

## THE UNITED FIELD QUEST CONTINUES

Having lived for 2 1/2 years within close range of Glastonbury in England's ARThurian myth-haunted SouthWest, I've become more than casually BeSotted with the Grail. So the thought occurred to me, why not devote a Holter Newsletter contribution to said archetypal vessel, through a rather larger lens? For stARTers, in her Introduction to Barry Lopez's slightly posthumous collection of essays entitled "Embrace Fearlessly the Burning World," Rebecca SOLnit very sensibly suggests that said Quest itself is the Grail. In other words, to 'echo' Lopez, perhaps the first step of everything we endeavor to do, every journey we undertake is to pay the requisite Attention. Here's how Pablo Neruda expresses it :: "That, Friends, is the sum of all my wanting. / Next to Nothing, Close to Everything." (From Neruda's 'I Ask for Silence') Back to Ms. SOLnit's Intro, 'The Quest for the Holy Grail' :: "Such an Adventure has everything to do with entering a state of concentration, of focus, of being open to Epiphany & Rapture & cōMmunion." A seeking, if you like, of the capacity to seek. In other mots, the cultivation of such a state necessarily entails "continuous, respectful Attendance to the presence of the DiVine." And here, the Vision-inducing work (both literary & visual) of Hildegard of Bingen comes inevitably to HeArt & Mind. For what it's worth, during my Wanderjahre in Europa, I made a memorable pilgrimage to Bingen, at the confluence where the River Nahe flows into the Rhine.

Also of central interest in this All-Encompassing -- not to say 'Hermetic' -- conTeXt is the As Above, So Below title of Neil deGrasse Tyson's "Starry Messenger{'Angel' meaning literally 'Messenger'}: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization" (H. Holt & Co., NYC, 2022). I dare say the likes of Queen Elizabeth's Astronomer & Polymath eXtraordinaire, John Dee (The real-life prototype of Shakespeare's Prospero) & Giordano Bruno -- who, between them, pretty much launched the Elizabethan Renaissance -- would resonate with deGrasse Tyson's notion of a 'Starry Messenger.' It's perhaps not a total coincidence that deGrasse Tyson's first chapter is entitled 'Truth & Beauty: Aesthetics in Life & in the Cosmos,' which of course brings us back to John Keats's 'Ode On a {Grail-like} Grecian Urn' from just over two centuries ago. Archetypes clearly have a way of embracing the Deathless/Timeless . . . I have also been to Keats's home on the Western edge of Hampstead Heath, but that's another story for another Grail mōMent &/or preTeXt to embrace the Transfinite in the starlit purlieus of the Glastonbury Zodiac. Unless, of course, you prefer the TrouBADour-brokered tales of Montsegur in the Languedoc on the North side of the Pyrenees, which is also the centre of legends pertaining to the Grail.