

METAPHORS

UNDERSTANDING PHILOSOPHY THROUGH IMAGES

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PRESTEL

Munich • London • New York

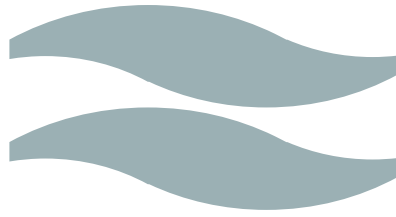
M E T A P H O R

The word “metaphor” has come down to us from the Ancient Greek *metaphorá*, meaning “a transfer,” literally from *meta* (“across”) and *pherein* (“to carry”). Even today, in modern Greek, *metaphorés* is the word used for moving trucks or freight transports and other movements back-and-forth, like bank transfers. In the realm of language, a metaphor is a word that is “transferred” to the context of another, and this is how we understand it in all Western languages.

A metaphorical expression is never a substitute for the literal expression; it is not something that may be subtracted from what is trying to be said, because it assumes the most faithful state of what is said. Every metaphor is, therefore, a move—a change.

The metaphors used in philosophy have something in common: they are conceptual. They translate an abstract word or concept—something intangible—into something that we can see, immersing us in a sea of the senses. The concept becomes an image. But something even more important pulses within: a unique, revelatory light to illuminate the world around us, the environment in which we find ourselves of colors and forms, its life, its blood, and its scent. This is how philosophical metaphors clear away abstraction from the margins, causing the metaphors to invite us, again and again, to continue thinking—to ask ourselves after all if our way of understanding the world and ourselves is not, in fact, essentially formed by them, our metaphors.

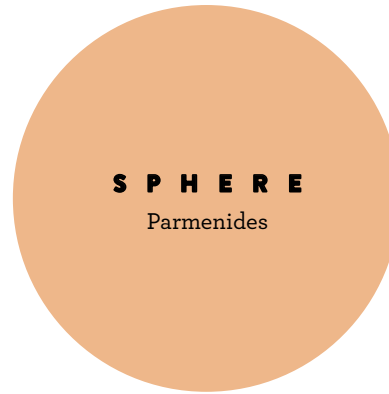
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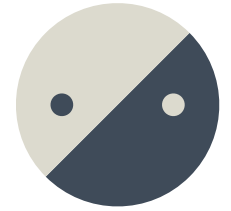
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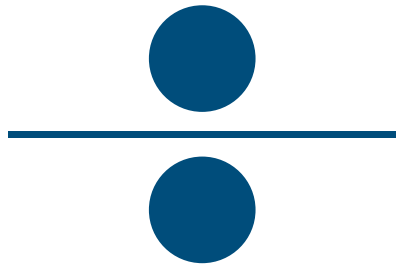
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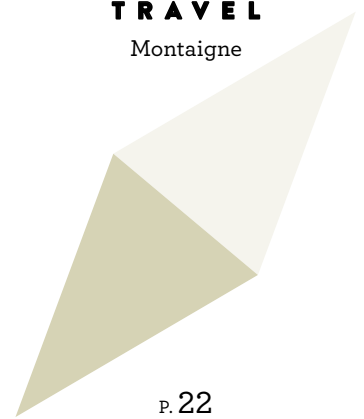
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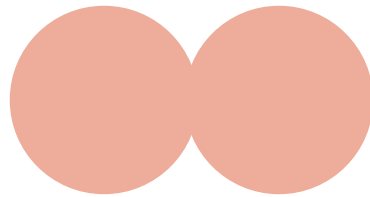
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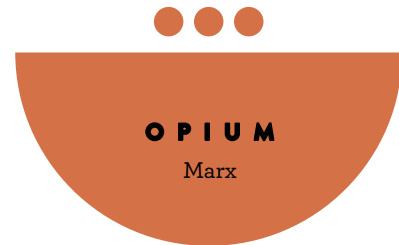
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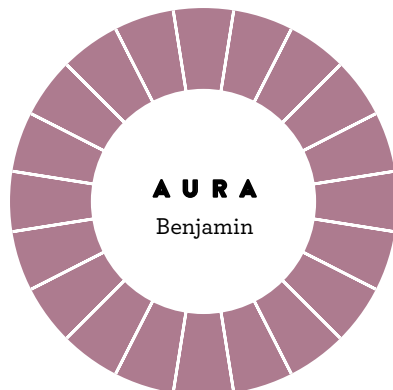
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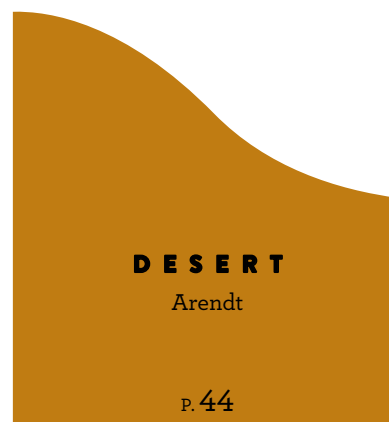
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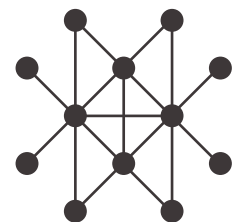
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