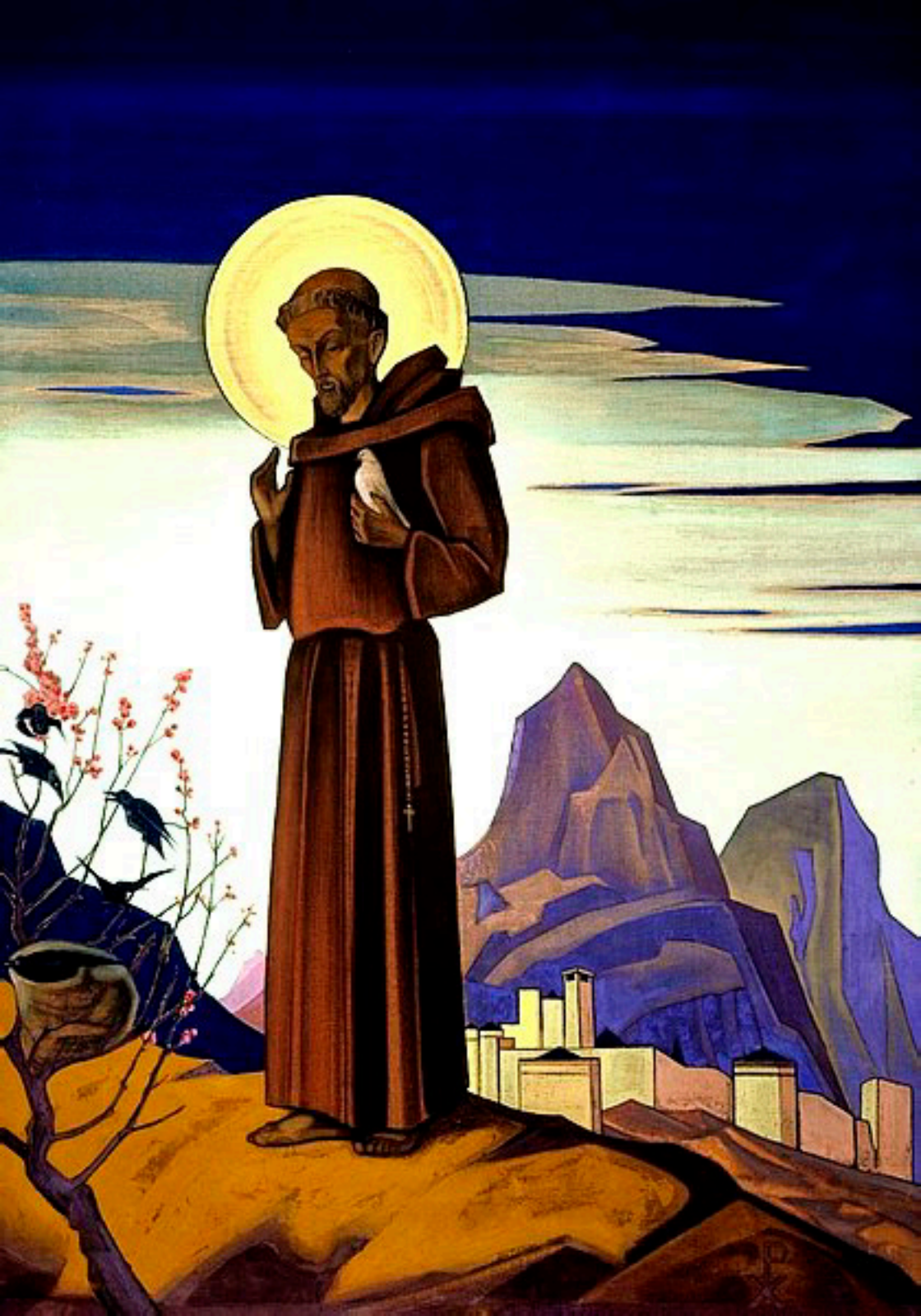




KNOWLEDGE AND BEING

(A talk given by the V.M. Samael Aun Weor)

"In Gibeon, Jehovah appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, Ask what I shall give thee..."

"...And now, O Jehovah my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child; I know not how to go out or come in..."

"Give thy servant therefore an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and evil..."

"...And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life, neither hast thou asked riches for thyself, nor hast thou asked the life of thine enemies, but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern justice;"

"Behold, I have done according to thy word: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there hath been none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee."

1 Kings 3:5,7,9,11,12

"The soul that knows something is consumed in the wish to know more. He that has a feeling of God is consumed in the wish to come unto him."

The Torah

Knowledge and Being must balance one another in order to establish in our psyches the flame of comprehension.

When knowledge is greater than being, it gives rise to all kinds of intellectual confusion.

If being is greater than knowledge it can cause such serious cases as that of the silly saint.

(Excerpts from: The Great Rebellion)

KNOWLEDGE AND BEING

One must comprehend the inner work we are doing in Gnosis. Above all, one needs to be conscious of that which is the initiatic gnostic esoteric knowledge and that which is comprehension. Obviously, only by properly uniting *Being* and *Knowledge* will the flame of creative comprehension arise...

If we take, so to speak, an ordinary person, an ignorant person, in order to make something better of him, where would we begin? To start with, we would find out that this person does not know anything; secondly, we would discover that the being of this person has no intimate development. We need to see then this twofold nature of every person.

If we want to do a good job, we would start with the being, since if that person is rather full of anger, full of jealousy, hatred, envy, etc., etc., what would we do for that person to become better? One would need to have a lot of patience, right? One would have to awaken in them the yearning to be better; it is only then that the gnostic knowledge, wisdom, can be granted to them...

So then, being and knowledge are different. Someone may be very learned, one may for example know how to build automobiles, one may be knowledgeable in medicine, in law, or one may have in fact studied in diverse schools of a pseudo-esoteric, pseudo-occultist kind, and possess a great erudition, but it could happen that this person is quite immoral. I have known individuals affiliated with this or that organization of a pseudo-esoteric or pseudo-occultist kind with an exceedingly low standard of ethics and morals.

So then, being and knowledge are different, and this is something that we must try to fully comprehend.

For us Gnostics the Being is unquestionably the most important thing. Of what use would it be to possess a great erudition if we have not developed our Internal Being, and if we possess, so to speak, blood curdling defects? That would be useless, right?

Someone who has studied a lot of pseudo-esoteric works and is nevertheless capable of stealing, capable of fornicating, and committing adultery; obviously he may know a lot about Yoga, he may have read a lot about Theosophy, but, of what use is that? The most important thing is the Being!

Now, knowledge and being are very relative; different degrees of knowledge exist. For example, there are people who may know more about medicine than others; there are dentists who are more learned than others, there are mechanics who know more than others with regard to automobiles; but that is all very relative. As for being, it is also very relative; some have developed their being more than others. There is no doubt, for example, that the being of a Saint is more developed than that of a perverse individual; there are different levels of being. So then, the level of being is also relative. And yet as I have already stated, knowledge and being are different.

For someone who has knowledge of cosmography, we could say that what he knows is true or false. For someone who has a great knowledge of geography, we could say that his knowledge is correct, or that it is mistaken. However, regarding matters of being, notions of “true” or “false,” “mistaken” or “correct,” “good” or “bad,” are unfitting: “so—and—so is a good man,” “what’s-his-name is a bad man,” and if he is a great luminary, but is a bad person, one might say of him that, “he is a bad person,” but if he is a good guy, one might say of him that, “he is a good person.” So then, these things are different. The terms used to designate being, or to designate knowledge, are different.

In Gnosis one needs to have a very special balance; in order to enter into these studies and into this work one must have attained the level called the *Good Master of the House*. In the Gospels this matter of the Good Master of the House is very interesting; it is something that invites us to reflect.

We know that being a good householder could turn us into something better if one so desires or yearns, but if one does not have any spiritual longing obviously one becomes, so to speak, a *Pharisee*, who will inevitably degenerate in time. So, from being a good householder or good housemaster one can turn out to be an *Initiate* or a *Pharisee*.

In any case, in order to enter into these gnostic-esoteric studies, one needs to have reached the level of the Good Housemaster. For example, a *lunatic* type, one who is capricious, wild mannered, stubborn, is precisely not an element that can be useful for these studies we are in. An individual who does not fulfill one’s duties at home, who is a bad father, a bad wife or a bad husband, who treats one’s spouse badly (be it a man or a woman), or who leaves one’s home for this or that reason, unquestionably, this person is not a good householder.

Clearly, there are very legitimate exceptions to what I am saying, but I am speaking in a general and simple style, because it would be useless to be a good housemaster if one’s wife, well, is unfaithful, or if, as is commonly stated, she “makes a cuckold of him...” I once knew someone who told a very nice joke that said, “Marriage is not the Horn of Plenty, but is plenty of horns...”

In any case, even if this appears to be a joke, there is a lot of truth to it. It would be useless then for the man to be very faithful and the woman to “make a cuckold of him,” or vice versa as well.

Anyway, one needs to be a Good Householder, a decent, balanced person, before being able to enter onto the Path of Gnosis.

I knew an individual-x who was fully dedicated to this sort of esoteric study. He practiced meditation daily, was an unbearable vegetarian, and from time to time he ate a small piece of meat; he wanted to “come unto the Father” and he showed it. When he knew the Great Arcanum (because we have divulged these teachings), he was very interested in Tantrism, and from the beginning, then, he practiced with his priestess-wife in the Ninth Sphere. Soon afterwards, he worked with as many women

as he came across on the path, and as I am not mentioning names or last names, obviously I am not gossiping about anyone. I am mentioning “the symptom,” but not “the saint,” and this is what is important.

What I want to continue telling you is that this good man—who had a strange fanaticism if you will (being that of his vegetarianism)—knew and was not ignorant of the fact that he had to dissolve the different “inhuman elements” that constitute the Ego, but he mistreated his wife and his children (they suffered the unspeakable). That good man was an immensely rich millionaire, but unfortunately a certain misery abounded in his home. His unfortunate wife did not even have any money to clothe herself, but he claimed to “have the desire to reach the Father...”

He was practicing, I repeat, the sahaja maithuna with as many women as he came across, he was very “sly”. He wanted to “reach the Father”; he defended love as being the foundation of all that is, has been, and will be, but he was horribly cruel to his children.

On one occasion I bought two small birds. A bird seller passed by and offered them to me and I bought them. I did not buy them with the intention of keeping them confined in their cages for all their lives, no, I bought them with the intention of teaching them to fly, because they had certainly already lost that ability and after they knew how to fly, I set them free.

For several days I let them out of their cage and they flew delightfully in the apartment where I lived. I felt very happy seeing those little birds. I could not wait until they had enough practice, since their flying was very clumsy, so that I could open the windows and let them go.

One of those days that good man, feeling sorry for those birds, came to me saying, “I have come to ask you to have compassion for these creatures that are confined in that cage, being prisoners without having committed a crime. I have come to ask you to set them free...” “Well, that’s why I bought them, to set them free. I bought them from a bird seller.” “Now I ask you, why don’t you do the same thing, since so many bird sellers pass by you?”

The man kept silent. I had never really seen him plead for those birds. He was immensely rich and there were always bird sellers around. It was easy to buy a bird cage and set the birds free, but he only wanted to pay attention to my “mistake...”

Very well, at last one day, it’s not important which, the birds were now ready; I opened the window so that they could go. Naturally, they left and never came back; I had already trained them to fly so that they could be free; they were so happy to fly off.

So, my friend felt very relieved to have those birds set free, but never did I see him do the same. There were so many bird sellers on the streets of the Federal District, so many who passed by his house and never did I see him buy one of those little birds! But he aspired to “reach the Father,” by working with many esoteric exercises, etc., etc., etc.

One day his wife's father died, that is to say, his father-in-law. This, clearly, left her an immense fortune. He demanded that she give him everything she received as her inheritance. He told her that "he was her husband," and that "it was he who must have this capital (some beautiful lands and a very nice ranch) in his power." Naturally, the poor woman reflected on this for some time; she thought to herself, "If this man is an ogre, what hope can I have with him? If I relinquish what my father has given to me then what will I do the day that he boots me out of the house?" Finally, she decided to offer him only a modest sum (about fifty or one hundred thousand pesos, nothing more, so as to make him content). Clearly, at that time, fifty or one hundred thousand pesos was a big deal. Do you remember that forty years ago there was this saying, "There is no General who can resist cannonry worth fifty-thousand pesos." It was true, wasn't it?

The man became furious with the unfortunate woman and of course he asked her to sign a divorce agreement. As she did not agree, he then said to her, "very well, if you do not give me a divorce, if you do not accept this divorce, then we are going to have to go to court."

After all was said and done, he got the divorce. Their children experienced a lot of suffering. In the end, the unfortunate woman went to her land...

What do you see in all this?

This man had a very mystical, ineffable posturing; he spoke only of divine things, "of the love that he felt for his Father who is in secret..." Unfortunately, the children were separated between them and the unfortunate woman was embarrassed because she did not give him her fortune. He was a "saint," he wanted to follow the purest path that leads to innermost self-realization. He practiced meditation (for three or four hours daily), he practiced sexual magic (that is with whoever was presented to him, yet he continued to be a "saint")...

So, if I have told you this and have not mentioned names or last names, then, I am not gossiping. If I had mentioned names and last names, I would be "making a blunder," but I am not mentioning names and last names. I repeat, I am telling a story, indicating "the symptoms" but not "the saint."

The crude reality of the facts is that this man was not a good householder. When one is not a good master of the house, it is clear that neither is one prepared to enter the *Path of the Razor's Edge*.

One of those days I met with this man and he asked me about esotericism, about gnosis, about occultism, about all these things. I said to him, "Sir, I have already left that behind, I no longer remember those things. The lectures that I gave; that was another time, in the past, I no longer remember all of that, I am now dedicated to politics." To conclude, well, I simply "cut him off" as is commonly stated. I comprehended that he was not a good householder and therefore he could not be useful for these esoteric studies.

If I have related this story it is with the purpose of you comprehending that the basis of these studies begins with having reached the grade of good householder: in short, being a good husband, a good father, a good brother, a good friend; the man who looks after his home, the woman who looks after her children, a good wife in general. And if the woman is not married, she will be a good daughter, a good sister. And if it is a man and he is not married, he will at least be a good man who looks after his friends, his relatives, and if he does not have any, well then, he will fulfill the duties that exist towards all of humanity in general.

If one has not reached the degree of good housemaster, one is useless for these studies. One has to be a decent person, who is not a “lunatic,” who is a balanced person, etc.

Now, there is also something else that is very interesting, and this is called the “magnetic center.” Some people have this magnetic center, others do not. Generally, when one feels an attraction for these studies it is because he has this magnetic center established in his psyche. If not, one will not feel any attraction.

I remember that for me the attraction for these studies was innate. Indeed, I took on or changed bodies at will. Sincerely I tell you that I put myself into this body at will; I left my previous body at will and took on this one at will. In my present existence I felt that strong inquietude for the gnostic esoteric studies. When I was still a child of about eight years old, I often would go to the countryside and in contact with Great Nature I would contemplate the dawn, I felt a tremendous longing and almost heartache for things divine, and I felt whole. In those moments I saw myself as a *sacred individual*; I felt the longing to know something more. For a moment, it seemed as though I saw myself, but unfortunately, as I have told you, we are many, that is to say, each one of us is *many people*... In those moments, one has that “center of consciousness.” If at some time you have felt that strong inquietude, you will know what I am talking about.

So, it is very important to have formed, so to speak, a *center of gravity*, a *magnetic center*, because thanks to it one comes to this type of studies.

Yes, my dear brethren, above all we want to attain the *unity of life* free in its movement. Unfortunately, within each one of us, within every person, there are *many people*, we are the biblical “Legion”; we do not have a true sacred individuality, but in certain moments of great suffering we feel that, in essence, we do have a sacred individuality.

What we want is to attain the unity of life, to make of ourselves, to convert ourselves into *sacred individuals*. Such is only possible by working on ourselves, eliminating our own psychological errors. If we succeed, we become sacred individuals...

The difference between people is in their different levels of being. The closer one is to sacred individuality, then, naturally the higher is one's level of being. The further one is from one's own sacred individuality, then the lower the level of being that person has.

With respect to the knowledge that we are giving the brethren here in this room, I am sure that it will not be assimilated by all in an absolutely equal manner. Each person will assimilate it in accordance with the level of being where one is found. Some will comprehend more, others less. However, it is possible that everyone will comprehend or assimilate it equally well.

So then, my dear brethren, as we are pressed for time let us conclude by saying that it is only by uniting *Being* and *Knowledge* that one will reach true comprehension, and only with true comprehension can we work upon ourselves in order to proceed to another level of being, to higher levels of being.

We need to become whole people, integral, and that is only possible by climbing the different steps that make up the levels of the being.

On listening to this talk, do not forget the necessity to be, above all, balanced people, neither “lunatics” nor bad householders. The Path begins at home, and if at home we have difficult circumstances, then so much the better for us. What I mean is that the “training ground” is more advantageous. When one lives in terms of the esoteric work and for the esoteric work, obviously, the more difficult the “psychological gymnasium,” so much the better...

Here ends my talk since as I said we have run out of time...

Samael Aun Weor

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