

STARDUST, KLIMTIAN KISSES, & SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON

A key concept for Ibn al-'Arabi (1165-1240 CE), a contender for having been the Greatest Sage/Seer/Shaykh al-Akbar of the past 1,000 years, is 'Wahdat al-Wujud,' meaning 'The Unity of All Being.' In other words, notions of Entanglement have been around a while. To my Way of thInking, this cōre-curricular idea smites me as more than casually akin in Spirit to the early Renaissance polymath Nicholas of Cusa (1401-1464 CE)'s emphasis in his "On Learned Ignorance" upon 'the One Eternal Thing,' wherein 'the Oneness of the UniVerse is the Root of All Things.' More food for thought along these lines is provided by the Brazilian-born contemporary artist Vik Muniz (b. 1961) when he characterizes Art as 'the InterFace between Mind & Matter,' a capacity for Wonder being its Matrix.

By Way of a glimmering of the Bigger Picture, here are a few lines from John Haines's 'Little Cosmic Dust Poem' (Haines had Helena, MT, roots, & I've had the pleasure of having heard him read this poem at The Holter Museum of Art, The Myrna Loy, The Rathskeller, & in front of the FirePlace at Frontier Town) ::

"Out of the debris of dying stars, / this rain of p'art'icles / waters the waste with brightness . . . / In the radiant field of sōriōn / great hōrdes of stars are fōrming, / just as we see every night, / fiery & faithful to the end. /

Out of the cold & fleeing dust / that is never & always, / the silence & waste to cōMe -- / this arm, this hand, my voice, this love." (Our source in this p'art'icular case being from "The World Treasury of Physics,

AstrōnōMy, & Mathematics," as ed. by Timothy Ferris; Little, Brown & Co., NYC, etc., 1991)

Which quasi-apophatic epiphany 'rhymes' interestingly with John Frederick Nims's 'ōbservatōry sōde,' delivered at Harvard, June 1978 ::

"We are the debris of a curdled turbulence, & dust of a dying star -- / the children of nuclear fall-out long ago . . . / The UniVerse: 'Such stuff as dreams are made on . . . ' / Sun-bathers of a nuclear star / scuffing through curly {cum 'fractal'} quArks . . . / No Heat like this, / No Heat like Science & Poetry when they Kiss." (From J. F. Nims's "The Kiss: A Jambalaya," 1982; our more proXimate source being the same "World

Treasury of Physics, AstrōnōMy, & Mathematics" as J. Haines's 'Little Cosmic Dust Poem')

In the fraught, post-Jōycean Wake of which, Who's to say . . .? We would appear to be -- like The Fool of the Tarot -- precariously {un}poised with one foot dangling over a precipice-like LumiNous Abyss. The Arts & the Sciences clearly cōMprise sōne Thing. May we have the Far-Sightedness & the WisdōM to Act accordingly, & possess the requisite Decency not to {re}sell our MultiValent BirthRight for a Tohu-Bohu-esque Mess of Dotage.

4 Other Recently Published, Uncōmmonly Interesting Books Consulted In the Foregoing ::

1) Sarah Bakewell, "Humanly Possible: Seven Hundred Years of Humanist Freethinking, Inquiry, & Hope" (Penguin, NYC, 2023);

2) Sarah hArt, "Once Upon a pRime: The Wondrous Connections Between Mathematics & Literature" (Flatlrōn Bks., NYC, 2023);

3) Alan Lightman, "The Transcendent Brain: Spirituality In the Age of Science" (PANtheōn Bks., NYC, 2023);

4) Simon Winchester, "KnoWing What We Know: The Transmission of Knowledge, from Ancient WisdōM to Modern Magic" (HarperCollins, NYC, 2023).

Add a mōdicum of Nagarjuna (Arguably the Greatest Sage in the millennium preceding Ibn al-'Arabi) & HAn sHAn (8th Century CE) to the MiX, stir vigorously, & you'll have the EliXir.