

Ulver

"A Memorable Fancy 2"

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(plates 12-13)

The prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel dined with me, and I asked them how they dared so roundly to assert that God spoke to them; and whatever they did not think at the time that they would be so misunderstood, & so be the cause of imposition. Isaiah answer'd: 'I saw no God, nor heard any, in a finite organical perception; but my senses discover'd the infinite in every thing, and as I was then persuaded, & remain confirm'd, that the voice of honest indignation is the voice of God, I cared not for consequences, but wrote. ' Then I asked: 'Does a firm persuasion that a thing is so, make it so? ' He replied: ' All poets believe that it does, & in ages of imagination this firm persuasion removed mountains; but many are not capable of a firm persuasion of any thing. ' Then Ezekiel said: 'The philosophy of the east taught the first principles of human perception: some nations held one principle for the origin, & some another; we Israel taught that the poetic genius (as you now call it) was the first principle and all the others merely derivative, which was the cause of our despising the priests & philosophers of other countries, and prophecying that all gods would at last be proved to originate in ours & to be tributaries of the poetic genius; it was this that our great poet king David desired so fervently & invokes so pathetic'ly, saying this he conquers enemies & governs kingdoms; and we so loved our God, that we cursed in his name all the deities of surrounding

nations and asserted
that they had rebelled; from this opinions the vulgar
came to thin that
all nations would at last be subjected to the Jews. 'This'
he said 'like
all firm perswasions, is come to pass; for all nations
belive the Jews'
code and worship the Jews' God, and what the greater
subjection can be? 'I
heard this with some wonder,& must confess my own
convivtion. After dinner
I ask'd Isaiah to favour the world with his lost works; he
said none of
equal value was lost. Ezekiel the same of his. I also
asked Isaiah what
made him go naked and bare foot three years? He
answer'd: 'The same that
made our friend Diogenes, the Grecian. 'I then asked
Ezekiel why he eat
dung,& lay so long on his right & left side? He
answer'd 'The desire of
raising other men into perception of the infinite: this
the North American
tribes practise,& is he honest who resists his genius or
conscience for
this sake of present ease or gratification? (plate 14)
The ancient
tradition that the world will be consumed in fire at the
end of six
thousand years is true, as I have heard from hell. For
the Cherub with his
flaming sword is hereby commanded to leave his
guard at tree of life, and
when he does, the whole creation will be consumed
and appear infinite and
holy, whereas it now appears finite & corrupt. This will
come to pass by
an improvement of sensual enjoyment, but first the
notion that man has a
body distinct from his soul is to be expunged; this I
shall do by printing
in the infernal method, by corrosives, which in hell are
salutary and in
medicinal, melting apparent surfaces away, and
displaying the infinite
which was hid. If the doors of perception were cleansed
every thing would
appear to man as it is. Infinite. For man has closed
himself up, till he
sees things thro' narrow chinks of his cavern

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