

the center of being, the archetypes revolve around or are related to that center in a harmonious and unified way. But when the metaphysical experience is not known or is ignored, "When everyday, socially or individually-conditioned reality is taken as the true coign of vantage, the result can only be comical." On the surface the correction for such a comical vision is often thought to be tragedy. But tragedy is itself removed some distance from metaphysical experience. Tragedy and comedy, then, are extremes, the mean being metaphysical experience, which links both. To find that center ought to be the goal of spiritual education. It is this center that the rose symbolizes.

In this short book (140 pages) Zolla has amassed an impressive array of literary, political, religious, and anthropological evidence. So compact, the book is often difficult to read. It assumes a familiarity with archetypes, requires a willingness to consider speculative and imaginative evidence, and demands attentive reading. Not for the reader first coming to archetypes, the book is nevertheless well worth reading for those readers who wish to add to their understanding of archetypes. Professor Zolla is to be commended for writing this thought-provoking and synthesizing book.