

Ananda K. Coomaraswami on The precision of symbols

“Is Art a Superstition or a Way of Life?” (1937)

In *Vidya*, August 2018

Symbols are the universal language of art; an international language with merely dialectic variations, current once in all milieus and always intrinsically intelligible, though now no longer understood by educated men...The content of symbols is metaphysical...the references of the symbolic forms are as precise as those of mathematics.

The adequacy of the symbols being intrinsic and not a matter of convention, the symbols correctly employed transmit from generation to generation knowledge of cosmic analogies; as above so below.