

COPERNICUS:

Some Thoughts about the Social Construction of Heroes

Seeing in ways **others** were unable to see,
you challenged **millennia** of tradition
with **mathematical** simplicity.

Ignoring platitudes **that** earth axled all things,
you boldly **suggested** we're sandwiched
among **other** planets,
that whirl **around** the Sun steadily.

Today your **insights** are widely admired
& books, **buildings**, satellites,
& even bank-**notes** bear your name.

Whenever **people** think creatively
or **challenge** accepted beliefs
your **voice** still speaks.

Noel: This author idealizes Copernicus, turning him into some larger-than-life hero.

Gwen: (sipping her wine) Is it any surprise? All heroes are, in a sense, mythical.

Tara: Indeed. The best way to discover a person's values is to find out who their heroes are.

Orapan: Hegel got it right: each hero represents a particular volksgeist. They both embody and influence the spirit of their times

Gwen: Hegel? (chuckling while swirling the wine in her glass, then gazing at it as if nothing outside that glass existed) Perhaps, but we need to realize heroes are seldom portrayed accurately. By idolizing or demonizing others, we distort their images into our own hopes or fears.

- T Newfields

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