



The picture/'dragon' shows the whole valley; the 'tongue' (the red part) represents the little town Säter; the white line the small river Ljusteran. The light green circle shows the place where the exhibition was located. (The length of the valley, or rather canyon, is ca 10 km.)

OUTWARD MILIEU AS MENTAL STRUCTURE

Kristina W-Hedman

I grew up in the near vicinity the Valley of Dalen. It is one of the few things in the area that hasn't changed since my childhood. Modern development, including the new motorway have radically changed the outward appearance – the motorway also symbolizes a complete departure from what was, a new and foreign style of life. I dream who i am in the folding of the earth.

My hypothesis in the Valley Spirit Project is just this, a 'dream geography'. Generally you could say there is a parallel between peoples' inner world and the universe that surrounds them; outward appearances are a mirror of our psyche, an idea manifested concretely in myth and symbol.

Should I try to interpret these thoughts in regard to my own life it could mean that the town, Säter, symbolises the structured and controllable part of my psyche where one can interpret the square in the centre as a manifestation of my *ego* and the church *the Self* (the Jungian concept, *archetypal complex*). The lake Ljustern might symbolize the emotional life, and the lunatic asylum on 'the other side' the astral sphere. Ljusteran is the small river that flows from the lake at the bottom of the valley into the larger river, Dalalven, winding its way to the Baltic; it is like a glittering snake creeping toward greater clarity, yes, it can be a symbol of the flood and flow of life. And the valley itself, Dalen! It is simply, in this geography of the soul, an analogue for *the subconscious*. What is more some believe that here, just beneath, is an underground river as powerful as the river above, Dalalven; *the collective subconscious* of course.

As I see it the central problem in daily conscious life, as in the subconscious, is the dualistic tension in the relationship between the male and the female between Eros and Logos or between yin and yang if you like.

The valley, Dalen, is 'female', dusky, moist, concave and I have searched after a place which is a counter-balance to this – my wish is to illustrate the sublime balance between masculine and feminine.

I think that the world itself is an act of equilibrium between these two potencies. The presuppose each other as day presupposes night and vice versa.

*The genius of the valley will never die
it's named the mysterious Mother*

from the Book of Tao