

THE EMERGENCE OF A BEING

The culmination of the argument hinges on an extraordinary phenomenon, closely connected to the nature of wholeness and fundamental to the character of great Turkish carpet art.

What this phenomenon is may be explained quite simply in a single sentence: *As a carpet begins to be a center* [and thus to contain the structure of centers], *then gradually the carpet also begins to take on the nature of a “being.”* At this moment, we may also say that it begins to be a picture of the human soul.

This subject is delicate, because it is not quite clear how to discuss it — not even how to evaluate it, nor in what field or category to place it. It opens the door to something we can only call “spirit,” or to the empirical fact that after all, when a carpet does achieve some greatness, the greatness it achieves seems to lie in the realm of the spirit, not merely in the realm of art.

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