

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

# Man's Two Natures, Human and Divine



Izvor Collection



P R O S V E T A

ISBN EBOOK: 978-2-8184-0256-6

*Translated from the French*

*Original title: « Nature humaine et nature divine »*

*Original edition:*

© 1983, Éditions Prosveta S.A. (France), ISBN 2-85566-247-8

© 1983, Éditions Prosveta S.A. , ISBN 2-85566-253-2

© 1985, Éditions Prosveta S.A. , ISBN 2-85566-326-1

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Prosveta S.A – CS30012 – 83601 Fréjus CEDEX (France)

ISSN 0763-2738

ISBN 978-2-85566-326-5

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# **Man's Two Natures, Human and Divine**



**Izvor Collection – No. 213**



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## Chapter One

# Human nature or animal nature?

Every being comes into the world bearing within him the tendencies and appetites he has inherited from the dark past, when animal instincts controlled him and installed their power over him once and for all. We can never be absolutely free of the past, the difference between people being that some are enlightened and learn how to control and subjugate their brute instincts with the help of Initiatic Science, whilst others refuse the light or are deprived of it for some reason and remain as they are, restricted to their lower nature. These people think the Initiatic Science unnatural, abnormal, but the higher beings believe it to be the only natural science.

The majority of human beings belong to the group without light. They talk about rediscovering Nature and obeying the natural laws, but which nature are they talking about? There are two natures in man, one lower, one higher. People think they are obeying Nature when in fact they are doing

something exactly opposite to their higher Nature, whereas others concentrate on their divine Nature and do everything in their power to subjugate and restrict the impulses of their human nature. Confusion reigns in people's minds and that is why it is so important to make them realize that a higher Nature exists in them, which expresses itself quite differently from the human nature they inherited from the animal kingdom. You hear people say (to justify their weaknesses), 'It's human nature!' What they should say is 'animal nature', and nowhere is it written that man is justified in giving in to his primitive instincts.

The thing that interests animals most is survival, they need food and shelter above all, and then they need to reproduce and defend themselves. Nature herself has given them their instincts of self-preservation, aggressivity, reproduction, for a reason: it is natural for animals to be egotistical, cruel, fearful, but humans are a different matter. Cosmic Intelligence gave them the power to think and to reason (along with other qualities and virtues) in order for them to go further than their instincts alone would permit. They have their animal nature, but they have another nature as well; it is their destiny to develop that nature and allow it to express itself. I am not saying it is easy, nor that it can be done in a day. Human nature is too close to animal nature for it to change easily or rapidly.

Observe yourself and you will see that some tendencies are so deeply rooted that nothing will remove them and at the same time other tendencies need constant encouragement and even, without prayer and meditation, disappear entirely. When you are faced with hunger or thirst, the need for sleep or certain pleasures, no one needs to remind you, you know what to do, those needs are so firmly rooted that even if you wanted to you could not shake them. But when it is a question of reasoning, of thinking something through, of being wise and foresighted, of showing a little generosity or unselfishness, there you need to be encouraged. We have something in us that is very firmly rooted, something solid and unalterable that can get along perfectly well without help... and we have something else in us which is delicate and tender and needs protection. Yes, for centuries man's instinctive nature has had time to grow and become a strong habit, whereas his mind and the ability to reason are comparatively recent acquisitions. Actually wisdom appeared before all other manifestations but as it came from very far away, it took a long time to manifest itself. Wisdom existed before the Creation.

In the Bible it says, *'I, wisdom... The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there*

*were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always...'*

Wisdom was the first to appear, but not until recently did it install itself in man, that is why it is so fragile and delicate, whereas instinct has been firmly ensconced since the dark ages. It should not surprise you therefore, to learn that you are controlled by your human nature! It is your own instinct, your own prehistoric nature answering to whatever attracts it, without thinking. In order to justify yourself, you say, 'Something pushed me, it was not my fault, some outside influence made me make those foolish mistakes'; no, all influence is the result of something in you which attracts it, all men carry their animal past within, in the shape of cruelty for some, sensuality and greed for others. The question is how to develop our intelligence

and make it strong enough to conquer our ancient instincts and impulses, our animal (or human) nature. It is your problem and my problem and everyone else's problem. We must all resolve it by learning how not to capitulate to the lower nature.

Of course the lower nature is extremely powerful but, simply because it is strong enough and firmly enough anchored to have the upper hand is no reason to capitulate. Its strength comes from having had so much time to become deeply engrained; the reason it is so cruel, wicked and selfish is because it has had aeons of time in which to become that way, and because it has lived under very difficult conditions. Take animals and what they have to confront in order to survive, all the trouble they have in finding food, a safe shelter, protection from other animals. How do you expect this nature which has lived in such very difficult conditions, to be gentle, good, merciful? No, it had to be selfish, cruel and vindictive in order to survive, with the result that now it manifests those things perfectly!

The lower nature has had a right to its place in the sun, it has worked hard and well but it is not the last stage, the peak of human development! It is now the turn of reason and intelligence to manifest. Take fear as an example: fear is very strong in animals, Nature has given animals the instinct of fear to make them conscious of danger, to force

them to protect themselves. Nature is a good guide, she saves creatures by teaching them, all creatures must start out fearful. Later, when they are more advanced in their evolution, Cosmic Intelligence intervenes and promotes them by replacing fear with intelligence: it is better to know, to learn, to understand, than to be afraid and remain ignorant. Animals, not being intelligent, must be fearful in order to avoid danger; man, who has intelligence (the new element proving his progress), should not hold on to fear, it is no longer natural because it keeps him from evolving.<sup>1</sup>

It is a law that Nature approves of certain things at certain times and then rejects them, she no longer approves them; we also do that, we work with all our strength to obtain certain things and then we work equally hard to get rid of them! Wisdom lies in knowing how long to keep things and when to let them go. Now do you see why man must give up fear?

Another example: a boy who is attracted to a girl wants to pounce upon her... which is 'natural'. Yes, but if he keeps on doing that kind of thing, obeying that nature, he will never rise above the animal stage. It is time the other Nature stepped in and advised, 'Control yourself! Learn to dominate your animal nature, it will be to your advantage to do so.' The higher Nature is, I suppose, an unnatural nature! Someone needs something his

neighbour has: his human nature pushes him into going to take it, he *needs* it and he takes it, without fuss, without scruple. But if the higher Nature steps in at that point, and says, 'No, no, it belongs to someone else, you must not take it from him, you have no right... and if you do take it, you will have to pay!', then that is intelligence speaking, that is morality.

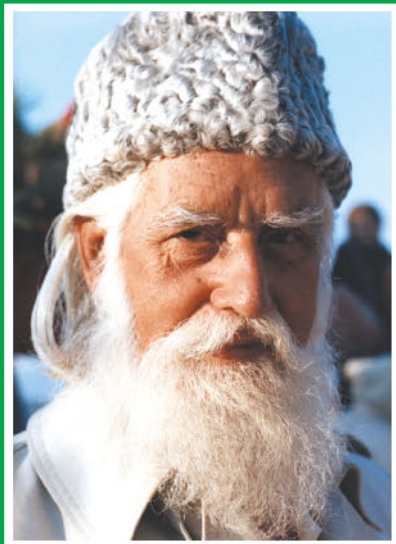
Men follow their nature, but the question is, which nature, their animal (human) nature or their divine Nature? Unfortunately for them, most people are firmly attached to their animal nature, yes, sincerely and honestly loyal to it, convinced it is the nature to follow, and the day someone tries to make them understand that they have another nature which they should be following, life becomes complicated indeed! But it must be so: the building our ancestors took so many centuries to build was magnificent for that era, but now the time has come when it is worn out and must be torn down and another one built in its place. A building can be right under certain conditions but when those conditions change, it is no longer suitable. Certain elements are preserved and used for the new construction, in the way that builders save beams, iron works, carved wood, etc... from old buildings they tear down.

Jesus said, *'Unless you die you will not live.'*<sup>2</sup> Yes, we must die in order to live, die as far as the

lower nature is concerned, to be born again in the higher Nature, just as the seed must die in the earth in order to begin to grow. If it does not die, that is, if it remains stagnant and useless in the attic (which is another kind of death) it will not live, that is, it will never bear fruit. We too, if we remain stagnant and refuse to grow out of our old customs and concepts, we too will never really live. We must die to the old form and adopt the new, more beautiful form, then we will be alive! Do not think Christ wanted us to die; no. '*Unless you die*' means unless we change the forms, the customs, our way of thinking. he who said, '*I am the Resurrection and the life*',<sup>3</sup> would not have asked us to die, rather he wanted us to become alive in the way he is alive! We have only one way open to us: to die in our lower nature and be born again in our divine Nature.

### Notes

1. See *True Alchemy or the Quest for Perfection*, Izvor Coll. n° 221, chap. 5: 'Fear' and *Aux sources inaltérables de la joie*, Izvor Coll. n° 242, chap. 8: 'Avancer sans peur'.
2. See *Sons and Daughters of God*, Izvor Coll. n° 240, chap. 3: 'Whoever would save his life would lose it'.
3. See *La fête de Pâques*. '*Je suis la résurrection et la vie*', Brochure n° 308.



*The Bulgarian philosopher, teacher and spiritual Master, Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov (1900-1986), moved to France in 1937. His work deals with the many aspects of initiatic science, but he says, 'I have particularly tried to clarify one subject: the two natures of human beings, their higher nature and their lower nature, because this is the key to resolving all problems.'*

‘The whole of Christ’s teaching is summed up in the prayer he gave us: the Lord’s Prayer. In this book Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov demonstrates and explains this. ‘An Initiate,’ he says; ‘follows the methods of Nature. A tree with its roots and trunk, branches, leaves, blossoms and fruit, begins life as a minute seed but if you plant it, water it and expose it to the warmth of the sun, it becomes a tree of majestic proportions. Nature, in her own wonderful way has condensed a tree’s entire potential into one tiny seed. Jesus did the same. He took his Teaching, the new Science he was bringing mankind, and condensed it into a prayer to his Father, in the hope that this seed would take root in men’s souls, be nurtured by them and grow into its full potential: the massive fruitful tree of Initiatic Science, the true Teaching of Christ.’

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ISBN 978-2-85566-322-7



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