

World and Soul: An Alchemy of Conjoined Loves

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A mystery is permeating the heart of the world. It is a mystery so profound that only prayer and song can reach its most subtle vibrancy. Words of love, echoing the immeasurable depth, can at times hold its vitality; but such words cannot contain it or define it. This is particularly true of the idea that we refer to as the World Soul. Words cannot convey the full weight of either “world” or “soul” as we experience their interpenetration. How much more difficult it is to articulate the conjunction of world and soul as a unique forthcoming event, a birthing ground of a new harmony among species whose spiritual consequences are insight and awareness. Because it is not simply a consequence of human will or desire, but a work of mystery, a profound cosmological transformation, no words will ever grasp the full impact and scope of the World Soul’s dawning.

I think of the dawning of World Soul as a *spiritual metaphor* whose significance connects the temporal horizons of all human cultures. By spiritual metaphor, I mean a dynamic image of human awakening, an immense cluster of ideas, insights, and revelations whose intersections and conjunctions can produce a flowering of human spiritual potentials. But the image cannot contain the metaphor; the image is only a seed whose growth and development require human commitment and an enduring participation in spiritual values that can produce the fruit that the flower promises. As a spiritual metaphor, the World Soul is a promise of the future rather than an image of the past. It is a metaphor whose contemplation calls us to prayer, to an in-breath meant to revitalize our outwardly shared spiritual perspectives. The image calls us to prayer because, in reverence, we can genuinely begin to approach the mystery that gives life to our collective harmony and global integration. Like all metaphors, World Soul is uncontainable and solicits the human imagination to give it embodied expression, form, and spiritual content.

