

Editorial

We have had a wonderful response to the first two issues of *Eye of the Heart*. The diversity and quality of submissions demonstrate the rich vein that a journal such as this mines. This was particularly evident in the entries received for the Ananda Coomaraswamy Prize. Congratulations to Dr Emily Pott for winning the Open category with her essay, ‘The Zaqqūm Tree,’ found in the current issue. Emily is a tutor at the Prince’s School of Traditional Arts in London. Congratulations also to the Graduate category winner, Mr Graeme Castleman, for his essay, ‘The Primordial in the Symbols and Theology of Baptism.’ Graeme is a doctoral candidate in the Philosophy and Religious Studies program at La Trobe University at Bendigo. His essay will appear in Issue 4 in November.

In addition to a selection of the entries received for the Ananda Coomaraswamy Prize, Issue 4 will also feature a republication of Ananda Coomaraswamy’s essay, ‘The Iconography of Dürer’s “Knots” and Leonardo’s “Concatenation”.’ This essay is of great value for both its rarity and for offering a “statement of intention,” inasmuch as Coomaraswamy regarded it as a model of the method for any serious investigation of symbols.

The third issue of *Eye of the Heart* opens with Dr Samuel D. Fohr’s, ‘Spiritual symbolism in the Grimms’ tales.’ Dr Fohr has developed this paper—at our request—from his book *Cinderella’s Gold Slipper: Spiritual Symbolism in the Grimms*. Our intention with this is to demonstrate the diverse interests embraced by the traditional study of philosophy and religion. This diversity is evident as we move to the following essay, ‘The Bosom of the Father: Notes on the Negative Theology of Clement of Alexandria,’ by Dr Andrew Itter, a work favourably compared to the exquisite writings of Dierdre Carabine on this subject.

In her paper, Dr Angela Voss, uses Henry Corbin’s idea of the *mundus imaginalis* as a springboard to argue for a “methodology of the imagination” within an academic context. Dr Roger Sworder engages such a methodology in his exploration of the macrocosm-microcosm relationship found in the Zodiac, as indeed to some extent, does Dr Edward Butler in his insightful symbolic exegesis of the Egyptian myth

known as the *Book of the Celestial Cow*. Dr Emily Pott's examination of the *Zaqqūm* Tree of Islamic tradition offers a vision of this tree, found in Hell, as the lowermost extension of the inverted Tree of Life. Even in Hell the "way of the Tree of Life" offers hope of eventual return to the divine Source.

The final essay included in this issue is from Mr Tom Bree. His paper, 'Symbolism as marriage and the symbolism of marriage,' was one of the finalists in the Ananda Coomaraswamy contest. It is an exploration of some of the geometric symbolisms of "union" together with a wonderful reflection on the symbolism of the Christian marriage ritual. What is most impressive is the fact that this paper represents Mr Bree's first attempt at an essay of this type, his principle roles being that of an artist and teacher (not to mention, a husband).

We are most happy that the Ananda Coomaraswamy competition has allowed people like Mr Bree to share their knowledge with a wider audience. The judges would like to make special mention of Professor K. S. Kannan's essay, 'The Metaphysics of Ānandatāēōava,' which will be in Issue 4. All entries in this competition were read by the editor of *Eye of the Heart* before being sent to members of the editorial board for blind review. The finalists in both the Open and Graduate categories were then sent to an independent judge for a final decision. We would like to thank everyone who helped in whatever way. A particular debt of gratitude is due to Fons Vitae Publishing and World Wisdom Books, who generously supported the Ananda Coomaraswamy Prize and without whom this opportunity would not have been possible.