

The Meeting with the Witch of the West

When Dorothy meets the Wizard of Oz she has the blessings of the Silver Shoes of the Witch of the East and the mark on the forehead of the Witch of the North. She is shielded by a certain naivete and purity. We are told that Dorothy walks boldly through the door, but when Oz asks her what she wants she replies: "I am Dorothy, the Small and Meek." Note that the two important words are capitalized! And when Oz asks her why he should do anything for her she replies "Because you are strong and I am weak; because you are a Great Wizard and I am only a helpless little girl." Dorothy's crossing of the threshold comes at a prize. Oz replies: "In this country everyone must pay for everything he gets." And he asks her to kill the Witch of the West, the one who has driven Oz himself out of the land of the West.

In the language of the Wizard of Oz Dorothy has come to the realm of Oz in a state of innocence, unprepared. Both thinking and feeling have been rescued; one from the higher thinking represented by the stork, the other by the selfless will acting in concert among the mice, they too ruled by the feminine figure of their Queen. The Wizard can do no more than some humbug. The companions cross the threshold but have to pay for their daring with the challenge of meeting the Witch of the West, enter the realm of Ahriman to defeat him. What was not pursued consciously will now meet the companions through the trials of the century.

The Guardian of the Gates warns them: "no one ever wishes to go that way." There are no farms, no houses, no trees, no tilled ground. What is portrayed as landscape barrenness is really the soul barrenness of the entry into the realm of Ahriman.

Neither Dorothy, nor her companions initially want to enter the West. It is the Witch who wants to find them rather than the reverse. The Witch, who has only one eye, but powerful as a telescope, sends three tests to the companions. The first is the pack of forty great wolves: the Tin Woodman makes this his battle. The second is the flock of forty wild crows: the Scarecrow takes this on as his battle. He who used to scare the crows, catches the crows and twists their necks. The third is the swarm of black bees: the Scarecrow asks Tin Woodman to spread his straw over the girl, dog and Lion. The bees only find the Tin Woodman and attack him, losing their stings in the attempt. Until this point Tinman and Scarecrow have faced the main tests; now the roles reverse as we will see.

The witch has a Golden Cap, with which she can call the Winged Monkeys. She only has one wish left to ask the monkeys. She used it first to make the Winkies her slaves, then to drive Oz out of the land of the West. This

time she asks to destroy all of the party, except to capture the Lion. The Tin Woodman is dropped from the heights; the Scarecrow's is scattered and all of his clothes gathered into a ball and made into a bundle which the monkeys place atop a tall tree. But they cannot harm Dorothy "for she is protected by the Power of Good, and that is greater than the Power of Evil." The Winged Monkeys recognize the mark on the forehead of the kiss of the Witch of the North.

America stands in 1933 at the crossroads. What has happened to the soul forces is reflected at the level of the spheres of society. Before 1933 the nation rallied once more to its founding values. The presidency of Hoover stood for the best of American individualism, even if that were just a doomed battle. The President wanted to maintain the independence of the three spheres of society and of the three branches of government. Dorothy still stood as a whole with her companions. She was truly tested on the path of the spiritual West, and in fact it was just a matter of time before the Winged Monkeys would come to the help of the Witch of the West.

Ahriman in all its might is the being whom America meets in the West, the Witch of the West. Already in 1913 Ahriman had played his trump card; the founding of the Federal Reserve System. In 1933 a force rises in its full strength from the depths of the abyss. The Western Brotherhoods achieve their ultimate aims, that of subordinating the three spheres to their domain. Something from sub-nature, the financial domain, comes to dominate each and every sphere of social life. It is a wonder that the sole resistance comes in terms of an economic sphere wanting to stand for its own. Even in the unanimous resistance of the judicial to economic fascism we find the strength of the Lion resisting full captivity. The Scarecrow and the Tinman have been truly shattered; the Lion has been made captive.

Now the Witch of the West is worried upon seeing the mark on Dorothy's forehead and her Silver Shoes, but she realizes she is naïve about her own power. Note that naivete, innocence, seems an essential quality of Dorothy and by extension of the American soul. The Lion scares the Witch who wants to harness him, and she decides to starve him. Dorothy secretly feeds him at night. The will of America will be sapped through the artificially imposed, long, Great Depression.