

# OBJECTIVE WHOLENESS: THE MIRROR OF THE SELF

Both the animal-being which comes to life in a carpet and the inner light of its color depend directly on the extent to which the carpet achieves wholeness in its geometry. The great rugs — the ones which are most valuable, most profound — are quite simply the rugs which achieve the greatest degree of this wholeness within themselves.

It is essential for this thesis that the quality of wholeness not merely be a matter of preference or taste for different observers, but instead a definite, tangible, and objective quality which really does exist to a greater or lesser degree in any given carpet. The quality of wholeness depends on the structure of centers within the carpet, which seems to hold the key to the degree of wholeness apparent in it. The wholeness is achieved to the extent that the structure of centers is complex and profound. This is something which we can observe, discuss, and study with a reasonable amount of objectivity. Thus, the concept of wholeness can be identified in a reasonably objective fashion.

In order to see through the overlay of preferences which inevitably exists in each of us, we must construct a question so concrete that it shocks the system and forces a direct, truer, and more accurate response because it allows no room for overlays of preference. In the last few years I have experimented with many questions of this kind and have found one which serves this purpose rather well. It asks, "If you had to choose one of these two carpets as a picture of your own self, then which one of the two carpets would you choose?"

This may sound like a peculiar question and may seem unusually personal. At first hearing it also may sound remote from the task at hand, which is to determine relative wholeness or "oneness." Indeed, it may sound at first as though the answer to this question must inevitably have an entirely personal and subjective outcome. *What is remarkable is that this is not the case!* When two carpets are laid side by side and people ask themselves this question, there are high levels of agreement in their answers. The question somehow has the ability to move a person away from his own preferences and towards the issue of real wholeness. This happens essentially because the question focuses awareness on the real oneness of the person and compares it with the oneness of the carpet.