

Hillman and Freire:
Intellectual Accompaniment by Two Fathers¹

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Introduction

Accompaniment, *acompañamiento*, as used in the Latin American context, comes from *companionero* or friend, and from the Latin *ad cumis pan*, to break bread together. To accompany is to walk alongside one another, lightening the load of going the path alone. Intellectual accompaniment can be accomplished by the living and the dead, by one physically near and by one whom we have never physically met, through spoken dialogue and the quiet imaginal dialogue provoked by an intense encounter with written works.

When Camilo Ghorayeb invited me to pay tribute to Hillman's work in Campinas, I thought of Sao Paulo, that city where at the end of his life Paulo Freire was entrusted with administering the then largest public school system in the world. I knew that speaking here I could not keep Hillman and Freire apart, although they never met and never mentioned one another in their work. I could not keep them apart here because it is here--in Brazil--that they came together in my life in 1985 when I adopted my oldest daughter from Natal in the *Nordeste*.

My life has been graced by my experience of them as intellectual fathers: James through his books, mentorship, and friendship, and Paulo through my deep immersion in his writings. Sometimes those surrounding each of these men found my deep passion for the other's work suspect. I tried to trust in my own

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sense that while each of their works presented itself as a completed world, that only together, backed up against one another, did I begin to get a sense of the totality of the task before us, as psychologically minded people concerned with deep economic and social divides, and our frightening lack of regard for our effects on the natural world.

Freire and Hillman lived in quite different worlds. Their social locations had radical impact on their work, and its positioning during the 1950's-1970's. We can see this clearly from their very different experiences of exile. Freire was forced into a painful and prolonged political exile after imprisonment for his commitment to social justice. Hillman engaged in a self-chosen exile from his country, stepping aside from the politics of the day—except for the politics at the Zurich Jung Institute, which eventually double-exiled him back to his home country. This second exile situated him back home in such a way that wider politics began to matter to him. Only in the 1980's did Hillman undergo a reorientation that brought his own understandings closer to Freire's. In the last decades of their lives both were grappling with the effects of globalization on communities.

Paulo Freire (1921-1997) was born in Recife, in the northeast of Brazil, five years before Hillman was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the son of a successful hotelier. Freire began his life in a solidly middle-class family, with an army sergeant father and a seamstress housewife mother. Repercussions from the Depression in the United States suddenly threw his family into poverty. Freire recalls that while sitting in his classroom as a young boy, unable to concentrate on his lessons due to hunger, he silently forged a commitment to work on issues of world hunger when he grew up. Indeed, he did address

hunger, but it was hunger for a sense of voice and agency, hunger for understanding the world one had taken as inevitable and unchangeable, and hunger to seize the “vocation of humanization” in order to transform the world one lives in. He linked the gaining of literacy with learning to decode the socioeconomic and political configurations of power that scaffold one’s everyday life. The method he evolved of developing critical consciousness entailed literacy work in a group engaged in dialogical practices, led by a group leader called an “animator.”

Participants were asked what generative words, words at the heart of their daily experience, they would like to learn to read and write. With each word the animator asks questions to bring from the group their knowledge about the lived context of the word. For instance, “water” is a crucial word for a region alternately devastated by droughts and floods, a region where water rights are controlled by forces outside of ordinary people’s influence. Generative questions would seek to help the group pull together their knowledge of the situation they found themselves in: Who controls the water? What are the illnesses that come from tainted water? How does water become polluted? Was it always so? Did people have access to more clean water in the past? If so, what has changed? Initially, says Freire, we accept our daily reality as inevitable, natural, and normal. It is only by beginning to reflect on it in the company of others that we can begin to see how it is constructed. Often then we tend to blame ourselves or particular others for the way things are. With further questioning and dialogue, however, we can begin to see into the deeper societal arrangements that create our daily experience. It is only at this point that we can begin to imagine things

otherwise, and we can exercise prophetic imagination with others to envision a more preferred reality toward which we can work in solidarity with others.

In 1962 he directed a project where 300 rural farm workers were taught to read and write in 45 days. In 1963 President Goulart invited Freire to rethink Brazil's approach to literacy and to coordinate the National Literacy Plan. Freire and his colleagues set up 200,000 cultural circles to host the emergence into literacy of two million Brazilians. A coup d'état replaced Goulart with a repressive military government. Shortly after the coup, Freire was imprisoned for 70 days, and was called an "international subversive" and a "traitor to Christ and the Brazilian people," and was condemned for trying to make Brazil a Bolshevik country (Gadotti, 1994, p. 35).

While in prison Freire grasped more deeply the essential connections between education and politics. The landowners had understood that through education the peasants would become aware of their social situation and begin to organize to improve their situation (Gadotti, 1994). He was forced into exile.ⁱⁱ During his time in Chile he was able to complete --at age 47-- *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, first published in 1968, translated into dozens of languages, while being banned in most Latin American countries as well as the Iberian Peninsula during the years of his exile. His method has affected critical dialogical education for critical consciousness on all continents.

Today I want to draw attention to that fertile crescent of ideas that grow where the independent springs of Hillman and Freire's works co-mingle. As we face into the gathering storm of globalization's rapacious desires, we need both a psychology of how those burdened by oppressive practices can transform the pernicious situations they are born into and a psychology of how what Hillman

calls "white consciousness" can make a jailbreak from the "tiny cell" of the ego that has predisposed it to see the world as dead and lifeless. While Freire borrowed from Erich Fromm's work to describe the necrophilic character of oppressor consciousness, Hillman grapples with this same mode of being at close range. From his own early adult experience, he became aware of how white consciousness can ignore the difficulties of the world, and instead chooses the psychic interior for its engagement.

I first encountered Hillman's work when I was 22, and Freire's when I was 34.ⁱⁱⁱ In both cases I had a sense of being taken under the wing of a work, a work in both cases that I would devote years of my life to. In my late forties I began an essay comparing and contrasting their thought, "'Seeing Through' and 'Critical Consciousness': A Conversation between the Work of Hillman and Freire." It is only since James's death and upon your kind invitation that I have felt the freedom to return to this essay.

Despite Freire and Hillman's many differences in life experiences and emphases in their work, they share several core ideas and orientations: the difference between ideas and ideologies, the work of seeing-through ideas or critical consciousness, the relationship between reflection and action, a suspicion of dualities and a desire to overcome the contradictions they impose, the critical role of the imagination in human life, and our interdependence with one another and with nature. I shall take up briefly each of these areas of overlap.

Seeing Through and Critical Consciousness: How different Freire and Hillman's processes of developing consciousness are! Freire always worked with people in groups believing that this empowered them to begin to think together about their

shared situation; Hillman worked for decades in the dyadic arrangement of therapy -- until he chose to abandon therapy, assessing that it was often part of the problem for the Euro-American person. Then he, too, moved to the group, first in men's gatherings with poet Robert Bly, and then in classroom encounters that grew to be highly dialogical at Pacifica Graduate Institute and other places. He would later say that if groups were not sources of increasing consciousness, we would not find the right of assembly denied by repressive governments.

At the heart of their work, is what Hillman called "seeing-through," and what Freire called "conscientization" or the development of critical consciousness. Both sought to denaturalize the taken-for-granted, to reject the lies in dominant narratives, and to seek knowledge that has been marginalized and even "disappeared."

Ideas and Ideologies: Both men's stated goals—soul-making for Hillman and humanization for Freire—are foundationally dependent on working with and through ideas. Whereas Hillman initially focused on seeing-through psychological material and personality issues, through the 1980's he moved to seeing-through societal and ecological conditions, much as Freire had already been doing.

Hillman asserts that "soul-making takes place as much through ideation as in personal relationships or meditation" (1975, p. 115).^{iv} For Hillman, "[i]deas are ways of seeing and knowing, or knowing by means of insightful. Ideas allow us to envision and by means of vision we can know" (1975, p. 121).

Freire sees ideas as the scaffolding of our societal structures, and as the *prima material* with which we transform our world. For both men, it is our

unreflected identification with and possession by ideas, which condemns us to mindlessly repeat the past and support the destructive status quo configurations of the present. Hillman sees this work as "dethroning the dominant fantasy ruling our view of the world" (1975, p. 41). Ideas need to be seen through, reflected upon, taken up as things that are created and which can be transformed. Hillman warns that psyche without vibrant ideas, turns to ideologies. "Psychologizing sees through what is taught; it is a learning beyond any teaching" (1975, p. 133). For Freire, the radical is one who can think critically. He is able to doubt, to suspend circles of certainties within which reality is imprisoned. "He is not afraid to confront, to listen, to see the world unveiled" (p. 24).

When ideas are unworked, the reality they spawn is experienced as natural or inevitable. The experiencer is, in turn, a passive victim. "The soul seems to suffer," says Hillman, when its inward eye is occluded, a victim of overwhelming events" (1975, p. 123). Psyche desires vision. "Ideas," says Hillman, are the nodes that make possible our ability to see through events into their patterns" (p. 121).

It is the posing of questions for Freire, questions that lead people to reflect on the given, that allow the generative ideas of a situation to surface, and to be reflected upon. For Freire the process of grasping the ideas that structure everyday experience allows us to partake of a process of humanization, which he sees as our ontological vocation. It is this seeing-through that liberates us to create with ideas, rather than only be a victim of them. Hillman and Freire agree that seeing-through is never accomplished once and for all, but is a continual process. Freire warns that without this ongoing reflection, oppression reoccurs,

even if it is the former victims who now perpetrate it, having simply identified with the consciousness of their former oppressors. Both men seek an education that both exposes ideas and allows us to envision by means of them.

Reflection and Action: For both men, “action and idea are not inherent enemies, and,” as Hillman asserts, “they should not be paired as a contrast” (Hillman, 1975, p. 116). Hillman sees reflection as an activity and “action as always enact[ing] an idea” (p. 116). He speaks of our needing “to bring soul into action, and action into soul by means of psychologizing” (p. 117). Ideas change practice, he says. “[W]hen an insight or idea has sunk in, practice visibly changes. The idea has opened the eye of the soul. By seeing differently, we do differently” (1975, p. 122). Given Hillman’s commitment to ideas and his relative lack of interest in method and practice, it is important to underscore his clarity about this.

Freire also stresses the necessity to move between action and reflection, and thus not to split into either an activism devoid of reflection or a kind of reflection that degenerates into mere “verbalism.” He, like Hillman, is committed to overcoming contradictions, not being caught in them. He seeks to overcome identification with either pole of the duality of oppressor and oppressed. “Man in the process of liberation” is the alternative for Freire to the oppressor-oppressed duality.

The Problematizing and Relativizing of the “Modern Ego”

Hillman did not focus thematically, as Freire did, on colonialism, colonality, or the effects of colonialism on the psyche. His work, however, can be

read as a gradual attempt to problematize—using Freire’s language—aspects of oppressor consciousness, certain forms of the Western or Euro-American ego. As early as 1972 in *The Myth of Analysis* we can begin to track his suspicion of the Western ego, his characterizing it as the most unconscious aspect of a person. He saw its heroic proclivities, and often characterized it as “the conquering ego” or “the imperial ego.” Hillman, a son of the First World, was beginning to work his way out of psychoanalysis’ lauding of the ego. His critique first ruptured Jungian psychology’s adoration of the Self and the individuation process, and then burst open a host of embedded assumptions about the function of the ego.

As others since who have realized how colonial discourse became embedded in the psychoanalytic project, Hillman was listening to the imperialism in the way that Freud characterized the task of the ego: “To strengthen the ego, to make it more independent of the super ego, to widen its field of perception and enlarge its organization so that it can appropriate fresh portions of the id. Where id was there shall ego be. It is a work of culture.” (Freud, 1964, pp. 99-100). In *Myth of Analysis* he speaks of the migration of the psyche into the head as first happening in 18th century philosophy and as a beginning “of the contemporary fantasy of a ‘strong ego.’” “This new ego,” he says, “appeared in fears of softness and the influence of Venus...in the notion of madness as a disorder of brain mechanisms and breakdown of control, in the doctrines of racial and male superiority” (1972, p. 153).

Most of the language of psychology developed within the same context that saw the rise of the modern ego. This language reflects its context, a psyche identified with the head and without eros, an ‘empire’ of the hard, strong, materialized ego.... Each of us accepts this collective

structure so unthinkingly, so irrevocably, that each believes it to be his very own unique and private "I." (1972, p. 154)

Hillman sees that the identification with the idea of centered rule by will and reason, co-constellates an unconscious marked by disintegration and fragmentation. He wants us to see these as styles of consciousness: the center and the periphery, each with their own values, strengths, and patterns of fantasy.^v

Hillman railed against what he understood as ideologies of development that were consistent with the imperial ego. "The model of thinking is nineteenth-century," he said, "a primitive Darwinism of evolution, dominant over recessive; a psychological imperialism, colonizing the unconscious or the id with a reality-coping ego consciousness" (1972, p. 184). ^{vi}A move to the imaginal ego involved removing oneself from the path of development of the heroic ego, the ego of mastery and control, of self-sufficiency and individualistic achievement. "The imaginal ego," he said, is more discontinuous, now this and now that, guided as much by the synchronistic present as by the causal past....It includes the downward turns, the depressions, recessions, and fallings-away from awareness. Psychopathology has its place; it is necessary."

During this same period Freire is also concerned with development, but for him the culprit is the idea of progress that was thrust on some societies by other societies. As liberation theologians had also argued, such imposition actually led to the underdevelopment of the many in order to support the presumed development of a few. Freire argued that each society should be free to undertake its own path of development.

In saying "modern ego" Hillman is not including the ego of those marginalized in society. He is describing the ego of people like himself in the

West. The problems of passivity, fatalism, and over-accommodation to received reality that Freire takes up as characteristic of the ego of the peasants he is working with is nowhere to be found in Hillman.

In his essay "On Anima" Hillman turns the ego on its head, saying that it is not a king but a janitor, an instrument for day-to-day coping, and that "ego consciousness does not deserve the name of consciousness at all" (Hillman, 1991, p. 33). The myth of the hero, he says, is the myth of inflation. It "tells the tale of conquest and destruction, the tale of psychology's 'strong ego.' Its fire and sword, as well as the career of its civilization, but it tells little of the culture of its consciousness" (1991, p. 32). But, says Hillman, "the ego is not the whole psyche, only one member of a commune" (Hillman, 1975, p. 31).

Psychic Polytheism and the Imaginal Ego: In the early 1970's, Hillman proposed an undoing of this psychic empire through a turn from psychic monotheism to polytheism, a turn to the multiple psychic figures that animate what Jung called the mythopoetic function of the psyche. In "collapsing the rule of the old ego," Hillman was aware that the "abandonment of psychological monotheism is radical indeed" (p. 265).

Hillman advocated for a radical change in the function of the ego, from the ego as Romanizing to an imaginal ego. This latter ego's function is far more humble. Its task is to host the multiplicity of the psyche through active imagination and through reflection through archetypal lenses. While almost wholly inner oriented, this period in Hillman's work was crucial to his dethroning of the ego, and to his own intimate witnessing of the untamed wilds of imagination that are then accessible, not only as feared inbreaks of psychic

symptoms, but as regions with an interest of their own, and which offer refreshment and revitalization to the parched and exhausted leaders of Roman legions.^{vii}

In *Re-Visioning Psychology* Hillman proclaims with an air of certainty, "Personifying is the soul's answer to egocentricity" (1975, p. 32). During this early period he focused on the autonomy of the psyche, the capacity of the psyche to generate fantasy, to see in terms of psychic figures. His project was a decentering of the psyche through a relativizing of the ego, emphasizing that consciousness resides in each psychic figure and landscape, not only in the ego. In *The Dream and the Underworld* he maintained that the "first move in teaching ego how to dream is to teach it about itself, that it too is an image," to teach it how to move in the dark (p. 102). In doing so he was clear that he was following Jung's lead in trying to develop a new kind of ego consciousness through "taking the dream ego with utter seriousness and by training consciousness to think symbolically or psychologically" (1972, p. 183).^{viii}

For this reason Hillman focused on what he called the "imaginal ego," using Corbin's sense of the word "imaginal," pointing to an altogether different realm of the real, not the "imaginary." He proposed that the imaginal ego is that part of the ego complex that can engage in imaginal reality. This shift to an imaginal ego, he suggested, would allow us to be in contact with what can heal us, a realm always otherwise beyond the threshold of the heroic ego (1972, p. 188). He asks us to question our own location in the ego and to bare ourselves to encounters with those standpoints far from the center of ego consciousness.^{ix}

In *Myth of Analysis* in 1972 Hillman is conserving the individualistic self, even as he struggles against the ego. . The heroic ego is deconstructed in favor of

the imaginal ego. But the gaze is inward, to the margins of consciousness, and down into the psychic depths. He sees that we are living in a sliver of ourselves, suffering an amputation of consciousness, split us off from libidinal springs of the imaginal. There is no link to the larger world within which such an ego resides, no bridge between the psychic and the social depths.

White Consciousness

In his essay "Notes on White Supremacy," Hillman (1986) takes up the white supremacy of the Northern European and American psyche that sees whiteness as superior to darkness. He tracks how this whiteness is likened both to superiority and with the supposed purity and innocence of the child. He understands how "the convention informing geographical discoveries and the expansion of white consciousness over Africa...informs psychic geography, the topological language used by Freud for 'the unconscious' as a place below, different, timeless, primordial, libidinal and separated from consciousness" (p. 45). This psychic geography "recapitulates," he says, "what white reporters centuries earlier said about west Africa" (p. 45). Then he makes a bold claim that I would like to underscore:

It is this unconscious white consciousness that is the proper object of depth psychology, depth come home to roost, out of Africa; depth in Freud's sense of the omnipotence fantasy and Jung's sense of shadow, ever present and always mine, the very me I am now, imagining myself eternal and unblamed.... And so the entire modern psychological effort to raise consciousness, and the ego drafted to enact the endeavor, is one more manifestation of whiteness, perpetuating the very fault it would

resolve. The project can never succeed since the unconscious it would redeem lies in the instrument of its intent, in the eye of its light" (1986, p. 46).

Hillman describes the historical path to white consciousness:

As modern psychology recognized this double delusion—that its selective consciousness does not really require another and that this consciousness really does refer to another—it had to divide the mind. It had to invent the unconscious in order to remind consciousness that it could never be as white as it wishes. The 'discovery' of the 'unconscious' came as a late stage of modernism, indicating its decline by turning its projective roots back onto itself. The 'discovery' was actually a self-discovery, a backhanded welcoming of reflective consciousness's own delusional base.... The ego that feels itself as weak attempts to assert more and more control of what is alien. (pp. 54-55)

Hillman goes on to describe the psychic orientation of white consciousness as one whereby one believes one is seeing others, but is only seeing oneself. Further, one is unaware that one is being seen, by human others and even other-than-human others, including night itself. White consciousness has to "discover" otherness; it has to realize that it is an infinitesimally small island in comparison to all that is around, above, and below it. White consciousness can travel far abroad without realizing what it contributes to what it falsely pronounced that it "discovers." Its racism and the unconsciousness of its missionary zeal go unquestioned, perpetuating harm where it only sees the "gift" of its own whiteness.

The alchemical opus takes place *in vivo* as well as *in vitro*. There is the vessel of the world, which too is psyche. Which too has eyes.... The world does not need the missionary; it is already converted, enlightened with its own opalescence....Today we will say psychic consciousness is not creative but created, and we the world's creatures. All we need to do is to open our eyes to its eyes. (p. 52)

Until we open our eyes and see others looking at us, the world is cast as dead and we treat it as such: the people, the animals, the streams, the air, the mountains.

Here Hillman and Freire's work back up into one another, each requiring the other's insights into the mindsets that both manufacture and are affected by oppression and exploitation. From the trajectory of his own depth psychological work, Hillman begins to describe the roots of what Freire calls oppressor consciousness. Freire follows Fromm's lead in distinguishing biophilic from necrophilic consciousness, and associates oppressor consciousness with the latter. "And the more the oppressors control the oppressed," says Freire (2000), "the more they change them into apparently inanimate 'things.' This tendency of the oppressor consciousness to 'in-animate' everything and everyone it encounters, in its eagerness to possess, unquestionably corresponds to a tendency to sadism" (p. 45).

Hillman begins to experience the eyes of others, saying "They've got eyes on me; I am their referent, their text. 'I' have fallen out of my mind, out of the twentieth century, no place to hide and everywhere to go." In *Myth of Analysis* in 1972 he describes how "[t]he 'strong' ego, that first aim of psychotherapy, is thus opposed to and then overwhelmed by the numinous Wholly Other" (p. 185). In

that period, he was referring to the imaginal other. Now in 1986, 14 years later, the others who are seeing him are human, animal, and earth others, in addition to imaginal others.

Jailbreak: Ensouling the Ego

White consciousness walls itself in,^x and is distressed that what it finds is always dead. Our failure to see the life in things "imprison[s] us," says Hillman, "in that tight little cell of the ego" (1998, p. 103). This is indeed a problem for those who inhabit such consciousness, and it is a problem for all that finds itself de-animated and exploited as though dead already. From one perspective, Hillman's work is a committed opus to the ongoing work of jailbreak, a form of psychic decolonization of oppressor consciousness.

Here is the sequence I am tracing. First, Hillman worked his way out of the imperial and colonizing ego by turning his attention to the multiplicities of psychic life, to its imaginal figures. Living in Zurich, away from his own native politics in the U.S., Hillman turned to the interior world to work within. By the 1980's, now living back in the U.S., he began to understand the enclosed psychic universe that he had participated in. In a 1993 essay, "Psychology, Self, and Community," he confesses: "I stayed there [in Zurich] until unable to differentiate individuation from alienation" (p. 109). He saw that the locus of the soul is not and never had been internal to the person; rather, the person is *in* soul. The person is ensouled, along with each and every other: human and other than human. It comes out awkwardly at first, by his noticing toasters and bad chairs. Later he sees sparks of life in animals, taking note of their eachness and particularity. He finds he has to abandon the practice of psychotherapy in order

to facilitate his own jailbreak from the tiny tight cell of the ego, to release his noticing into the wider world. He was seeking to awaken from what he called the anesthesia of "the subjectivism of psychotherapy, as if the end of the world were an 'inner problem'" (1998, p.125).

In his 1982 essay "*Anima Mundi: The Return of the Soul to the World*," he levels a corrective critique against the subjectivistic and narcissistically oriented interpretive practices of depth psychology:

To interpret the world's things as if they were our dreams deprives the world of its dreams, its complaint. Although this move may have been a step toward recognizing the interiority of things, it finally fails because of the identification of interiority with only human subjective experience. (1998, p. 80)

He continues,

Having divided psychic reality from hard or external reality, psychology elaborates various theories to connect the two orders together, since the division is worrisome indeed. It means that psychic reality is conceived to be neither public, objective, nor physical, while external reality, the sum of existing material objects and conditions, is conceived to be utterly devoid of soul. As the soul is without world, so the world is without soul. (1998, p. 95)

Freire was quite clear that subjectivity should not be divorced from objectivity, from the concrete realities in which our lives unfold. Hillman came to understand the importance of the objective sociocultural context much later, but when he did, he was clear that it had been a blind spot in the Jungian and archetypal psychologies he had spent so many years working within. Once he

understood that the soul is in the world, and that we are in the soul, his vision turns outward. The pathology he had tracked so carefully on the interior he now sees located in the world, in our systems, ideologies, and relationships.

Imagination and Annunciation

Hillman and Freire meet again in underscoring the importance of imagination. Seeing-through and the development of critical consciousness are intimately related to the capacity to imagine. Hillman says that: "Ideas allow us to envision and by means of vision we can know" (1975, p. 120).

As one develops a critical consciousness of a particular situation, one understands how the situation has been constructed, created. One can denounce the destructive aspects. The work does not stop, however, with denunciation. Denunciation opens the path for what Freire calls annunciation. Freire activates creative imagination by recognizing the possibility for creation inherent in all impasses. In his language, limit situations, where we at first seem unable to imagine how things can be otherwise, are the very place where the most intense experiences of prophetic imagination can occur.

For each thinker, there is a preparation for imagining through ideas and through a realignment of the self. Given their difference in social location, however, the preparation is different. For Freire, conscientization empowers the self. One moves from a sense of being a victim of history with an attendant sense of pervasive fatalism and helplessness to a sense of oneself as able to understand and analyze in concert with others. For Hillman, who is working through and out of what he calls white consciousness, the ego must relinquish its propensity to overcontrol and dominate, its tendency to attribute what is to itself. The ego

must undergo a transformation in which it realizes that it is in a world not of its own making. The ego is chastened. Reduced from its hubris and self-imposed enclosure, it can now attend to what is unfolding, to all that is autonomous. Hillman learns this first in the realm of the imagination, and in particular through the agency of the imaginal ego.

Reading these two men side-by-side, we experience a kind of transcendent function. While Freire emphasized imagination as an empowering act that is preliminary to creating and acting in the world, Hillman emphasizes the way in which imagining is a gateway for our presence to what is created beyond us by the objective psyche. But if we are truly attentive to the imaginal, I would argue, we find that the objective and the subjective merge. The social, political, and economic bleed into images, just as the wild abandon of images that have yet to be embodied breaks out into the world to invent the new and the deeply desired.

Arriving at the Commons

Today we face the task of alterglobalization, of creating global social movements that reject economic and neoliberal globalization while working to protect human rights, indigenous rights, and climate and environmental well-being. When I imagine scholar-activists meeting at this global commons, Hillman is coming from the North and Freire from the South. In their conversation, the *socius* and the psyche converge, granting us clearer vision for the work ahead.

Once Hillman became clear that the soul is surrounding us, his attention turned outwards to meet it. In 1988 he returned to Alfred Adler's work in his essay "Power and *Gemeinschaftsgefühl*." Hillman says that in Jung we do not have "a social feeling, fellow feeling, community concern, *Gemeinschaftsgefühl*" (p. 99).

"Freud and Jung had located depth in only one place. They did not grasp the true depth in the 'out there,' in the *Gemeinschaftsgefühl*" (p. 99). He critiques Freud and Jung for not imagining, he says,

far enough, fundamentally enough, into the disorder of the world of concrete things, government institutions, commercial practices--the physical, political, and economic unconscious--those symptoms and those pathologies. Freud and Jung and their schools internalize the world and believe it can be dealt with mainly in an internalized fashion.^{xi} Clean up your own neurosis and that will clean up the world....

I think an Adlerian must see things very differently. If the out there is a primary place of the unconscious, then the ways of the world must be tackled directly. Hence, we understand Adler's interest in teachers and tailors and in the socialist movement. Politics is psychology: depth psychology is also depth sociology; to go truly deep is to go into the soul of the world. (p. 101).^{xii}

He embraces Adler's fellow feeling and renames it "common" feeling, and then he extends it. Hillman says "If we follow the ironic logic of *Gemeinschaftsgefühl* fully into community, community does not stop with human beings" (1988/2006, p. 104). Adler recognized what he called "the general interdependence of the cosmos from which we cannot abstract ourselves completely!" (Adler, quoted in Hillman, 1988/2006, pp. 104-105). Hillman argues we should not reduce the cosmos to society, to human beings only. He adds "the rocks and the waters, the soil and the air, and all the material things made by the human community as well..." (1988/2006, p. 105).

When Hillman and Freire meet at the commons to share in the project of alterglobalization, I imagine them realizing that they have each been involved in the work of psychic decolonization, Freire of those marginalized and Hillman of those who have found themselves inside the prison of modern consciousness. In my imagination, each confides how in their early thought they did not pay any attention to land, water, mountains, and animals. Freire at the end of his life was working on the Earth Charter, which is said to have been on his bedside table at his death. Hillman helped to launch the ecopsychology movement with his essay in Theodore Roszak edited volume *Ecopsychology*. Hillman shares with Freire that he learned that the word "therapy" originally meant tending, caring for, giving attention to, in service of (p. 106), and that he came to understand the importance of "service to the soul of the world, a service that practices inferiority rather than overcomes it" (p. 106). He tells Freire how he turned to a therapy of the world, turning his eye to architecture, transit systems, schools, battlefields, the terrible love of war.

As he does in his essay about Adlerian psychology, he invokes the Commons in Thompson, Connecticut, a hundred yards from his home. Hillman riffs on the word "common": "as the village green in my New England hamlet was once a common for all bodies, human and nonhuman, to take part in common, care for in common, enjoy in common, common as ordinary, as common to all, this world so very common, so very dear, so much the source and the goal of our feeling" (p. 106).

What a trajectory from the imperial ego, to the commune of the psyche, to delight in the common. Hillman rails: "Herbicides, landfills, river pollution, strip mining, and other multinational agribusiness conglomerate horrors, even the

litter in our streets begins not merely in the need and greed of industrialized consumerism. The way we treat the world out there begins in excluding it from the realm of soul, as if it were a great Cartesian corpse" (pp. 103-104).

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I began this essay from that place in my own intimate life experience where the work of Hillman and Freire co-fathered me. We have arrived at the end of the essay at a place where we witness the need for the convergence of liberatory psychologies from the North and the South--not so as to attain a single proscriptive psychology that is ignorant of geographical and sociocultural differences--but to reach a sustained reflection on the common roots of our intersecting disorders. That imperial ego that has drained the resources of so many regions of the world, that has so crassly used the labor of millions, and practiced terror to sustain its untenable grasp -- this imperial ego, Hillman shows, also starved itself. It gradually became so tightly contained in its cell, that it was removed from all sense of childhood wonder, encapsulated by a world it regarded as dead. It lost its vision of the larger horizon and could see only its own backyard. It forgot that others also see; that their sight registers the effects of tyranny and terror, of kindness, compassion, and beauty.

Psychiatrist and revolutionary Frantz Fanon in *Black Skins, White Masks* calls the middle-class "a closed society in which life has no taste, in which the air is tainted, in which ideas and men are corrupt. And I think that a man who takes a stand against this death is in a sense a revolutionary" (p. 225). Both Freire and Hillman were revolutionaries in this sense. James visited Civil War Battlefields, and spoke with bell hooks on racism in America. He could speak dialogically

with students, and be the center of state occasions in Italy. He enjoyed the beauty in life, and had a soft fondness for animals. His opus, considered at this distance, constitutes a jailbreak from the imperial ego. Giving up the institutional politics of the Jungian world, and returning to the United States from his self-imposed exile, abandoning psychotherapy as his practice, he walked into a wider world that he came to realize had an undeniable sweetness. At the very end of his life, he would frequently smile gently and wryly and announce that he was happy, that he felt truly loved. He seemed released, indeed, into the sweet embrace of life.

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ⁱ Paper delivered at the Tribute to James Hillman, University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil, March 17, 2013.

ⁱⁱ Freire moved his family briefly to Bolivia, where a coup led to his working in Chile on issues of agrarian reform, organizing peasants and small farmers, and consulting on literacy issues.

ⁱⁱⁱ I met Hillman first when reading *Suicide and the Soul*, a book recommended to me by my Jungian analyst when I was 22 in the wake of my discovering a woman patient at the hospital I was working in trying to kill herself. In 1973 I went to Zurich to study at the Jung Institute and hoped to approach Hillman to become my analyst. Only when I arrived in Zurich did I find that he had

returned to Yale University for the Fall, where he had first delivered the Terry Lectures in 1972. These lectures were soon to become *Re-Visioning Psychology*. In January 1974 he returned to Zurich and gave the lectures at the Jung Institute. The lecture hall was brimming with listeners and there was an unusual stillness and concerted concentration in the hall as he delivered these talks. At the time we could have only mis-named why. In retrospect, it was a beginning moment of the archetypal psychology movement, a movement that stirred and challenged the Jungian community and that was to provide needed critique and extension to depth psychology more generally.

Ten years later in 1984, working as a clinical psychologist, I was on the verge of becoming an adoptive mother to a baby daughter from Northeast Brazil. My "pregnancy" was not the growing of a usual seed. My hunger was not for strange food combinations, but for everything "Nordeste": Northeast Brazilian music, poetry, politics, and history. In this feasting I met the work of Paulo Freire through reading *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, a work that has sparked movements for liberation throughout the world.

^{iv} Indeed, his opus is a staggering gift, that teaches us at every turn how to live in relationship with ideas: loving them, critiquing them, turning them, seeing-through them, wrestling with them, being devoted to them, being animated by them, sacrificing to them, and caring for them. Hillman: "We are always in the embrace of an idea," and our "wrestling with [them] is a sacred struggle" (1975, p. 121).

^v He was looking at how divisions in the self, such as in schizophrenia were beginning to end the "rule of reason" (1975 p. 25). Cases of multiple personality, he said, confirmed "the multiplicity of the individual at a time when the same phenomenon was beginning to appear in the culture in general. Through this multiple schizoid perspective we saw a world no longer held together by reason, no longer held and centered at all. Instead: disordering spontaneity, relativity, discontinuities, aharmonies, an overpopulation of spirits and living soul images—the return of archetypal persons" (1975, p. 25).

^{vi} Hillman says, "We still tend to think of 'development' as a progressive march whose retreats are only for a better leap forward...and which is modeled upon the hero's opposition to an irrational imaginal world beyond his powers of control" (p. 184). He understood that "the conceptual structure of psychopathology ha [d] arisen parallel with the specific ego development of the past century and a half" that he was describing (p. 184).

^{vii} In 1972 Hillman sees that "Fantasies are incompatible with my usual ego, and because they are uncontrollable and 'fantastic'—that is, away from the relation to ego reality—we feel them alien....our fantasies are alien because they are not ours" (1972, p. 182). He understands that "the ego expands...at the cost of childhood's godlike, dimmer light of wonder, of imagination, and the symbolic, natural mind. Creativity through the ego is necessary and yet it is a theft, a sin, a Luciferian fall" (1972, p. 45).

^{viii} He says, "Jung thus seemed to make war on merely rational thinking, and thus he relegated the will to a smaller role. These powers of the soul, and the ego attitudes derived from them, prevented awareness of another sort. He had found that therapy in depth depended upon just this other sort of ego consciousness, an imaginal awareness that leads to another sort of ego attitude" (p. 183).^{viii} While

Hillman saw Jung as “pointing beyond the ego concept of the nineteenth century with its emphasis upon head, will, and reason,” he believed that analytical psychology had not yet worked “out a concept of the ego corresponding with Jung’s” intuition.” (1972, 183), that is to say “which puts such stress on imaginal consciousness—dream, vision, fantasy—and on a life-style (the symbolic life) in which the ego lives and behaves primarily in terms of imaginal consciousness. The old concept of ego development is anachronistically retained” (1972, pp. 183-184).

^{ix} In commenting on Hillman’s idea of the imaginal ego, volume editor Thomas Moore (1991) says in *A Blue Fire*, that Hillman’s move toward the poetic basis of mind, moves consciousness away from heroics to “a more receptive and malleable posture.” “A relaxed ego that honors the many offers considerable rewards. We find vitality in tension, learn from paradox, gather wisdom by straddling ambivalence, and gain confidence in trusting the confusion that naturally arises from multiplicity” (p. 38).

^x “Having walled itself in, it blames it on the wall” (Hillman, 1986, p. 54).

^{xi} This is less true of certain Freudian schools than of Jungian ones. See Ellen Danto, *Freud’s Free Clinics: Psychoanalysis and Social Justice, 1918-1938* and Watkins & Shulman (2008), Chapter Four: Symptoms and Psychologies in Cultural Context, in *Toward Psychologies of Liberation*.

^{xii} Hillman continues, “Yes, power conflicts operate between parts of the psyche, Yes, there is an internal struggle to master and suppress. But let us not forget the clash of powers in the psychic depths of the world soul disguised as political, natural, social, and economic” (1988/2006, p. 101).