

of me (the condensed word being his substitute for "bird") Hail to thee, blithe spirit! / Groundling thou never wert.... (Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.). My own soul.

How few the years / I've been around! // Scarce broken in / Till broken down. I wrote that yesterday (April Fool's Day, '83), though --albeit having intimations of mortality--I seem to be far from "broken down." This thinksheet is about one of our life-tasks, viz., becoming acquainted with one's own soul. Some autobiography here--because (S.K.) "I know myself better than anyone else does, and better than I know anyone else," and because (as Black Elk says) "I would not tell my story unless it were also the story of all two-footeds."

1. Good old biblical law, that the groom takes a year off from work to get acquainted with the bride. My number on Jung (and cf. Sun Moon): my *anima*-soul is my forever bride, as a woman's *animus*-soul is her forever groom. In the lexicon of the soul, every woman is (1) an active bodying forth of the feminine in God and (2) a passive bodying forth of the feminine in me--Loree being the only woman ever to be also the total bodying forth of the feminine toward me. Because I believe all this with my gut as well as with my mind, it's incomprehensible to me how any man can treat a woman the way most women are treated by men. A man-abused or -neglected woman profoundly saddens and enrages me; it insults our masculinity, God's and mine, as well as betraying the woman.... Three roots of my feeling-thinking here: (1) The way my father took his mother's 1892 divorce from his father, who was crude macho: the near deification of the feminine; (2) My own romantic "nature" (=soul), a dimension I am less and less inclined to deny; and (3) Biblical religion, which is far more pro-feminine than any other of "the world's great religions."

2. Why do so many marriages fall apart after the last child leaves home? Is that, more than any previous period, the time the two are free to spend real time becoming acquainted? It is. So the marriage collapses because (1) they don't take advantage of this opportunity, or (2) they do, and discover they don't really like each other, or (3) one grows hotter (in the whole-person sense, all dimensions) and the other doesn't, or even cools. At root, I believe, is the refusal of one or both to grow in self-awareness, self-acquaintance, self-love--God-love.

3. The religions of the Indus and Ganges valleys hold that the central and final religious action is self(Self)-viewing, resulting in *Brahma atma*, the discovery-revelation that my/all soul(s) are both in the One and the One Itself. Some implicates: (1) Prayer to the gods disappears into self-Self realizing "meditation," and (2) *maya*-world disappears into *atma Brahma*, so that (3) history is of trivial importance and (4) the physical body is merely a means, by absolute soul-control of it, of "yoking" (*yoga*) soul to Soul. Ambivalently, Christianity has seen all this as both blasphemy (which, theologically, it is) and opportunity for special "knowing" (Christian *gnosis*) and God-loving ("the Kingdom of Heaven is within you," in the interior sense).

4. Sociopsychologically, the Johari Window (#1066) shows the dimension in which neither you nor I know me (though, I add, God does) but both of us can grow in knowledge of me. The Window has high potential for helping the church to higher faithfulness to the gospel.

5. Shelley's *To a Skylark* sings in my memory because, the year after WWII, a seminary student in a Greek class of mine wrote