

THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND THOUGHT ELEMENT IN MAN

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A deep question, which must eventually arise from these regular series of talks, is why are some of the spiritual explanations, which are being presented different in content, constantly changing, depend upon the speaker and can even appear to be contradictory. So what is the true situation? A great western Philosopher, Emanuel Kant, once said that it is not possible to see the actual true reality of the universe but only a reflected image as seen from the disposition of the observers and their mortal, perceptual limitations. For most of us this view would unfortunately gravely limit us to never being able to confirm our spiritual beliefs and ideas or what others have said about the spiritual world. We would be able to only confirm our perceptual experiences of this material visible world. Another possible answer is that we must look upon all the spiritual explanations as unfinished works of art, which are always being added to, recreated, modified, looked at from different angles and through these means we will get closer to reality as we mature in ourselves. And as there have been spiritual seers who have claimed to have perceived the reality behind sense existence and can give testimony to their experiences this then gives us the further hope that we too, with sufficient preparation through self-developmental exercises and meditation, can also have the possibility to see the reality behind our sense existence. In these talks we must use the clarity of our thinking as a tool for the gaining of and discernment of spiritual knowledge whereas in former times this was not necessary. Today, thinking represents only a shadow aspect of reality and only points towards reality. Human earthly thinking is only the dead mirror reflection of living spiritual thinking, which is actually creative. If I say the word "tree" this is only a pointer to the reality. But this then has the marvellous consequence that our earthly dead thinking leaves us entirely free and can never prove or disprove reality and thereby cannot coerce an individual.

When we go back in history spiritual knowledge was presented in a different form, mainly in the form of myths and stories and by rituals, ceremonies and externally given codes of behaviour. Knowledge was gained in a subjective manner in a dim state of consciousness, mainly through the emotional element in us. It didn't matter whether these stories were in accordance with current scientific points as the objective to create an emotional experience and to have some principals lying behind these myths and stories. Only those who belonged to the inner circle secret temple sanctuaries, and only after a long and arduous preparation would these individuals receive a philosophical- esoteric explanation, which we can similarly receive today in these lectures and without having the need of this preparation. A peculiar characteristic of peoples in the distant past ie I'm referring to ourselves in former lives, was that it was normal to see and experience the spiritual world. However, this perceiving of the spiritual world was in a diminished state of consciousness when compared to the clarity of our awake consciousness and did not allow those peoples to make free decisions as it is possible for us today. They were compelled to act out of the impulses from these dim spiritual perceptions which they received. They did not at that time have sufficiently developed 'strengthen selves' to be able to function without these *beneficial* guiding spiritual impulses and perceptions. Only in the secret sanctuaries of the esoteric schools were individuals trained to develop sufficient strength of self to act out of a consciousness, which is considered normal today.

Throughout the ages various views or pictures of world existence were put forward to suit the development of peoples to whom this knowledge was directed towards. This knowledge was not the true reality but a pointer to reality. Even today, the concepts, which are presented at these talks, are only pointers to reality. Only when we are able to perceive directly into the spiritual world with the same clarity of full awake consciousness, which we have in our normal everyday life, will we be able to see the true reality of our existence. In the past a view of the world, which was held by a people or nation, was deemed to be sacred and no other view was permitted to be discussed or entertained. Words such as 'heretical' or 'blasphemy' were used against other views. As evolution has moved on it is no longer appropriate for individuals to hold onto such views yet many individuals due to their the rigidity of their emotional life, which can be quite egotistical, find it difficult to accept that there may be other equally valid ways of explaining and experiencing the sacred nature behind our sense world. Today there are many individuals who are enveloped in a older group consciousness and who subscribe to what can only be described as fundamentalism where anything outside their circle of beliefs can only be at best be tolerated or at worst

cause much disharmony and even violence. There is a principal which states that *what was right in the past may not be right for now; what is right for now may not be right for the future and what is right in the future may not be right for now*. To understand how these principals apply to our own circumstances will require that our thinking and emotional life becomes less egotistical.

There have been various explanations put forward about the origins of our physical body ranging from picturesque mythologies to the materialistic Darwinian theory of chance evolution. A modern spiritual explanation of the first beginnings of man's physical body, derived from Rosicrucian sources, was that initially this remarkable physical body of ours had its origin in certain lofty spiritual beings and arose out of a sacrifice of their own substance. This body consisted only of warmth through which other spiritual beings could work through their evolution. This body of warmth was actually a previous form of our present physical mineral body and this occurred in a period called the 'Saturn planetary condition', which was before our present earth. A period such as this is also known as a 'manavantra' At the end of each major period or manavantra all outward forms dissolved into a state of 'pralaya' which is a state of 'nothingness'. Since that time our physical body had re-emerged and passed through further long periods of evolution to the point where, today, it can accommodate our spiritual individuality in a functioning manner so that we are able use our physical body as a vehicle for thinking. Our present physical body has passed through 4 major periods of development whereas the present mineral kingdom has only appeared on this earth stage. Our physical body has now reached its densest form and is now beginning its journey in being re-spiritualised and its imperative that our emotional and thinking life is ready to adapt to these new circumstances. It may seem strange but in reality we cannot see our true physical body but only the mineral substances, which fills it. In the past other simpler means were used to describe our origins in the form of imaginative pictures, in myths and these were then embellished further but still reflected aspects of the truth which was suitable to the people to whom these myths were given to. When these myths are interpreted materialistically today then the individuals, carrying these rigid views often become fixed and have difficulty in moving forward in their spiritual growth.

One older spiritual picture story of the origin of our physical body is that of genesis in the Judaic /Christian bible where it is said that man was created and moulded out of the dust of the earth and then he was animated by God breathing through into man's nostrils. Today, in some circles this picture has been fixed and rigidified by using the materialistic thinking, which is prevalent today and individuals have literally interpreted this story whereas the story is symbolical. This then has the undesired effect whereby groups who hold onto these literal views can no longer progress further towards clarification of the truth. Individuals can have a tendency to cling onto such interpretations so strongly that violence will occur as they honestly believe that they are the only ones who have the right truth and try to forcefully impose their views onto others. In the past this imposition of views onto others was actual spiritually justified but now it is in opposition to evolution. Individuals feel secure if they can live in fixed ideas. What many individuals today don't realise is that the peoples to which this story of creation was given to still had dim of experiences from the spiritual world weaving through them, hence their relationship and experiences to this story was entirely different to the experiences of a modern individual.

It takes real courage in our emotional life to acknowledge the possibility that our whole life of beliefs and ideas up until now could be in error but this demanded from us if we are to 'obtain permission' to consciously enter the spiritual world. It means that we must become selfless with respect to the truth.

It is common for thoughts and feelings to arise in us like in dreaming rather than of our own choosing. The purpose of Meditation and other spiritual practices aims to put us in charge of ourselves so that we are able to enter the spiritual world in full consciousness without becoming the playthings of unconscious thoughts and emotions which we all carry within us. In our time it is quite proper for thoughts and feelings to arise in us without our participation or conscious choice but this process will eventually become improper in the future whereby the intellect could become the slave to the gratification of the lower emotions.

From 1960 and starting in the west, a spiritual and protective sheath, which surrounded and protected individuals 'started to dissolve' leaving individuals exposed to impulses, which today are manifesting in

the form of addiction, aimlessness, school violence, anti-social behaviour, mental instability etc. A characteristic of this protective sheath was that it provided for stability and security in relationships both in the family, friends and the society. It provided direction in how individuals belonged in the world order and provided them with a sense of security and a purpose in life, which felt 'right'. Drug abuse and irresponsible gambling, whilst present was small, and regulated by the society. In Australia the pubs closed at 6pm on weekdays and all day on Sundays and there were no casinos. Companies and employers were, on the whole, good corporate citizens.

Today we see substance abuse rapidly increasing. In the Netherlands if the rate of substance abuse increases at the at present rate then 50% of the population will addicted by the year 2050. We can observe youth violence is increasing rapidly; anorexia, bulimia, youth suicide and other mental disorders are on the increase; 50% of marriages now end up in divorce; corporations (or those individuals who run them) are now extremely greedy etc. Indications are that these behaviours are progressively getting worse. What is happening is that the beneficial group support, which had previously been provided to us by the spiritual world, is gradually withdrawing and we are gradually being exposed to other forces, which can actually be beneficial if confronted consciously otherwise the above problems can only get worse. The withdrawal of these beneficial forces provides an incentive for individuals to come to come to terms with true freedom in that we must be able to integrate our own selves – in our thinking and emotional life –that is we must truly become masters of ourselves. Its not that the spiritual world has deserted us but it has deemed us ready or mature enough for this new freedom, which can only be won by our own efforts.

What is the cause of this recent trend in school violence or the increase of youth suicide or the increase of drug addition amongst our youth? This is being caused by this protective sheath being lifted from humanity and when the 'astral body is born' in an individual at the age of 14 and it may not be properly integrated due to previous disharmonious upbringing, excessive television, and a materialistic education which not in accordance with the spiritual nature of the youth of today. In order to heal the situation the reintegration of the spiritual sheaths of individuals is necessary and much effort will be required in this direction in the acquisition of spiritual knowledge and the creation of external forms which have real application to eternal life eg an education system based on spiritual insight on the true needs of a child in today's environment.

It is now being demanded that we work from the aspect of an independent individual and no longer from group coercion or traditional values imposed from outside or from a leader. It just no longer works and is being less accepted. If self-development occurs in the right manner then each individual will choose to unite his/herself, in freedom, with other individuals and then they can work as a group out of a modern consciousness into the world. The thought element in man is actually the culmination of creation – man is able by his own volition (freedom) to mirror the universe in his thought life, though it is materialistic at the moment it has the potential to spiritually mirror the universe in the future through a living and creative spiritual thinking. We can look upon the increasing negative situations, which are gradually developing around us as opportunities to move forward in our evolution. As the negativity increases so will the positive efforts to counter this negativity and in this process of moving forward in our development one principal clearly stands before us as:-

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