

the moon and stars, the movements of air and water as the actions of living beings bestial or human. Could we do so and, appreciating their mental and moral condition, realize the world as they realized it, these old myths would become not merely intelligible but altogether reasonable. Have you ever noticed a child beat and scold a chair against which he had fallen? Was there ever a time when to you a watch was alive? The child's idea may seem silly to the adult but did it not embody an actual perception and, though subsequent study enabled him to form a more intelligent comprehension of the facts for which he cast aside his first mental image as inadequate, instead of being useless was it not a necessary step in the stairway of knowledge?

Prior to the last eclipse of the sun the Chinese Court issued instructions to a number of Notables, directing them to arrange a programme of action to be taken in view of the fact that the sun would again be threatened by the monstrous dragon who periodically seeks to swallow it. The Chinese were sufficiently versed in astronomy to determine the period of eclipses when our ancestors were ignorant barbarians. What means their retaining such an absurd mental image? From our point of view it is rank superstition; yet this fanciful picture undoubtedly embodies the perception of a truth which the most precise astronomical statement completely ignores,—a phase of it too that appeals particularly to the eastern mind which ever concerns itself more with the mystery that lies behind the seen than with the seen itself. Light swallowed up by Darkness : Good threatened by Evil. Can the human mind grapple with such a problem save by a creative effort of the imagination which if interpreted literally must appear as rank superstition?

If you question the same people as to why they object to having railways or telegraph lines run across their country they would tell you that these might offend Feng Shui—the local god as we would most erroneously put it. Feng Shui is rather an indefinite abstract deification of all the unseen agencies which make a locality exactly what it is, and what they dread is that the introduction of new factors may upset the existing harmony and lead to disastrous changes—a reasonable thought to a race whose dominant characteristic is conservatism. Are our own mental images, when we venture to project our thoughts into the realms of the unknown, of a very much higher order. Heaven's streets paved with gold,—human beings equipped with wings and provided with golden harps,—the popular ideas of Deborah and the Devil. We are prone to flatter ourselves that we have replaced all crudities of thought by an accurate knowledge, but