

Excerpt from The Couple – Now and Then (memory)

When we first met there was a familiarity, an inexplicable knowing of my past. What was it? Was it something from the past forgotten until the first moment of awakening?

Unless, **(pause)** I had known her before and memory knows before knowing remembers and believes longer than recollects, longer than knowing even wonders. Knows remembers believes an ocean's lighthouse, a protective beacon, a haven protective from the waves crashing onto the ancient rocks of shore as it has forever done before our remembering, or as a vista of a sunlit brown hay field endlessly vanishing to the horizon with waving lambent blades like one remembers a dusty road with a desert mesa off at the distant extreme of our human vision, awestruck with streaked loving tears.

All all of that means is we forget, or we remember wrongly, or we remember fondly sometimes from an idealized dream of something that never happened or someone that never existed in the way we thought of them, sometimes with no good reason and unconsciously and sentimentally like a feeling.

It is not like a glory that has passed from this earth so much as one that has passed through our personal unconscious soul, ours alone, authentic and real only to ourselves, a glory gone from the present but forever imagined in our capacity to wonder.

It is like when we were children, when perhaps memory knowing, knowing beginning to remember, perhaps even desire, we in our youth were still too young to have learned enough despair to hope.

It is like a pre-remembrance, a remembrance before we were born or even existed. It is like something that came to us in this life from the eternal wheel that turns throughout all of the universe and unconsciously inside ourselves.