

Religion Tradition Authority
always the imperial trinity
political economy redux.
The third of the three having as Alain said

a wax nose which might be bent
in diverse directions to satisfy
as Lewis put it desire for ecstasy
the passive rhythm of the crowd the absolute

release of individual will into
the power of another. The second the tree of life
axis mundi reaching into the heavens.
The first now all but disappeared

since the recent push to replace it with culture —
art as religion, morals philosophy
science or mathematics as religion
a relict mode of rationalistic transcendence

practically extinct in the church proper
which for some centuries has functioned
principally as a holding company
for earthly properties, true religion

preserved when at all in indeterminate forms
deep within individuals,
personal enthusiasms expressed
in out-of-the-way rites and appearances

sometimes neither hidden nor spelled out
none of the bells whistles or ectoplasm
adored by the popular press and its public
but like the oracle intimated

sometimes too obvious to ignore or deny —
a weird change in the physical atmosphere
the air luminous shimmering
a presence a personality a will

obviating any need to prove
continuity or coherence
though two figures of the triumvirate
lie in fragments waiting for Orpheos.

