope from above. ... Therefore, we could also name the seventeenth Arcanum the “Arcanum of the Mother” or the “Arcanum of Eve”. In her there are actively present, simultaneously, the intuition of celestial hope and the primordial magic of the benediction of the Creator. (page 473)

Hope is for spiritual evolution what the instinct of reproduction is for biological evolution. (page 472)

Here evolution and salvation—the two truths of science and religion—are no longer contradictory: they bear together the message of hope. (page 474)

Now, it is the world which has become the alchemical laboratory, just as it has become the mystical oratory. (page 475)

“*Every idea, human or divine, Which is rooted in the past, Has its foliage in the future.*” — Victor Hugo (page 476)

The poet is the point at which the separated waters meet and where the flow of hope and that of continuity converge... Poetic inspiration is the union of blood from above (hope) and blood below (continuity). (page 477)

Every human word can become magical if it is sincere to the point of engaging the blood, and if at the same time it is filled by faith to the point of setting the luminous waters of hope from above in motion. (page 477)

Divine magic is therefore the moral consciousness which *invokes* the help of higher moral consciousness, which latter answers this invocation by setting in motion the agent of growth—the lower waters of the continuity of life and the higher waters of hope. (page 479)

A miracle is the descent of hope, i.e. the “higher waters above the firmament”, into the domain of continuity, i.e. the “lower waters beneath the firmament”, and it is the action of the two “waters” united. (page 479)

“I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture” (John x, 9), which means to say that if someone is moved by love of God and neighbour, he can enter each closed circle and he can leave it. Instead of prisons he will “find pasture”, i.e. *he will move in a spiral*. (pages 482-3)

The spiral is the arcanum of growth—both spiritual and biological... With respect to ideas and problems, they grow in human consciousness through a series of expansions and contractions, i.e. through concentric circles, similar to tree-rings on the trunk of a tree, crossing in two directions—in breadth and height. (page 483)

One can kill spiritual truth, but it will resurrect. (page 487)

Now, the unity of hope, creativity and tradition is the agent of growth. (page 487)