

Poetry's Puzzle

Poetry Perches
On the Lighter Limb
Fit For Flight
Prepared to Pursue
The Minute Moves
Peppering the Peacock's
Decorated Dance
Of Invitation.

Poetry Ponders
The Flimsy Facts
Confirming Our Convictions
Opening Opportunities
To Seize Slices
Of Alternative Awareness
Hiding Behind
Our Celebrated Conceits
Of Knowing.

Poetry Penetrates
The Rich Rhythms of Reality
Marshaling Metaphor
To Recognize Relationships
Impossible to Primary Perception
Offering Obsequious Objectivity
The Capital Chance
To Experience Existence
Within the Rousing Revelations
Of Unification.

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[See the following related Comment]

Comment

Poetry is the art form that invites the imagination to explore the nature of life and reality through the special use of language. Imagination is “image” based and thereby relies on holistic visual thought rather than the particular “thing” based thought of language. As such, imagination looks for alternatives beyond the standard objective view of how things are related. Metaphor is one of the major language tools used in poetry to achieve this. Metaphor claims connections not accorded in the standard worldview. In doing so, metaphor questions the completeness of the standard view. Rhythm in the use of language in poetry parallels the dominance of underlying energy frequencies in reality, thereby manifesting an aspect of reality that is only indirectly experienced otherwise. Alliteration and rhyme also contribute to rhythm through the special use of repetitive sound in language. And the line and stanza format of poetry is a still larger rhythmic tool.

Together with the generally compressed expression of poetry, all of the above features of poetry open the door to an expanded view and experience of reality, one of the major functions of ART [expressive culture] in general. Elsewhere I argue that this expanded view is spiritual/subjective in nature and forms an alternative to the material/objective perspective which tends to dominate in everyday life. In this way Poetry is one form of behavior that contributes to what I describe as the basic material-spiritual dynamic informing the worldviews of all human cultures.