

Tree and Man

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The Tree exists both in physical concrete reality, as an organism which is alive – and a concept, through the mental contemplation of 'tree'. Man has existed with these organisms almost all his time on earth, and so they no doubt occupy a great deal of space within the realms of both natural and scientific classification and study, and the metaphysical, philosophical and occult domain. This article is focusing on the considerations of how a tree operates, and compared to Man.

A tree has three main parts, when 'segmented' up (in the mind, to most people), and they are: the roots, the trunk, and the branches. These are symbolic of three realms, the cthonic/infernal underworld-realm (roots), the physical, material realm (trunk) and ethereal/divine realm (branches). The branches and leaves to the heavens and starry skies of the divine, the roots grounded firmly within the earth of the underworld, and the trunk bringing them both together, connecting and sustaining them.

The roots of a tree dig deep within the soil as they grow and search for water. Thus, the trunk and branches requires the waters of the cthonic. And the branches reach high into the sky with their leaves, gathering sunlight and breathing in the air, which provide for the trunk and roots, thus requiring the 'energies' of the ethereal. Thus, the two 'realms' depend on the central – the roots sustain the branches, the branches sustain the roots – but through the trunk – the 'material'.

And the trunk is seen, as is the whole tree itself, as a representation of Man himself. He grows from the soil of his past-lived ancestors and family, depending on their forbearance in order to even exist and be alive – and he depends on the light of the intellect (here to mean, the HGA, or 'Higher Power' or Nous, or what ever) to guide him and in his life as he continues to develop – and as the branches of the trees reach higher into the sky. And the roots too, sink deeper into the earth, as it must – and thus, “in the search upwards the tree, the search downwards must also be” (how's that for a jingle, lol).

Nourishment for the tree comes from both two places. A tree cannot live solely through the processes of photosynthesis from the sun light and the leaves, nor can it live solely through the soils and waters – it gathers it energy from both places and brings them to the central trunk, and redistributed and cycled between them. Thusly, a focus on one thing while disregarding or being ignorant of another thing cannot go so well – understand and consider both and harmony can be found.

From the earth and soil is where the energy of the plant is brought up from the materials of organic components. In man, his raw energetic power of libido and internal willpower is similar to this in illustration. In the tree, waters and nutrients are pulled up into the trunk – in man, this is then where the raw energetic power can be either 'elevated' or 'degraded' according to his own intellect. This is where Man has the power himself to make choices and determine where that energy will be directed and spent. In the tree, it can travel up to the branches and leaves – and in man – he directs his energy and attention and own power towards his higher creative ideals; or it can be directed towards his lower habits, distressings and perceived fallacies. Thus, in Man, he has his ability to choose and make decisions, and direct his own energy. In the tree, the trunk is the place where the lower energy is brought up and then directed to it's own various places.

From the skies and sun is where the energy of photosynthesis is brought down and into the plant. In man, this is when he is being directed in turn by his own higher ideals, which subsequently flow down into his being. In the tree, the sunlight is converted into usable energy through photosynthesis and through the branches and down into the trunk. In man, this is also where his higher ideals are brought to his own will, where he becomes aware of those things, and in turn makes the decisions and choices, just as the same as the roots.

Properly, the tree will operate to benefit by making the trunk larger and thicker, the branches grow up out, and taller, and the roots deeper and thicker as well. In man, if 'properly functioning', maintains himself, and grows his own being ('trunk' thickening and growing), strives higher and closer to his own ideals and 'perfections' (branches and leaves winding higher and higher), and gains in gathering of 'power' and energy through his own higher choices and self strivings (roots sinking deeper and deeper).

A tree is not unlike a human in the regard of how it operates, when compared to Man's own dealings. They have been the focus of attention throughout thousands of years of human history - venerated and worshiped, cared for and also lost – but documented trees – and trees that inspire awe and continue to do so today. Man's own internal network of personal spheres works very well with the philosophical and mystical considerations of the tree, and perhaps it is for this very reason why they have had the focus and attention that they do.