

COURSE SYNTHESIS NO. 34

THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF LISTENERS THE THREE LINES OF WORK

We can place the people who listen to this Teaching into different categories :

0: The non-listeners

1: Those people for whom the Teaching is simply knowledge like any other, which they accordingly seek to accumulate; in this case it may represent a hindrance in this life, but a positive impulse for the next one.

2: Those who receive knowledge and work for the school.

3: Those who receive knowledge and work on themselves.

4: Those who receive knowledge and work both on themselves and for the school.

5: The only true pupils, who receive knowledge and work on all three lines: on themselves, for the school, and with other people.

In addition, there are those who succeed and those who do not succeed in the Work on themselves, but in reality, one never speaks in the Work of success or failure – the impulses received may bear fruit today, or they may bear fruit in twenty years.

Giving a privileged place to knowledge complicates things considerably, as this carries with it a greater responsibility, and the Work may then seem to us a heavy load to bear. In order to lighten this load, we must make simultaneous efforts on our being.

For those people who accumulate knowledge without assimilating it into their being and without sharing it, their life may actually become more difficult as a consequence, since their former values dissipate without being replaced by new values, which they have not created in themselves through their practice. Their true consciousness is incapable of developing, and they have lived their life in vain. What is more, in the following life they will meet with significant obstacles to receiving the Teaching and will experience a regressive karma, due to the fact that they have received without giving, which is synonymous with spiritual theft; both their material possessions and their knowledge will be taken from them, and this is accompanied by great suffering. The same is true for the books one has read; it is essential to share what one has received in order to prevent a regressive karma in the next life.

The Work of the Fourth Way takes place along three lines. The first line is Work on oneself, which consists firstly in accumulating knowledge (by reading the courses, for example, or listening to the conferences), and secondly in Work on one's Being, on one's I, by means of:

- Zen-type meditation, a minimum of 20 minutes each day,
- The regular practice of self-remembering,
- Setting oneself a goal,
- Struggling against one's negative emotions,
- Struggling against identification,
- Struggling against one's egoistic will,
- Keeping silent (avoiding useless talk).

The second line is Work with other people, which consists in working together in a group, studying the Teaching in the light of each person's individual work, and providing one another with mutual help.

To cite a few functional rules for the groups: there should be no more than twelve people in a group, meetings should take place on a weekly basis, a pupil is to remain in one and the same group, and the work in the group is based both on theory (knowledge) and practice (being). The only master in the group is the Spirit present when two or three are gathered in His name (cf. esoteric Christianity), or one or another of the members who is inspired by this Spirit.

The third line is Work for the School, in which one has understood the necessity of the school's existence, becoming interested personally in its future. The most important thing here is having the *will* to work for the school, even if one does not have the material possibility of doing so at the moment.

At the outset, our will is necessarily egoistic. But the fact of working with other people and for the School has the effect of transforming this egoism.

If we feel we are not ready to work on one or another of the three lines, we must recognise this fact, be sincere with ourselves, and admit to ourselves that we are not a pupil. But someone who works on the three lines and seeks to have a broad and comprehensive vision will receive additional strength, and will always find help on his Path.