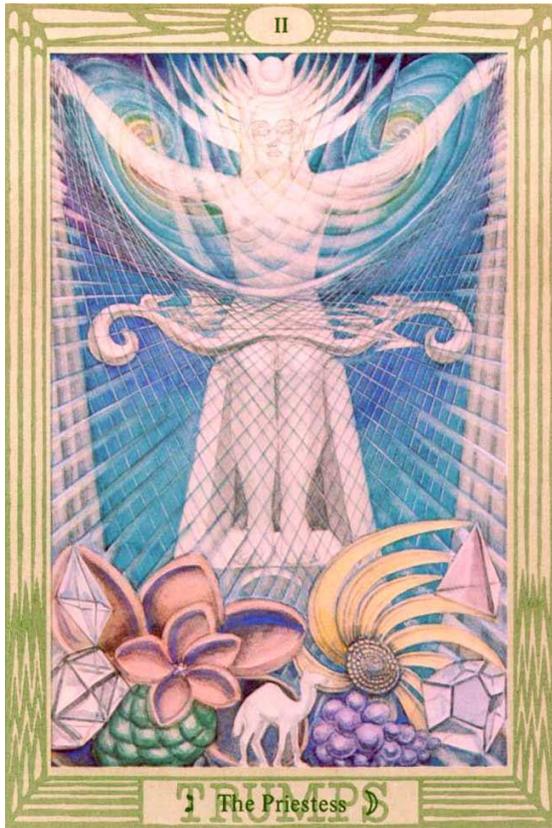


Good Morning, Magpie



To Dr. Albert Hernández and Dr. Jeffrey Mahan
From Anne Arkhane¹

Written in *Subversive Fire* by Dr. Albert Hernández on page 193, “The Medieval and early modern Christian discourse on magic was replete with warnings about conjuring demons and malevolent spirits (*black magic*), while it’s nearly forgotten counter-discourse known as *theologia magica* (or *white magic*) was conducted under the protective aura of the Holy Spirit.”

¹ Nom de guerre of Emily A. Nagle

This, and the following essay, are intentionally rooted in ‘mostly darkness’ and ‘mostly blackness’². To write with this shade, as a white person, in such a culturally tense era may mean I am digging my own grave³.



Without further ado.

It is a fool’s errand to make sense of an age while it is happening⁴ but if I am looking through a historical lens, then I might as well place myself in the seat of the historian⁵. In this age, humanity is observing the consequences of their toxicity. Humans have become incubus and succubus to nature. Game

of Thrones is a fine example of their twisted behaviors. In its first through third seasons each nation’s zero-sum objective seems to be to diminish the population of other nations. They are acting as if they were in a resource war.

In the Iliff School of Theology course, Middle Ages in Pop Culture, both in person and online, suggestive comments have been made about the phenomenon of Medievalism appearing in pop culture. They said it is a signal that humanity is grasping to elements

² Recently, inside Dr. A. Jordan-Field’s office, a student asked me how Denver students have responded to issues of race. One time, art students at Denver Discovery challenged me to interpret pieces of art that they identified as mostly ‘dark’ and mostly ‘black’. They tested me to see how I would respond.

³ Playlist of Albums: Good Morning, Magpie by Murder By Death, Green Naugahyde by Primus, Ghost Reveries by Opeth.

⁴ Sentiment was learned from World History and AP Government teachers at Hempstead High School sometime between 2002-2006. It was confirmed at Elmhurst College sometime between 2008-2010 when about 10 students met Jared Diamond to discuss his new book Gun, Germs, and Steel.

⁵ As an artist, however, I visualize my position as the pillars in the Neverending Story, casting a laser-eque judgement on what or whom dare pass over the threshold.

of that age. In my opinion, the elements of Nationalism, Sovereignty, and Global Citizenry lay at the crux of the cultural clinging. As I cannot speak on any of them with authority I mean to touch on those parts through a commonality, Ground.

Ground and being grounded are grave matters to human life. Unrooted in its rich soils, distinct in their material boundaries they step, roll, glide, and fly over it's surfaces as guests. With curiosity, humanity notes how the human body grows differently than crystals or tulips yet all three can be traded and sold just as easily without noting any moral injury⁶. The severe disharmony⁷ experienced by the existing bodies will have *severe* consequences to the preceding generations. Humanity is experiencing Natura's feverish storms, her tottering reharmonizing. Forgetting their din contribution in reality, humanity protests, boycotts, strikes, and makes policy circumnavigating their violation of Natura's borders and boundaries. In Fiction, Game of Thrones audiences' watch the characterized humanity under stand the meaning of consequences as they experience desperate throws of survival.

Swiftly, let's circle back to conclude on the lightness and darkness of Ground as it relates to Medieval Pop Culture. The communities in Game of Thrones continually mention the impending winter. This fearful plot driver is not fully explained to the audience who sit anxiously watching everyone prepare to endure a mysteriously literal and metaphoric shifting between lightness and darkness. A fine example of this grim

⁶ Term draw from the work of Dr. C. Doehring and Dr. L. Graham.

⁷ Opposed to '[fun disharmony](#)'. For example ccording to NOLS instructor and paramedic, Scott, there is "fun puss" and there is stinky, oozing, ill-colored pus i.e. infected pus which would be closer to severe.

shuffle happens in episode ten of season three around minute fifteen when, before bedtime, Bran Stark tells a ghost story in tune with the howling wind outside of the comrades' temporary keep,

The Rat Cook? ...Just a cook for the Night's Watch. He was angry at the king for something. I don't remember. When the king was visiting the Nightfort, the cook killed the king's son, cooked him into a big pie with onions, carrots, mushrooms and bacon. That night he served the pie to the king. He liked the taste of his son so much, he asked for a second slice. The gods turned the cook into a giant white rat who could only eat his own young. He's been roaming the Nightfort ever since, devouring his own babies. No matter what he does, he's always hungry...It wasn't for murder the gods cursed the Rat Cook or for serving the king's son in a pie. He killed a guest beneath his roof. That's something the gods can't forgive. (Season 3)



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Other References⁸

Swiss Army Man

The Lobster

That Tulip Movie about the wife and the surrogate working together

e.e. Cummings poems

Linda Sarsour, Women's March Co-Chair

Min 27. Democracy Now Daily Show Thu, Jan 31, 2019

"We are rooted in Kingian nonviolence. We are taught to attack the forces of evil not those doing evil. That is what we are trained in. This is how we show up in the movement when you see us on the front line...We showed up to fight racism, anti-black racism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, misogyny, patriarchy, anti-semitism because after [they are] out of office there will still be all of those things here. The accountability is also on ourselves to our communities to say "how dare you" at a time when white nationalism is on the rise where 11 innocent jews got killed in sanctuary by a white supremacist the day after another white supremacist was sending pipe bomb's to people's homes the day after another white supremacist shot two black people in Groger's because he couldn't get into the black church that we made [individuals] literally the whole story instead of focusing on the real story, white nationalism.

Lots of people have historical trauma. Sometimes we have to go back to our communities and say, Let's heal, let's find ways to deal with this trauma so we're not imposing it on others."

Vocabulary:

Appropriation

(see Miguel email)

Accountability

(the word agreed upon as more appropriate than 'Enforcement' at the Opioid Crisis talk at Korbelt)

Recipe

(NYT article, you don't need a recipe)

⁸ Other than the bibliography I already submitted

superstition (n.)

early 13c., "false religious belief; irrational faith in supernatural powers," from Latin *superstitionem* (nominative *superstitio*) "prophecy, soothsaying; dread of the supernatural, excessive fear of the gods, religious belief based on fear or ignorance and considered incompatible with truth or reason," literally "a standing over," noun of action from past participle stem of *superstare* "stand on or over; survive," from *super* "above" (see **super-**) + *stare* "to stand," from PIE root **sta-* "to stand, make or be firm."

There are many theories to explain the Latin sense development, but none has yet been generally accepted; de Vaan suggests the sense is "cause to remain in existence." Originally in English especially of religion; sense of "unreasonable notion" is from 1794.

superstitious (adj.)

late 14c., "involving faith in supernatural powers or magic; characteristic of pagan religion or false religion," from Anglo-French *supersticius*, Old French *supersticios*, or directly from Latin *superstitiosus* "prophetic; full of dread of the supernatural," from *superstitio* "prophecy, soothsaying, excessive fear of the gods" (see **superstition**).
<https://www.etymonline.com/word/superstitious>