

Images vs. Concepts

What would happen
if we couldn't communicate
with concepts? Imagine!

Concepts arise from
mental processes;
images issue from
lived experiences.

Images are the
matrix of concepts;
concepts abstract forms
from images.

Concepts construct
and constrict;
images erupt
and flow over.

Concepts are one way
to express insights;
images are another.

Philosophers deal in concepts;
poets prefer images.
When scientists reach
the limit of concepts,
they resort to images.

A concept is a map;
an image is the territory.
A concept is a road sign;
an image is the scenery.
A concept erects a fence;
an image spills over barriers.

Dogmas and decrees
employ concepts;
parables and stories
like images.

In teaching doctrine
some talk only
in concepts;
strange, because Jesus
used images.

Clarity and certainty
are the prizes
of the conceptual;
ambivalence and superfluity
are the playground
of the imaginative.
Those who eschew images
and rely solely on concepts
are interiorly impoverished.

When an impasse blocks
the discourse of concepts,
return to the primordial images.
Dissension occurs
when priority is usurped
by the conceptual
to the exclusion
of the imaginative.

Arrogance is reached
when Divine Mystery
is chained by concepts
and access denied to images.
Yet, Divine Mystery
is respected
when shorn of both
concepts and images.

Still, it is a sign of
God's graciousness
that when the Word
was made flesh,
God's Concept
became an Image.

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