

The background of the cover is a photograph of a sandy beach. A path of darker sand or pebbles leads from the foreground towards the ocean. The sky is a clear, pale blue. In the distance, some buildings and a coastline are visible across the water.

B.O.R.T.

(Book of Replicated Thought)

John O'Loughlin

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PREFACE

Unlike anything else ever written (and not only, I venture to guess, by myself), this title endeavours to 'burn the candle', as it were, at both ends, coming 'down to earth' in the first part and going 'up to heaven' in the second, replicating the text of the former whilst diverging from it in terms of an approach to structure which is less prosaic than philosophic, in the sense of combining – and not for the first time in my oeuvre – aphorisms with maxims in relation to a metaphysical mean and intent.

The aphoristic material, with me, is more loosely structured than the maxims, which are not maxims in the accepted sense of pithy sayings or apophthegms in which wisdom or knowledge is condensed but, rather, are numbered items that follow, in each sequence, a uniform structure which is simply thematically modified to suit the needs of the occasion or, in this instance, particular maxim.

That, of course, does not obtain in the 'down to earth' part which begins this book, in which I took the aphoristic/maximistic material at a less developed stage of its structuring and simply endeavoured, with the help of '....', or omission marks used in a relatively unorthodox way, to separate one train of thought from another, to turn it into something approaching prose, in which a massive if not massed approach to text signifies that which is corporeal as opposed, like the aphoristic structure, to being comparatively ethereal, and thus intended (without irony) for mass

consumption – something one could not associate with any text conceived with due philosophic regard to space and, especially, time!

Thus this project strives to appeal, one might say, to both lower- and upper-order tastes to the extent that it combines, in the one book, two dissimilar approaches to textual structure without, however, unduly departing from its grammatical bias and the affirmation, in consequence, of a discriminatory upper-case approach (depending on class context) to terminology which, to be sure, would tend to partly contradict or at least detract from my metaphor concerning the 'candle' being burnt at 'both ends', as initially suggested.

However that may be, while more people might be expected to prefer the 'prose' to the 'philosophy', irrespective of its grammatical predilections, the option on both approaches to textual presentation not only brings 'heaven' down to 'earth' but simultaneously ensures that what pertains to the former can be transmuted into the latter, transfigured, so to speak, with intent to providing the right kind of axial paradigm for any transcendence of 'the world' likely to culminate in a heavenly disposition.

John O'Loughlin, London 2016 (Revised 2022)

PART ONE – DOWN TO EARTH

Only 'arseholes' (or 'assholes' ... as the Americans say) believe in gender equality or equalitarianism. The logical corollary of being against what is termed 'sexism' can only be a kind of androgynous sexlessness whose only appeal would be to what are colloquially called 'arseholes', or all those who tend to wear jeans irrespective of gender. Anti-sexism is anti-sex, and therefore a vehicle for the sexless equalitarianism of 'arseholes'....One thing I am not in favour of is 'sex-for-sex's-sake', which leads nowhere but downwards....It was one of those places where one couldn't have a thought without somebody, usually female or juvenile, knowing about it. Thinking is one of the greatest pleasures and, from a properly human standpoint, privileges in life, but you'd be surprised at just how many people are against it, whether on principle or in consequence of some mental sensitivity borne of too physical a disposition....He was as grist to her mill, and she ground him to a pulp....I must confess to having read *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* as a kid. But, if I'm honest, I have to say that I prefer the idea of 'Dr Hyde and Mr Jekyll'....If a saint's status and credibility owes anything to the degree of his universality, then St George would rank pretty highly (thought prompted by St George's Day, 23rd April)....Ultimately I think you have to strike a balance between being overly partial to the human race at the expense of individual races and being overly partial to individual races at the expense of the human race, by which is meant mankind or even the human kind, the majority of whom, hitherto, have not been humanistic....George Martin –

the man who ruined the Beatles, turning them from a passably talented four-piece pop group from Liverpool into a quasi-classical quartet – has just died, and I, for one, will not have any regrets over his passing, never having appreciated his tendency to turn pop or rock groups, including Mahavishnu Orchestra, into quasi-classical ensembles....Bitches to the left of them, bitches to the right of them, volleyed and thundered.

Into the valley of life rode the sex hungry. (Call it a Tennysonian parody.)....The axis of the church-hegemonic/state-subordinate spiral is, in overall gender terms, hegemonically pseudo-Southeast to Northeast and subordinately Southwest to pseudo-Northwest, as from pseudo-physics to Metaphysics and from chemistry to pseudo-Metachemistry. The axis of the state-hegemonic/church-subordinate spiral is, in overall gender terms, hegemonically Northwest to pseudo-Southwest and subordinately pseudo-Northeast to Southeast, as from Metachemistry to pseudo-chemistry and from pseudo-Metaphysics to physics. As each spiral has a base and an apex, one can infer that the base will be characterized by the hegemony of somatic extroversion and the apex by the hegemony of psychic introversion, irrespective of axial directionality....You can be modified by environment, but it certainly won't change your gender. Many of those currently wearing pants or trousers would be better reflected in skirts or dresses, not to mention, in some cases, shorts. Gender equalitarianism and homosexuality go hand-in-glove. In fact, is not gender equalitarianism a symptom if not aspect of sexual bolshevism or, in other words, social democratic radicalism?...When a funny man tries to be serious ... no-one takes him seriously. But when a serious man tries to be funny ... no-one is amused....Looking at some chimneypot-ridden buildings that appear decidedly antiquated....A younger man – myself – in an old photo vis-a-

vis an older man – me again – in a new photo. Which is preferable?... I believe it fair to think that, generalizing on the simplest possible terms, Painting is the art form of Science; Sculpture the art form of Politics, Literature the art form of Economics, and Music the art form of Religion....I am not an Irish/English Roman Catholic only because I am an English/Irish Social Theocrat....The struggle against tyranny is the struggle against life, which follows from a tyrannical imposition characterized by a vacuum rooted in female need. The so-called 'natural world order' is based on tyranny, as on predatory exploitation....Every day I live with the reality, from other flats in this dwelling and next-door neighbours, of female (and juvenile) opposition to intellect, as to the mind. That, alas, is a fact of life, as of whatever is based in soma as opposed to being centred in psyche. To struggle against this constant opposition – which appears to be accentuated when the females (and juveniles) are of noticeably foreign (say African or non-European) origin – and to carry on as best one can with one's intellectual and/or cultural commitments ... one needs all the determination and perseverance one can possibly muster, setting oneself against 'the masses' from the standpoint of 'the artist/philosopher', or 'higher individual', whose greatness, one could argue, is proportionate to the extent of his success in this matter, and therefore to the defence of his religiosity, his opposition to mere life....Those dancing, singing fools have nothing in common with the true artist and/or philosopher, who observes, with mounting dismay, the extent to which they replicate life and the life force for populist consumption....Life is not simply 'big' and death 'small'. There is also such a thing as a 'small life' and a 'big death'....The degree of cosmopolitanism in a society or a given environment – say, a metropolis – is a mirror image of the extent to which that society or environment is

supranational, whether in consequence of imperialism, migration, employment policies, work entitlement, or anything else....When the clicking of a mouse being used with a personal computer causes certain neighbours to react ... in a thumping manner ... you know there's something grossly wrong with the place you're living in, not least structurally....They latch-on to you like filings being drawn to a magnet, constantly harassing you verbally and even bangingly, while censoring – as it seems – every incidence, no matter how trivial or incidental, of mental subjectivity, simply because, as objectively-orientated vacuums, they abhor it and cannot relate to its existence. It is said that 'nature abhors a vacuum', but I think it even truer to say that 'nature (in the guise of females and juveniles) abhors a plenum'. In fact, it is just as much – if not more – 'the people' who, to reverse Oscar Wilde's observation, cannot live with 'the artist'....The 'politically correct' (ahem) bourgeoisie are disgusting beyond belief....They say 'get a girl', as if that were the solution to everything, but, in reality, that is the last thing one would want to do in an area, an environment, a city, etc., as overcrowded and cosmopolitan as this one (London). Besides, as 'a head' the idea of being dominated by 'a body' is anathema. Sex, in any case, is low, really low, and no self-respecting man goes out of his way to degrade himself by fucking somebody, particularly since it may only come back, later on, to 'bite one in the ass', as the Americans say....The reason I am not a politician, apart from a certain inherent – even class and gender – disdain for politics, is that I would have little or no talent for seducing 'the masses'....'Science', to speak in general terms, is anterior to 'Religion', as the Superdevilish and Superhellish aspects of Metachemistry, which are Supersomatic, to its Subheavenly and Subgodly aspects which, being Subpsychic, 'look on' from 'On High', as it were,

at the pseudo-Superheavenly and pseudo-Supergodly aspects of pseudo-Metaphysics which, being pseudo-Superpsychic, are the only aspects thereof which are pertinent to the 'Religious' or, in this case, 'pseudo-Religious' context of the pseudo-atomic position in question, its other aspects being pseudo-Subdevilish and pseudo-Subhellish in pseudo-Subsoma, and therefore given to deferring to the attraction of what is Superdevilish and Superhellish for purposes, by and large, of reproduction. Less generally speaking, Subreligion may 'look on' and even 'down at' pseudo-Superreligion, but it is as though biding its time for when pseudo-Subscience will 'look up to' Superscience in what may well be a context closer to 'the State' than to 'the Church', to revert to a generalization concerning the relationship of Metachemistry to pseudo-Metaphysics....She was one of those women who couldn't distinguish between a bum and a genius....I only drink water because beer 'pisses me off'....The most precious thoughts, like the most precious jewels, are the rarest. A thought should be judged by the degree of its originality in relation to the significance of its content....The wind pummelled the windows and caused the walls to shake, but somehow the house stood firm....Tangerine Dream may be my favourite band, but I am no Orangeman....*Vergangenheit oder Zukunft?*

It rather depends on your age. *Warum nicht also Vergangenheit und Zukunft?* For middle-aged persons....Some females are, according to class, more will than spirit; other females more spirit than will – the antithesis of those males who, according to class, are either more ego than soul or, conversely, more soul than ego. Just so can it be maintained that some pseudo-males, according to pseudo-class, are more pseudo-ego than pseudo-soul and others, by contrast, more pseudo-soul than pseudo-ego – the pseudo-antithesis, one could argue, of those pseudo-females who, according to

pseudo-class, are either more pseudo-spirit than pseudo-will or, conversely, more pseudo-will than pseudo-spirit....Even if females generally love males, there is no reason why men should like women, much less love them the way children do....It is not so much that Truth is the enemy of the people as that the people are the enemy of Truth, or of a philosopher's ability to get things – through the utilization of logic – to 'add up'....Generally speaking, males are to females merely a means to a reproductive end, to be cajoled into reproductive acquiescence through coitus by whatever means are most expedient, no matter how brazen or, in verbal terms, denigratory and, frankly, vulgar....The genders balance out and are therefore, on that account, equal, if on opposite gender terms which, on that account, render them unequal. It should not be forgotten, however, that the balance of gender partnerships still favours the one gender over the other, depending on which is hegemonic and which subordinate to that hegemony; which, in other words, is authentic and which inauthentic (or 'pseudo'), whether in terms of Metachemistry/pseudo-Metaphysics, chemistry/pseudo-physics, physics/pseudo-chemistry, or Metaphysics/pseudo-Metachemistry, the first two pairings of which are female-hegemonic and the last two ... male-hegemonic....The more I look around and listen to what people are saying, the more I thank God (to coin a phrase) that I am still single and celibate....How can they award Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees to people who are not bachelors?... Gender equalitarianism, to return to that subject, is fundamentally germane to the cultural norms obtaining at and as the nadir of state-hegemonic/church-subordinate axial criteria, a nadir whereby the physical/pseudo-chemical dichotomy (of the liberal bourgeoisie) falls away into a kind of radical social democratic androgynousness in which, not least in sartorial

terms, it is difficult to distinguish the one gender from the other...What happens when people who, like females, are fundamentally autocratic and bureaucratic (Baudelaire's allusion in his *Intimate Journals* to women being akin to 'tyrants and slaves' comes to mind) enter into and condition the democratic process? Does it not become comparatively less democratic and correspondingly more bureaucratic and even autocratic in character? You would think so. Although it is also possible for democracy to be subverted from standpoints, allegedly male, closer to plutocracy and theocracy, with predictably paradoxical results. However, democracy itself is not one system but is capable of existing in different guises according to whether it is republican or parliamentary, proletarian or bourgeois, rather like the Irish and British models which, being somewhat antithetical, favour democracy and plutocracy respectively, even if the one has traditionally been associated, prior to the disestablishment of Church and State, with a theocratic polarity and the other even now with an autocratic one. You cannot, seemingly, have it both ways...I may sometimes have regrets about living, but I know for sure that I won't have any regrets about dying, provided my death follows a protracted illness and is not in consequence of a mere accident or some brutal event.....The swamp of average if not subaverage humanity can suck one down into the bog of its own making if one does not have the wherewithal or determination to remain above it and aloof from its almost total want of self-transcendence, of self-overcoming....In terms of relative musical importance, the Beatles are akin to a council house and the Rolling Stones to a skyscraper....The idea that Religion – and therefore (put in general terms) God – is in or at the Beginning ... is fundamentally false. Science – and therefore (again in general terms) the Devil – is at or in the Beginning, but traditional

religions cannot, by definition, acknowledge that fact, even though what they are worshipping is fundamentally Scientific, or, to be specific, Superscientific....The want if not absence of quality thought in the masses is a sad testimony to the extent to which women still hold sway, from an innately anti-intellectual standpoint, over most men....He was a man who could not help being gentle ... in spite of not being a 'gentleman'....The major ratio aspect (3) of Metachemistry, being Superscientific, is anterior to the Subreligiosity, corresponding to its major ratio aspect (1), at the roots of the so-called Judaeo-Christian tradition, and is accordingly not recognized, not even by so eminent a thinker as Freud, who conveniently overlooked, if not ignored, the Supersensuous in his psychological fixation on the Subconscious, quite as if the Subconscious could exist without a Supersensuous precondition in what I have described as Metachemistry....One can be Metachemical or Metaphysical from antithetical upper-class standpoints. But one can also be metachemical or metaphysical from antithetical lower-class standpoints, which are subversive