



*Mash-Up:
Veronica Forrest-Thomson
vs. C. G. Jung*

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A failure to imbue words with their intended meanings results in frustrated overpronouncements, and the excessive use of “loaded” or meaningless fragments, capitalized and bolded.¹

Half the battle is an appropriate form, and once this develops words don't need to work as hard.

For example the development of free verse and the internet, Wikipedia and cell phones. Usually change is gradual, but what brings us to this point of having to suddenly reinvent our systems? What motivates us to the point of discovery?

People who invent systems are fanatics:² confusing their motives, objectives and accomplishments in a tangle of meaning. And then there are those that come from behind to perfect these systems, those unmotivated by panic or fear, calmly moving forward. They are sages, in contrast to the creatives.³

Take Freud and Jung: one creating a method (psycho analysis) to get at a delusional idea (all roads lead to sexuality), changing the shape of our minds and the world. Jung picks up on this system and moves beyond Freud's screaming limitations. Which is more important, the first or

second voice? The one that creates the tool, or the one that learns how to use it? Writes Jung,

From sunset on, it was a different world—the dark world of *ayik*, or evil, danger, [and] fear. The optimistic philosophy gave way to fear of ghosts and magical practices intended to secure protection from evil. Without any inner contradiction the optimism returned at dawn.⁴

Notes

¹ Veronica Forrest-Thomson cites John Berryman and Sylvia Plath as examples of poets whose failure to find appropriate forms of expression resulted in suicide. Forrest-Thomson herself committed suicide at the age of twenty-eight.

² Think Ezra Pound's revolutionary aspirations, or Wallace Stevens as a philosopher. Working within the strict confines of Poetry, neither had an appropriate outlet for realizing their ideas. Forced "...between the grim grey lines of the Philistines and the ramshackle emplacements of Bohemia" (Oppen, from "The Mind's Own Place"), they pushed against boundaries by creating forms for their ideas to live in. In the case of Ezra Pound, his form was not as beautifully developed in his poetry as it was in the still resonant movement he willed into existence.

³ Think Lao Tzu and Confucius, respectively.

⁴ C.G. Jung, pg. 286 of Memories, Dreams, Reflections.