

Plotinus ON THE INTELLECTUAL BEAUTY

Intellectual \Rightarrow an eternal world (beyond understanding) that can only be ~~understood~~ by captured by understanding and not by sense.

Summary:

We have made a principle that one who has the vision of intellectual beauty will also be able to understand the Father (Jesus) and his transcendence (تجزي). We are concerned about it and try to see for ourselves the divine intellect and how it may be revealed to contemplation (تفكر).

Suppose two blocks of stones. One is unpatterned and the other carved into a statue, not completely but minutely with loveliness. The carved stone is beautiful not as a stone but by the idea (form) introduced by the art. This idea was not in the stone but in the designer before it entered the stone and he holds it by his heart. Beauty exists in a far higher state in art. Original beauty is not correction of work and ~~but~~ it is not transferred. What we see is just a minor representation and even that

is not exactly what is imagined. The original beauty is not transferred. Art is the image of its own nature and works on the idea of the object its about to produce. It should be beautiful and higher and purer in degree and complete than any external idea. The beauty defused into matter is extreme and concentrated in unity. Everything else is simply less. But the idea is yet more powerful than the object. as music cannot be derived from an unmusical source.

Art cannot be pushed to the ground just because it is an imitation of imitation. It must be recognized that ~~this~~ there is no reproduction of things and the art (work) is of the artist and they add where nature is lacking.

2... Consider the nature and the works produced by nature which the artist are charged to imitate. What is the beauty in this? Either it is beautiful or sheer ugliness, it is the mere matter of beauty. We see the beauty of Helen and Aphrodite (Goddess of beauty). All these are unseen but carry the perfect beauty if we saw.

It is something from that realm (heaven) communicated to the artist by the art. The idea residing within the creator is not beauty but it is immaterial and firmly a unity.

The material existence is not the ground of beauty. It moves from mind to mind. A mere object cannot affect us but when the idea enters in our mind through eye it fascinates us. Beauty is not in object but in soul and mind.

The greater beauty lies in wisdom, inner comeliness not in face and appearance.

3...

The archetype of beauty is soul. A proficient soul is the brighter and of more advanced loveliness. Soul is present nowhere but within therefore it has no entity, thus cannot be called a reason-principle. It is a creative source of the reason principle "soul serves as Matter"

4...

The truth to gods is that relation with human is like mother to nurse, existence and sustenance. Everything is authentic, transparent, nothing dark, light runs through light. Each human being contains all within itself. Each is great and all are mirrored in every other.

5...

All creations are made with wisdom. Artist wisdom is embodied in his work yet he seeks greater wisdom from nature for his art. Nature is the primary

source. Real being is wisdom

6... The Egyptians were wisest as they put aside written work carved with words and sentences, instead used pictures and images. Each manifestation of knowledge is a distinct image.

7... God couldn't have possibly imagined the universe and the life on it before creating. Has he looked for inspiration like artists do. There must be a sign or image that give forth the idea of universe. Matter itself is heart gripped by the ideas of elements and ideas are added and added. Nothing stood on the way of idea.

8... Beauty is entire and omnipresent, it cannot be anything without being completely that thing.

9... Beauty without being cannot be.

10... We see an image with eyes. We must see it through mind and heart only. Then we can grasp the idea of intellectual beauty.

11... Anyone who cannot see his beauty must first see the divine being within himself to acknowledge himself.

12... It is false to put an end to the visible sphere. There may be many other creations outside our universe equally beautiful.

13... Soul also has beauty but it is less beautiful than intellect. as soul is only the image of the intellect.

We ourselves possess beauty when we are true to our own being; our own selfknowledge is our beauty and in self-ignorance we are ugly.

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