

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

ON THE ART OF TEACHING

*from
the Initiatic Point of View*

Part 3



Complete Works – Volume 29

P R O S V E T A

Translated from the French
Original title: LA PÉDAGOGIE INITIATIQUE (TOME 3)

Original edition

© 1980, Éditions Prosveta S.A. (France), ISBN 978-2-85566-133-1

© Copyright Prosveta S.A. 1989. All rights reserved for all countries. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, adapted, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, whether privately or otherwise, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, audio-visual or otherwise, without the prior permission of author and publishers (Law of March 1957 revised).

Éditions Prosveta S.A. – 83600 Fréjus (France)

ISBN 978-2-85566-274-5

Digital edition: 978-2-8184-0576-5

Chapter One

On the Spiritual Work

I

The Master reads the Thought-for-the-Day:

‘Imagine, if you will, a young Prince, who is sent while still a child to live with peasants. The Prince is not aware that he is the heir to the throne; he has barely enough food to keep him alive, and goes to work in the fields every day, dressed in rags. Years later, his apprenticeship at an end, a magnificent royal procession arrives to escort him to the Palace. The Prince thinks there is a mistake, but no, the King made arrangements in secret to have his son brought up that way, to learn to work, to get up early in the morning, to live soberly... you know what little princes are like (lazy, willful, and cruel) when they are brought up in ease and opulence... specially when they grow up. When the Prince arrives at the Palace, he is asked what he would like to eat, and replies, ‘Black bread, an onion, a little water... perhaps some cheese’... The courtiers wring their hands in despair, because the royal chef has prepared a feast of dainty dishes, venison and lobster, and the best wines from the royal vineyards.

Suppose I were to tell you that you are all princes and princesses, the sons and daughters of the King of Heaven (who sent you to live among peasants, symbolically speaking), and when the time is right, He will send a solemn procession to

escort you to His Palace. Yes, but on one condition: that you have done your work, otherwise your apprenticeship may go on for centuries.'

You think this is nothing but a fairy tale... nevertheless, in the past, kings did bring up their sons in this manner. Perhaps not all, but certainly those who had seers and astrologers for counsellors, so that the little princes would learn how to handle difficulty, know the people, and see what it is like to be poor and to go hungry. Nothing is more fatal than a ruler whose life is entirely different from his subjects. How can he help them, how can he understand them, if his only experience of life has been ease and luxury, with everyone rushing to gratify his wishes?

Now, let us forget young princes and their adventures, and think about the profound meaning this idea has for us. Are we princes and princesses, heirs of our Heavenly Father, one day to inherit His Light, His Power and Glory? Is that the reason He sent us here on earth, to learn how to handle difficult conditions? How many beautiful souls, princes and princesses disguised as beggars, are in the most deplorable circumstances... why? There is always a reason. If they have a debt to pay, if it is Karma they are liquidating, they have been placed in those deplorable circumstances by Divine Justice. But more often it is because they are being taught by God, Cosmic Intelligence, purposely, to overcome certain difficulties, to go through tests and trials, to get used to making an effort... because God has a goal for humans: to become perfect as He is perfect, and the only way for us to become perfect is to learn to conquer difficulty and opposition.¹

Of course this is not the way humans think... they imagine that the love of God will bestow unlimited wealth, comfort and health on one and all... and that if there is something painful in their lives, it must come from Hell, not Heaven.

No, above all else, Heaven is interested in our becoming perfect. Suffering and illness are not God's concern, the fact

that we weep when things go wrong and blame Him for our unhappiness, and even threaten Him with desertion when we don't like our lot... is all to no avail, He seems to ignore the fact that we are ill and unhappy. What God really wants is for us to become more wise, more intelligent and luminous... and never mind our suffering. It is the only thing He asks of us. 'How cruel!' you say. No, it is simply that God has a different point of view. Humans, when they see tears and sorrow, rush to do something to help: such compassion! such kindness, such Christian charity! But God (who must not be Christian) does nothing to get us out of our difficulties, He even closes His ears to our wailing. The proof is the way things are in the world... and in you! Nothing but suffering and trouble and war... frightful. Why does God do nothing to stop it? Because He knows that human beings learn only by suffering, and when they learn, they will understand that they must change their attitude.

I have often told you that God does not care about how successful you are. It is a human trait to care about success, fame and glory... and luck, etc... that is all humans think about. But to God the important thing is effort, how much you are willing to try, and then it is the effort itself that keeps you from going wrong, from getting lost. Success, on the other hand, may do something to your character... in your desire to be successful at all costs, you can become hard and unfair, violent and cruel. God is concerned with the effort we make, to Him it doesn't matter whether we succeed or not.

Do not worry, therefore, about results. The result doesn't depend on you, but on God, who will see that you obtain it when, in His Wisdom, He thinks you should have it. What does depend on you is the effort you make; no one, not even God can do that for you; like eating, you have to do it yourself. And it is God's decision as to when and how you will be rewarded with success. How many saints and prophets and Initiates departed this earth without having succeeded, unable to make people accept their ideas in spite of all their knowledge, light, purity,

and integrity, which clearly proves that it is not up to us whether we succeed or not. Put it all into the hands of God. *'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.'* We haven't even the right to revenge, to return evil for evil, that too must be left to God, He knows how to punish those who break the law, and when it is the time to do so². Humans are in too much of a hurry, they always want to settle their own problems... yes, by taking the law into their own hands, becoming a law unto themselves.

I repeat, you are the one to make the effort, and if you really, sincerely, try... then you can be sure that the Lords of the Karma, the twenty-four Elders, will unanimously see to it that your next incarnation takes place under better circumstances. The disciple who thinks he will see the result of his work in his present incarnation, is mistaken. It is possible, but only on condition that he worked so much in his past life that he merits a great improvement in this one. If not, no matter what he does now, the results will be for his next life.

We ask, 'Why can't I succeed? Why aren't things changing?' You may not see them, but there are tremendous transformations taking place. They are so subtle, you cannot see them. For many of you it has already been decided, the decrees have already gone out, just wait until you see the splendid light you will be living in, one day! But you don't know this, and so you go on despairing. You must not despair. If it is written that you will shine like the sun in this incarnation because of the work you did in your preceding incarnations, then you will shine like the sun, nothing will stop you. But if that is not the case, then you will shine at some other time, when you have merited it... that is the law. The entire Universe, everything in Nature, obeys the great laws, no voice is ever lifted against them, except man's voice. In Nature, all things work together to accomplish God's laws. When you work, you are rewarded.

We need a little more light on this subject, so that the disciple will keep progressing confidently along the path. Once engaged on the divine path, a disciple needs more than effort

and sacrifice, he needs to know what happens in the invisible world. If I don't tell you anything, you will go on taking three steps forward, two steps back, indefinitely, and your doubts will destroy most of your good work. But if you are really worried about not seeing any results for all your efforts, here is the solution: we will divide the work in half... you make the effort, and I will describe the results: half and half! Don't you think that's fair? You do the work, and I'll stand by idly watching and making comments.

If I talk this way, it isn't only to encourage you, you can encourage people and a minute later the encouragement has vanished because it is not based on the knowledge of what is going to happen. We say to someone who is dying, 'Don't worry, old friend, you are going to get well, you'll see us all in our graves!' And the next day he is dead and gone. Some encouragement! But when I tell you that if you work with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your soul, you can expect results, even if they don't show at once, you can count on these words, they are reliable words of encouragement, based on Initiatic knowledge.

Take courage, dear brothers and sisters! All the Sacred Books describe God as faithful and true. Every effort you make in behalf of the Teaching, for the Glory of God, the spreading of the Light, the awakening of human consciousness to the fact that we are all brothers, is recorded, and you will be rewarded. When? That is the only thing that is hard to find out. In any case, you shouldn't let it worry you, just keep on working and let Heaven decide when and how you will be rewarded.

Besides, the effort itself is a reward... if you think you can make anyone happy by giving him everything he wants without his making any effort, you are demonstrating your ignorance of human nature. Man is happy only when he is making an effort, anything he acquires easily gives him very little real joy. If science goes on making life easier and easier for us (and it will), then we must find ways of doing something that requires effort.

We can go ahead and use the time savers such as cars, planes, deep freezers, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, etc., etc... (all the better if we have help with physical matter) providing we consecrate more time on spiritual matter, providing we learn to control ourselves inside, so that we can become truly beneficial to the rest of the world. Then, after each effort, each exercise, life takes on new colour and new taste.

If the Initiates exult with happiness over the smallest things, it is because they have done the work, the preparatory work... without which, they would be like everybody else, bored and blase about everything... nothing would make them joyful. We all know people who have everything, nothing is lacking, but they don't enjoy anything... yes, because inwardly, there is no activity, they have no inner life. If they knew better, they would enjoy everything they have externally, without stopping the intense inward work which gives the taste for life.

You must know that there is nothing more effective than this work, even if there is no visible result. It takes a long time to get results because the spiritual world where they come from is so far away, so much more inaccessible to us than the material world, but you must not get discouraged. If you do allow yourself to be discouraged, it shows you have no knowledge and no discernment. How long does it take a head of lettuce to grow? Not long. How long does it take an oak tree to grow? Centuries. And how long does the lettuce last? For how many centuries will the oak tree live? It is the same for the spiritual life: if it is salad that you want, symbolically speaking, you can obtain it very quickly... and it will be gone just as quickly. But if what you want is an oak tree that will last for centuries, you will have to wait.

The Bonfin, July 20, 1978

Notes

1. See *The Wellsprings of Eternal Joy*, Coll. Izvor n° 242, chap. 3: ‘Suffering is a stimulus’.
2. See *The Book of Divine Magic*, Coll. Izvor n° 226, chap. 16: ‘Never Look for Revenge’.

II

As soon as people have a certain amount of success and reach a certain level in the social hierarchy, they tend to become cold and haughty, they strut about, sure of their importance, and try to impress everyone else with it. This attitude is so prevalent and so accepted that when these people come to the Brotherhood, instead of seeing that this is one place where one should be simple and natural, friendly and helpful... brotherly, in fact... they are cold and aloof. Being the president of some company, a director or a professor, doesn't mean you must adopt a distant attitude, unless you want to appear ridiculous.

A disciple's attitude is to be natural, simple, available and helpful. Why pretend, why wear a mask, why play a role? 'But shouldn't you show what you are capable of?' you ask. Yes, you should, you should display all your assets and qualities, but not that way. When you have worked on yourself for some time, sculpting and designing and painting yourself, then let your body, your facial expression, your gestures and comportment speak for you... while you remain quiet and natural... why try to appear something you are not? Let your face show your intelligence, your strength, your nobleness. If your attitude is high and mighty and superior to everyone, and your face betrays

the fact that you have no light, no love, no life... you are nothing but ridiculous.

Jesus said, *'Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.'*¹ Children are what they appear to be, if they look natural and nice, that is the way they are, but people who arrive at a certain position in society think they must play a role, thereby demonstrating that they are in fact tense, afraid, misguided, and far from the Kingdom of Heaven! Since you are now part of this Teaching, realize that if you have qualities of greatness, if you are intelligent and pure, your face will show it, it will be evident without your having to strike any postures. Let the work you do inside speak for you, it will be a better witness than any artificial attitude.

Be patient and full of love: everything you really want, you will have. One day a little girl, about six, came to see me. 'I want to be like the Master,' she said. 'Right away, in a few centuries...' I was so surprised to hear her talk about centuries that way! Children talk about 'tomorrow', and 'next year', but they have no idea what it means. I took this little girl seriously, because she underlined the fact that one should never be concerned with how long it takes in the spiritual life.

You want to become perfect... never mind how long it takes, that shouldn't concern you. When you are ill, don't say, 'Tomorrow I will be well.' No, say, 'Lord, time doesn't matter to me, if you want me to be ill for centuries, I am willing, do with me as you wish, my only hurry is to learn to know you and love you... the rest can wait as long as you wish.' That way you are outside the limits of time, or rather, you are accelerating in one field of endeavour and slowing down in another. But don't give orders to God... which is what you are doing when you set a time limit.²

Of course, it isn't possible to ignore time in the world we live in, everything works according to time, specially in the West. Orientals are different, they have no notion of time.

When I was in India, if I asked how long it would take to get somewhere, they would answer, 'Oh, ten minutes!' when it actually took more than two hours! Time doesn't count in India. There is a story about Vivekananda, the disciple of Ramakrishna, arriving an hour and a half late to give a lecture in New York. When someone demurred, he said, 'We Indians live in Eternity.' Yes, but the Americans don't live in Eternity! Each one overdoes it a bit on one side or the other, but if you promise to be somewhere at a certain time, it isn't right to arrive two hours late. You know what happens to someone who is late for work? They have a very scientific little word for it: fired.

So I am speaking strictly for the spiritual life when I say not to pay attention to time. If you set a date for instance, by which to have conquered a fault or vice, you will only be tense and completely out of harmony. Work at perfecting yourself, but set no date... realize that you have Eternity ahead, and that one day you will achieve the perfection you seek. Think only about how beautiful the work is you have undertaken, and say to yourself, 'Since what I am doing is so pleasant and so beautiful, I don't care how long it takes, even if the result is centuries away...'

A lot of spiritualists think that once they adopt a certain resolution, things will unfold exactly as they wish, their instincts will conform with their aim, and wisdom and reason will triumph. They don't know that other forces will awake and prevent them from realizing their plans... and when they see that things have not developed as they expected, nor when they expected, they are furious and take out their disappointment, their thwarted ambitions, on everyone else. If you launch into the spiritual life without knowing the laws, the results will be worse in the end than if you had stayed as you were.

Generally speaking, it isn't wise to rush headlong into something with too much self-assurance, it provokes other forces that will oppose the realization of your plans. You must have noticed this. You promise to do something on a certain day, and when the time comes, you have no desire to do it... but

you promised! From now on, don't make too many promises, don't display your wish or desire, keep it to yourself, in that way, there will be fewer obstacles to its realization. This is important to know.

A disciple should not enter the spiritual life without knowing what he is getting into, he runs the risk of meeting with unpleasant surprises. A human being can be compared to a tree: it has roots, a trunk, branches, flowers, fruit, and leaves. The higher the tree grows, the deeper its roots burrow into the ground, that is, the higher a human being climbs, the more insistent will be his sexual force. How many saints and mystics found to their horror that the nearer they came to God and the more they loved Him, the more overwhelming became their sexual force, they were constantly fighting against it, tormented by it and torn apart with shame.

You must understand human nature: if you release a mechanism somewhere inside the body, another mechanism automatically goes into operation in another part of the body. You say, 'But then it would be better not to love God, if it does nothing but increase the sexual force!' There are ways of directing this force to obtain the most wonderful spiritual results...³ you have to know these things. If you know what temptations await you following a moment of ecstasy, fervent prayer, or mystical union with God, you can at least take precautions to control the situation. It is when you don't know what happens that you go astray.

These phenomena occur also in other realms. When you experience an intense joy, you should be prepared to experience something unpleasant coming from some other direction. As the saying goes, 'Who laughs on Friday, weeps on Sunday...' If you accept this, you won't suffer so much. And so, when you are feeling triumphant over some success, don't rest on your laurels, don't go to sleep, but be more vigilant than ever, because the other side might attack, and, if you are taken by surprise, you will lose the advantages you have won. This is

the law. Everything being related, connected, an action in one region triggers an action in an opposite region, which is the reason why an Initiate, who spends his time doing an intense and luminous work for all mankind, without wanting to, stirs up the dark side, the shadows. As he knows about it, he takes precautions. Is it because you stir up a little hostility that you are going to stop working with the light? You must simply know about it and then go on working.

It is what happens here in the Brotherhood, too. Think of the work we've done here over the years, and then look at all the hostility, animosity, and injustice we have had to face... that is the way it is, fatally. If you want to be left alone, quietly accomplishing nothing, you had better remain insignificant and not attempt anything out of the ordinary, remain in the shadows. Then no one will say anything against you. Does one have to give up one's ideal to be peaceful'? No, in spite of every difficulty, in spite of all the criticism and slander, in spite of all the criticism, the Fraternite Blanche Universelle, or Universal White Brotherhood, must and will survive and grow and influence the world with its light and its grandeur. Then all the persecutions will cease. Yes, when you get to the top, when you win, everybody gives in, but as long as you have not won yet, there are all kinds of disturbances and intrigues. It is up to the disciple not to be put off by this.

If you know the way things are, you can go on to the finish without giving in, and learn at the same time how to use difficulties as a stimulant! The more you are criticized and ridiculed, the better conditions are for you to be strengthened, to become resistant to everything, and one day, you will amaze the world with your force. Those who attacked you will be ashamed to see how insignificant they are next to you, because while they were busy harming you, they weren't working on themselves, they weren't improving... on the contrary! When you are safe and calm, you make no effort, and so safety and

calm are not things to wish for. If you can understand what I am saying, you will realize that inspite of the way it appears, the Universal White Brotherhood is in the best position!

But never forget that in the spiritual life, the disciple must not think about how long it will take to realize what he is doing. Otherwise he might break down, or give up when he sees that his best hopes are never fulfilled. It would be too bad to give up simply because success didn't come on the date you set. You must go on and on, in plenitude, splendour, and peace, for it is the only way you will reach perfection.

The Bonfin, August 29, 1979

Notes

- 1 See *New Light on the Gospels*, Coll. Izvor n° 217, chap. 2: 'Except Ye Become as Little Children'.
2. See *The Faith that Moves Mountains*, Coll. Izvor n° 238, chap. 13: 'Rabota, vreme, vera: work, time, faith'.
3. See *True Alchemy or the Quest for Perfection*, Coll. Izvor n° 221, chap. 12: 'The Sublimation of Sexual Energy'.

‘As long as men put their own private interests ahead of the interests of the collectivity, the whole, they will never solve their problems. By "interests of the collectivity", I am not referring only to human beings, but to the whole Universe, that men are using as they wish, to gratify their own desires ... look at the way animals are exploited, trees destroyed, mountains and the sea polluted. Once men develop the technical means, you will see what they will do with the sun, the moon and other planets. Humans use everything that exists for one purpose: their own material satisfaction.

All this must change: the means must now become the goal. We must make universal brotherhood, universal harmony, our goal, and put all the means at our disposal, our qualities, faculties, talents, strength and energy, to work toward that end. Only then will the problems of mankind be resolved.’

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

ISBN 978-2-85566-274-5



www.prosveta.fr
www.prosveta.com
international@prosveta.com