



Soul Cycles

Personal & Collective Evolvment
Alternative Healing
Social Artistry

The Daimon Growing Down

Western morality tends to put all better things up high and worse things down low. By now the upward idea of growth has become a biographical cliché. Tomato plants and even the tallest trees send down roots as they rise towards the light. Yet the metaphor for our lives sees mainly the upward part of organic motion. Hasn't something critical been forgotten in the ascending model? Birthing! Normally we come into the world head first, like divers into the pool of humanity. Besides the head has a soft spot through which the infant's soul, according to the traditions of body symbolism, could still be influenced by its origins. The slow closing of the head's fontanel, its hardening into a tightly sealed shell, signified separation from an invisible beyond and final arrival here. Descent takes a while. We grow down, and we need a long life to get on our feet.

In Asia the feet of Fatima are worshipped, in Sri Lanka the faithful revere the Buddha's footprint. It shows that they were truly in the world. They had really grown down. James Hillman's model of growth has its roots in heaven and imagines a gradual descent downward towards human affairs.

"A person's involvement with the world gives evidence of the descent of the spirit; virtue would consist in downwardness such as humility, charity, teaching, and not being stuck up."

To plant a foot firmly on earth is the ultimate achievement; a far later stage of growth than anything begun in our head.

Sometimes growing down becomes a "fall".

Why do famous stars sink so low- becoming commercial face-lifted drunks, sex freaks, and religious paranoids? Are these not desperate attempts to touch the common ground? The heights seek the depth; one way or the other, even by suicide, by ruinous contracts and bankruptcy, by entangling emotional messes. No soft landings.

So we are back to a general principle: The heart's image requires efforts of "attachment" to every sort of circumstance, whether these anchors are the loyalty of friends, the stability of contracts, the schedule of the clock, or the facts of geography.

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