

The Two Serpents. A Short Essay on Generative Phenomenology as Comparative Mythology

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Abstract: *The purpose of this paper is to provoke a reflection on a specific phenomenological problem: does culture shape perception and how? If we admit that it does, it seems that we should consider and study myths as a significant part of that cultural shaping. Phenomenology as an exploration of experience needs to take into account its transgenerational aspects. Aesthetic objects like mythical narrations, which transcend time without depending on technologies of image-materialisation contingent to our era, are in this sense especially important. In phenomenological analysis, myths can be brought back to two fundamental phenomena: the phenomenon of the image and the phenomenon of empathy. I will hence divide this essay into three parts: first, an introduction through pictures, second, an outline of generative phenomenology as aesthetic phenomenology, and finally, a comparison of the Greek myth of the Caduceus and the Mapuche myth of Treng Treng and Cai Cai Filu. From this analysis a relevant horizon for the phenomenology of the cultural shaping of perception will emerge: if the question of who we are can be translated to the question of what place we think we have in the cosmos, perhaps it is relevant to try to understand the mythical images we have of the cosmos we inhabit.*

Keywords: *aesthetic phenomenology; Mapuche mythology; generative phenomenology; comparative mythology; Treng Treng and Cai Cai Filu; Caduceus;*