

Humus 3 Humus, Horizon, Fieldcyclings

I return to the Greek wrestler, Antaeus, where this series began.¹ His strength depended on him remaining earthed, grounded. But let us skip beyond the myth now and plunge in at the deep end in a musing over the expression of a definition of metaphysics that is given in *Insight*. *Metaphysics is the conception, affirmation and implementation of the integral heuristic structure of being.*² I've dropped a word from *Insight*, but don't let it bother you. Think now of Helen Keller's structure of being and being led to the word *water*. Thinking it seriously and luminously is, of course, a tough and prolonged exercise: *experto crede*.³ The word water gives her an implement so wonderously displayed in its operation by Patty Duke in that old film *The Miracle Worker*, with Ann Bancroft. Did Helen have, in some sense, metaphysics? Helen's wonder had been operating on and off on the issue for five weeks. A very earthy interpersonal complex of operations of anger, frustration, pulled and pushed and hand-pressed. Was there an implicit metaphysics? Metaphysics is simply a making luminous, to the human animal self-illuminating, the concrete earthy reach of the human animal. If it departs from the earthiness it ceases to be real and relevant. "If it were not muddy I could stop this penalty" says the goalkeeper. Get real, says the goalkeeper to herself and himself. Last night's rain is in there, and yesterday's clouds, and the radiations, new and ancient as the cosmos, that hold the players around the orbiting ball. So Helen and Annie touch hands on an orbiting ball in the field⁴ that is the universe.

Metaphysics makes the reach of the human animal in the cosmos, towards the cosmos, luminously self-luminous. But the concrete changes in millennial story. There occur conceptions, affirmations and implementations, cumulating concretely through 7 million years, a thin edge of the cosmic 13.7 billion years, and then slowly, stumblingly, fragmentedly, occur conceptions of

¹See the concluding paragraph of *Prehumous 12*.

²*Insight*, 391[416].

³My struggle with that single paragraph about Helen in *Method in Theology* spans twenty years of teaching, skimpily expressed, an interim achievement, on pages 31-37 of *A Brief History of Tongue: From Big Bang to Coloured Wholes* (Axial Publications, 1997)

⁴"The field is *the* universe, but my horizon defines *my* universe" (*Phenomenology and Logic*, 199).

these conceptions, each and all.⁵ The concrete now includes the concrete distribution of early helium and latest hairstyles and Helen's hold on water: and the conceptions of conceptions of such distributions. Elder you might come to hold that luminously, leaning on language but, if luminous, poised luminously in a clear hidden positioning of the lonesomeness of minding.

So, within, there is "the systematization, not of the particular animal that I am, but of the universe of being."⁶ It is a feeble system that must be luminous about its own incompleteness: must especially grip nesciently the minding of God.⁷ As time goes axially on, its incompleteness can become a globally luminous effective incompleteness. The **can** pivots on the emergence of some equivalent of Annie Sullivan to reach out gently but persistently, not to this Helen or that, but to humanity. The concrete asks a later Annie, or Anthea, to be grounded: a fragmented earthcare is like a demented child's world, baffling without a new grip. Annie's teacher is the concrete, unfolding layered and layering patterns of conceptions, affirmations and implementations of wonders' reaching, a fragmented budding of science and history. Annie's home is to be the effective unity of a single intelligent view, within which a wishing well of that being home for *Finnegans* HCE and ALP. The fragmented budding can be startlingly and startlingly conceived as a working functionally together in a way that, affirmed and implemented, can be as obvious as waterword. And, like the waterword, show a multilinguistic flexibility over hills and dales.

So earthiness can bring horizons, limited conceptions that subtly bend towards leaving out the humus of the muddy pitch, but leading and bumbling towards a conceiving of the total road and loving load of humanity. The total load and gift is the field of more than dreams; the

⁵We are back to that strange symbol, (about)³, rooted in Lonergan's notion of a third order of consciousness (treated of in an unpublished first chapter on Method, contained in the same Lonergan file V.7 - February 1965 - as the discovery page of functional specialization.

⁶*Insight*, 515[539].

⁷"Understanding everything about everything" beyond our animal minding way of "complete understanding of all systems" (*Insight*, 650[674]).

loving road is fieldcycling,⁸ circuminced, here and in the Eschaton.

⁸Functionally spiraling round the divine storm-centre.: “it is only in the eye of the storm that one can name the Mystery”(Lack in the *Beingstalk*, Axial Publications, 2007, 161).