

Philosophers, writers, and artists have always been aware of the role played by occult processes in human life. In Plato's dialogue Phaedrus, Socrates speaks of the creative forces released by "mania," the "divine madness." The text of the dialogue makes it clear that the word "madness" as used by Socrates refers not to pathological mental states, but rather to those deep biological attributes of human nature which are almost beyond the control of reason and usually not even recognized, except by their effects on behavior. These attributes may remain concealed under the usual circumstances of ordinary life, but they constitute powerful sources of inspiration for the artist and for the scientist as well. Creativity usually requires hard work, but it depends even more on intuition and inspiration. Hearing "the voice of the deep" enables us to tap resources from regions of human nature which have not yet been thoroughly explored.

---- Rene Dubos, from *Celebrations of Life*