

Day 2: Symbolic Interpretation Seminar - The Pattern of Reality

1. Meaning and Pattern as Reality

- Yesterday, we discussed the inevitability of pattern in how we perceive and engage with the world.
- The pattern is not just a psychological projection; it is the structure of reality itself.

2. Descartes and the Modern Split

- René Descartes' dualism created a split between the material world and the observer.
- This led to modern thought where the material world is seen separately from the subjective observer.
- Modern materialism aims to encompass everything in the material, even the observer.

3. The Scientific Eye on Consciousness

- Once we've accounted for the material world, we need to account for the way we observe it.
- Subjectivity, like any other phenomena, must emerge from the same properties as the natural world.
- As we apply a scientific eye to consciousness, the subjective becomes part of the material world.

4. Pattern of Perception and Reality

- The patterns of perception are not merely psychological; they reflect the

structure of reality.

- Religious systems and mythological images aim to describe the structure of reality using the embodied experience of humans.
- We experience reality through patterns like space, place, distance, center, and periphery.

5. Heaven and Earth as Primal Opposites

- In the beginning, God created heaven and earth, representing primal opposites.
- These opposites (heaven and earth) lack specific qualities until they are analogically filled.
- Opposites are interdependent and define each other, such as man and woman, up and down.

6. Fractal Nature of Reality

- Reality is fractal: patterns repeat at every level.
- A tree, for example, has branches that mimic the structure of the tree itself.
- Heaven and earth function in this way, where everything identifiable has its own heaven and earth.

7. Heaven as Vertical and Earth as Horizontal

- Heaven represents the vertical (hierarchy) while earth represents the horizontal (embodiment).
- Heaven is the point of reference and unity, while earth is the embodiment of potential.
- The vertical and horizontal meet to connect heaven and earth.

8. Heaven: Invisible, Light, and Pattern

- Heaven is where light, wind, and sound originate — all of which are invisible but

move things.

- Patterns, like rhythm or identity, are invisible but manifest through the world.
- Heaven is the realm of pattern, authority, and identity — all of which are invisible but central to existence.

9. Earth: Darkness, Chaos, and Embodiment

- Earth represents darkness, water, and potential.
- It embodies the chaos that is waiting to be ordered or filled by the patterns of heaven.
- Earth is the place of stability but also a place where identity is lost in its formlessness.

10. Authority and Pattern in Heaven

- Authority, like patterns, is invisible and must be embodied in the material world (e.g., through uniforms, crowns).
- Just as heaven provides the pattern, earth provides the power or material to enact the pattern.

11. The Symbolic Ladder and Hierarchy

- Reality is structured like a ladder where multiplicity moves towards unity.
- Military hierarchies and taxonomies mirror this structure: many fit into a few at higher levels of authority.
- The further down the ladder, the more power there is; the higher up, the more encompassing the plan or pattern.

12. Tyranny and Hierarchy

- Hierarchies break down when a lower part tries to act as the whole (e.g., addiction, corrupt leadership).

- True authority should flow naturally, without excessive compulsion, unless part of the system tries to dominate.

13. Heaven as Light and Attention

- Heaven is symbolized by the eye, representing light, attention, and meaning.
- At the top of the hierarchy is the ideal, the highest good that all things move toward.
- The relationship between above (heaven) and below (earth) is central to religious and symbolic systems.

14. The Symbolism of the Mountain and Pyramid

- The mountain is a recurring symbol of the ascent towards heaven and unity.
- As one moves up the mountain, vision becomes more encompassing, symbolizing the movement towards higher truth.
- A pyramid structure similarly represents this idea, with unity and meaning at the top, and multiplicity and power at the bottom.

15. The Wheel as a Symbol of Unity and Multiplicity

- The wheel symbolizes the central unity (heaven) and the spokes (multiplicity) that extend outwards (earth).
- The center of the wheel is invisible but it holds the structure together, just like the invisible authority of heaven.
- As the spokes extend further from the center, they become more individual and less connected to the core.

16. Examples of this Pattern in Architecture and Story

- The story of Moses going up the mountain represents the ascent toward divine pattern and knowledge.

- Churches and traditional architecture reflect the same ascent: with the altar (the highest point) representing heaven, and the nave (where people gather) representing earth.
- Cities like Mont Saint-Michel embody this symbolic pattern, with the church or palace at the top and the common people at the bottom.

17. The Cross and the Wheel in Symbolism

- The cross represents the intersection of the vertical (heaven) and horizontal (earth).
- The center of the cross is the point of unity and convergence.
- In a wheel, the center (heaven) provides the source of movement, while the spokes (earth) extend outward, representing multiplicity.

18. Understanding Stories through this Structure

- Many religious and mythological stories use this symbolic structure to explain the relationship between heaven and earth, unity and multiplicity, and authority and power.
 - This symbolic structure applies to all levels of existence, from the political to the cosmic.
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