

## A PLEA FOR THE ALCHEMY OF ONE LOVE

As Fenton Johnson eXpresses it so memorably in his "At the Centre of All Beauty: Solitude & the Creative Life" (W. W. Norton, NYC, 2020), "In Cezanne's paintings the viewer becomes One with the UniVerse, no Duality, no Separation, between Self & Other, Past & Future & the Eternal Now." Which cōre-curricular InSight, Osip Mandelstam (1891-1938) echoes in his poem 'And I Was Alive' (as trans. from the Russian by Christian Wiman) :: "And I was aliVe in the blizzard of the blossoming pear, / I stood in the storm of the bird-cherry tree. / It was all leaflife & starshower, unerring, self-shattering power, / And it was all aimed at me. / What is this dire DeLight flowering fleeing always eARTh? / What is Being? What is Truth? // Blossoms rupture & rapture the air . . . / Time intensified & time intolerable, sweetness raveling rot. / It is Now. It is Not." (Which Wiman includes in his state-of-the-Art anthology "Joy: 100 Poems;" Yale University Press, New Haven & London, 2017). The great Brazilian Philosopher of Education Paulo Freire distills this 'Mystic Chord' down to an emphasis on the 'dynamic movement among Thought, Language, & Reality that, if well understood, results in a greater creative capacity. The more we eXperience this subtly entangled dynamic, the more aware we becōMe of the process of Knowing, Teaching, Learning, Reading, Writing, & Studying." (from Freire's "Teachers as Cultural Workers: Letters to Those Who Dare Teach;" WestView Press, Oxford,UK, 1998).

In regard to Dualities, Pamela Jaye Smith's marvelous "Symbols/Images/Codes: The Secret Language of Meaning in Film, TV, Games, & Visual Media" (Michael Weise Productions, Studio City, CA, 2010) characterizes the would-be dichotomies as Good & Evil, War & Peace, Friend & Foe, Hot & Cold, Black & White, Past & Present, Life & Death, Day & Night, Sun & Moon, etc. -- which also suggests the Symbolism of Alchemy. The case could be made that it's a Film Noir World, where Light & Shadow echo Plato's Cave Analogy.

To shift {Antikythera/Pre-Disraeli} Gears a nanotad, according to no less a player than FeliX Flicker, a theoretical physicist who happens to share his hōMetown of Ottery St. Mary in S. Devon with the rōMantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, & the author of "The Magick of Physics" (Simon & Schuster, NYC, 2023) -- echoing in his tUrn both C. P. Snow & Allen Ginsberg, mind you -- "The Zeroth Law: You're playing a game. / The 1st Law: You can't win. / The 2nd Law: You can't break even. / The 3rd Law: You can't stop playing." Which necessarily brings the consummate Bongo Player/Quantum Physicist/Trickster Richard Feynman onto the not-merely-metaphorical Playing Field in the form of Feynman's brillig essay, 'But Is It Art?' :: "Once I was at a pARTy plaYin' bongos, & it got going pretty good. One of the guys{/pARTy animals} within earshot was pARTicularly inspired by my drumming. He went into the bathroom, took off his shirt, smearing sHAving Cream{see the above reference to 'Disraeli Gears'} in funny deSigns all over his chest, & came out dancing wildly {those were the days!}, with cherries HAnging from his ears. Naturally, this crazy {wing}nut & I became good friends right away. His name is Jirayr Zorthian; he's an {Armenian} artist. We often HAd long discussions about Art & Science. Zorthian held that scientists destroy the Beauty of Nature when they pick it apArt & tUrn it into Material Equations. We two kindred spirits decided that on alternate SUNdays, Feynman would give Zorthian a lesson in Science, & Jerry would give Feynman a lesson in Art. Jerry turned out to be a very good teacher . . . which necessarily prōMpts the question whether he's a better teacher than I was, or I'm a better student than he was (Your nudge to reVisit the above reference to Paulo Freire on the epicentrality of Education). Our primary source here being "Classic Feynman: ALL the AdVentures of a Curious {& Curiouser} cHAracter" (as edited by Ralph Leighton; W. W. Norton{Buffalo} & Co., NYC & London, 2006 -- which magisterial cōMpendium set me back all of 33 1/3rd centavos on the 3-for-a-dollar shelf at Aunt Bonnie's : ) Not the least of the reasons I loVe The Queen City of the Northern Rockies{!}

WelcōMe to the SpHere{& Now} wHere Art & Science are One All-Embracing Unity.

EDIT FROM 9-10-24

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