

# Images, Idolatry and Iconoclasm

## Seminar 2: Iconoclasm, the Psyche and the Revolution



## Edward VI and the Pope (after 1568)



Greville, *Caelica*, #s 88, 100

The Manicheans did no idolls make  
Without themselues, nor worship gods of wood;  
Yet idolls did in their ideas take,  
And figur'd Christ as on the cross he stood:  
Thus did they when they earnestly did pray,  
Till clearer faith this idoll tooke away.

We seeme more inwardly to knowe the Sonne,  
And see our owne saluation in his blood:  
When this is said, we thinke the worke is done,  
And with the Father hold our portion good:  
As if true life within these words were laid  
For him that in life neuer words obey'd.

If this be safe, it is a pleasant way;  
The crosse of Christ is very easily borne:  
But sixe dayes' labour makes the Sabboth-day;  
The flesh is dead before grace can be borne:

The heart must first beare witnesse with the booke,  
  
The earth must burne, ere we for Christ can looke.

In night when colours all to black are cast,  
Distinction lost, or gone down with the light;  
The eye a watch to inward senses plac'd,  
Not seeing, yet still having power of sight,  
Gives vain alarums to the inward sense,  
Where fear stirred up with witty tyranny  
Confounds all powers, and thorough self-offence,  
Doth forge and raise impossibility:  
Such as in thicke depriving darknesses,  
Proper reflections of the error be,  
And images of self-confusednesses,  
Which hurt imaginations only see;  
And from this nothing seene, tells news of devils,  
Which but expressions be of inward evils.

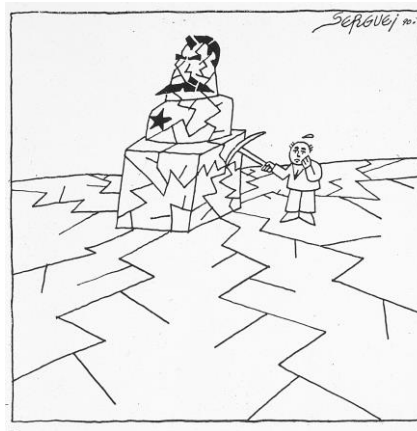




**C**onuertere  
nos deus  
salutans  
noster.

**E**t auerte iram tu  
am a nobis.

**D**eus in adiuto  
rium meum



How the brain works: the Aristotelian model  
“Imagination, memory, and other mental powers,” England,  
West Midlands, c. 1330, CUL MS Gg.1.1, f. 490v



# Iconoclastic Legislation, England 1538-59

- 1538: all visible cult of the saints before their images was forbidden, and all images that are 'abused with pilgrimages or offerings...ye shall, for avoiding that most detestable sin of idolatry, forthwith take down and delay [destroy]'. *Visitation Articles and Injunctions*, ed. Frere and Kennedy, p. 38.
- 1547: 'in almost every place is contention for images, whether they have been abused or not' so 'all the images remaining in any church or chapel...[shall] be removed and taken away.' Thomas Cranmer, *Miscellaneous Writings and Letters of Thomas Cranmer*, ed. John E. Cox, Parker Society (Cambridge University Press, 1846), pp. 509-11.
- 1550 (statute) that parsons having 'anye images of stone tymbre allebaster or earthe graven carved or paynted', shall 'deface and destroye or cause to be defaced and destroyed the same images and everie of them'. *Statutes of the Realm*, 3 and 4 Edward VI, c. 10, 4: 110-111
- Elizabethan injunctions of 1559