

COURSE SYNTHESIS NO. 41

THE TEACHING AND ITS ORIGINS HELPING MAN REDISCOVER THE PATH TOWARD THE ABSOLUTE

Since the beginning of time, Schools have taught Knowledge, that is, the approach to the Truth, and not the Truth itself, which can only be found in oneself. These Schools still exist, and masters and instructors still transmit this Knowledge. The teaching of the Fourth Way is passed down from this chain of initiates, which embodies concrete and living knowledge concerning man's place in the universe and his responsibility for the functioning of the whole.

Until now, man has used the knowledge and power he has acquired over nature for the progressive destruction of the mineral, vegetable, and animal worlds, and at the same time, he has developed an ever greater egoism. Change cannot be brought about by political parties or religions, which are themselves most often playthings of social or political mechanisms, or quite simply under the influence of the mechanisms of human nature. We know that the religions have failed in their mission to create a universal brotherhood. Change can only be brought about by a transformation in the consciousness of a sufficient number of individuals.

Life manifested through an overflowing of the Love of the Creator. The hierarchical entities, of an infinitely higher nature than man – called angels, archangels, and archai in Christianity, *Elohim* in the bible, and synonymous with the gods of the older religions – are the architects who have guided the evolution of earth and humanity; certain among them have even incarnated in human beings. They are the guides of evolution, and their aim is to permit man to become the master of his own destiny and the destiny of the earth.

The forces of evil, which manifest above all in the collective evolution of peoples and civilisations, did not allow evolution to proceed as it had been planned by the hierarchical entities, and this resulted in impasses or deviations in the process of evolution, or to catastrophes such as the Flood.

These hierarchical entities are the masters of karma. Wiser and more intelligent than the greatest of human beings, they are neither all-powerful, nor perfect, nor infallible. Their power and field of possible intervention are limited, if only because of the necessary influence of other forces. Man is intended to become an aid for these entities and for the evolution of the earth and humanity.

The hierarchical entities created man's physical body – which was at first an animal body with a limited physical brain – and have since continued to guide him in his evolution. They have exercised their influence on his brain, in order that it may one day be able to receive the spirit that is part of the spirit of the Absolute. To receive this spirit and thus become alike unto his Creator, man must raise himself above the animal state.

Spirits belonging to a more evolved current of life incarnated in human bodies in order to introduce higher impulses into humanity. They are called the "messengers of God," the great initiates or masters. They taught at first in the initiatic schools, training initiates through their living transmission.

During certain periods of history, masters were sent to work alongside great men such as Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan, conveying impulses to the countries through which they passed. At the time of Atlantis, bodhisattvas and Masters created schools, which permitted certain human beings to remain in

contact with the spiritual world and, particularly, to think for themselves. The primordial School still exists today and continues to send masters and instructors throughout the world, where they found schools and teach that the hierarchical entities need man's help in order to ensure the evolution of all creatures and all classes of beings that are bound up with the future of the universe.

The moment man is incarnated and thus separated from the Absolute, he is separated from the perfect and enters into imperfection. The goal of evolution, as established by the Absolute, is to return to this perfection. Man can play a role in this if he understands the meaning of the interdependence between all creatures. The path that leads to this return consists not only of intellectual understanding, but also of practice, the practice of love of one's neighbor. When we love someone, we show that we perceive him as carrying a divine spark within himself, and act toward him in such a way as to develop this higher dimension. True brotherhood consists in offering our help to our brothers whom we are able to help.

There exists a chain that connects all the Masters of Wisdom of the past, present, and future, which permits the transmission of the methods that lead toward Wisdom; this is known as the "Sarmung" or "Sarman" brotherhood, founded 5000 years ago, and again 3000 years ago in the region between the Caspian and Aral seas. Its Masters, guided by higher intelligences, have helped human beings in their evolution in spite of the catastrophes they could not prevent. These Masters still exist today in the currents of Sufism, Zen, or Christian Gnosis; their role is to convey new forces of evolution.

There exist five types of people. The first are those people who are not interested in working on themselves in order to gain immortality; these are the people who rule our modern societies, which condition men and in this way prevent them from raising themselves toward true freedom. The second type consists of those who belong to the Mystery or Esoteric Schools, or to various communities throughout the world, who are engaged in a process, more or less advanced, of transformation and construction of themselves. The third type of people truly live the knowledge they have acquired, and have rediscovered the perception of the spiritual world. These are the initiates, and they are capable of helping other people. The fourth type consists of the great initiates, who are in direct contact with the higher entities, and the fifth are the true Masters, in which the hierarchical entities not only place their impulses, but sometimes even incarnate. They are the representatives of the Absolute on earth.

The Sarman brotherhood transmits a particular force between master and pupil that is called "tchi ou sorichi" in Buddhism and "baraka" in Sufism. This is a force that is tied to knowledge and that can only be passed on from soul to soul. This is the "true transmission," a chain consisting of the bodhisattvas in Buddhism and the sheiks in Sufism. In the mystery centers, it is said that as long as one single person possesses this force, humanity may still be saved.

In order to receive knowledge, an elite among men was chosen. The history of humanity was for a very long time the history of great men – kings, priests, and heroes. There was little interest in the life of the people. The world was in a nearly permanent state of war, and the life of individual human beings counted very little, as we can see, for example, in the accounts of the gods of mythology.

Little by little, through the Teachings of the Masters of Wisdom, the hierarchical entities brought about an evolution in man's soul and spirit, and a force was introduced into his future. And as a result, it has become possible to

speak of an individual destiny for man. It has become possible for any human being who so desires to access knowledge, provided he employs the means for doing so. To this end, another force had to be necessarily introduced by the hierarchical entities: *the force of love*. The Masters of Wisdom were then able to instill in man the understanding that he contains within himself a substance that is sufficient for existing beyond his people or tribe, and beyond earthly life. If he produces this substance, allowing the force of love – or force of Christ – to enter him, he becomes capable himself of directing his own destiny.

In ancient Persia, this was the mission assigned to Zarathustra, a historical and mythical personality. Prior to this epoch, the life of human beings was subjected to the domination of kings and priests. Zarathustra's message was that in the struggle against the forces of evil with which man is confronted, the hierarchical entities need the help of all men and women who are devoted to the good.

Man received the seed of consciousness and creativity, and little by little he came to feel responsible for his own evolution. But the Ahrimanic forces have influenced him to such an extent that he has developed egoism and has used his consciousness and creativity to dominate and subjugate nature rather than to serve evolution. The Schools of Wisdom were created to address this situation. Zoroaster, who was sent by the Sarman brotherhood, prepared the appearance of the being of light known as the Christ. The Essenians and Therapeuts, likewise in connection with the Sarmans, also prepared this coming of Christ.

According to Zoroaster, the forces of good are unable to conquer the forces of evil without the help of human beings. Good and evil both exist in human nature, and the only way we can combat evil is by doing so in ourselves, by doing good. This is the only place where evil can be transformed into good. If he is able to conquer the evil in himself, man "saves" a part of the evil in the world, and the redemption of the forces of evil becomes possible.

"Loving one's enemies" means loving the negative part of oneself, and this has the effect of transforming this negative part. Evil is necessary, since without evil, evolution would be impossible. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven, to attain Knowledge, it is not sufficient to apply the religious rules and obligations.

In the Schools of Wisdom, there are three basic principles: the practice of breath control, meditation, and fasting. When we fast, we cease to give nourishment to our physical body. Fasting permits us to come closer to our next stage of evolution, that of the angelic world, of the beings who no longer require physical nourishment. When we fast, we become alike unto the angels. But fasting also implies that we cease to give nourishment to the animal part of ourselves, and it thus represents a form of work on the non-manifestation of our negative emotions.

PART TWO

MAN IN THE UNIVERSE : HIS INDIVIDUAL DESTINY AND HIS FUNCTION IN THE COSMOS

There exists in the universe a great law of cosmic ecology, which is the principle of reciprocal maintenance between the beings of the different material and spiritual worlds. In this universal system, all the classes of beings – animals, humans, higher entities, planets, and so on – are inextricably linked with each

other; each of these classes produces an energy which is necessary to the functioning of one or several of the other classes, and if one class ceases to produce the necessary quantity of energy, another class must compensate in order to prevent a hole in the system, which would bring the evolution of the entire system to a halt. In the event of such a catastrophe, only the classes capable of themselves creating other, hierarchically-lower classes would be spared.

There are twelve classes: Heat, Simple Elements, Crystals, Soil, Plants, Invertebrates, Vertebrates, Man, Hierarchical Entities, Logos, Spirit, and the Absolute.

Over the course of human evolution, each feature of the animal world has manifested in man. At one moment of his evolution, for example, man resembled a tiger in his ferocity, and this feature subsequently became the tiger. In this way, the animal species were created, and at the same time, the human species has gradually cast off its animal characteristics. We can say that the animal world is a residue, as it were, of human evolution.

Man is intended, through his evolution, to eventually liberate himself completely from the animal part of himself, attaining to a kind of divine perfection and acquiring the state of consciousness of the hierarchical beings.

If man annihilates an animal species, its characteristics must – according to the law of reciprocal maintenance – incarnate in the essence class that is closest to it, namely in man. And man becomes as a consequence increasingly savage and animal. In our day, the destruction of animal species has entailed the degeneration of an entire portion of humanity, which no longer follows the normal course of evolution.

Man has a debt toward the animal world, which takes upon itself all the weaknesses of human nature. Without the animal world, the evolution of the human species would be rendered impossible. But we must not forget that the ferociousness of the tiger is not in itself a weakness; it is necessary for wild carnivores like the tiger, but completely useless in man – evil is always a good that is not in its place.

Through the metamorphosis of the energy he produces, man participates in the evolution of the universe as a whole. In addition to this function, he has a personal destiny, provided he becomes a person. From the point of view of Psychoanthropology, man is *not* a person: he does not naturally have an immortal soul and spirit, he only has them as a seed. Expressed differently, the very subtle substances of the soul and spirit exist in man, but in a state that is still non-structured and chaotic. A part of these substances originate in his past lives and are present when he is born, corresponding to the forces of karma.

If he develops this seed, he advances toward eternal life or immortality, and he will have the real possibility of reincarnating again on earth. His soul and spirit are then under the law of karma and reincarnation.

The quantity of this substance can be increased through the different forms of nourishment we take in – B, C, D, or other influences.

A modern image of this process would be of the various objects that can be bought in a “kit”; everything we need is there, but we have to assemble it all ourselves. If we do not make the effort of doing so, all of these materials are completely useless. Man can thus build a soul and a true spirit on the basis of what he has received at birth. If he does not do so, upon his death, each of his bodies – physical, etheric, and astral – returns to its own world, and nothing immortal remains.

Creating one's own soul, "attaining salvation," is what Christianity calls the second birth; only he who is twice born may enter the Kingdom of Heaven, the spiritual world. This is called, in other religious traditions, union with God, illumination, or nirvana, or the crossing of the threshold in certain initiatic paths. Here man fulfils both his own destiny and his function in the cosmos.

For this to be possible, he must change his attitude; man must rid himself of the egoism resulting from his ignorance of the great principles that guide the evolution of worlds, and understand that he has a special place in the evolution of the universe and that his true greatness lies not in who he is, but in who he can become.

In our day, people have lost the real sense of the goal of life. Man believes that he has rights, and very few duties. People talk about human rights, but they lose their rights in all domains when they are unaware of the duties they have toward all classes of beings.

Man believes that he has the right – he calls this the "power" – to dominate nature. However, the possibility of unlimited material progress is a chimera, and the risk of industrial catastrophes is becoming greater and greater with time. The respect of natural and cosmic equilibrium is absolutely necessary. When he understands this, man is able to overcome his egoism that runs counter to the cosmic laws, and he may then both serve the evolution of worlds and realise himself.

The Fourth Way is a complete system, integrating all systems and ideas into a majestic vision of human and cosmic evolution. The most ordinary of people can engage himself on this Path, provided he decides to change, choosing the good, beautiful, and true, and making efforts to overcome the conditioning that imprisons him. This person may then attain states of consciousness of a higher dimension, becoming in this way truly human. In the words of Christ, he may become as perfect as his Father in Heaven is perfect, he may become a brother of Christ.