

## THE FORCE OF METAPHOR

There are some places where western esotericism or occultism has a lot to say. What follows is one of them.

There is only so much directness that we can assimilate or absorb at one time. Too much and it can quickly assume the proportions of just some more fire & brimstone. It's like burning a plant with too much sunshine. Sometimes images or metaphors are an easier way to realize an idea because they can act like time-release capsules and be absorbed by us gradually. They can be not so much in our face.

In the back of my mind (and often in the front), I have the repeating image of the Sun shining in the dark firmament, radiating light always. And in procession to the Sun are all beings, starting from a distance at birth, each presenting themselves to the Sun, bowing, and gradually withdrawing from the Sun into old age. I wrote a little poem about this some 50 years ago:

Ah! Who could let such a bargain pass,  
As this poor century will allow.  
On coming in, I'm asked to leave,  
And when asked to leave, I bow.

That point where we perfectly present ourselves we could call our Prime of Life and those stages before would be our youth, while those stages after would be old age.

Those stages of youth are our formative years, years during which we reach our critical mass and those years past our prime-of-life are our deconstructive years or old age.

Sometimes I have the image of reaching for and grasping something like a baseball (youth), gripping it, and then letting go and releasing it (old age). We could also see it as presenting and offering our self to the Lord-of-Life, and the subsequently withdrawal.

The point of all these images (if they even speak to you) is that there is a season and direction to life, with a motion toward the prime-of-life (Sun center) and an equal and opposite motion away from the prime-of-life.

It is the directionality that I am focusing on here, the formative or “taking a hold” of our youth and the releasing or “letting go” of old age. The idea here is to not work against the directionality of either youth or old age. However, most people can’t help but do it or at least try.

In other words, in youth don’t release or let go until you have reached the nadir (most gravitational point) of the prime-of-life and, correspondingly, don’t try to push or grasp after the prime-of-life, but rather release and learn to let go.

Going against either of these directions will have inharmonious and debilitating results, to say the least. I have studied this since a young adult, thanks to my first dharma teacher who trained me to go through my first Saturn Return (29.4 years) with my eyes open as opposed to going through the return without realizing it and then waking up to its implications later on, as in “Never trust anyone over thirty.”

The concept is to not withdraw from the body until the body is full-formed (youth) and not push to get things done after one has crossed the nadir, the prime-of-life, and entered old age. We do either at our own peril.

Or we could say, don’t exhale until we have fully inhaled and don’t inhale before you have fully exhaled. Either one is harmful to our health. We miss something that way.

The western esoteric schools have something similar when they say don’t attempt to enter the path or arc of evolution until you cross the nadir, your densest point, meaning your prime-of-life. And don’t start on the path of evolution until you are fully involved (grown). We might simply say don’t attempt to leave the body before you are in the body completely, that is: fully involved.

In my experience, failure to follow these directions is one of the greatest causes of both mental and physical suffering I am aware of; young folks trying to leave the body too early, so to speak, can mean they never complete their incarnation and are “putting on airs,” so to speak, before they should be airborne. In other words, they don’t know what they are talking about and never will if they B.S. their way intellectually

through youth and don't garner enough experience to have something to talk about..

And, on the other hand, those older folks, those who have passed the prime-of-life (the point of no-return), yet still feel they have to make their point by force like they perhaps did as a youth, run the risk of stroke, heart-attack, and so forth by pushing against the grain, not to mention severe disappointment and a perpetual sense of loss or losing.

These are signs of working against nature, either coming or going. One may have to train with a master experienced in these two arcs, the arc of involution and the arc of evolution. Fighting against time never works in our favor. I wrote an entire book about this many decades ago and it contains a lot of my journals from the 1960s, although they are a little embarrassing to read today, but what the heck. They were how I experienced it then. It's called "Astrology of the Heart," but it's about much more than astrology.

<http://www.startypes.com/pdf/e-books/Astrology-of-the-Heart.pdf>

"As Bodhicitta is so precious,  
May those without it now create it,  
May those who have it not destroy it,  
And may it ever grow and flourish"

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