The Soul of the Nations of Europe

United Kingdom

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From Empire to Commonwealth; Great Britain to United Kingdom; power to love; and from a masculine to an ever increasing feminine emphasis – for in the UK yin has been rising for many decades. These are some of the underlying shifts and transformations seeking expression through the Soul of this “nation”. Four main peoples inhabit these “British Isles”. Note the colours they wear on the football and rugby field. England, white; red for Wales; Scotland, blue; and green for Ireland. Accepting that Ireland is a special case, it is tempting to attach Jung’s four functions to these peoples. English, the sensation function; feeling, for the Welsh; the Scots, thinking; and intuition for the Irish. But I can only write in images and quotation marks. All four peoples have Celtic (intuitive-feeling) side alongside the Anglo-Saxon (thinking-sensation). And what do you make of their symbols – England, the Rose; Leek for Wales; Thistle for Scotland, and Shamrock for Ireland. The Union Jack, significantly red, white and blue, but not the green.

The search for unity without loss of individual identity. The great problem of our time. Perhaps an underlying soul reason to be the “difficult” member of the European Community. Even the English language, or is it especially the English language, reflects this impulse of a creative blending. English is rich in words, and perhaps this is why it has become, for the time being at least, a world language. With origins in Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Celtic and Greek and a willingness to invent/take on new words when the old do not serve – witness the many words arising from the connection with India.
Without claiming sole parentage, the British peoples have made major contributions to the development of parliamentary democracy and to voluntary organisations – NGO’s or ONG’s, which are now INGO’s, beginning with the work of William Wilberforce and the Anti-Slavery league at the end of the 18th century.

What other keynotes? Divide and rule becoming a diverse unity – a multiracial Commonwealth of more than 40 nations. Is literature our primary art form? Perhaps yes, but add in gardening, for our country is like a garden. We are a Motherland (the home country), not a Fatherland. St. George killed the dragon to release the princess. From John Bull to Britannia? I find Britannia a bit heavy, but perhaps our present Queen has represented this symbol in these times of transition.