

Circle Sacred Symbol Mandala

Symbolism in philosophy

Philosophic reasoning can be juxtaposed with imagination. Anthony used pictures to visually express insights in the *Enneads* of Plotinus, and he used the *Enneads* to provide a philosophic basis for a cosmic and astrological symbolism.

In using the *Enneads* as a philosophic base, Anthony chose what we feel is the broadest and most profound exploration of Reality to be found in any available writings. Plotinus himself suggests the value of symbolism :

. . . the wise of Egypt—whether in precise knowledge or by native intuition—indicated the truth where, in their effort toward philosophic statement, they left aside the writing-forms that take in the detail of words and sentences—those characters that represent sounds and convey the propositions of reasoning—and drew pictures instead, engraving in the temple-inscriptions a separate image for every separate item: Thus they exhibited the absence of discursiveness in the Intellectual Realm.

For each manifestation of knowledge and wisdom is a distinct image, an object in itself, an immediate unity, not an aggregate of discursive reasoning and detailed willing. 5.8.6

Of course, words and pictures can't convey the immediacy of the blinding abyss and mystery of the Divine Existences. And yet the magic of a symbol image is its ability to point beyond itself and awaken knowledge we already contain. A symbol may also evoke a visual intuition and help us glimpse the sage's vision, a "seeing which lives."

You cannot put It into any symbol without falsifying what It really is. Yet you cannot even mention It in any way whatsoever without putting It into a symbol. What then are you to do? ... If mystics declare, as they so often do, that you should keep silent, ask them why so many of them have failed to obey this rule themselves? In their answer you will find its own insufficiency and incompleteness. For although, like everyone else, they too have to function on two separate and distinct levels, yet the truths pertaining to one level must in the end be coupled with those pertaining to the other... 19.2.34

The use of imagination is central to the spiritual traditions of India and Egypt. This imagination is not the phantasy we are used to in the ego, but has creative and Gnostic power. For example, Henry Corbin wrote, in *The Creative Imagination of Ibn Arabi*, that the imagination is the "magical intermediary" between the finite individual and the formless trans-individual. These traditions distinguished between a creative or productive activity, and the fantasy which is inseparable from the brain consciousness. On the one hand, creative imagination is open and fluid, allowing the touch of the formless to mold it and express insights. It is non-linear, that is, in modern language works with the right brain rather than left. Further, the principles we are portraying in metaphysics are beyond the physical, and can at best be pointed to. Images, paradox, poetry are often better pointers than prose words, to awaken our own inspiration and aspiration. Creative imagination is thus a spiritual practice.

Why a Symbol for Reality?

... For although the exact definition and direct explanation of words are unable to catch the whole of this subtle experience within their receiving range because they are turned into ordinary human intellectual emotional and physical experience, they may nevertheless evoke an intuitive recognition of its beauty; they may suggest to sensitive minds a hint of its worth and they may arouse the first aspiration towards its attainment for oneself. 28.2.59

#The phenomena of the world-form tyrannously and completely masks its reality, so completely that only a dwindling number of people even suspect there *is* any reality behind it. Spiritual intuition has never been so dormant among the race as during the past hundred years. Form, which should have been a wicket-gate giving entry to its diviner significance, has become a prison in which they are held captive by their own obtuseness. 26.1.199

#All spiritual study is incomplete if it ignores the facts, truths, laws, and principles of cosmogony. To attempt to justify this neglect with the accusation that they belong to the world of illusion is silly and useless. For the accuser must still continue to live in an illusory body and use an illusory self governed by those laws. After every such attempt and for each violation of those laws--upon which the order and harmony of the universe depend--which his neglect brings about, he must pay the penalty in suffering. ([26:4.161](#))

#Paradox is both the primal and the final truth. Life, whether we approve of it or not, is like that. Things are dual and so is man's nature a pairing of negative and positive. But even more is the entire cosmos itself both real and unreal. ([26:3.1](#))

Paradox is the only way to view both the immediate and the ultimate at the same time. ([19:2.30](#))

The cosmos is neither a phantom to be disdained nor an illusion to be dismissed. It is a remote expression in time and space and individuality of that which is timeless spaceless and infinite. If it is not the Reality in its ultimate sense, it is an emanation of the Reality. Hence it shares in some way the life of its source. To find that point of sharing is the true object of incarnation for all creatures within the cosmos. ([26:1.179](#))

When they fulfil their highest mission, painting and sculpture try to make visible, music tries to make audible, prose literature tries to make thinkable, poetic literature tries to make imaginable the invisible, inaudible, unthinkable, and unimaginable mystery of pure Spirit. Although it is true that they can never give shape to what is by its very nature the Shapeless, it is also true that they can hint, suggest, symbolize, and point to It. 14.1.147

#Rumi: One Handed Basket Weaving Tr. Barks

A story is like the water you heat for your bath.

It takes messages between the fire and your skin. It lets them meet, and it cleans you!

Very few can sit down in the middle of the fire itself like a salamander or Abraham. We need intermediaries.

Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know it.

The body is a screen to partly shield and to partly reveal the light that is blazing inside your presence.

Water, stories, the body, all the things we do, are mediums that hide and show what's hidden.

Study them, and enjoy this being washed with a secret we sometimes know, and then not. P.29

#RUMI: The Dream that must be Interpreted One Handed Basket Weaving tr. Barks

This place is a dream; Only a sleeper considers it real...

But there's a difference with *this* dream:

It stays, and it must be *interpreted*...

#Mason Jennings

Oh Jesus, I love You, and I love Buddha too

Ramakrishna, Guru Dev, Tao Te Ching and Mohammed

Why do some people say That there is just one way

To love You, God, and come to You? We are all a part of You

You are un-nameable You are unknowable

All we have is metaphor That's what time and space are for

Is the universe Your thought? You are and You are not

You are many, You are one, ever ending, just begun

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWVmCHHzSzA>

Symbol: Slogans ○ Symbol and Paradoxa

Corbin: Imagination: Magical intermediary.

Continuity and complementarity (infinite and finite)-- Continuity of Reality and its Appearance.

Symbol re(ve)als and conceals. Tincture... Opaque to Transparencize experience

Mean-ing. Allows the beauty to shine through

Simplicity the other side of complexity-profundity.

Multivalent: determined enough and open enough

Consciousness disguised as a person. God is in each in disguise. Remove the veil and see.

God looking out through the eyes of the person at its creation and sees that it is good

Symbols participate in the reality to which they point;

Gold backing. Like faith and belief Eros/- Poros and plenty Sunlight and Moonlight.

Sacred: **appreciate experience appearance and form as Sacred: Halo, Wholeness, Holiness**

"All human experience is spiritual whatever we have done to degrade it."

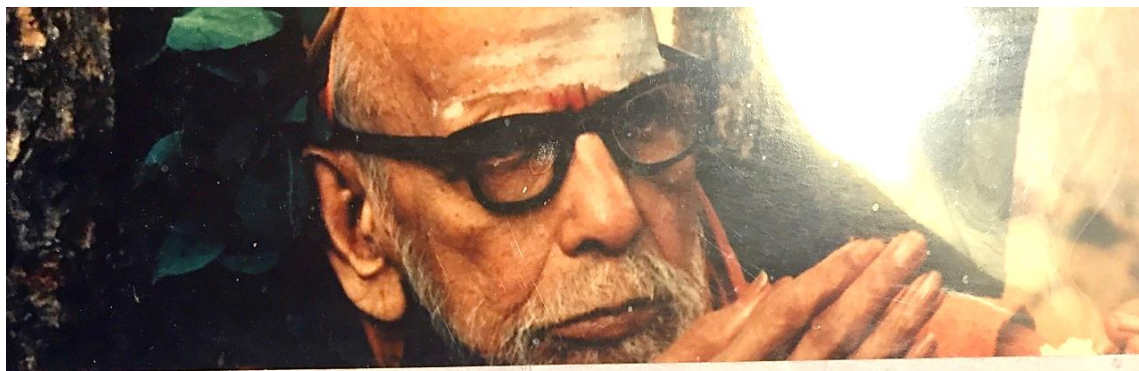
A way of seeing, A mode of consciousness-- you see differently.

SYMBOL assumes infinity – and Infinity as symbol. infinite potential, and potentially Infinite relation of the finite and Infinite

Don't take it too literally — seriously -- Humor

Mathematizing M, G, U

Each Individual is a unique form of infinite intelligence--Drop of the infinite ocean of consciousness, love, being



Every person you encounter is God in disguise; God is hiding within each person. When you remove the filters of your mind, God is right there in front of you.

EXTRA

SYMBOL Symbol and Paradox

Emphasize that in the symbol the symbol itself is an expression of the reality which we seek.

We come to it with a piece of it already in us. Symbol grows out of, or is inspired by, or is an expression of reality, of the reality. Like Eros: reveal and conceal. Spectrum: never 0 never 1.

It is a way of seeing or an organ of experience through which one can Access and express the otherwise inexpressible reality. A mode of consciousness.— you see differently.

One enters the symbol like entering a diving suit to explore an unknown territory, to get a window into reality. The method aimed to free the mind to see through the words, or as Robert Lawlor writes

Symbols participate in the reality to which they point;

SYMBOL: TAKES US FROM EXPLICIT to IMPLICIT -- shows us universe reveals as well as conceals... the implicit is pointed to by the explicit When it becomes a symbol. JUST AS PSYCHE TAKES US FROM IMPLICIT TO EXPLICIT.

Symbol meaning and the Sacred. "All human exp is spiritual whatever ...

IS THIS A BLUE LETTER? YES AND NO. *KNOWN*. Everything Is Symbol... when points to That.

Points to mystery -- Points beyond itself -- Stands for. Not what it seems. Closed to open. Mandala/symbol does not take off the form of the "disguise" but helps see the "disguise" as an expression of underlying reality: from concealing to revealing. "continuous with It's appearance."

Transparency instead of opaque Inspired Symbol reveals and conceals

Conceal → sign → concept. Reveal = Re (ve) al → you are that. ∞

Simplicity the other side

NM, AD: for the joy of it: Don't take it too literally — seriously -- Humor

Literal vs symbolic-- literal. Symbolic. Realizative Intuitive or lends to -Not insight

When appearance points back to, re-minds us of the Mind, God, Ground of Being, primordial Awareness it arises from, then it becomes symbol, and more... it is "presence." Embodied being not loss of being.

Appearance is all a symbol of Reality: this is what continuity means...neither identical, nor separate. If it were separate, would not be at all. But if infinity did not hide, no form could arise: so can't be identical and still be its unique expression. That is what appearance is for.

Heliotrope: Eros: you would not recognize it at all if it were not already in you.

BEETHOVEN: I BEAR WITNESS...