

UNDERSTANDING THE PSYCHIC NATURE

Lesson 7

We are laying the foundation for describing the ascent of John the Baptist, making straight the way, preparing for the Greater One to come. We are working toward describing the raising of the forces in the psychic nature, but first we will review the background of this instruction. And as I point out these various stupendous factors concerning the psychic nature, do not allow the mind to go 'out'. We are not talking about something beyond the cloud banks. To understand what we are describing we need to internalize to the deepest center of our respective selves.

Out of necessity we begin with the Power-to-be-conscious. In our school we do not begin with the word God. It raises questions in some people. "What justification do we have to postulate the existence of God, or to describe the attributes of God?" We use the terminology Power-to-be-conscious to avoid stirring up questions in agnostics and atheists, and also to counteract the doubts and the denials of 'God.' With what power do the agnostics doubt? With what power do the atheists deny? That is the Power which we rely on. We build our teachings on that Power, so we try to offset from all those interminable debates about God.

In 1939, Connia and I went to Chicago to attend a seminar given by the Institute for General Semantics. That seminar was run by Count Alfred Korzybski, author of *Science and Sanity*. All the members of that seminar were allowed one interview with Count Alfred. So when it came time for my turn we talked about the Power-to-be-conscious. But first I must tell you the first thing Count Alfred did! I was seated across the desk from him, and he was a strong, powerful man. He came around, picked me up by the scruff of the neck and the seat of my pants. He carried me over to the wall and whammed my head against that wall. "You're too blankety-blank soft." That was my introduction, and I never forgot it. He made a thalamic impression. He thought I was too full of affective sympathy.

But then we began our conversation. He had looked into some of my work in the School of the Sacred Science. "You use the Power-to-be-conscious. Consciousness is nothing except the cellular structure of the organism, plus its overall organization." I said I disagreed with him entirely. "If what you say is true, tell me why an abstract quality can completely re-chemicalize the organism when consciousness grasps the meaning of some abstract quality."

Let me describe an abstract quality before I tell you what eventuated. Love, fear, hope or admiration; these are labels for abstract qualities. Have you ever heard stories of how fear can turn a person's hair white overnight? That is an example of an abstract quality re-chemicalizing the cellular structures. Have you ever witnessed the healing power of love? Cellular structures can be re-chemicalized by light and love.

With Count Alfred I did not need to labor it. If consciousness grasping an abstract quality can re-chemicalize the whole organism, then consciousness cannot be described exclusively in terms of cellular activity. He said, "I know it, but I cannot put that out in my work. I want General Semantics accepted in the universities and they would never accept it if I introduced that level." We had several more interviews after that and we went to the mat over other issues, too, before the semester was over.

The point of that story was simply to emphasize that the axiomatic foundation of our work is the Power-to-be-conscious. If we can get that point over as a self-evident statement then we can substitute any synonym: God, Allah, Tao, etc. We are talking about a supreme, birthless, deathless Power. Before we leave this point remember that our terminology is only relative to our respective points in development. As long as we are in the process of development, of raising the consciousness to a 'higher' level, then we use the term Power-to-be-conscious. When we offset from the process of self-development and shift our focus to those levels of attainment *beyond* the psychic world, we drop "to be conscious," and say, "The Power." It is only at every stage, or state of the self-development process that we describe a Power-to-be-conscious.

According to our teaching the 'highest' Power in its self-consciousness cannot be conscious on any level without Mater, Mother Substance. The Power in you (we would call it the Power-to-be-conscious) cannot be conscious of any 'thing', even itself, without the Mother. When we refer to those levels beyond the states relative to self-development we would say, "The Power without the union with the Mother represents zero." At that 'lofty' state the Power is absolutely conscious of itself with no awareness of being conscious of itself. That may sound contradictory but *work your consciousness into it*. When any 'thing' is completely in your consciousness you take it for granted and are unconscious of it.

The next step in our foundation work is the referent for the word Mater, or Mother. Try to synthesize in one act of consciousness light, energy, etheric substance, ectoplasm, protoplasm, cytoplasm, living matter. Then say, "Mother: the negative pole of the cosmic process." When the

Positive Power does not make a union, a contact with the Mother, then there are “. . . worlds without form and void, and darkness upon the face of the deeps.” (I need to interject some esoteric instructions about our Christian Bible.) But the moment the Power makes contact with the negative pole of the cosmic process “. . . and God said, ‘Let there be Light.’ “At the moment the Positive Power makes the contact, the sanction is given and Light appears. (I am tempted to go into a description of what gives the sanction, how the sanction is given according to the Christian Bible, but I will leave it for another lesson.)

When we were little children in Sunday School we wondered about the “Light.” Was it sunlight? What was it like relative to objective identity? It took me a long time to learn that when Light appeared it represented the ‘thing’ of hydrogen. One positive unit and one negative unit joined in the atom of hydrogen and that atom is brighter than the noonday sun or any other image appearing substantive. After the sanction, comes the manifestation of Light, the basis of all other manifestations.

When the Positive Power contacts the Negative Substance it is no longer a world without Light. Light appears and initiates all other manifestations. Study modern physics and astronomy. You will find that modern scientists describe all celestial bodies in terms of hydrogen, hydrogen in its ordinary state and then fused into all other elements of the periodic table. Celestial bodies are understood to be formed, fed and sustained by the activity of hydrogen, the original polarity. The union of the Positive Power with the Negative Substance immediately galvanizes, quickens, awakens the Mother into a vast multiplicity of wave frequencies.

When we study the electro-magnetic spectrum we see a representation of some of those wave frequencies broken into bands. We arbitrarily break those wave frequencies into bands labeled radio, television, visible light, cosmic radiation, etc. When we work ourselves into the feel-know of the frequency world we discover that each relatively lower band is incorporated and synthesized into the next highest band. This process continues within the whole cosmic process until a total synthesis is realized. The highest synthesis of all contains the totality of lesser, ‘lower’ bands of wave frequencies.

Notice that in our description we do not present a ‘creation’ of ‘things’ and ‘objects.’ This whole process as we have described it represents an energy system. The ‘things’ and ‘objects’ exist only in our mental processes. When consciousness is identified with the lower manas, the lower mind creates ‘things’ and ‘objects’ because it cannot fathom the energy systems which surround and interpenetrate us. The lower mind abstracts a limited range of wave frequencies, makes an image to represent those waves-frequencies and then identifies the image with the dynamic energy process. Things and objects

exist only in the mental world. They are the product of the operation of the brain with its afferent-efferent neural systems. The brain cannot function quickly enough to discriminate between the wave frequencies registered and structure-function-order them all together to make an image. The image appears substantive; it appears 'out there.' But outside of the mental processes the image does not represent any meaning. Break down any 'thing' to which you can point. What constitutes that to which you are pointing? It can be described as a configuration of units of energy. It might be described as composed of atoms, but if we think of atoms as 'things' we are missing the point. Atoms must be seen as dynamic energy systems, not 'things.'

When we study the range of Mother Substance galvanized into activity as wave frequency, we call those octaves of wave frequency levels or states. (I am of the opinion that we should single quote the words 'level' or 'plane.')

Each band pass or octave represents a state in which the Power is conscious, a state of consciousness. And the description of the word space is sphere. Sphere indicates the space in which a given person in whom the Power-to-be-conscious is conscious.

What terrible language structures we must use to express ourselves. The Power-to-be-conscious is never individualized. What causes individualization is the substance of the Mother. So a sphere is the space in which the Power is conscious, but that statement only has meaning relative to a specific representation in Mother Substance: a given person in whom the Power-to-be-conscious is conscious. As Mother Substance becomes individualized it differentiates into a multiplicity of states, but the Power is never divisible so it never individualizes. When we study the individualizing process we are studying the emergence of the Power out of the domination of the Mother. The complete birth of the Christos, which we have described in other lessons, occurs when the Power has completely emerged out of the domination of the Mother.

"As above, so below." That is getting to be a cliché in our school. But it still works to clarify the understanding. The atom of hydrogen is composed of one unit of positive energy and one unit of negative energy. That is our example for 'below.' Now try to think of one 'thing' that is not characterized by a synthesis of positive and negative. Your home, your physiological organism, this school - all can be seen as the union of positive and negative. Whenever I read about a current event on the world scene I search for the positive and negative influence in every apparently isolated event. There is a positive charge and a negative charge to every feeling, desire and thought. In the cosmic creative process, from atom to galaxy, we find the same pattern, the same union.

Let us leave the level of philosophical discussion and make some applications. The Power contacts the Mother. Light, energy, down to living matter, the Mother is activated. The Power has entered the substance. After entering the substance it is the nature of the Power to try to be aware of itself independent of the Mother. There is a vast struggle for independence which eventuates from the Power trying to be free of the Mother's influence. It seems as if the influence of the Mother hampers the emergence of the Power. The women in our school are all aware of this struggle. She wants to rule him and keep him under control, but he responds with, "Am I a man or a mouse?" She smiles and says, "Certainly you are a big, strong man." But she keeps her influence and she keeps her secret if she is wise. This is the struggle of the Power-to-be-conscious as it is reflected down, down into the world in which we live.

I always think of another illustration of the struggle. There is a cliché: Self-preservation is the first law of life. When I was a forest ranger traveling in the back country of northern Idaho, I would often notice trees growing out of the cracks along a cliff. "Look at that struggle to live!", I would say to myself. As below, so above. That struggle to live in the most inhospitable places stems from the Power struggling to be free of the influence of the Mother. The Power must use the Mother's substance, but there is a blind urge to be free of the influence of the Mother. We find that struggle in the recent history of Africa. The struggle for independent nationhood represents that deeper struggle on the political level. One group-as-a-whole seeks independence from all other groups. It is an expansion on the group level of the personal struggle to be free of the influence of the Mother. Our reference for the word freedom is the emergence of the Power-to-be-conscious from domination of the influence of the Mother.

Let us return to the sanction and the first union of positive and negative. From that first union all else will emerge and the first representation of the emergence is the atom. Then the molecule is a representation of the next emergence. Then the cells, then the algae, then the vegetable world emerges. Each ascending sphere of consciousness is represented by a more complex organism. After the plant world comes the animal world and there is still a debate going on as to which simple cellular creatures are vegetable and which are the newly emerged animal representations. But in the emerging process, as the Power becomes more and more conscious of itself it configures in more and more complex representations in Mother Substance. Finally (relative to the emergence of the human state), there are four group fields in the animal world from which it is possible for objective identification to grow. Those four species which represent the point of emergence into the human

state are the elephant, the cat, the dog and the horse. Through these four vehicles the Power emerges from the animal state into the objective self-conscious state we call human.

What has kept me going as a teacher for over fifty years is the perception that the Power does not stop at the human level. The emerging process is still going on. And we call it the glorious urge to know more and more and more. The Power will continue to emerge from the influence of the Mother and we will be born into the Light. We will develop a vehicle of Light. In Light's Regions we will be free of the influence of the genetrix, but we will still need the substance of the Mother in order to function, so we will function in a vehicle of Light. We cannot function without the Mother, but we can function without the influence of the genetrix. Now catch this: we are talking about functioning beyond the 'level' which we call the Second Crossing. Below that 'level' we are under the domination of the genetrix, the urge we label sex. Without that urge there would be no grass, no flowers, no trees. Without the genetrix there would be no manifestation. It is the first thing that is born and the last thing that dies. It does not die in any one until that individual makes the Second Crossing.

Here is the great value of this work. After we learn to understand this work, we find that the highest part of wisdom is to cooperate with the emerging process. Cooperation is necessary if we are to maintain 'physical' health or psychic harmony. And finally, to reach the bliss of the reflected Light, or to make the Second Crossing and learn to function in the Light World, we must intelligently cooperate with the process.

We are building a foundation for understanding qualified monism. After the Power has emancipated itself from the Mother it still cannot function without the Mother. Although it is no longer under the domination of the qualities of the Mother, the Power must still cooperate with the Mother. When your true Self, conscious of itself on its own level, is finally emancipated from the Mother, the Mother turns into a bride. The Power with which we are conscious becomes the groom and marries the bride because he cannot function without her. The act of being conscious represents the wave frequencies in the Mother. In other words, consciousness can be described as the activity of the Mother Substance. The Power-to-be-conscious must have the union with the Mother, but in perfect freedom from the qualities of the Mother. It is then that the Mother is metamorphosed into a bride.

We call this teaching qualified monism. Many here in America are becoming interested in the monistic teaching of Zen Buddhism. There are those who have popularized Zen Buddhism who

describe the goal of that system as absolute zero. Nirvana is described as a zero state! They are talking about becoming fully emancipated from the Mother. They are talking about asceticism. It is as if they wish to deny the Mother entirely, instead of merely freeing themselves from the influence and the domination of the Mother. That attitude we describe as monism, and we have set our teaching up on different foundations. We teach qualified monism because we never forget the need for cooperation with the Mother. We want to be fully conscious, but master of the vehicle which represents that state of consciousness. We work to be master of the qualities represented in the Mother Substance. But we do not try to deny the importance of the Mother. We are not trying to run away from the world. We subscribe to the individualizing process and we see the importance of cooperation with the Mother. We want to work with all the vehicles of Mother Substance available in the individualizing process. Ultimately, we want to work on the highest level, in Light's Regions, with a 'body' of pure Light. We want to cooperate with the process whereby the Mater becomes pure Light.

Now we can better understand the process of transfiguration (esoteric Bible studies). Instead of trying to understand the 'transfiguration on the Mount,' let us use the word re-metamorphosis. Let us use the word telekinesis, the Greek word for transfiguration. (Teleos: goal, perfection) The transfiguration of living matter into the Light is the goal of the individualizing process. As the Power has already metamorphosed Light into configurations of Mother Substance, let us cooperate with the process whereby the Power re-metamorphoses the substance into Light.

Our modern scientists are learning how to translate sunlight into electrical energy. Our physicists will go on with that study until the foundation is laid for translating any substance of the Mother into pure energy. That is coming in the development of the race psyche. Then we will see the day when any substance can be changed into Light, the source of all Be-ing. We are on the eve of a most marvelous age in the history of this planet. If the barbarians among us do not destroy us by working with the substance of the Mother in order to make bombs and war machines, we will enter a marvelous age where the body of the Mother can be used for all types of creative work.

If there were enough of us who could raise our consciousness to the Light's Regions, we could hold that Power and radiate it. Please meditate on the 91st Psalm and reflect on this lesson. Spend some time re-orienting the consciousness to the levels symbolized by the words of the Bible. Remember, it is the True Self, the Higher Self, which is emerging into Light.

