



Christophe Rigon / Soto² □ - Scybernethician @ki_cog

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[The Quality of Numbers]

When I began my spiritual journey at the age of seventeen (1982), having been confronted with the idea of death, the first books I read were "The Reign of Quantity and the Signs of the Times" by René Guénon and "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind" by Suzuki.

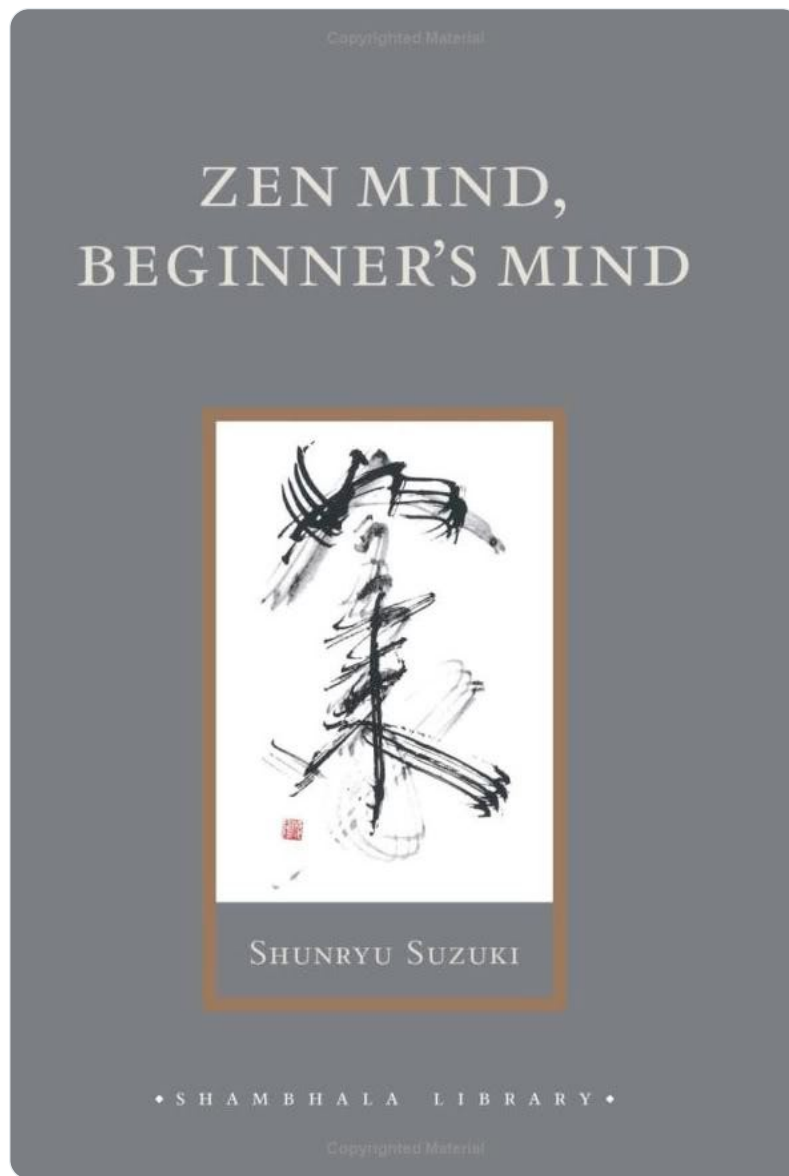
René
GUÉNON

LE RÈGNE DE LA QUANTITÉ
ET LES SIGNES DES TEMPS

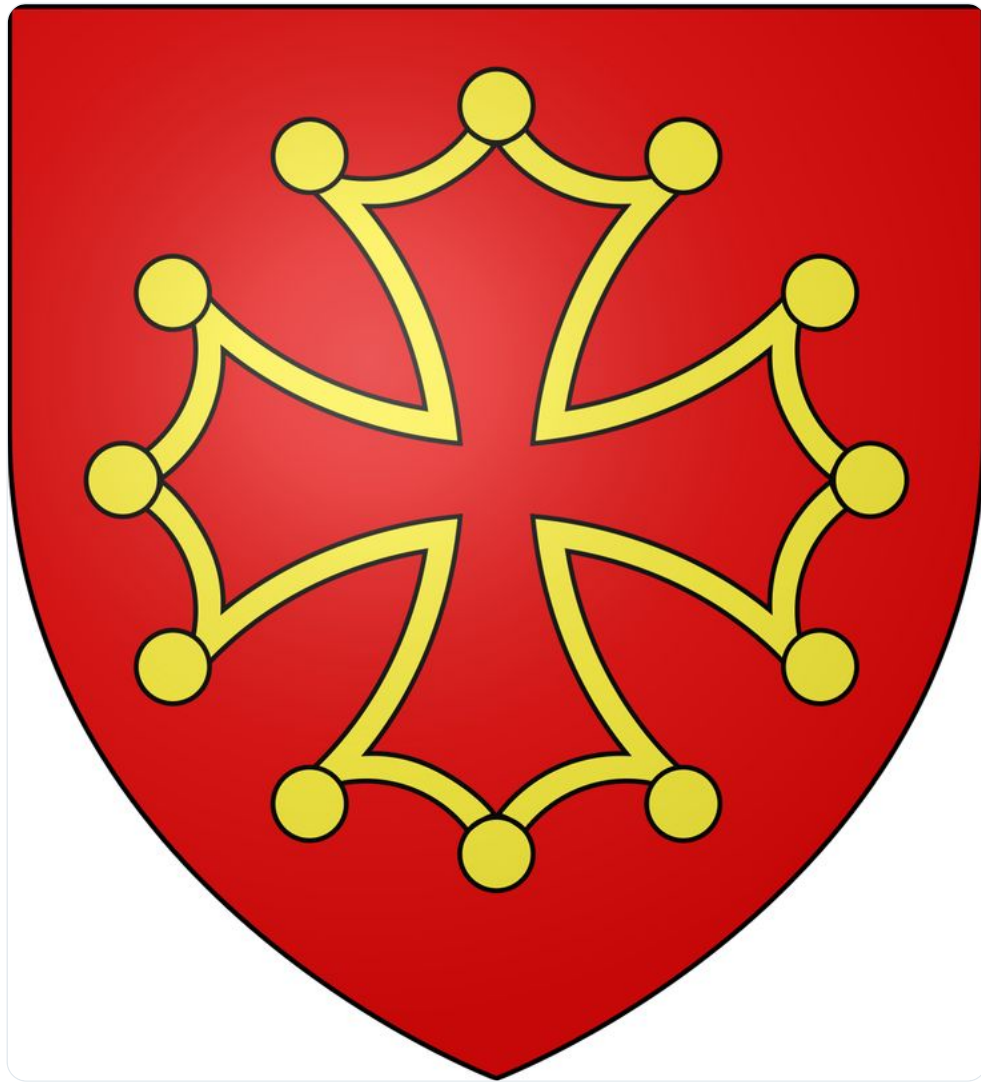


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ÉDITIONS

Préfacé par PÉNÉLOPE MORIN



Then I began to be interested in the symbolism of numbers, that is, numbers not as quantities but as *qualities*: one as unity, two as duality, three as trinity, etc. (I recently discovered that Pierce also followed this path), and also in heraldry and symbolism in general.



Through suspension, meditation and reflexion, I discovered for myself some principles of this elementary way of thinking hermeneutically, of thinking thinking formally and processually:

1. A designated/indicated "One" is never only a unit: it is always distinguished from a background (cf. Gestalt) to acquire its specificity. In this sense, it is already a duality.

(This is perhaps why some rigorist spiritual traditions are iconoclastic.)

2. A "two", a duality, is never completely binary because in order to exist it must first be formally distinguished from a background, and processually it is linked to its cause, which leads to a two-dimensional relationship (formal and processual) between its two constituents.

Thus a duality is already, with its internal/external relationship, already a trinity (if not a quaternity).

3. A "three", a trinity, can be logically understood as a duality with its integrated implicit relationship (if there is stabilized duality, there is necessarily a relationship) which analogically evokes the original unity, itself not formally conceptualizable.

Of course these considerations were very subjective and I kept them to myself. Then, as a young biologist and self-taught computer scientist apprentice,

I began to take an interest in the new techno-scientific approach that was emerging at the time: the sciences and technologies of cognition.

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