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LIFE FORCE



Complete Works – Volume 5

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Chapter One

Life

I

I am going to have to talk for a very long time and give you all kinds of explanations, arguments and examples, if I am to succeed in making you aware of the importance of life, that without life there would be nothing at all.

One day, when I was still very young and living in Bulgaria, I was listening to Master Peter Deunov giving a lecture. Knowing that I was studying palmistry, he asked me a question in front of the entire Brotherhood of Sofia. He said, 'Which line of the hand appeared first?' 'The life line', I replied. 'And which came next?' 'The heart line.' 'And then?' 'The head line.' I had answered correctly, and the Master was pleased with my reply.

In the beginning is life. Look at any creature you choose and you will see the same pattern: before everything else they have life; the capacity to feel and think comes later.

Life! The word sums up the entire wealth of the universe, undifferentiated and chaotic, waiting for a force to act upon it and organize it. In this one word 'life' are contained all future developments, just as all the organs which will eventually take shape and form a living body are potentially present in a single cell. Just as a seed must be planted, watered and nurtured before it reveals what it contains, so, given time, out of this magma, out of this chaotic jumble of undetermined reality that is life, all other things emerge and take shape.

This is how the organs we have today appeared, and many others will appear one day in the future! Since our physical body is built in the image of our astral body, and our astral body is in the image of the mental body and so on, all the way up to the divine plane, and since we have five sense organs on the physical plane (touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight) we also have five senses on the astral and mental planes. Our astral and mental organs are not yet developed, but they are there, and in good time they will manifest themselves.¹ And once they are fully formed, humans will have untold possibilities to see, hear, taste, act and move about. Life, living beings, living cells, micro-organisms contain in themselves all possibilities for their future development, but it will take thousands of years before they manifest themselves fully. This is the mystery, the splendour of life!

Human beings come and go, work and play, and busy themselves with all kinds of things, never realizing that their life is growing dingy and dirty and seeping away because they do nothing to protect it. They think that the life they have received is theirs to dispose of and that they have a right to use it for pleasure or to become rich, learned or famous, as they please. So they draw on their reserves without restraint until, one day, they find themselves utterly spent and obliged to abandon all their activities. It is completely senseless to behave in this way, for once we have exhausted our supply of life we have no other resources to fall back on. Sages have always said that the only essential thing is life itself and that we must protect, purify and sanctify it and eliminate whatever may hinder or prevent it from developing, because, if we do, life will give us everything else: health, strength, power, intelligence and beauty – everything!

In my lecture about the wise and the foolish virgins² I explained that the oil Jesus spoke about symbolized life: when a person has burnt up their last drop of oil, their lamp goes out and they die. And you can find a symbol of life in every domain: for your car it is petrol; for plants it is water; for the

creatures who live on the surface of the earth it is air or, more specifically for human beings, it is blood; in the field of finance and business it is gold or silver, and so on.

Life is the reservoir, the storehouse from which new creations are constantly being drawn, with ramifications stretching to infinity. And from this faceless, undifferentiated life, which is no more than a potentiality, the Spirit is ceaselessly engaged in creating new elements, new means, new forms. Life represents primordial matter and this is why it is so important.

But men and women are concerned about everything except life; if life were their first priority, if they were really concerned to cherish and protect it and keep it absolutely pure, they would find more and more possibilities opening before them for obtaining all that their hearts desire, because it is life, intense, luminous life that can give them everything. But as this is not within the scope of their philosophy all they do with their life is waste it. They think that just because they are alive they are justified in doing whatever they please. They say, 'Well, we're alive, aren't we? So let's make the most of it!' Yes, but they very rarely achieve what they set their sights on, because they plunder their own resources. It is time for human beings to adopt a different philosophy. It is time they realized that their way of thinking affects their life, their vital reserves and the very quintessence of their being, and that if they think wrongly they will injure and spoil everything. This is what humankind needs to be taught.

Let me illustrate this with an example. Take the case of a young man whose father is very rich: as long as he studies and works well he gets a regular allowance. But then, one day, the boy begins to get into trouble and brings disrepute on his father, who responds by cutting off his allowance, and he suddenly finds himself penniless! What is the boy's greatest fault in a case like this? His greatest fault lies in putting his own life at risk, that is to say, in cutting himself off from the conditions, energies

and vital currents of which money is simply the symbol. And, applying this to ourselves, we are doing the same thing when we use and abuse our existence to satisfy our own whims and fancies, when we allow ourselves to break all the laws. When we do that we are destroying our reserves and causing the flow of energies to dry up, and we end up destitute: not materially, physically destitute perhaps, but inwardly destitute. Life is the only wealth. And whatever name you give it: wealth, subsistence allowance, oil, quintessence, it comes to the same thing, for the word 'life' can be replaced by any of these terms. So life is the one most important reality, and if humans are neither intelligent nor enlightened they destroy the very source of their potential and of all their joy and inspiration.

When Jesus said, '*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly*',³ what was the life he was talking about? When I read these words for the first time, a long time ago, I was astonished. I thought to myself, 'But his disciples were already alive! What was this life he was asking for?' And you all know the words of the Master Peter Deunov's song, *Sine moi pazi jivota*, 'My son, keep your life safely, this treasure buried within you...' This shows that the Master Peter Deunov had this same understanding of the importance of life. Yes, and now the world needs teachers and instructors capable of throwing light on this essential question of life.

Observe the behaviour of human beings: why do they spend their whole lives trying to possess things which are so much less important than life itself? They work for years in order to become rich and then, one day, they find themselves drained and exhausted and so sickened with it all that, if you weigh up what they have obtained against what they have lost, you will find they have lost everything and gained very little. But human beings are made in such a way that they are ready to lose everything, because they have never been taught that it is more important to have life, health and joy – even if they have nothing else – than to have great wealth and be too worn out

to enjoy it. There is a proverb which says that a living dog is better than a dead lion. True, but there are still a lot of people who prefer to be dead lions!

What is lacking is the outlook of true philosophy. Human beings should be taught from their earliest childhood not to waste their life but to dedicate it to a sublime purpose, for that is the only way to ensure that it will become richer, stronger and more intense. Life is like a lump sum you invest in order to earn a profit: you place this capital in a bank on high so that, instead of deteriorating and being wasted, its value increases continually, and then, being rich, you will have the possibility of being better informed, of working to better purpose and growing in beauty and glory. Wouldn't it be far better if people reasoned like that?

Every day you exclaim in astonishment at the truth of what I tell you. You declare you have never heard such things, but in spite of that you go on doing exactly as you have always done, and the things you hear me saying are pushed to one side and never used. Now is the time to dedicate your life to luminous, divine activities. If you do this, not only will you no longer be wasting it, you will also be strengthening it, and with this capital you will be in a position to do far more. Whereas, if you give yourself up to emotion, sensuality and pleasure, you will be wasting your life, for everything has to be paid for, and you will be paying with your life! Nothing can ever be gained without the sacrifice of something else. As the French say, 'You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs!' But I say, 'Yes, you can. It is possible to make an omelette without breaking eggs. I know the secret!' You think it's impossible, don't you? Not at all. All you have to do is put all your capital in a bank on high, and then, instead of growing weaker and exhausting yourself, the more you work the stronger and more powerful you become, because, with every effort you make, something comes flowing into you to make up for what you have spent. But this

will only happen, of course, if you place all your 'money', all your 'capital' in a heavenly bank!

This is why it is so important that you should know who you are working for and what goal you are aiming at, for it is this that determines the direction your energies will take. If, for instance, you are working for your father, you will not lose, you will gain. What counts most, therefore, is to know for what purpose you are spending your energies and in what direction you are working, for your future hangs on this: you are working either to impoverish or to enrich yourself.

Most people work unwittingly for an enemy concealed within who is robbing and despoiling them. Truly spiritual people are more intelligent: they work and spend their energies for someone who is really themselves, and in this way they are the ones to gain. This is the intelligent thing to do: to become richer, not poorer. And it is not from selfishness or for the sake of their personality; on the contrary. Let's say, for instance, that you decide to work, not for yourself but for the collectivity. Well, since you are a member, an integral part of the collectivity, everything that improves the collectivity and makes it more beautiful will benefit each individual member of it, and this includes you. You gain because you have placed your capital in a bank called 'family', 'community', 'universal brotherhood', of which you are a member. Whereas if you decide to work for yourself, that is, for your own, mediocre little 'self', it will be a disaster: your work will not benefit you in any way. You will perhaps object, 'But of course it will benefit me. I'm bound to get something out of all that work I've been doing for myself!' No. That is where you are mistaken, for your personal, separate, egotistical little self is a bottomless pit, and by working for yourself you have thrown everything you have into that pit. That is not the way to work! Those who are too individualistic and selfish have no notion of what they might gain if they worked for the collectivity. They say, 'I'm no fool. I'm working for myself and I'm getting on nicely...' and that is precisely how

they lose all their capital. So the truth is just the opposite of what it seems. Yes, initiates know that if appearances point in one direction, the truth is to be found in the opposite direction, so they work for the collectivity, and it is they who benefit from it most.

When I speak of ‘the collectivity’ I am not speaking only of humankind, but of the whole universe, of all creatures in the universe and even of God himself. This universal collectivity, this immensity for which you are working, is like a bank, and all the work you do for it will come back to you, one day, increased many times over. For the universe does a very prosperous business; it is continually acquiring new constellations, new nebulae, new galaxies, and all this wealth will be yours.⁴

Those who work only for themselves instead of for immensity impoverish themselves, and nobody remembers or loves them, not even their own family: they are far too egocentric. They never think of others, so why should others think of them? They end their lives in disappointment, bitterness and grief. And do you think it ever occurs to them that it was their own outlook, their own philosophy that was at fault? Not a bit of it! No, no. They have always been in the right and everybody else is wicked and unjust! They deserve to be loved and helped! ‘Deserve, deserve!’ But what have they ever done to deserve anything? Whereas those who are full of love, kindness and abnegation, even if, to begin with, people think they are stupid and ridiculous, and exploit and take advantage of them, as time goes on they come to be recognized and loved for what they are: really exceptional human beings. One day those who have worked for the whole universe will be loved, cherished and rewarded. But, of course, that day will not come immediately.

When you put some money into a bank you don’t receive the interest on it the very next day. You have to wait, and the longer you wait the more interest you get. And the same law applies in the spiritual domain. You may have been working with great love, patience and faith and, to begin with, you see no results.

But don't be discouraged; if you give way to discouragement it shows that you have not properly understood the laws that prevail on earth. Yes, indeed! You have to know the rules by which banking and administrations function. If you knew them you would realize that one always has to wait. In the long run, riches will rain down on you from all sides; the whole universe will fling fabulous wealth at you. In fact, even if you wanted to avoid your reward it would be impossible: you will have brought it all on yourself. It is a question of justice!

So you can see how an egocentric philosophy is completely stupid. People rely on appearances, but appearances lie. How many times have I told you this! When you watch the sun and the stars, you have the impression that they are moving and the earth is standing still. Oh, yes, appearances can be very misleading! If we want to uncover the truth, we have to look beyond appearances, because what is considered useful and advantageous for today is very often harmful for the future. This is why initiates never act according to the criteria of the ignorant masses, and they are the ones we should follow, for only they have understood. So, never waste or injure your life for the sake of anything else. Nothing has any value compared to the value of life. Obviously, there are a few exceptional cases where people have given their lives in order to save others or in defence of an ideal. Yes, but these are the only instances that can justify the sacrifice of one's life; in every other instance we must protect and safeguard it.

The prophets and initiates who gave their lives for an ideal or for the glory of God did not, in fact, lose anything, for heaven gave them a new, far richer, far more beautiful life to reward them for having sacrificed their own life for the cause of good. I am not saying that we must always, and in every case, preserve our life: there are rare exceptions. But, generally speaking, a disciple has a duty to preserve, purify and intensify his or her life, because life is the source, the reservoir, the starting point for every other possible development, whether intellectual,

religious, emotional, aesthetic or otherwise. The pattern is exactly that of the seed. Life comes first, and in that indistinct, undifferentiated life lies the germ of every future project and realization; knowledge, wisdom and light come later. But what is life? No one knows. It is very difficult to put your finger on it; it has neither form nor colour and yet it contains everything in potentiality. No one can foresee what may yet emerge from life; the possibilities are infinite.

You will perhaps disagree with me when I say that human beings are not concerned with life, that they do not try to preserve it. You will say that, on the contrary, everybody is anxious to prolong life. To prolong it, yes. I agree. But not to spiritualize and purify it or to illuminate and sanctify it and make it divine. People want to prolong their lives because they want to go on doing all the disgusting things they do, committing crimes and running up debts. The question is still far from being understood by scientists, doctors or chemists. Do you really believe they want to prolong human lives so that they may be dedicated to the service of God or for the sake of his kingdom? Not at all! So I am not mistaken when I say that no one really cares about life: no one cares about true life. In other words, no one is capable of obtaining joy, beauty, power, wealth, renown or knowledge without making a mess of their life. In one way or another, whatever people do, they always manage to make a mess of their lives.

Initiates, on the other hand, are solely concerned with embellishing, intensifying, sanctifying, purifying and consecrating their lives. In doing so, they are, at the same time, working to achieve greater intelligence, power and happiness, because once their life has become divinely pure and harmonious its influence spreads into other regions and acts on innumerable intelligences and entities, and these entities respond by bringing inspiration. And you too, if your first concern is to enhance and perfect your life, you will be given intelligence, knowledge and strength. If your life is perfect, then it is life itself that will obtain

everything else for you. Once your life is pure, noble and divine, you will never need to go looking for knowledge in libraries or universities, for it will give you all the most extraordinary knowledge drawn from the archives of the universe.

And now, instead of trying to work magic, as so many do, in an attempt to get people to love and revere you, concentrate on the quality of your life! When the life that emanates from you is vibrant with light and love, it will cause thousands to love you. It is life itself, you see, the life that emanates from you, that takes charge and wins the love of others. Yes, it is quite extraordinary: who knows what chord it touches in others or how it speaks to them, but all of a sudden everybody begins to love you. So you see, life takes it upon itself to bring you different gifts at different moments: sometimes love, sometimes knowledge and sometimes joy.

The highest form of magic, therefore, the highest form of white magic, is a pure, luminous life. And if you radiate this life to all around you, the day will come when you will no longer be able to escape from the consequences: even if you flee to another planet, even if you plead to be left alone, you will be pursued by love: you will not be able to get away from it! And if your life is dismal, chaotic or not straightforward, you will not be able to escape the consequences, either, for the life that emanates from you will set off hostile reactions in those it touches, bringing all kinds of disaster down on you. True magic, the most authentic and most potent form of magic, therefore, is the life you lead. There is no need to be concerned about anything else: magic, knowledge and love will all be yours. Some of you will say, 'I'm very much alive, thank you! I can eat and drink and go about my business.' Perhaps, but you are not really alive, you are content to live like a vegetable; you don't know what it means to be really alive. There are different degrees of life, billions of different degrees.

The day you understand that true magic lies in the way you live, you will receive all you desire without even having

to ask for it. And because that is so, I feel like saying exactly the opposite of Jesus: *'Do not ask, and it will be given to you; do not search, and you will find; do not knock, and the door will be opened for you!'* Yes, but when is this true? When you live a divine life. There: now you know! And one day those words will be written in the new Gospel, for Jesus thought this too, but he could not say it. The people of his day would not have understood. If he came back today, he would say, 'Live a divine life, ask for nothing and you will have everything!' Why? Because when you live a divine life you are giving, and those who give receive. And even if you have never expressed any special wish or asked for anything in particular it does not matter, it will still be given to you. Of course if the Inquisition existed today it would be in a great state about me: 'What arrogance! What pride! This man is trying to undo what Jesus taught!' and I would certainly be burnt at the stake! Until today I have always explained and emphasized what Jesus said, and now, today, for the first time, I have dared to say exactly the opposite. Ah, but what I say is true, given certain conditions, and that is what you have to understand.

I have no desire to destroy what Jesus taught; certainly not! It is all absolutely true. In fact, in another lecture I explained what Jesus meant when he said: *'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.'*⁵ And I showed you the profound understanding Jesus had of human nature and of the trinity of heart, mind and will in human beings. The thing is, who does the asking, who does the searching, and who is it that knocks? It is the heart that asks, the intellect that searches and the will that knocks. And what does the heart ask for? Love and warmth. What is the intellect looking for? Light, wisdom and intelligence. And why does the will knock? The will knocks because it finds itself in prison, and it needs space and freedom in order to act and create. So, there you have the trinity: ask for love, look for wisdom and knock to become free. What tremendous understanding Jesus had. The

only thing is that perhaps the disciples missed something in their notes, for it is not clear what is meant by ‘Ask, and it will be given to you.’ What are we supposed to ask for? Money? Cars? Women? And what are we meant to look for? Our neighbour’s fleas? And what are we meant to knock on? None of this has ever been properly explained, so people go on asking, searching and knocking and are surprised when they fail to get results: they receive nothing, they find nothing and nothing is opened for them. And yet all this is undeniably true and mathematically exact.

The heart asks, and it asks neither for knowledge nor strength; it asks for love and warmth. The intellect does not ask; it seeks, and the object of its search is the secret knowledge, hidden truths. And the will needs neither knowledge nor warmth; all it needs is to be free to act. The will wants to be strong and powerful, free and creative. How clear and precise all this is: each human faculty is especially designed for a particular function. This is true psychology, and we must not get everything mixed up. But when I examined Jesus’ thought in even greater depth, I found that we should turn his formulas upside-down (I can’t help it if this scandalizes some Christians!), and say, ‘Do not ask, and it will be given to you. Do not search, and you will find. Do not knock, and the door will be opened for you.’ Yes, but this will only be true if your life is divine in its radiance, its vibrations and emanations.

Sèvres, 4 April 1970

Notes

1. See *Man’s Subtle Bodies and Centres – the Aura, the Solar Plexus, the Chakras...*, Izvor Coll. n° 219, chap. 1: ‘Human evolution and the development of the spiritual organs’.
2. See *Les deux arbres du Paradis*, Complete Works, vol. 3, chap. 7: ‘La parabole des cinq vierges sages et des cinq vierges folles’.
3. See *Sons and Daughters of God*, Izvor Coll. n° 240, chap. 1: ‘I came that they should have life’.

4. See *The Key to the Problems of Existence*, Complete works, vol. 11, chap. 22: 'Toward Universal Brotherhood' and *Love and sexuality*, Complete Works, vol 15, chap. 29: 'Towards a broader concept of the family'.
5. See *The Second Birth – Love, Wisdom, Truth*, Complete Works, vol. 1, chap. 2: 'Ask, and it shall be given to you'.

‘Human beings come and go, work and play, and busy themselves with all kinds of things, never realizing that their life is growing dingy and dirty because they do nothing to protect it. They think that the life they have received is theirs to dispose of, and that they have a right to use it for pleasure or to become rich, learned or renowned, as they please. So they draw on their reserves without restraint until, one day, they find themselves utterly spent and obliged to abandon all their activities. It is completely senseless to behave like that for, once we have wasted our supply of life, we have no other resources to fall back on.

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