STILL POINT OF THE TURNING WORLD

If we do the usual thing and look at our existence as a line in time, then ‘now’ turns out to be vanishingly thin, while past and future do not exist at all. The line in time lacks substance. The triumph of actualisation is defeat in being.

The ordinary view drags in a sort of presence, a ‘here and now’, that amounts to nothing more than a cloud of imagination. That is why JGB once called such being as ‘like a ghost’. But there might be a reality behind it. This possibility is invoked in psychological ideas such as remembering oneself.

Can we imagine a moment that ‘remembers itself’? Of course, what we mean by this is that it re-enters itself. The entry of something into itself again and again is now studied in mathematical physics. We can see that it has the characteristic of recurrence but we need to wean ourselves away from fixating this upon repetition in time.

The suggestion is that hyparxis projects itself into time as repetition while into eternity as superposition. In the former we have a series of events that repeat, or cycle. In the latter we have the same event re-entering itself. What re-enters itself is able-to-be. And we come to the rather unusual idea JGB held that

Progress is made in the present moment.

It is not to be found in the future, as is commonly thought. It is to be found in moments that can contain themselves, which are called events. As applied to the usual concept of past, present and future we then have:

The hyparchic past – events that enter into history and continue to evolve in meaning in their own time

The hyparchic present – where real decisions can be made

The hyparchic future – where higher intelligence can operate in its own time.

The picture we need to create is of such a strong sense of ‘now’ that it can contain all the richness of actualisation without losing itself. Only, we must first understand that ‘now’ is not an aspect of actual time but of hyparchic time.

A present moment is the field of operation of a will.

Resolving to change something in the future is bound to be useless. Only if one can enter the hyparchic moment of that change can it work.

“Time is the Unique-Subjective” Gurdjieff.