

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

Toward a Solar Civilization



Izvor Collection



P R O S V E T A

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P R O S V E T A

Chapter One

The sun,
initiator of civilization

As soon as the sun gets up it pours forth its light, its warmth and its life, and it is that light, warmth and life that encourage men and women to get up, too, and go to work. Some go off to their offices, some to factories or to the fields, others open their shops and stores. The children go off to school, and the streets are filled with the sounds of voices and cars. In the evening, when the sun goes down, people close their shops and offices and go home, and before too long it is time for bed! The daily rhythm of human life is patterned on the rhythm of the sun's movements. And it is the sun, too, that is at the origin of all culture and civilization.

People sometimes wonder who was the first person to teach humans the arts of writing and agriculture, the use of fire and certain tools. Various names are put forward but, in reality, it was no human but the sun who was at the origin of these discoveries. Perhaps you will say that's all

nonsense! That the sun is not an intelligent being and that it has neither a brain nor a mouth with which to speak! According to you, then, ignorant human beings have a monopoly on intelligence! The one being to whom all life on earth owes its existence is not intelligent!

And yet, if you just reflect for a moment you will see that the sun was the first to bring science to humankind. How? Well, it's very simple. It is thanks to the light of the sun that we can see objects, shapes, contrasts, colours and distances. It is thanks to that light that we are able to see where we are and observe what goes on around us, to compare and calculate. Without light science simply cannot exist. What can anyone see in the dark? Nothing at all.

And now, suppose I ask who introduced religion; someone who prides themselves on being quite a philosopher might say it was fear: the fear of human beings confronted with the forces of nature. Don't you believe it! That theory stems from a very narrow point of view. In reality it was the sun that created religion. It was the warmth of the sun's rays that first gladdened people's hearts and awoke in them the need to love and adore. Love cannot exist in the cold. But give someone warmth, and they will begin to feel happy and to love. That is how religion first began: thanks to warmth. Of course, for many, 'religion' may begin simply as love for another human being or even for

an animal: a dog, a cat or a canary! That doesn't matter! It is a beginning! And one day that love will grow and reach out to the Lord God, the Master of the Universe.

And lastly, it is also the sun that was at the origin of all art, simply because it gives life. Life is what causes people to move, act and express themselves, and so you have the beginning of dance, song, painting and sculpture. Art begins with life. Look at children: they are always on the move, shouting, and screaming and scribbling. And their shouts are the beginning of music, their scribbles are the beginning of painting, their sand castles are the beginning of sculpture, the little houses they make are the beginning of architecture and all their little gestures and movements are the beginning of dance. Yes indeed! All art begins with life, and life comes from the sun.

How could artists create if the world were plunged in darkness? Where would they find their models? Who would give them the notion of movement, form and colour? I sometimes say to artists, 'You paint pictures, but who gave you the colours? Was it you who made them? No. By means of the various vegetables or minerals involved, it is the sun that has given you those colours. Do you ever think of that?' But it never seems to occur to painters to thank the sun for their colours. And, in fact, it is rare that the sun figures in their works.

So, you see, the sun gives light, warmth and life and is, therefore, the father of science, of religion and art.¹ And yet it is the last one to be loved and respected by human beings. But that is where I'm different: I'm for the sun! I'm calling for its rehabilitation. It makes me indignant to see how people treat it: they raise monuments to all kinds of impostors and never to the sun! And yet it is the first cause, the origin of everything. The earth itself and the other planets all come from the sun. It was the sun that begot them. That is why the earth contains the same elements as the sun but in condensed form, as solids. All the minerals, metals and precious stones, all the plants, all the gases and all subtle or dense bodies – whether in the soil, in water, in the air or on the etheric plane – all come from the sun. Gold, for example – which human beings appreciate to the point of being ready to commit all kinds of crimes to obtain it – gold is formed by the sun. Just as on the surface of the earth there are factories that manufacture all kinds of objects, similarly there are factories under the surface of the earth which employ millions of entities, and it is they that condense sunlight to produce gold.

I can hear you object, 'But how can gold be condensed sunlight?' Let me make it clearer with the example of a tree. Trees, especially oaks, firs, pines and walnut trees, are composed of a very

hard, compact material which can be used to build houses and boats, etc. A tree grows out of the soil, and hence it has always been presumed that a tree is made of soil. But that is completely untrue. A tree is made of sunlight. Take a tree, as big a tree as you like, and burn it. What will you see? Flames. Lots of flames, a lesser amount of gases, even less water vapour and, at the end, you will be left with a small, a very small, pile of ash. So much for the soil!

A tree is made of earth, water, air and fire, but it is the fire, the sun's rays, which go to make up the major part of its bulk. So, a tree is not made of soil. It's made of condensed sunshine!² You only have to visit some of the forests that I have visited in India, Ceylon, The United States, Canada and Sweden, to realize that all those trees, which must weigh billions of tons, have not lowered the level of the ground on which they stand. If they had taken out of the soil all the elements that constitute their bulk, the ground should have sunk several hundred feet. This is just one more proof that a tree is made of condensed sunlight. And if trees can collect and solidify the sun's rays in this way, why shouldn't it be possible for certain entities working underground to do the same and produce gold? Oh yes, there's a lot of food for thought in all this!

I once knew a man whose overriding passion was to find gold. He had all kinds of books about

hidden treasure and the magical practices which were supposed to help him find it. For quite a while I left him to it and said nothing (and, of course, he didn't find anything!). And then, one day I asked him why he persisted in carrying on with the chambermaid, instead of trying to win the friendship of the lady of the house. He was very indignant and declared that he was an honest married man and wasn't carrying on an affair with anyone. I replied, 'Yes, of course, I know you're a faithful husband, but I can see that you are still trying to seduce the maid.'

Of course, he still didn't understand, so I explained, 'You see, you're always looking for gold. But gold is only the servant. The lady of the house is the sunlight which, when condensed in the depths of the earth, becomes gold. And when the lady of the house sees that instead of trying to charm her and become her friend you pursue her maid, she is offended and closes her door to you. From now on, go straight to the lady of the house, to the sunlight. Try to love her, to understand her, to attract all her blessings and favours and some day, sooner or later, you will receive gold. Why not go straight to the top? If you are the king's friend, all his subjects will respect you. But if you are a friend of the doorman you'll never get any further than the doorman. No one else will bother with you!' He was astounded. 'I understand,' he said.

But I doubt it, because he's still flirting with the chambermaid!

But gold is not the only matter that is a condensation of the light of the sun. Coal, oil, wood and the materials used in manufacturing all kinds of objects are all condensed sunlight. Everything produced by industry, even the clothes we wear, comes from the sun. The whole of our economy is based on the products of the sun, but the sun itself is neglected and forgotten. People forget the creator and run after the outer skin, the peelings, the dross of its creation.

Something is very wrong with humans' understanding of these things, and it is this error of understanding that is the cause of their greatest misfortunes, for when you abandon the centre in favour of the periphery, when you ignore the essential and pay attention only to what is secondary, you are inevitably heading for disaster, and disaster is what occurs. That is why it is high time to restore the sun to its rightful place ahead of every other consideration, for it is the sun that is the cause of everything.³ If you do this the situation will improve, first of all in your own minds and subsequently throughout society. Everything will go better. You will ask, 'But how can our attitude towards the sun lead to such fantastic results? It's only a detail.' Of course, it seems a detail, but in the long run the reversal of values which we see in

today's world has brought about extremely serious and complicated consequences in all areas of life.

If you reflect for only a minute you will realize that the sun is at the origin of everything. Ask it to explain to you how it meditated and worked so that human beings might live. How did it prepare the right conditions of temperature and climate? How did it calculate just the right amount of light and heat for life to appear on earth? Plant life was the first to exist, followed by fish, birds and mammals and, finally, humans. It was the sun that made ready all the conditions necessary for the birth of culture and civilization. Indeed, it was the sun that was the very first farmer, since it distributed the various varieties of plant life over the face of the earth and makes them grow and give flowers and fruit. It is the sun that commands poverty or plenty, famine or abundance.

When I first came to France, in 1937, I remember saying that in the future, humans would no longer use wood, coal or oil to produce energy. They would use only the sun's rays. People were a long way from believing me at the time, but they are beginning to see I was right, because it is now well known that the present sources of energy will soon be exhausted, and humans will be obliged to turn to more subtle sources of energy which are inexhaustible. In the future we will all draw our light and heat from the sun. We will travel thanks

to the sun's energy. We will even be nourished by the light of the sun.

Deprived of sunshine humans could never have existed. They could never have moved or worked. Without the warmth of the sun they could never have experienced feeling. Without its light they could never have had the faculty of sight, and not only on the physical level but also on the intellectual level: they could never have had understanding, for understanding is a higher form of sight. As for the sun's warmth, well, that is what awoke in humans everything that concerns the emotions: contact and exchange with others, love and friendship. It is the sun's warmth that is at the origin of marriage, the family, human society and all forms of community. If you are cold, people don't like you, they leave you alone. But if you are warm-hearted they come and warm themselves through contact with you, and they are grateful to you for that warmth. Warmth is what draws human beings together. It is what gives them the capacity to feel, to be moved, to wonder and to pray. So you see, the warmth of the sun is at the origin of all morality and religion.

Of course, I know that if you say that to Christians they will be indignant because they don't recognize the importance of the sun. For them, what counts is the mass. But then I ask them, 'But if the sun weren't there, how could you say mass? In utter cold and darkness, who could

say mass? Where would the bread and wine come from?' I have no wish to belittle the importance of the mass, in fact I tell you frankly, I know much more about it than most priests. They've learned to say mass, but they know nothing of its deeper, magical significance. I know that. And I have a much deeper respect for mass than Christians. And yet I still ask them, 'Without the sun, who would say mass? And who would assist at mass?' The trouble is they just don't think!

And now, if I tell you it was the light of the sun acting on our physical bodies that formed our eyes, you won't believe me either. And yet it is the strict truth. The sun created our eyes. And why? Well, so that we could see it! In the same way it was its warmth acting on our bodies that created the organs of feeling: the heart, the mouth and, above all, the skin and the sense of touch. It decided that only the eyes should be sensitive to light but that warmth should be felt by the whole surface of the body. You see the difference, don't you? Isn't that interesting?

The sun commands everything in the universe. It is like the conductor of an orchestra or a king on his throne. When it decides something it only has to give the signal and all the spirits it has sent to earth or to the other planets hasten to carry out its wishes. They modify something in the atmosphere or in the electromagnetic currents, and all kinds of

changes take place in the vegetable, animal and human kingdoms, in the biological, psychological, economic and social spheres. Everything that happens on earth is commanded by the sun. Solar eruptions and sunspots are simply signals that the sun sends out to a whole hierarchy of intelligent beings that are there to carry out its orders.

One day science will accept my ideas. It is impossible that it should not tread the same path. And that is why, here and now, I say to scientists, 'Leave what you're doing in the laboratories alone and give all your attention to the sun. Everything is in the sun: health, wealth and the happiness of humankind.' You may say that many astronomers and physicists already are studying the sun and, of course, that is so. I know. I am well aware of all the research that is going on in many countries and particularly in Russia and the U.S.A. But when I reproach the scientific world for not giving enough attention to the sun, I mean that they have not yet really studied what the sun's light is and, above all, how humans can work with it and let it penetrate them to purify, strengthen and regenerate them. For, if the sun's rays can penetrate even the depths of the oceans so that certain fish specially equipped to do so can capture their energy and give off light, why be surprised that they can also penetrate us? And if we knew how to receive the sun's rays within us, they would set in motion certain centres

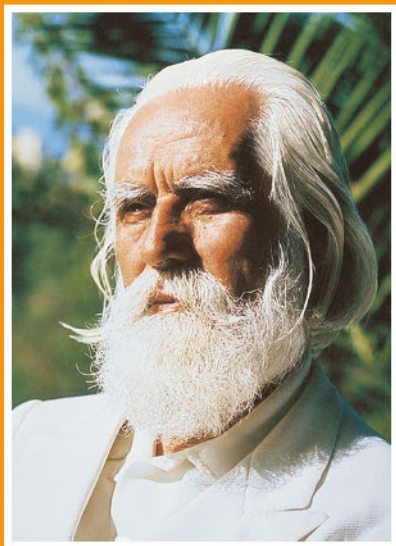
and light certain lamps that have been prepared within us from the beginning of time.⁴

For me, as I have already said, the sun's rays are like so many little wagons filled with food. And this food consists of elements and solar energy, to which we can all help ourselves to our heart's content if we want to grow and develop on the physical and psychic levels.

Everything that humans need is contained in the light of the sun. What an immense field for scientific exploration!

Notes

1. See *Creation: Artistic and Spiritual*, Izvor Coll. n° 223, chap. 1: 'Art, science and religion'.
2. See *The Mysteries of Fire and Water*, Izvor Coll. n° 232, chap. 17: 'Trees of light'.
3. See *The Philosopher's Stone – in the Gospels and in Alchemy*, Izvor Coll. n° 241, chap. 14: 'The gold of true knowledge: the alchemist and the gold prospector'.
4. See *New Light on the Gospels*, Izvor Coll. n° 217, chap. 9: 'The parable of the five wise and the five foolish virgins'.



The distinguished philosopher and spiritual Master, Omraam Mikhaël Arvanhov (1900-1986), was born in Bulgaria. In 1937 he moved to France, where he lived and taught for almost fifty years until his death. One of the most striking aspects of the Master's teaching is the enormous variety of ways in which he presents the one central theme of man and his growth in perfection. Whatever the question under discussion, it is invariably dealt with in terms of how man can better conduct his life.

Although we may know about heliocentricity from the point of view of astronomy, we are still far from having exhausted all its possibilities in the biological, psychological, cultural and spiritual spheres. We are constantly looking for more effective ways of harnessing solar energy: why not look for traces of the sun buried deep in man's psychic structure and consequently in the human psychic? The sun exists within each one of us and, if allowed to, can manifest its presence by awakening our consciousness to a global view of human problems.

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