

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

Man, Master of His Destiny



Izvor Collection



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Chapter One

THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT

I

Man cannot perform even the slightest act without inevitably triggering certain forces which, just as inevitably, produce certain effects. This notion of the relation of cause to effect was primordial in the original meaning of the word *karma*. It was only later that Karma was taken to mean the debt incurred by past misdeeds.

Karma-yoga, one of the many different yogas which exist in India, is nothing more than a discipline which teaches individuals to develop themselves through disinterested activities destined to set them free. It is when man acts with covetousness, cunning and dishonesty that he begins to incur debts and it is then that Karma takes on the meaning which is now commonly attributed to it: punishment for faults committed in the past.

In point of fact it would be true to say that Karma – in the second sense of the word – becomes operative whenever anyone does something which is less than perfect and, of course, this includes

almost every one of our actions! But man proceeds by trial and error. He needs to practise before he can do something perfectly and as long as he goes on making mistakes, he has to correct and make up for them and this entails hard work and suffering.

You will perhaps be tempted to conclude that since we inevitably make mistakes in all our actions and that this entails suffering and reparation, it would be far better to do nothing! Not at all. One must act. It is true, of course, that you will suffer, but you will learn, you will evolve, and then one day you will suffer no more. Once you have learned to work correctly there will be no more Karma for you. It is a fact that every gesture, every word, triggers certain forces which lead to certain consequences. But if your words and gestures were inspired by lovingkindness, purity and altruism, they would trigger beneficial effects. This is known as *dharma*.

Dharma is the result of well-ordered, harmonious, beneficial actions. Someone who is capable of acting in that way frees himself from the dominion of fate and falls under the law of Providence. It is no good trying to avoid trouble and suffering by avoiding all action; the best way is to be active, dynamic and full of initiative but, instead of acting from egoism and self-interest, to act only from higher motives. This is the only way to avoid disastrous consequences. It is utterly

impossible to escape consequences: one way or another there are bound to be causes and consequences whatever you do. The thing to remember is that if you manage to act unselfishly, then the consequences will not be painful but joyful and happy and liberating.

If you choose to do nothing in the hope of being left in peace, you will never grow, you will never learn, you will never earn any reward; you will make no mistakes, but you will be a stone. Stones don't make mistakes! It is far better to make mistakes and even to get a bit dirty, but to learn something. If you have a building full of workmen how can you expect not to find plaster or smears of paint on the floor? It is asking the impossible. The smears have to be expected and they don't matter as long as the work gets done and the building goes up. Once the house is finished and all the dirty work done, then you can scrub and polish, and change into your tidy clothes. But at least the job is done.

One day, the Master Peter Deunov said, 'I give each one of you a little book from which to learn your alphabet (in Bulgarian we say: *boukvartché*. Perhaps you would say a First Reader). A year later, when I ask you for it, some of you give it back in perfect condition, absolutely clean and new. Having never opened it, they have learned nothing. Others on the contrary, give it back to me stained, marked

and dog-eared. They have opened and closed it hundreds of times, they have carried it with them everywhere, they have eaten over its open pages. Yes, but now they can read!’ And the Master concluded, ‘I prefer the second category.’ I remember I was very young at the time and I shyly asked him which category I was in. ‘You?’ he said, ‘you’re in the second category.’ I was delighted because I had understood that it was better.

Well, I don’t know what condition the *bouk-vartché* was in when I gave it back to him, but in any event he put me into the category of those who want to get the job done, and he was right! It does not matter how many mistakes you make, how many stains you get on your book or how much paint you splash about. It doesn’t matter if people criticize you or swear at you, all that is of no importance. What does matter is that you learn to read, to get the job done, to finish building your house. People who are always cautious and afraid to commit themselves never make any progress. Where will all that caution get them?

In the *Apocalypse* it is written that we must be either hot or cold, not lukewarm, for the Lord ‘*spews out the lukewarm*’.¹ How is it that some people seem to prefer to be lukewarm? The world has no use for such people. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes! If you want to learn a foreign language and are so frightened of making a mistake that you

never open your mouth, you will never learn! And it is just the same with Karma: you must not be paralysed by the fear of making mistakes which you will have to pay for. Gradually, as you practise and learn to act from a divine motive, you will attract not the negative effects of Karma, but the positive effects of Dharma: an abundance of grace and blessings.²

Notes

1. See *Le grain de sénévé*, Complete Works, vol. 4, chap. 8: 'Puisses-tu être froid ou chaud !'
2. See *Le haut idéal*, Brochure n° 307.

II

No one can evade The Law of Cause and Effect. It is utterly impossible. What is possible, and extremely important, is to know what kind of forces one is unleashing by one's acts. And this is why I say that the most marvellous law given to us by Cosmic Intelligence can be found where no one ever thinks of looking for it, where scholars, theologians and philosophers never look any more: in nature, and in particular in agriculture. Yes, I mean it: agriculture. Every farmer knows that if you plant a fig-tree you will not get grapes from it, and that an apple tree will produce apples, not pears. And there you have it, the greatest of all moral laws: *'As you sow so shall you reap.'*

Farmers were mankind's first moral philosophers, it was they who first understood that the intelligence of nature had decreed this stern and immutable law: The Law of Cause and Effect. Later, when they saw how human beings lived, they found that the same law applied: if you behave

with cruelty, selfishness and violence, sooner or later you will be a victim of your own cruelty, selfishness and violence. This law is also known as the law of echo reflection, or the boomerang effect. The ball you hit bounces back and hits you.

'As you sow so shall you reap.' If you study this basic law closely you will see how far-reaching it is. It becomes a deeply meaningful system, for all the essential truths can be applied in all areas of life. A detailed understanding of this law can engender a whole philosophy and that is why there are now so many rules and regulations in religion. At the origin of all these rules is one law: you can reap only what you have sown. Other laws equally true have been added to this one, extending and enlarging it into a full-fledged philosophy, and Jesus' words, *'In everything do to others what you would have them do to you'* are simply an application of this one law.¹

Those who try to deny or reject these basic laws become more and more estranged from Truth: their souls are torn by doubt and anxiety, they are forever tossed about on the storms of life. And yet the truth is very simple, it is staring them in the face. Why do modern thinkers refuse to see it and persist in offering their own theories, invented in utter disregard of Cosmic Intelligence? As they no longer believe in a moral law based on the laws of nature their reasoning is false and the conclusions they

reach are false. Those who read their books and are gullible enough to accept their teaching fall into the same error and end up in terrible anguish and darkness. So, take care! You have to learn to reason and make judgments. If you have no criteria to guide you, you can be led into error by the first person who comes along. Be on your guard and don't let yourself be influenced by clouded human intellects. Follow the guidance of the Intelligence which has so marvellously ordered and arranged everything.

Even if you do not believe in God you cannot fail to recognize that there is an order in nature and, consequently, that there must be an Intelligence which created that order. Reflect for a moment on the fact that each seed reproduces its own kind. How is it possible not to see that this must be the work of a higher Intelligence? The mere recognition of this law is enough to make us change our vision of the world. You may not believe in God, but you cannot deny the fact that every seed produces its own kind exactly, whether it be a plant, a tree, an insect, an animal or a man. This law is absolute and it should cause you to reflect. Perhaps you think you are entitled to be ungrateful, unjust, cruel or violent, but you must know that sooner or later this law will catch up with you and you will see its application in your own life. If you have children, for instance, they will resemble you and through them you will suffer from the very things that you

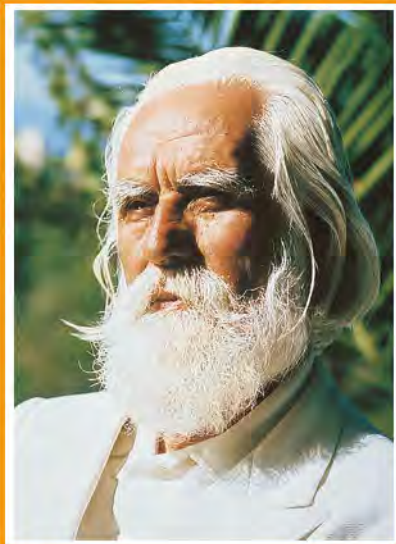
yourself have done. Even if God does not exist, you have endless proof of the fact that a Cosmic Intelligence exists.

You persist in doing whatever you like, convinced that you will never have to suffer the consequences: well, believe what you like, nothing will alter the fact that Cosmic Intelligence has already recorded everything you do. You have put a seed, a germ, into every single thought, feeling or act, and that seed grows: if you have been ungrateful, unjust, cruel and violent, one fine day you will come up against the same ingratitude, the same injustice, the same cruelty and the same violence. They will bounce back and strike you, twenty, thirty or forty years later, and when this happens, you will begin to understand that Cosmic Intelligence does, indeed, exist and that everything is recorded. If you want to have nothing to do with the Bible and the Gospels, the Prophets, the churches and the temples, you are perfectly free to ignore them, but you must, at least, give credence to this absolutely irrefutable law: *'As you sow so shall you reap.'* 'Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind', said the sages of old who knew how things worked. As for the scholars and thinkers of today who reject this truth, well, they too will find themselves cornered and stricken one day. It is inevitable. They cannot escape the consequences of their acts and, perhaps, when this law begins to catch up with them, they will understand. If they are

so intelligent, how is it they cannot see something so simple and obvious? I will go so far as to say that if you take this law as your starting point, it is possible to reconstruct all the sacred books the world has ever known, just from this one law.

A lot of people say, 'It's all very well, the Bible, the Gospels, say thus and so, but we don't even know for sure that God exists.' I would like to tell these people that they need not bother their heads about the existence of God; they don't need to know if Jesus really lived nor if the Gospels are authentic, all they need to do is recognize this one law. It is enough to make everything fall into place: it leads to the Truth. You see, my explanation is very simple. Even if God did not exist, this law would make it necessary to invent Him! So why let yourselves be hoodwinked by so-called fashionable thinkers whose one idea is to undermine everything? Instead of helping human beings to recognize the simple truths which are visible to the naked eye, they are forever leading them astray with their 'original' ideas. Even if their theories are utterly in contradiction with the truth that is written into the whole of nature, that makes no difference: as long as they are new and original everyone is bewitched!²

Moral law is a reality, but human beings are blind and fail to see it and continue to argue about God or points of theology. It is pointless to argue. The only thing that matters is to know that



The distinguished philosopher and spiritual Master, Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov (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.

Why is one born in a particular country and a particular family? Why is one healthy, rich, illustrious and powerful, or on the contrary poor, handicapped and miserable? The bonds one forges with others almost without realizing it, where do they spring from and why? Even those who think they are entirely free must put up with their fate because of their ignorance of the laws which govern the invisible world. By revealing these laws, the Master not only helps the disciple to unravel the tangled threads of his life, he also gives him the tools he must have in order to become master of his own destiny.

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