

The Dancing Flame by Robert Cergol

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In response to feedback on another piece written by Mr. Cergol, titled "The Will to Resist."

"At that decision-point there has been an agreement to proceed -- not so much an active agreement, really, as an unwillingness of the inner executive to use its veto power to cancel the pending action."

Doesn't this sound like any notion of the individual choosing to say "yes" or "no" is actually an experience unfolding according to its own pattern and after-the-fact, the identity taking ownership of it and saying, "I agreed or refused."? This would be consistent with your statement:

"What has been most effective for me, once through the storm, is to arrive at a calm determination to resist the compelling force if and when it returns. With me, this occurs not so much from an ability to talk myself into taking such a stand as from scanning the inner horizon until I find such a determination there."

So you don't generate determination as a willful act or wish, but by "scanning inside" until you "find the determination."

Somehow this all reminds me of the thought I expressed in writing about the two vectors. The paradox is about that which is responsible for one vector over-shadowing the other. [Richard] Rose emphasized "becoming a vector" more than anything else.

I get the image of a flame dancing back and forth. When it "leans to the right" it is expressing the personal within the impersonal. When it "flickers to the left" it is expressing the impersonal in the personal. There is an awareness "watching" this flame dance. From the impersonal perspective there is no free will -- only an experience of free will. From the personal perspective we are the ultimate deciders of everything we do.

From the personal perspective "we" too are watching the experience. The difference is we take credit for it and concoct --AFTER THE FACT-- what and how that happened. This confirms 'us'. I wonder if Rose's emphasis on this shadow becoming (how can something which ultimately isn't become anything at all) wasn't somehow connected to the notion of getting that flame to "jump to the left." The personal perspective reacts to this dream experience as "I am struggling to climb the mountain." In fact, that personal reaction is itself an expression of the vector which put us here -- a flicker in the flame -- which is a reflection in the Mirror.

Hard to explain....

To "finish" the thought about the "will to resist" and the "flame" etc. ... and, I suppose, as an exercise of my verbalization machinery ... Pulyan's words bounce around, [paraphrasing] "... if I try to explain this, laugh at me, for this cannot be explained."

Do you recall Pulyan saying to Rose, "We must appear to entangle..."?

I'd say too, we must appear to struggle. And by some incomprehensible process, the flame while flickering -- experienced as a struggle -- causes the watcher within the flame to leave and merge with that which was watching both the flame and the watcher watching the flame.

Bottom line, from the perspective of the personal, struggle and effort is necessary -- even if you want to overlay some notion of "effortless-ness" on that struggle. Since your real nature is permanent but the personal identity in which your consciousness is anchored is impermanent, all expressions of the latter are experienced as conflict whenever the point of reference shifts towards expressing that which is your true and permanent nature. In other words, when you resolve, due to a deep-seated and heartfelt desire to "return home," this is an expression of the inner being. From this point of reference any expressions of the shadow being are experienced as conflict by that same shadow being because the inner being is in ascendance.

In case this isn't making any sense, maybe I need to say that underlying this line of thought is my conviction that that which everyone takes as their self is itself merely an EXPERIENCE. (I once told [X], who was lamenting the fact that he might not ever have the enlightenment experience, that he was correct. In fact you cannot have that experience because it is YOU who are the experience). One of the things my realization brought to me, is that, that which you take as you is "out there" with all the rest of the dream objects. Everyone who has this realization, afterwards continues to manifest here in this dream world with the same personality and through it they react to having had this realization. Their flame flickers ever so slightly differently than before, hardly perceptible to another. Yet the light within that flame is no longer cut off from the blazing fire-ball which makes all flame possible.

Since reading those words of Pulyan 18 months ago, I have never felt "normal" -- never as before. The sense of something else, further behind me, looking out through my eyes has never ceased. After a long hard day of work, I have but to look up and I realize that the Watcher was never absent. I was abiding in He and He in me without interruption. Even sleep doesn't break this connection. The only thing that happens is that EXPERIENCE goes on and the degree of focus of attention on that experience waxes and wanes, ebbs and flows.

When I contemplate my death -- and hold in my awareness the totality of experience which was my identity in this dimension -- and think "What was the point?" I immediately feel what I can only describe as LOVE. We hear this chatter all the time in Christianity about how "God loves you." Well I would say that is inaccurate because the entire creation in which we are insignificant specks, in which every detail is an insignificant speck is an expression of God. No speck is any more or less an expression of God. Every speck is an equivalent expression of God. God doesn't love the cosmos. God is Love. The cosmos is irrelevant.