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Two recent books provide a particularly thought-provoking perspective by which to understand these themes--*Feathers of the Skylark*, by Jeffrey Satinover, M.D. (1996), and especially *The Empty Self: C.G. Jung and the Gnostic Transformation of Modern Identity* (also by Jeffrey Satinover, 1996).

From *Feathers of the Skylark*:

Self-Restraint Engenders "Needless Conflict"

"Today the most widely accepted philosophy of morals, which is more commonly implicit than explicit, comes from psychoanalysis as rooted in Freud. This view holds that conscience and guilt are culturally relative, and derive from nothing more...than learned restrictions. Because these restrictions oppose the natural impulses, they [supposedly] engender needless emotional conflict...increasingly often, as the quest for pleasure and immediate gratification spreads widely, they are held to be unnecessary. In this view, these restrictions are passed on from one gener-

ation to the next, foolishly and uselessly, with no absolute basis...until enlightened would-be liberators arise to free us from them.

"...The psychoanalytic point of view has deeply reinforced a widespread, modern version of pre-Christian, pre-Judaic, pagan morals in our society...many leaders...consider paganism as not at all going 'backward,' but going 'forward.'

"Everything Is Sacred"

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In *The Empty Self*, Dr. Satinover explains the origin of this resurgence of paganism. Paganism is essentially polytheism in the form of worship of human instincts. "The modern, psychologized manifestation of polytheism is the plausible idea that since people differ, there must be different standards of behavior--hence of morality--to apply to each type of person...For each type of person, there is a god among the many gods. There is a god for the tribe of

A Framework for Understanding *Gay Soul*

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women..for the tribe of warriors...for the tribe of homosexuals..." Character flaws are then redefined as virtues by placing them within their own particular framework.

Gratification of the instincts is soon identified with spiritual progress. This process is "dressed up in lofty-sounding rhetoric" as we "dignify with fancy language that which, in an earlier age, would simply and unselfconsciously have been named as depraved." Sexual license masquerades as spiritual superiority. Through "re-imagining" we find new meaning--one which exacts no moral cost. We see a resurgence of the age-old symbolism of the "vulture as mother-goddess...sex and death in a sanctified embrace."

Worship of the Self

"When a neutral psychology becomes the authoritative worldview, then an empty, inflated self with relativized values and relativized standards of behavior --polytheism-- will swifly become the new religion, as indeed it already has, whether recognized as such or not."

The most profound examples of modern resymbolization, Dr. Satinover says, are the transformation of God into self, and of evil into wisdom. What makes this new form of evil so seductive, says Dr. Satinover, is the fact that it is a mixture of truth and falsehood; concepts like "tolerance" and "diversity"--undeniably worthy in the proper context-- are often used as seductive wedges.

Dr. Satinover describes how psychoanalyst Jung was influential in transforming modern thought via gnosticism. Jung believed that spiritual progress consists not of conquering evil, but of moving mankind into a "higher synthesis" by incorporating evil into good, says Dr. Satinover. Spiritual fulfillment was seen in terms of acquiring a special knowledge, or "gnosis," rather than through atoning sacrifice.

By displacing God with self, mankind began to redefine the creation as divine, thus falling into nature worship.

Gnosticism is responsible for many modern re-symbolizations, including an attempt to synthesize male and female. The result of the distortion of masculine and feminine, says Dr. Satinover, is a widespread disordering of relations between the sexes. (The French psychoanalyst Jeannine Chasseguet-Smirgel expresses a similar view in *Creativity and Perversion*; the pervert, she says, blurs the boundaries between the sexes, and between the generations.)

The New Paganism: The Instincts as "Sacred"

"The pagan psycho-theology that lurks behind Jungianism...is simply the psychologized worship of instinct," says Dr. Satinover. Pagans make idols that are mere representations of their own impulses--"gods of power, money, fame, violence and sexuality. In primitive societies, these are idols of wood and silver and stone.

"In civilized ones, they are of words and concepts."

The Fantasy of Gay Androgyny

Also reflecting on *Gay Soul*, Dr. Joseph Nicolosi comments, "These are individuals who as children began by making small compromises with reality. They accepted the fantasy that their psychic conflicts could be resolved by being both male and female. Later, gay deconstructionism supported them in the collective illusion that they were not bound by human nature, but could transcend heterosexual boundaries and be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, or transgendered. That's the gay culture's 'gnosis,' or supposed special knowledge: one can fashion himself as anything he chooses to be." ■

In Memoriam: Bill Funk

One of NARTH's most loyal and enthusiastic allies, Bill Funk, recently passed away after a battle with cancer. The NARTH officers will always remember Bill as a kind, caring, and gentle man who quietly went about his good works with no desire for recognition. Bill's generous support was invaluable to NARTH in our difficult early years. He was a warm and good man of strong conviction, and he will be greatly missed.