



The standard view of human origins holds that consciousness began with the advent of language, but some say that the mind became human with the gesture of pointing. When the hand could not reach what it wished to grasp, the finger created a theater. On one side, the hand side, was the subject and the rest of the audience; on the other was the world, where touch had held a Paradise lost and now vision did what it could to recover and reassemble the fragments.

The world lost to touch but gained for vision is missing a side. The edge conceals a side, the eye conceals a thought, and monsters play along the horizon, which conceals Elsewhere. For those left living in this now-half world, the dead take precedence, for they rule this Elsewhere and its micro-ken, the shadows and hidden sides. From their kingdom of darkness they rule through demon law and show their hand for the faked death of sacrifice, and then not well.

The hand that points now puts the eye in a place, a point of view, and this now is a conical prison made portable by legs. The mind now must doubt where the body is and how it fares (propriocept). Its comforts are four-square walls and steady steps; chairs made from thrones; windows, gates, and doors that console motion.

The world lost to touch and partially regained by the eye goes by the sayings of right and left. The eye insists that these be about light and dark, the dead would wish to talk about good and evil. What is not talked about is the mirror in the middle, the line that means that the world faces us, and we it, left to right, right to left; and now front and back also have an address and social calendar.

The finger pointing doesn't hold anything, but its companions close around the palm in disappointed resignation. "We knew the world," they say; "What the eye now sees is false." With stereognosis (knowledge of the world through touch), the question had not been not here or there, or how far. Actually, there were only two questions: Wet or dry? Hot or cold? Together these produced a psychology (melancholy, mania, depression, delusion), a physics (air, earth, fire, water), a geography (north, east, south, west), seasons (winter, spring, summer, fall), and eschatology (one goes west to die). In Oz, there is the wickedness of the witches of the west and east, the godness of the witches of north and south, a real *cardus* ("heart line") and *decumanus* ("right hand line") to found cities with. The cross of these lines at the *templum* ("division") finds the spot where the mirror sets up its irony. *Nunc videmos per speculum*. Now we see, as if in a mirror. *Nunc facie ad faciem*. Now face to face. Propriocept must recover its body, it must find the world lost with indication, the prior reality of stereognosis. Is it any wonder that Alice must go through a looking glass into nonsense subterranean? So must we all.

