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The Making of God

A semiotic approach to thinking

“To be or not to be that is the question
 Whether t’is nobler in the mind to suffer
 The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune
 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles”
 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, prince of Denmark,(3, 1)

The problem of God’s existence is a semiotical problem. Science tells us that ideas, images and feelings are signs. So everything we can learn, know or say about God has to do with signs. Even the infinity of God has to be produced as a concept in the mind. The *will* to be or not to be sets the question, the same for man and God. Whether it is nobler in the mind to boast the *Self* and hide the lie of the mythical creation of one’s self, or reach out for the Unattainable and suffer the slings and arrows of deception. God’s existence, like one’s *Self* for that matter, has not to be verified as truth, as long as it works for the mind as myth.

Myth is a habit of the mind, something you cannot trace to its origin, something whose existence cannot be proven. Myth is how the mind works when, aiming at a global image, it skips the verification of the analytical mind to indulge in holistic thinking. Nowadays, with the help of neurosciences, semiotics allows us to link together philosophical inquiry, psychological mythology and neurophysiological experiments in a common anthropological study of the human brain. This approach also allows us to use myth and allegory, not as literary devices, but as common functions of the mind.

Aristotle’s *dianoia* (thinking) had two functions: *deiknumi* (demonstration), the production of proof (*pistis*), and *apophainô* (illustration), the production of opinion (*gnômê*). The network of intra-hemispherical and inter-hemispherical relations of the human brain, as described by Roger W. Sperry, does not work differently: the left brain produces language and obeys to time sequences; the right brain produces images and does not obey time sequences. Each hemisphere has proven to be specialized in certain tasks: the left brain is believed to be the home of the discursive mind and the right brain the home of the holistic mind.

But can you produce proof or opinion by using only the left or the right side of the brain? Demonstrating and illustrating are complex sets of thoughts and feelings that could not be produced independently by one *or* the other half of the brain but have to be “concocted” by a team. The demonstrative function of the left hemisphere needs an illustrative support if the holistic thinking is to produce a global image of understanding. On the other hand, the illustrative function of the right hemisphere, if its “visual” production is ever to mean something, has to rely on a demonstrative support. Even if the

hemispheres are highly specialized, the interaction remains vital in a healthy brain. The split brain experimentations in the field of neurosciences have fully documented this view (J.E. Bogen, J. Eccles, M.S. Gazzaniga, G.M. Edelman, J. Ehrenwald, H. Hécaen, D. Kimura, L. Israël, G. Lanteri-Laura, R.S. Sperry, P.J. Vogel).

How does this interaction work? With the help of C.S. Peirce's sign triad we can start to describe the sign sets produced independently by the discursive brain or the holistic brain, as well as the sign sets produced jointly by the two hemispheres in the process of inter-hemispheric communication. Speculative semiotics can be of great help in sorting out the different sign sets and comparing them, but it also leads to a mechanical conception of thinking that leaves God and his human counterpart the *Ego* "jobless", since the brain can function more freely without them. God and *Ego* are not active entities possessing their own will, but signs, sets of signs employing both proof and opinion, they are a combination of symbols and logical icons produced by the discursive mind (combining analytical and reflective thinking), and a combination of indexes and analogical icons produced by the holistic mind (combining imaginative and somatic thinking).

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Naming God is dangerous. It has been forbidden in different religions because it is believed to lead to tragic consequences. Swearing is considered a blasphemous act; it is forbidden by one of the *Dekalogen's* commandment and for the catholic religion, it is a deadly sin. But how are we to understand the relation between the world and ourselves if there is no one to show us how to come into being? That is the question. To come into being has to be done *somewhere*. The mind could not think up a "nowhere" without using some sign to do so. We then have to create a sign for the *question of being* itself, and thus the most ontological sign has to be the question mark. The interrogative sign represents the possible identification of the *Self* with the "I" (*Ego*) and the projection of the fictitious unity made up with these parts as the ideal Subject, what the psychologist would call the *Super-Ego*. We can say about this "subject" what Nietzsche says about the Will, that it is a complicated thing, something that "only as word is a unity"¹.

In the third place, the interrogative sign represents the falling back of the deceived mind, if it was left without an answer. The soul is no longer in the quest of truth, it knows it is doomed to matter-reality; it looks now for an intense letting go, yielding to Nature all

¹ *Jenseits von Gut und Böse*, 19

responsibility of judgment. The “incarnation” of the *Super-Ego*, as that of Jesus-Christ, leads to indifferenciation, the part of human *psuchê* psychology calls the *Id*.

To believe is to do certain semiotic operations in the mind: to aim at a certain pleasure (the relief of individual responsibility: it feels good to know that I did not make it up) and to avoid a certain pain (the burden of doubt and fear: it feels bad not to know what is out there). To believe in God is to have an opinion; it is not at all based on a verification produced by the analytical thinking. On the contrary, to believe is to neglect verification in order to be comforted by an emotionally charged image. From an Aristotelian point of view, it is to move from proof (*pistis*) to opinion (*gnômê*) by a shortcut way, letting in emotions and covering up rational weaknesses. From a semiotic point of view, it is letting the meaning take over the meant, letting in the illustrative indexicalization of the holistic mind, and helping its *magical* realizations, by freezing the rationalistic eagerness of the discursive mind.

On the other hand, to prove God’s existence, one has to verify every bit of information and try to apply logical standards to holistic thinking, even to emotional outburst. Such attempt has been made by Thomas Aquinas, but it is doomed to fail, since it proceeds backward, trying to conceal images into concepts. It fails as proof, but it can be a success as illustration goes. As allegory, someone’s existence, be it God’s, is charged with signs of essence. Any visible or audible index of something or someone out there is compared to my own experience of life; through iconicity these indexes are attributed to the *other* in the world.

Considering (using) as *a* reality what we know is *only* a fiction, it is creating myth. When we use the logical icon “person” to help us jump to the symbolic level of any conclusion concerning God, we built a bridge over the contradicting elements of that special being; but that bridge is necessarily made of abstractions. The only way to give God a body is to imagine how its body would be if It were a person like us. Believing is switching from proof (*pistis*) to opinion (*gnômê*), it is using myth to bring the imaginative mind to an emotional state that no longer has ties with the reasoning mind.

For ages, the idealists have presumed that God existed *for real* that is in the material reality, sizable by intuition if not audible to the ear and visible to the eye. After having thought of Him or It, they deduced Its existence by comparing it to their own, and constructed a concept of God, or rather a constellation of concepts about God. But their rational grasp of It had to be constructed on some *ground*. Any symbol has to be linked to a logical icon, what traditional logic would have called a universal premise, present in the mind at the moment of the abstraction or “subjectifaction” (Peirce, 2.248). The root-sign

or grammatical ground of the personification of God is the logical icon “person” to which the analytical mind adds a conventional sign like the name “God”, “Allah” or “Yahweh”.

The reality of God is only provable by taking out of the definition of reality its material contingency; every thing real necessarily has a body. If God is believed to exist without a body, someone is *imagining* things. There is a hoax: the discursive mind is staging its own play, and the holistic mind, or magical thinking, by taking this play for reality, is driven to fall for its illusionistic trap. If reality is not restricted to the realm of beings with bodies, then God may exist *for real*.

To “switch” from symbolic concept in the analytical thinking to indexical *image* in the holistic mind is to create a *myth*, it involves a certain usurpation of the demonstrative function of the discursive brain, a “stolen language” (R.Barthes: 72). If the mythical conception of God is carried on by the imagining mind, the creation of the world by the one God becomes allegory. God has It’s own humanlike life; It is doomed to die, his body chewed and swallowed by Nature, the ultimate indifferenciation of the world, like the “I” (*Ego*) drawn back and let to rot in the somber *Id*, a kind of under-self “where” the mind produces signs that are not related (by anyone, not even the *Self*) to anything else. If there ever was such a thing as a collective subconscious (Jung), it would produce this kind of non-verbal signs: indexes, signs of existence, like feelings.

To conceive God as a person is the real problem, because the terms “God” and “person” are contradictory. By definition, a person is a sign of iconicity, to be a person is to be *like* all other person in the world, and God is, by definition *unlike* others, one and unique. The rational grasp of God is only possible through the magical induction of its personification. The identity of a person is made up (constructed), it covers *lie 1*: that my “I”(*Ego*) is the same person as my *Self*, by *lie 2* : that thought is god given and independent from the body. Thus, to believe in God implies lying twice, knowingly, once about myself and once about God.

The first lie is Descartes’s *Cogito ergo sum*, the thinking subject assumes that it is the whole being: I think thus I am, but the whole of what I am not my thinking. There is more to my *Self* than my *Ego*; there is more than my identity, there is – I was going to write *my!* – ipseity (Ricoeur: 1990). The *sum* implying the *Ego* and relating to the verb *cogito* is a sum indeed, of reel existence, material signs of what we are used to call life. But to think that this sum comes from thinking, is bad thinking, at least unsatisfying thinking, from a pragmatist’s point of view; it leads to rationalistic idealism. For a materialist or a semiotician, it has to be corrected into something like *Sum ergo cogito*. The thinking process cannot be independent of the body, for the body is the *ground* on which the “I” (*Ego*) is built. Further more, reasoning is not the whole of thinking; the

discursive mind would not function if it was not nourished by images, such as logical icons submitted by reflective thinking (inter-hemispherical messenger) to analytical thinking (intra-hemispherical specialist).

The second lie is a platonic view, it leads to metaphysical idealism. Some things – and God is certainly one of them - are believed to exist even if they do not have a body that could be seen and touched by people. If someone wants to eradicate all lies from his thinking and have only truths and nothing but truths to deal with, he better leave out the topics of God and *Ego*, for they cannot be tackled by the brain as any sensitive experience could be, they are constructed as means to sooth the never satisfied discursive mind, always triggered by its highly specialized master of symbols (analytical thinking), and to exhilarate the binding urge of the holistic mind driven by its highly specialized master of indexes (somatic thinking).

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Different from the question the prince of Denmark had to answer about his own existence as human, the question of God's existence is a matter of opinion, the mind is free to believe in God, but it cannot avoid believing in the *Self*, if it is to try to prove anything. The proof of God's existence can only be made if symbols are used in the process by the thinking *subject* (that is the *Self*, when it is wearing the mask of the *Ego* and pretending that it is not related to the *Id*).

A symbol is, according to Peirce, a “conventional sign” (2.297) that “have a general meaning”, “denote an individual” and “signify a character” (2.293); it is a law, a habit that represents “by virtue of its being understood” (2.304). But from a rationalistic point of view, the only matter there is to God itself is Its name (symbol), the three letter printed on a sheet of paper or pronounced as the word is uttered. Some sign might look like it's made of the same real solid matter the world is made of, but it's always made of *neuronal matter* in the brain. God is an abstraction resulting from a logical operation of the discursive mind to which is attached a certain amount of images (sign systems that have an indexical nucleus) destined to make God seem real, so that our belief in It lifts us in an optimistic opinion of It called faith.

God is a mythical being, and as such it is a being that must hide its “true nature”, that is its non-material probable existence, in order to be named or imagined as an existing thing in reality. To understand God, you have to create It from scratch, you have to use an iconic ground, violently hiding the mimicry under layers of symbolic approximations that all pretend to be the truth, and force the fictitious person you are conceiving into

existence. Thus the conventional sign “person”, whose conventionality doesn’t count so much as its indexical function, is a *logical icon*, a sign whose iconicity is “helped by conventional rules” (Peirce, 2.280). In order to grasp the specificity of God through analytical thinking the discursive mind needs a non-symbolic sign to start it out. The discursive mind could not operate the abstraction without a concrete, solid and actual sign perceived by the senses or kept in memory. Without the help of a conventional shifter like *quid* or “he who”, God cannot be made understandable.

A sign like “he who” helps create the concept of God. By adding conventional signs, characters (*ethê*) and abstract generalities to the logical icon “person”, we force God into existence as we do our own “I” (*Ego*). We assume God is a person, an individual being having an interior life, like us, but no material body, unlike us. And the irony of it all is that we know this assumption might be fictitious, but we overlook its fictitiousness to *grasp* something with our discursive mind and obtain the gratification that comes with it.

Faith in God or in one self has to do with the production of images in the holistic mind. Thus the sentence “I think of myself so I am” is a mythical statement; the *Ego* steals the *Self*’s show, so to speak. If the imagining mind goes on pretending that the difference of who I am is god given or predestined by some transcendental mind, it operates as it does when it puts a long white beard to God’s face; it allegorizes the myth of the “I” (*Ego*) as a “unique” person by indexicalizing its symbolic (conventional) content. The *Self* knows very well that it walks with a mask (*persona*) – “*larvus proteo*” says Descartes in his third *Méditation* - but in order to be called into existence, the *Ego* has to be identified by others. So the reflecting *Self* has to cover up the claims of the physical *Self*, in order to create the concept “I” (*Ego*), it has to hide the resemblance and the humanity to put forward its uniqueness. But with all the resemblance between the world and the human being, the *Self* would be overwhelmed if it could not transform the logical icon “person” into the mythical symbol “I” (*Ego*). The *Self* has to be used as a ground for any personal utterance if the meaning is to be understandable. The making of God is a switch or a transfer of such kind: the longing for historical proofs of God’s existence only stresses the symbolic essence of the *object* whose existence we need to believe in. If God was obvious, like our psycho-physical experience of life appears to be, we wouldn’t need to prove its existence.

The thought of oneself as *Ego* symbolizes the human individual; it separates the *ground* of the sign (its materiality) and its *object* (what it represents) and bind them together with a new conventional relation. This kind of make-believe, by which the

alleged unity of the individual person is set forth, is indispensable to analytical thinking, specially if the thinking mind aims at self esteem and exaltation of the symbolic “I” (*Ego*).

But can you think of God without naming It? Can you think without words (symbols)? When God’s mask (*persona*) is removed, when the analytical mind finds out that the Supreme Being is not a person, that the logical icon “person” was only used as a ground for symbolization, you can think up a concept of non-person agent like Nature. In the process building the concept of God, allowing someone the self satisfying rational grasp of the “I” (*Ego*), the mental activity is shifted to image making or indexicalization. As an image, God becomes a globality that challenges the validity of any rational definition, but as a rational concept, God is everything that is not evil, It is everywhere except in Hell. There is a contradiction between the two propositions included in this definition of God: *being everything* and *not being evil* are not equivalent.

If “the object of the myth is to give a logical model in order to solve a contradiction” (Lévi-Strauss, 254), then God is a myth, a concept metaphorically used as an image. In the process of making the myth, two contradictory linguistic relations are bridged by one in which they *appear as* identical. A being that is Man *and* not human (animal, god, sky), or dead *and* alive at the same time, in the same oneness, has to be a mythical creature.

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The personification of the Sky or the Earth is a good example of a simple symbolization. The biological functions of human reproduction are symbolized by opposing forces or “persons”, such as Venus and Mars, Moon and Sun. But the god Uranus is much more than the personification of the Sky. To think of him or of his “wife” Gaia as persons who lead a humanlike life brings the analytical mind outside of its limits; they become images, living images like phantasms.

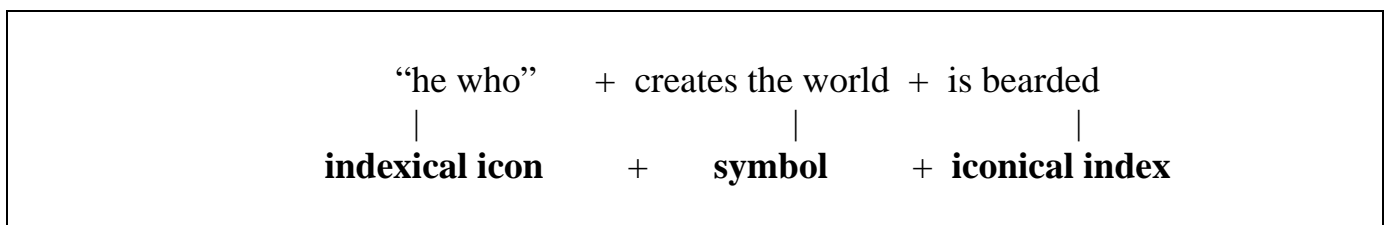
The Sky is much more than a concept; it is a complex set of signs. The logical icon “he Who” is used by the analytical mind as an indexical shifter, then some conventional quality like “if he existed would be a person”, is added to it. This type of reflective abstraction is called symbolization. At that stage of human thinking the Sun god is a symbol. But if some action is involved, if this person like symbol is thought of as doing something, there is a creative word game; the analytical mind with the help of prerecorded (?) logical icons, invents a fictitious existence. There is a myth, a crossing over the logical border of the discursive mind In the case of the Sky god Uranus; he prevents the out coming of his children by laying constantly on the Earth. But this only lasts until his

genitals are cut and... As soon as the holistic mind is allowed to make his illustrative contribution to the myth, symbols are projected into metaphors and allegory prevails, it hinders the rational quest of the explaining mind to a supporting role. If we did not lie about the reality of God, if we did not presume of Its existence, we could not bring the analytical mind to enjoy the rational grasp of explaining something of the world, and neither could we bring the holistic mind to the ecstatic and *anterotic* pleasure of being part of one world.

Myth is a fictional representation of what goes on in the mind: the left half of the brain takes in charge the demonstrative function of thinking through symbolization of a logical icon, and the right half of the brain takes in charge the illustrative function through indexicalization of symbols. To imagine, with forms and colors, the young Jesus in the shop of his father Joseph or Mary crying on the corpse of her dead son is to “bring back to earth” a God that would otherwise remain conceptual.

As long as we exist as persons, God exists as a knowable person like being. If something in us we cannot prove, but know from experience, is not pure matter, not even pure living matter, but virtual matter, then there has to be something in God that is not pure abstraction or pure essence, but has some kind of existence, as an image having a certain power over the matter (ground) that we are, that all existence is. The *icon* (an image resembling its model by reproducing its real proportions) is useful to draw conclusions or prove something (*pistis*); the *eidôlon* (an image through which real presence manifests itself and at the same time is felt as irremediable absence, (J.-P., Vernant : 1979, p.111) is useful to bring the imagining mind to move its material user to tears or fear, to have sensations produced by opinion (*gnomê*). God is a phantasm made of the *eikôn* of a “person” and the *eidôlon* of overwhelming “power”, It is build by adding indexical images to the combination of a logical icon (person) and a symbol (maker of the world), It is both a sign of recognition in the demonstrative process of the symbol-centered discursive mind, and a sign of submission of the analytical *Ego* to the illustrative process of the index-centered holistic mind.

From a semiotic point of view, God is:



Nature is:

“she Who”	+ gives birth to...	+ has a womb
indexical icon	+ symbol	+ iconical index

A phantasm has the same structure:

“she or he who”	+ turns me on	+ is my type
indexical icon	+ symbol	+ iconical index

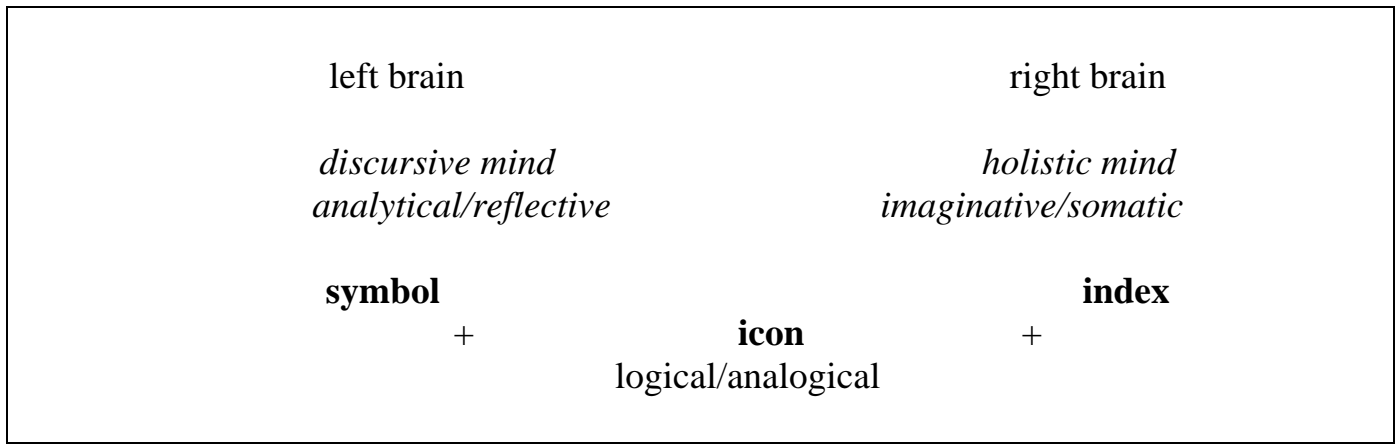
Through the images I show myself of him or her, I induce my analytical mind to submit to the power of an indexicalized symbol. I construct a god or a goddess with the memories I have from my experience of this ideal person, possibly through various experiments. What turns me on has first to become a habit. Even in an unexpected encounter, the turn on of the senses is a kind of recognition (*anagnorisis*) of “my type”. In the most acute moments of spontaneity or sheer presence to the world, you can find traces of analytical thinking. And if you look at it the other way around, you would always find metaphors and images in any rational and scientific attempt to explain life or existence. The symbol is the nucleus of a sign system designed for explanation; the index is the nucleus of a sign system designed for illustration. As a law, a symbol “necessarily governs” or “is embodied in individuals” (Peirce, 2.292). The analytical mind seeks to pin down every single sign to one single meaning; it would be otherwise impossible to explain anything or to be understood while explaining something to someone else.

The holistic mind seeks wholeness and globality felt and embodied. The realization of a dream, its coming through, hinders the power of the images over the imagining mind. This can be easily verified in masturbation: once the pleasure is obtained, the phantasm loses (temporarily) its grip on the holistic mind. As the image becomes real, as a person experiences the ideal “other” in reality, as the divine is incarnated in the human, its

existence is no longer symbolic, since the moved imagination produces concrete proof of it.

God is thus made of mental signs that have in common: that they are produced by the brain and that they are related to the structure of the brain, but are distinguished from one another by being strongly specialized in intra-hemispheric or inter-hemispheric communication.

The intra-hemispheric communication of the left brain specializes in symbols; that of the right brain specializes in indexes. The inter-hemispheric communication of the brain specializes in icons.



Iconicity is everywhere, it is in the construction of myth through indexicalization, it is also in the deconstruction of allegory through symbolization; it is present in a demonstrative thought as in a dream. Therefore it cannot be one of the two opposing signs of the brain. Since it cannot figure as one of the intra-hemispheric specialization, it has to be a connecting sign. In the dynamic of thinking, the icon makes possible or support in the discursive brain the exchange of information between the highly specialized analytical thinking and the less specialized reflective thinking. In the holistic brain, it supports in a similar fashion the exchange between the highly specialized somatic thinking and the less specialized imaginative thinking.

Is conceiving God as a person and imagining It as Father or wise old man a acquired or a natural behavior? It would of course be impossible to establish the acquired part of the logical icon “person”, but the oneness or the white beard are obviously acquired cultural features. Personification is cultural, but it occurs at the very root of the human thinking. The icon is used by the left brain to recognize the learned and memorized data, in order to identify the parts of what it is analyzing. The icon is also used by the right

brain in the illustrative function of thinking; connections are established between symbols and indexes. God is a “person” whose “body” is the living world.

Iconicity functions here in the exact opposite way as it does in personification: instead of trying to explain the concrete existence of the world by abstraction, the thinking tries to bring an abstract concept into the concrete world by comparing a symbol to an index. The illogical aspect of a statement such as “God is a person whose body is the world” has to be covered by metaphor, because the reality of such a person is doomed to be deconstructed, at least doubted by the rational mind. For the holistic mind, God is not different from any other phantasm of imaginative thinking. But we have to distinguish the logical icon (used as a *ground* to the demonstrative symbolization) from the analogical icon (used as a *ground* to the illustrative indexicalization). The logical icon is a limiting device assuring the reduction of possible *interpretants* to the only one acceptable in the view of analytical thinking. The analogical icon is a multiplying device fostering the proliferation of *interpretants* in imaginative thinking. Thus, iconicity plays a different role in the discursive mind and the holistic mind; it is helped by conventional rules in the making of symbols and by natural rules in the making of indexes. The choice of how God looks is conventional, since It as to look like something or someone. To polytheist Greeks or monotheist Christians, God is conceived as a person; to Egyptians, It might have looked like a ram headed bull; to atheists, It is a Nothingness. But a Nothingness has to *look like* something else in order to be conceived or imagined. The description of Nothingness is always a harsh task, because the only tools we have to do it are analytical; and the rational grasp of what is not is only possible through comparison with things that are.

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To say that God thinks up the world and is thus present in the thinking of mankind, is to be an idealist, a rationalistic idealist if God is believed to be modeled on the *Self*, and a metaphysical idealist if the *Self* is believed to be modeled on God. But there is a difference between the thinking of mankind and the thinking of God. Divine thinking has an effect on matter, it creates the real world from scratch, it is *magic*. The world is conceived as the dream of God, a Force or a source of Energy soon to be called Nature. To believe so is to be a metaphysical idealist. On the other hand, to say that reason, as the demonstrative function of thinking, is god given and that human thinking embodies divine thinking is to be a rationalistic idealist.

To say that God is dead (Nietzsche), or that He had turned His back on Man (Hölderlin) is pushing the allegory of God's administration of the world to a point where the soul has to rush back in and down inside. The pleasure aimed at then is a kind of masochistic thrill.

Materialism in its pessimistic phase we can call "morbid realism" denounce the irreality of the fictive personality of God, it denounces all myth. To have faith in oneself as a person playing a role in society is to make use of myth that is to induce an existence to something we know is an abstraction. It is something like Coleridge's "suspension of disbelief", we fool ourselves into believing in God in order to obtain the satisfaction of ecstasy, the movement of the soul (*psuchê*) from an "up" state of the inside being to the "up" state of the outside being.

To believe in God because every one else does is to target the erotic pleasure of ordinary self satisfactory imitation, the basic character of humanity according to Aristotle. But the Question remains to the analytical mind, aiming at the critical pleasure of self exaltation in the rational grasp of God's identity. The problem is that God's name is "he Who" or *Quid*, it reflects like a mirror and sends back the questioner to himself.

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There are four different ways of using signs in the mind, four different ways of combining the attention or indifference of the discursive mind to one self or the world, with the attention or indifference of the holistic mind to the world and one self. When the discursive mind focuses on the world, with the impression of looking down and out, the holistic mind has to focus on the Self

Every movement of the soul occurs in time, it has a starting point and a goal; it starts with a *desire* and ends with a *pleasure*. But it also have to be made in reference to the topography of the body, its highs and lows, it's interior and exterior. The movements of the soul trigger the production of signs: the discursive mind produces symbols, when the soul feels high and in-drawn (*exaltation*), and symbolized indexes such as logical icons, when it feels like going out and down (*compassion*). When the soul feels down and in-drawn (*isolation*), symbols intervene in the freely flowing production of indexes. And when it feels high and out-going (*elevation*), the thinking is concentrated on the indexicalization of symbols; the imaginative thinking uses analogical icons to enhance the feeling of wholeness targeted here.

THINKING

analytic	analytico-holistic
state of inward up going attention to one's self symbol <i>myth</i>	state of outward up going attention to the world analogical icon <i>allegory</i>
state of outward down going attention to the world logical icon <i>memory</i>	state of inward down going attention to one's self index <i>feeling</i>
holistico-analytic	holistic

1.

The *rationalistic* quest for an explanation of the world focuses on the demonstrative or apodictic (*apodeiknumi*) function of human thinking (*dianoia*) and submit the illustrative or apophantic (*apophainô*) function to a supporting role. The pleasure aimed at, here, is the exaltation of the “I” (*Ego*), a movement taking the soul from a state of *outward attention to the world*, the normal state of the discursive mind, to a state of *inward indifference to one self*, a movement ***outside in and up***. Iconicity is here helped by conventional laws to produce symbols. The philosophy drawn from this egocentric production of symbols can be called *rationalistic idealism*, it is build around the myth of the “I” (*Ego*)’s originality. The *exaltation* of the “I” (*Ego*) ends the movement that starts with the indifferenciation of the *Id*. The fear of isolation pushes the *Self* into compassion (self pity) and, from there, the *Self* pushes the mythical “I” (*Ego*) into existence. The specific pleasure attached to this psychic movement is the *critical* pleasure of self assuring rational seizure. It contains a certain amount of violence and might be regarded as a cruel pleasure.

2.

The *extatic* fusion of the analytical mind, located in the left side of the human brain, with the imagining mind, stresses the illustrative function and submits the demonstrative function to a supporting role. The pleasure targeted here is the evacuation of self consciousness in the transcending wholeness of the world as it is seen or imagined by the holistic mind; it implies a movement taking the soul from a state of *inward indifference to oneself* to a state of *outward indifference to the world*, a movement ***inside out and up***. Iconicity is here helped by what we can call natural laws, in other words our physical experience of the world helps us create images of materially existing things, symbols are here helped by indexes. The philosophy drawn from this production of indexed symbols, or illustrated ideas, can be called *metaphysical idealism*. Love as the myth of reciprocity is built here as a bridge between the divine and the human. God given and heaven sent, Love has nothing to do with the materialistic self satisfying urge for sex; in order to believe in Love, the imagining mind has to hide this urge, and produce indexed symbols like phantasms (involving the use of analogical icons such as “world” or “whole” used to fool the analytical mind into an illusionistic game of submission). Only a metaphysical

approach to sex, like that of the Tantra yoga, neoplatonic friendship mostly experienced through sublimation, can really transform the sexual urge into shared spirituality.

The *elevation* of the soul starts in compassion. Then the soul is driven, through the exaltation of the “I” (*Ego*), to project a double masked figure, a kind of allegorical *Super-Ego* whose lifting power is imagined in the right side of the brain. It ends in the *anterotic* pleasure total fusion in the global whole. (Anteros is the half-brother of Eros; one is the offspring of Venus Urania and the other the offspring of Venus Pandemon.)

3.

The *tragic* defeat of the analytical mind resulting in the indifferenciation of abstracted identities and leaving the holistic mind to the sole production of indexes (signs that represent by virtue of “being really affected by” the Object of what they represent or by virtue of the law of causation) aims at the pleasure we can compare to yogic nirvana, the perfect immobility in concentration. Unlike ecstasy, this movement of the soul goes *outside in and down*, from a state of *outward non-attention to the world* to a state of *inward attention to oneself*. Iconicity is of no use here, since the holistic mind, freed from any analytical bound, produces raw images, random indexes, and blends the Self with the rest of the world. The philosophy drawn from this production of indexes can be called *critical materialism*; it is built around the myth of indifferenciation. Deconstruction, nihilism and pessimism are different ways of denying the truth of any rational grasp. The morbid realism of Samuel Beckett or Cioran are good examples of this.

The *isolation* of the soul starts as the subject is created. The analytical mind knows it is lying, but dares overlook it in order to project the “I” (*Ego*) in the image of the *Super-Ego*. The soul is doomed to be deceived by this makeshift God whose materiality is nothing but virtual neural matter, it is drawn back or pulled down to the matter the soul (*psychê*) and the physical body (*soma*) are made of. In this movement of the soul, the masochistic pleasure of self denial empowers the index making mind.

4.

The *ironic* make-belief of the awakening analytical mind, like that of a child, the game like thinking. The movement taking the soul from a state of *inward attention to oneself* to a state of *outward attention to the world*, a movement *inside out and down*, like if the soul was opening caring arms to the world, aims at self satisfying recognition of resemblance, it focuses on iconicity. It is the most common thinking and also the most

childish attitude towards the world. The philosophy here can be called *moderate materialism* that builds around the myth of heredity, a kind of naive realism, as opposed to the morbid realism of the tragic defeat of the soul.

The *compassion* of the soul starts in elevation, but as the metaphoric nature of all essence deceives it, the soul has to go through Hell, and from this state of indifferenciation where all being loose its individuality and nothing is conceivable, it is drawn to the re-comforting feeling of sameness. But as soon as the iconicity of a person, as individual token of the human being, is confronted with the mythical uniqueness of the “I” (*Ego*), compassion becomes self-esteem and the soul is soon to be exalted again. Self gratifying erotic pleasure is attached to this specific movement of the soul.

In the process of analytical thinking, memory is used to move the soul from a inward and down going attention to oneself as identical with the world to an outward state of attention to the world. In other words, memory is the part of the analytical thinking that is functionally dependant of the holistic mind. Myth is used as a means to move the soul (*psuchê*) from unconscious memory of perceptions past and kept through the use of logical icons, such as “person”, to the imaginary projection of oneself in the allegory of the divinized “I” (*Ego*), since the rational grasp of oneself as Ego gives way to it. Though the use of analogical icons, such as “god”, “life”, “energy” or “nature”, the soul reaches a state of pure delight, a kind of rapture of the *Self* in ecstasy, that feels like relief from earthly burden.

In the process of imaginative thinking, allegory is used to move the soul from an outward and up going state of *non-attention to the world* to a state of *non-attention to oneself*, and feeling is used to move it from there to a state of attention to oneself as part of the world, the *Id* as Freud would put it, a kind of confusion out of which the soul is moved again, if stimulated to do so, to a state of “normal” attention to the world that seems less down going than a fall. Memory is thus what compassion is made of, a feeling imbedded in the majoritarly reasonable mind, an imagery where language is the rule. Bad feelings are thoughts in the realm of feelings; they do not belong. Balanced thinking has to let the soul go from one state to the other, without avoiding nor favoring any, except when specific tasks are imposed on the brain for esthetical purposes.

Our will to believe triggers the transfer from a context of logical iconicity, where concepts are made of symbols, to a context of analogical iconicity, where images are made of indexes. God is a semiotic object created by the cultural animals called *Homo sapiens* in order to move the body and bring it to the anterotic pleasure of letting go. With the help of the holistic mind’s indexicalization, the symbols assembled in the myth of God’s

existence are masked like Descartes's *Ego*. Signs of essence, like "creator of all beings" or "master of the universe", are charged with signs of existence such as "beard" and "robe". To get an anterotic kick out of God, the mind "dresses up" the inconceivable being as a bearded father or a mother-like Nature.

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