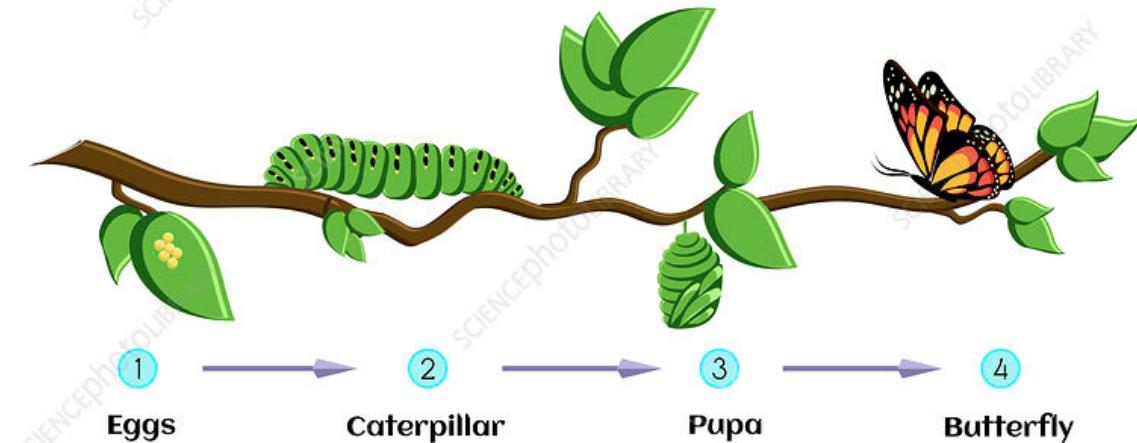


SYMBOLS OF EVOLUTION - TOWARDS COMPLETION

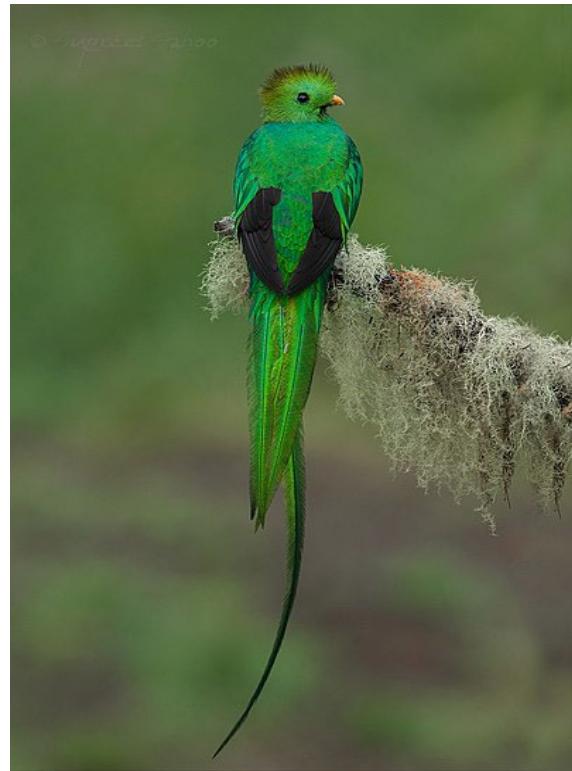
I ANIMAL SYMBOLISM: THE FEATHERED-SERPENT



The whole of pre-Columbian Central America worshipped an animal deity by the name of *Ouetzalcoatl*, which translates as ,*the luminous feathered serpent*‘. This hybrid animal deity is represented by the head of a rattle-snake, coved with the feathers of the sacred *Quetzal*-bird.

In the mythologies of the Aztecs this *luminous feathered serpent* was considered to be a creator-god, a god of heaven and earth, or a nature and wind-god, to whom a mighty temple was dedicated. Beyond the physical-material aspects, *Ouetzalcoatl* was the god of light and wisdom.

Representations of serpents with bird-like characteristics go as far back as to the beginnings of the Olmec period 1.500 BC.



1. Resplendent sacred *Quetzal* bird. Rain forest, Costa Rica



2. *Quetzalcoatl*, the luminous feathered serpent , stone sculpture



3. coiled 3-fold and as infinite circle



4. *Quetzalcoatl* raised

The serpent symbolises the creative powers of the earth, as well as the transformation and rejuvenation processes of life and death, since the serpent periodically sheds its skin. In early cosmogonies, therefore, the serpent was worshipped to be the mediator between earth and heaven.

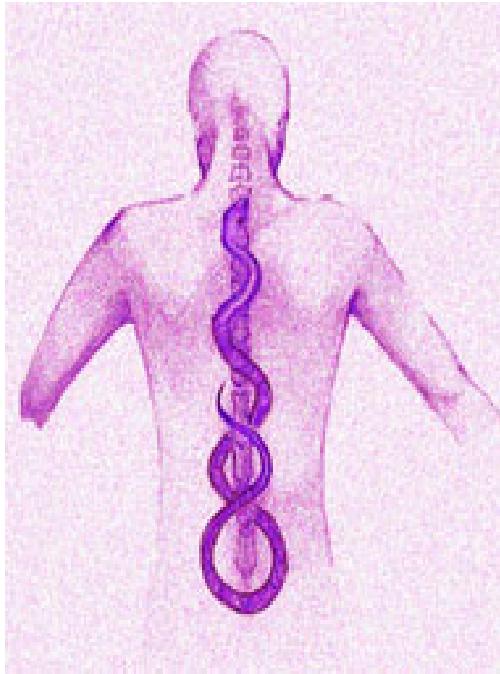
As *Ouroboros*, that is, as an all-enclosing, infinite circle, the serpent symbolises the hatching of the life-spirit which it encloses, as well as representing the dynamic power that awakens life.

Representations of the serpent with wings suggest the possible union of matter and spirit.

II EVOLUTION REPRESENTED BY IMAGES OF HUMANS WITH ANIMAL SYMBOLS

Turning from archaic animal symbolism of divinity to the story of human evolution as a journey to realise the divinities we change continents and find ourselves in Asia and Oriental Europe.

Images with a double serpent wound round a **central staff** as a double spiral, suggest the union of opposites in a unifying process crowned by a jewel.



1..*Kundalini –Serpent Power -*

2. Winged and crowned *Kundalini Shakti* unfolded
along the spinal column

In the symbolic representations of the Indian yoga traditions the *Kundalini* serpent power lies dormant at the bottom of the spine, coiled in a three-and-a half folded circle.

According to this sacred tradition, through the *Kundalini shakti*, humans are potentially endowed with cosmic consciousness which is the root of the whole of creation and its evolutionary processes.

This primal energy is the source for the existence and development from minerals – to plants – animals and eventually to human beings on our planet. The *Kundalini* energy further is the motivating force behind all aspirations towards any further development and achievement.



3. *Caduceus* – Staff of *Hermes*, messenger of the gods and guide of souls.
The double-serpent travels on the crowned Tree of Life.

The Christian tradition offers the model of the life of Jesus for a spiritual evolution on the Tree of Life which implies the acceptance of death as a state of transition and transformation

St. John uses the image of the serpent rising in connection with the dying Jesus who is about to complete his earthly journey as the Son who is to be unified beyond time with the Father:

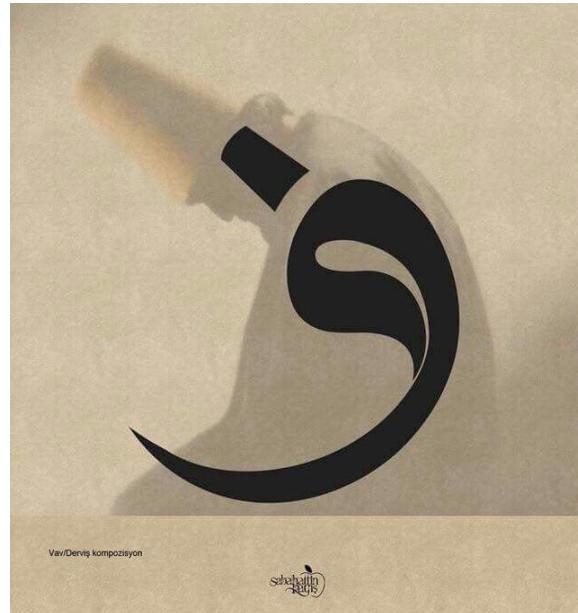
John 3, 14-15: „*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. That whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have eternal life*“.



4. Adam and Eve enveloped and bound by the serpent to the Tree of Life

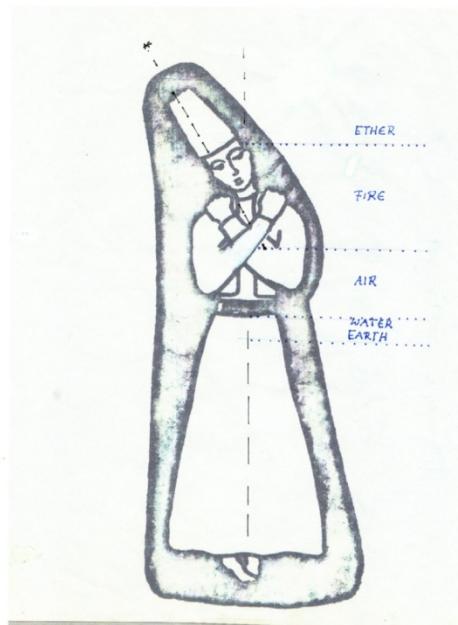
III THE MEVLEVI SEMAZEN - A HUMAN MODEL OF EVOLUTION

*“You have worn bodies as clothes
Some are dead and gone, some living.
It is your breath that sustains them”.(Rumi)*



1. Meditation on the letter ,F‘ – *Fana =,Dissolution of the Ego.*

*“For them that have attained union with God
there is nothing necessary,
except the eye of the spirit and the lamp of intuitive faith”.
Make peace with the universe. Take joy in it. It will turn to gold.
Resurrection will be now. (Rumi)*



2. *Semazen* in closed position with 2 axes



3. Jacob wrestling with the angel, Vezelay Cathedral, 13th c.



4. Turning feet

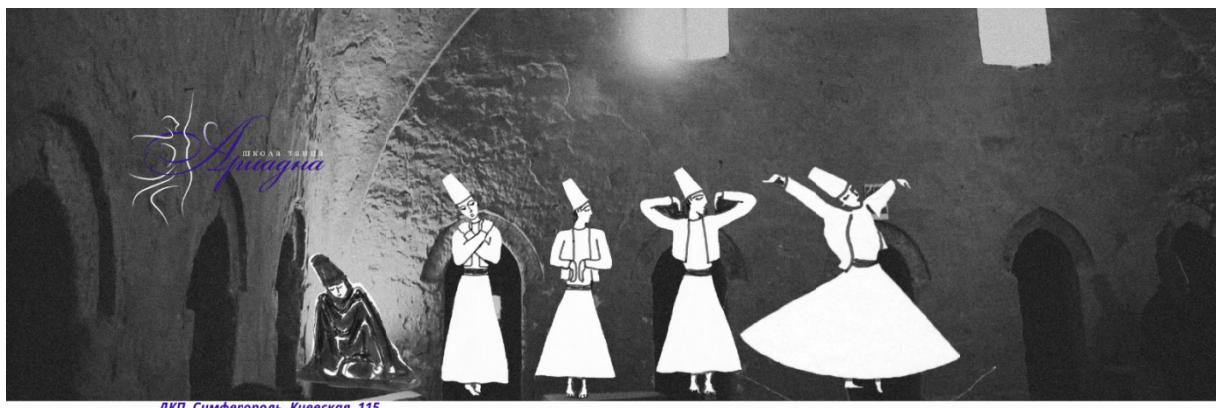


5. *Semazen listening to the voice of memory in their, graves'*,
drawung by Bernhard Wosien.

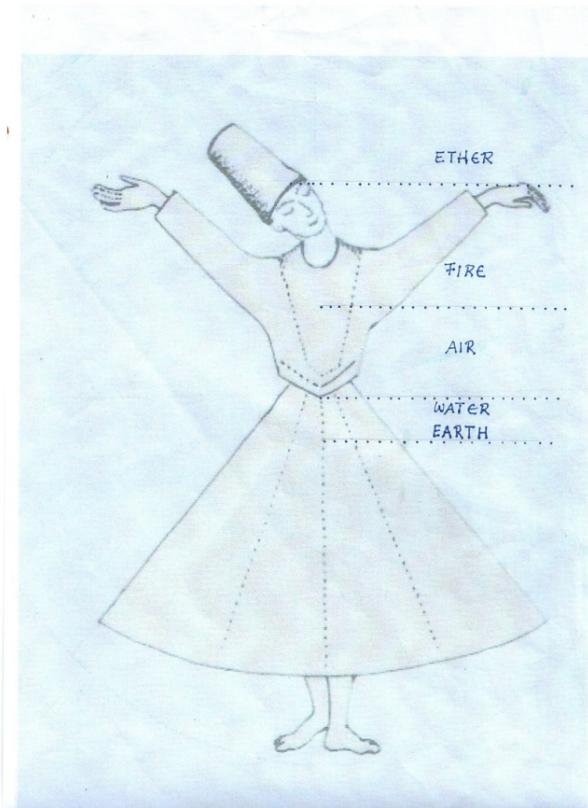


6. Procession with the ‚halting step of life‘ = 3 times round the sacred space before the 4 *selams*, the turning sequences of the *Mukabele* ritual.

*„The tensional relationship of opposites
is the great operational mechanism
of manifest life and of transformation“.* (C.G.Jung)



7. Opening the arms (drawing by Bernhard Wosien)



8. *Semazen* with open arms = receiving and distributing + the elements

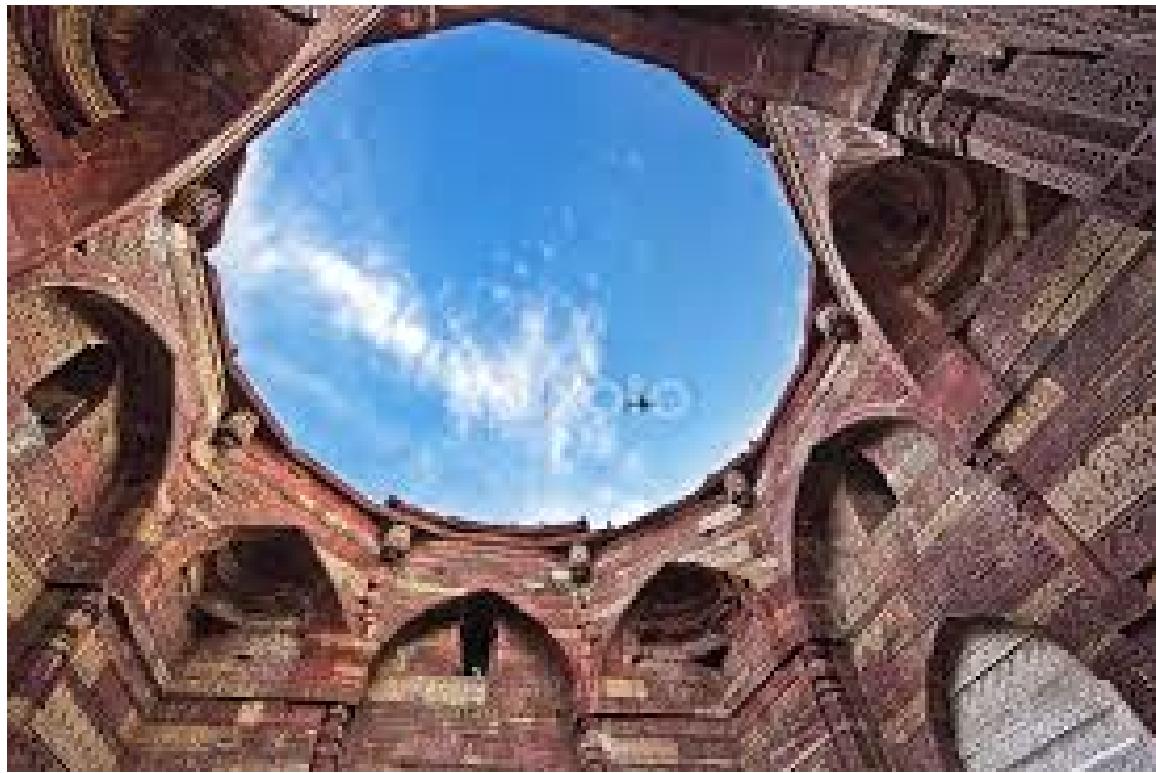


9. Stop during *selams* – earthing energies 10. *Niyaz* = bowing with gratitude after each *selam*



11. *Mukabele* = 'Coming Face to Face'. The ritual takes place in a mosque, which is also a *semahane*, the hall for the turning ceremony and houses as well the *turbes*, the graves, of *sheikhs*, the ancestors of the Mevlevi Order.

The *mutrib*, the musicians in the fore ground, are placed at the entrance to the *semahane*, opposite the *sheikh*, who makes the doorway for the *semazen* together with the *semazenbashi*, the teacher of the turners. Drawing: A. Gölpinarli.



12. "Borrow the beloved's eyes. Look through them and you'll see the face of the beloved everywhere. **Become the sky** – take an axe to the prison wall. Escape. Walk out like someone suddenly born into colour.



13. Then there will come a day not on any calendar, a day that is conscious of itself...
(Rumi)

*When you turn you do not turn for yourself but for God.
We turn around in the way we do
so that the Light of God may descend upon the earth.
As you act as a channel in the turn,
the light comes through the right hand,
and the left hand brings it into this world.
It is what you in the West call 'alchemy',
for if you concentrate correctly in your prayer to God
then you make the necessary sacrifice of yourself.
In this way light, which contains within itself perfect order,
is able to come through onto the earth.
We turn for God and the world,
and it is the most beautiful thing you can imagine. "
If you are quiet and in a state of prayer when you turn,
offering everything of yourself to God,
then when your body is spinning,
there is a completely still point in the centre.
In the knowledge that there is only Him,
you can experience the universe round that still point.
The Heavens respond and all the invisible kingdoms join in the dance...,*

(Sheikh Resuhi Baykara, 1960's)