

## Beyond the Veil by Frank Salt



What lies beyond the veil must remain a mystery except to eyes that have seen and ears that have heard. It has not dimension in any of our terms of magnitude or quality. Yet it is both enshrined and concealed in much of our myth and folklore. Great composers have been inspired by it in their finest works. All the simple human acts of consideration and unselfishness reflect it. The universe shouts it.

According to some mythology the secrets of the Temple were hidden in the two great pillars at its entrance. This is symbolic, there are no ancient scrolls stuffed into the physical pillars, the secret lies in the fact that there are two great pillars "at the entrance".

In the Golden Dawn Temple, if one stands in the west and looks east, one sees the altar in the centre, beyond which are the Two Pillars. That to the north, or left, is black and its capital is an open lotus, the feminine emblem. That in the south is white, its capital is the closed lotus, the phallus as against the womb. Beyond these stands the Throne of the Hierophant, the expounder of mysteries. He does not explain the mysteries, his existence is the answer. Behind him is the great blue Veil. At the climax of his initiation the candidate is led to the Pillars and placed between them, thus forming the Third Great Pillar, reflecting the Hierophant but facing him and the Veil. This little scene is the compendium of a great deal, and it is a true reflection of an inner reality, a true Archetypal Image, portraying a spiritual profundity which could not be put in words for the intellect but is directly known by the psyche, and, if the candidate is properly prepared, is acted on by the Spirit via the psyche to the mind. But this matter is sacred and must not be expounded in any hypothesis.

This is the function and the modus operandi of the Mysteries. Timeless truths are epitomised in the same way as significant dreams enter the conscious mind. Always as symbolic imagery of Reality. On a lower plane dreams occur to many people which are prophetic or portray concurrent events of which the dreamer has no prior knowledge.

Carl Jung exposed the archetypal images at great length, and now cults are appearing claiming to apply these images. Such claims could only be made by cranks who have no real experience of the psyche or of the Archetypal World. What Jung did was to give some examples of how some people portrayed their impressions. Portrayed their expressions, They could not convey the spiritual Reality. For the actual image formed in the mind is, to the initiate, his own personal projection of a deep, formless realisation of Reality. The way relates an eternal truth to his personal conscious mind from the substance acquired and assimilated in his subconscious mind. Therefore while two people may form similar pictures, they need not be identifiable academically as any particular impression, and in any case that impression is peculiar to a specific individual. We are each individuals. The practical use of archetypal imagery is the work of those who have personally linked consciousness with the archetypal world, and very dangerous in the hands of dabblers. Much of the sacred writings of any religion are rooted in archetypal imagery. As we have seen, the Maori, Chaldean, Hebrew and Hindu all use different imagery to portray the same truth, but that imagery is attuned to the race-psyche from whose substance it was drawn and to whom it was devised to speak. Much harm may befall dabblers in this type of work, though a few become "experts" and write books to cloud the issue. This is where skilled training is so valuable. There are TWO Pillars, but neither is the answer on its own. They may, in one sense only, be said to represent the Passive and the Active principals in Nature as in Man. But neither IS Nature - or Man. The secrets are hidden in the Pillars - or revealed by them.



The Two Pillars form the entrance, not the Temple. They represent, as we have seen, Activity and Passivity, Father and Mother, but they are parents only when a child is born. Without the Son they are Male and Female, in the human reflection they are the active mental principle and the passive psychic, poetic and sensitive nature. The positive, intentional focusing of the mind on a symbol and just writing purposefully the thoughts it evokes fertilises the psyche via the sub-conscious mind and what we produce can, in a sense, be as the son of the two. This is particularly if we do not fear the unknown and deliberately select a symbol of which we have read or heard nothing. This is the important part. What is familiar about a studied symbol is from the subconscious only, it is memories gathering about a focal point. Thus modern education requires that we study a topic from sources of reference, from the Tree of Knowledge. Spiritual progress works the other way. We start from an unknown and from within draw, still via the subconscious, from the soul, which is in touch with all of Nature, tiny dew drops of reality. Gradually, as we begin to see this happening, confidence increases and a trickle forms. Continued long enough the trickle becomes a stream. Change to another topic, and with the increased self confidence, the process is repeated more rapidly. Get rid of preconceptions in the first few days, spending twenty minutes only, and only once a day, writing down what you know is preconception or data given, then you begin to enter new areas of the topic and to recognise original inspiration. This process, repeated over say a month per topic for about a year of positive purposeful application will gradually draw mental and psychic natures together. In due course you may become aware of increased appreciation of Nature. But do not spoil the effect by allowing intellectual pride to lead you to talk about or exploit what you find, or it will shrivel and perish. As you begin to sense the validity of this process you will realise that such knowing can only be experienced individually. The increased capacity for Life is what matters, the goal. The written words are only a means to an end, the sacrifice you have made to further evolution. Then make a sacrificial fire and burn all papers, lest they deprive another of the joy of discovery. Be very careful not to drop into a daydream, thus abdicating your positive rulership of your kingdom to the uncontrolled subconscious mind, for therein lies a faithless depth, a dark, ever rolling abyss of atavistic quicksand. The psyche is feminine, and no woman wants a soppy spineless man. Be firm and positively in all your work, thus will you woo Psyche, who will, when the time is ripe, show you her inner secrets. We said "the sacrifice you have made to further evolution", not your evolution, evolution per se. This work should be spiritual, not personal, for the Spirit is eternal and infinite. The personality is less than a speck of dust in the Cosmos, and like the words you may write, transitory, to be offered up in sacrifice. The letter killeth, the Spirit giveth Life. Any tendency to self-aggrandisement, like talking or boasting is food for egoism, negative and destructive of spirit.

Occasionally you may read over your notes, thus you winnow your harvest, separating the wheat from the chaff, the valid from the invalid, inspiration from memory or fantasy, a practice which will help you discern between the real and the unreal. If you are progressing, you will find that what you write today you may reject later. That is progress, but that is also why you should make your sacrificial bon-fire. You may also come to realise the meaning of the parable that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The "rich" man is one who is burdened with erudition, his subconscious or memory is so stuffed with "facts" that they rattle too loudly for Psyche to get a word in. Preconceptions are the stuff of the Veil. It takes time, patience and spiritual drive to dare to discard them, and only you can do it, and do it only for yourself, not to destroy any one else's swaddling clothes. He will do that if and when he is ready. "Thou shalt not remove thy neighbours landmarks."



Attitude is important in this work. Attitude of body and mind. Alert attention to the topic, rather than strained effort. A chair high enough to keep the thighs parallel with the floor and the spine erect while requiring little effort to stay erect. If you become really intent on the work but remain relaxed and attentive, the rest will follow. You will be aware only of one thing, the topic chosen. After about twenty minutes, drop the one topic, retaining the alert attention and for a brief time experience pure, unmodified being.

All thought is a process of modifying mentally the object of attention. Having achieved intense focus on the topic, stop the process of modification, then let go even the one thing, and just Be. At that stage everything about you is positive, attentive, alive. Stay that way for a brief time, then very purposefully, stand up, put aside your pen and paper, and go firmly about the day's business. Do not stop to muse over it during the day. Musing becomes passive and like day-dreaming, and active daily life is very necessary for us.

Short of direct individual training, the above is safe and practical. Danger lies in the passive or even negative forms of meditation as portrayed in most books. Thumb-sucking.

In the widely publicised methods, you do nothing. You slump in a chair or lie on a couch, think of some sweet and blissful state, use a comforting symbol or thought, and wallow in the waters of the sub-conscious state. Yes, you may well come away feeling warm and cosy, You sold your sub-conscious an idea and it responded. You, the active male principle, were just sucking your thumb. Thus abdicating their thrones, many take refuge in "mental" hospitals, unable to cope with real, dynamic life. The psyche loses interest and the aimless babblings of the subconscious are left to echo their dark origins.

Instructions for this type of reverie start from the precept that "we can't just make things happen". A negative concept. Though true in a way, making preconceived things happen works on preconceptions which is just what we are trying to break free from. Active meditation starts with the positive intent to let things happen, then evaluates the product, using discernment to winnow the outcome, but next day forgets yesterday's work and starts afresh each time with a clean slate. The results are seen as gropings, not as ultimate statements, and then offered up in sacrifice. The fruit of long practice at meditation can not be written down, they are new concepts we know each must find alone and unaided. But we know them, not just believe them or reason them out. A new faculty has been awakened, a new mode of awareness.

If you sit erect, a line can be visualised as emanating from the center of the earth, passing directly through your spine and out to infinity. A helpful bit of symbolism suggesting that you are in tune with the infinite. The subconscious mind responds very readily to such suggestion. "It doesn't matter if I'm wrong." is another way of overcoming preconceptions and conditioning. At school and in some aspects of daily living to "be wrong" is culpable. In this work it does not matter. You are not formulating an eternal dogma, just letting free association of ideas play in your mind. No one will know, and you are always free to modify your concepts. Gradually you are removing the barriers of preconception to release reality innate to you. You will burn the mistakes anyway. You are not fabricating Calvinistic rules of living to bind you, you are learning that Reality can run its own life with lusty exuberance when unshackled from dogma. Every personality involves limitations, see beyond these to the zest for life, the spirit which keeps things going regardless of "problems". Progress solves problems. There is no "perfect" personality, the way of acceptance is the way of wisdom to change what can be changed, to accept what we cannot change and the wisdom to know the difference. We are seeking Wisdom, not cleverness, morality or "justice", of these we will have our share in due course as we accept our inheritance.



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