

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

True Alchemy or the Quest for Perfection



Izvor Collection



P R O S V E T A

Translated from the French
*Original title: «Le travail alchimique
ou la quête de la perfection»*

Original edition:

© 1985, Éditions Prosveta S.A., ISBN 2-85566-348-2

© 1986, Éditions Prosveta S.A., ISBN 2-85566-384-9

© Copyright Prosveta S.A. 2016. 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).

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

ISBN 978-2-85566-384-5

Digital edition: 978-2-8184-0402-7

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

True Alchemy or the Quest for Perfection



Izvor Collection – No. 221



P R O S V E T A

Chapter One

Spiritual alchemy

It often happens that somebody comes to consult me about a problem: they tell me that they have a terrible vice and are miserable and completely discouraged, because although they have been trying for years to overcome it, it always gets the better of them. When I hear them explaining all this I exclaim, ‘Oh, but that’s magnificent! Wonderful! That just proves that you are very, very strong!’ They look at me in astonishment and start wondering whether I’m laughing at them. ‘No, no,’ I assure them; ‘I’m not laughing at you. It’s just that you don’t recognize your own strength.’ ‘What strength? I always give in. The temptation always gets the better of me. Doesn’t that show how weak I am?’ But I tell this person, ‘No, I can’t accept that; you are not reasoning properly. If I explain exactly how it all happened, you will realize that I’m not joking.

‘Who formed that vice in the first place?’ I ask. ‘Wasn’t it you? To begin with, it was no bigger

than a snowball in your hand, but as you went on adding to it and amusing yourself by rolling it in the snow, it got bigger and bigger until it became a mountain, and now it is blocking your path. To begin with, the vice you are so upset about was no more than a tiny thought in your mind, but you harboured it and fed it; in other words, you “rolled it in the snow” and now you’re overwhelmed by it. But what is striking in this is your strength! After all, it was you who made this vice what it is today. It was you who gave birth to it, and now it is your child, and this child is so big and strong that you can’t get the better of it. You should be very proud!’ ‘Proud? How can I be proud of that?’ ‘Haven’t you read Gogol’s short story about Taras Bulba?’ I ask. ‘No? Well then I’ll tell you about it. It is very instructive!’

‘Taras Bulba was an old Cossack who had sent his two sons to college in Kiev. When they went home after three years at college, Taras Bulba was delighted to see that they had turned out to be two stalwart young men. In his pride and joy, and as a sign of his fatherly affection (Cossacks sometimes have strange ways of expressing their affection, you know!) he began to pummel them with his fists. But the boys had no intention of letting themselves be punched, even by their father, so they punched him back and soon knocked him down. You might think that, as he scrambled to his feet a little worse

for wear, Taras Bulba would be furious, but not at all: he was as proud as he could be at having fathered two such vigorous young men!

‘So why not be like Taras Bulba and take pride in your child, who has become so much stronger than you? You are the parent. It was you who made your child strong by feeding it your thoughts and desires, so you must be very strong yourself. And now I’ll tell you how you can win. What does a man do when he wants to bring a wild, extravagant son to his senses? He cuts off his allowance, of course, and having no more money, the boy is forced to reason and change his ways. So why keep your ‘son’ supplied with food and money? Do you want him to go on defying you? Why not cut off his allowance? Since it was you who brought him into existence you have authority over him, but if you don’t exercise your authority you’ll spend the rest of your life struggling and suffering without ever finding the way out of your difficulties.’

Unfortunately there are not many people who manage to look at things this way. They struggle desperately against their own pernicious tendencies, without at all realizing that if they are in such dire straits today it is because they are extraordinarily strong. The stronger the enemy within, the more it shows how strong you yourself are. Yes, this is how you should look at the situation.

Have you never observed how tense you get when you're struggling against yourself, and how difficult so many things seem to be? A terrible battle rages inside and plunges you into all kinds of conflicting situations. You have the impression that the whole of your lower nature must be an enemy, and you want to kill it. But that enemy is very powerful: the war you have been waging against it for centuries has only strengthened it, and it becomes more of a threat every day. It is true, of course, that we do have enemies within us, but if they are our enemies it is mainly because we are very poor alchemists and are incapable of performing the necessary transformations.

Do you remember what St Paul said? *'A thorn was given to me in the flesh... Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."'* Those who have a weakness of body, heart or mind feel that it lessens their worth, but in this they are mistaken: that weakness can be a valuable source of enrichment. If all their aspirations were already fulfilled, they would be in danger of stagnating. If they want to advance, they need something to spur them on, and it is this weakness, this 'thorn in the flesh' that forces them to work hard to transform the depths of their being, to draw ever closer to heaven and to the Lord. The Lord leaves us with

certain weaknesses in order to incite us to greater efforts in our spiritual work: what seems to us to be a weakness may in fact be a strength.

Weaknesses must be put to work: they have to make themselves useful. Probably you are puzzled when I say that; you have always thought that they had to be trampled underfoot and exterminated. Well, just try doing that, and you'll soon see that it is not easy: you are the one who is likely to be trampled underfoot! The problem is the same for every form of vice and every failing, whether it is greed, sensuality, violence, envy or vanity: you have to know how to harness their energies so that they will work for you towards your chosen goal. If you work alone you will never succeed. If you banish all your enemies, everything that stands against you, who is going to work for you? Who will serve you?

By dint of great patience humans have tamed and domesticated several different kinds of wild animal, which are now very useful to them. Horses used to be wild and dogs were as savage as wolves, and if humans were able to domesticate them it was because they had developed certain qualities in themselves. They are certainly capable of taming and domesticating other wild beasts, but in order to do so they need to develop other qualities.

So be glad: you are all very wealthy since you all have weaknesses! But it is essential that you

learn how to handle them and put them to work. I took the example of animals just now, but you could take the example of natural forces such as lightning, electricity, fire and flood. Now that humans know how to control them, they use these things for their own enrichment, and yet, to begin with, they were hostile forces. People find it normal to use the forces of nature, but if you suggest that they might learn to use the gales, storms, waterfalls and thunderbolts that rage within themselves they are very astonished. And yet nothing is more natural, and once you know the rules of spiritual alchemy, you will learn how to transform and use even the poisons that are in you. Yes, for hatred, anger, jealousy and so on are poisons, but in the Universal White Brotherhood you learn how to use these poisons. In fact you will be given the methods you need to make use of all those negative forces in you. So, be glad, for there is a bright future ahead of you!¹

In the future, those who have the courage to do so will study these dangerous chemical substances: jealousy, hatred, fear, sexual energy, etc., and learn to use them. In fact they will bottle them and keep them in their medicine cupboards so as to have them to hand whenever they need them. As you can see, all your preconceived notions are going to have to change from now on!

Now, of course, you must not throw yourself full tilt into evil and try to swallow great chunks of

it. In every human being, even the best, there are always some diabolical tendencies, survivors from a far-distant past, and you have to be very careful not to let them loose all at once, on the pretext that you want to use them. You have to probe the depths gently and bring up only a few atoms, a few electrons, and be sure to digest them thoroughly. It is not a question of launching recklessly into combat against infernal forces, for they would simply destroy you. You have to know how to set about it. This is why you must continue to work with the forces from above, using the weapons of prayer, harmony and love and, from time to time, when some creature emerges from your inner depths and attacks you with tooth and nail and claw in an effort to get you to do something really stupid, catch it, study it closely in your laboratory and force it to give up its venom so that you can use it. If you do this, you will find that evil can give you just that element you needed for fulfilment.

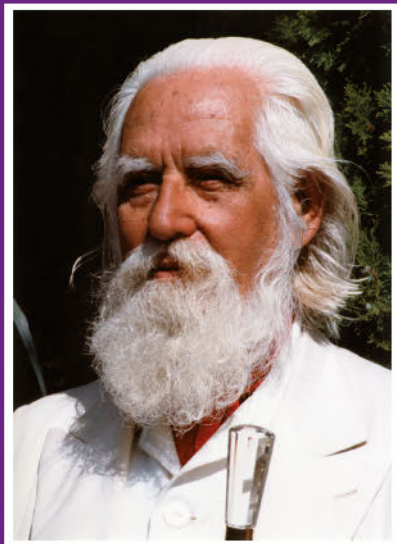
But, I repeat, be careful! Don't use what I have just told you to go rushing off to confront evil in its lair. Don't think, 'Aha, now I understand! Just you watch, and see what I can do!' because it is quite possible that, on the contrary, you will never be seen again! This has already happened to some people: they thought they were very strong, but they had neglected to build a strong alliance with good and light, and now the poor creatures are in a

pitiful state. All their negative forces have pounced on them to plunder and rob them.

The Talmud says that, in the last days, the righteous, that is to say, initiates, will eat the flesh of the leviathan, the monster that lives at the bottom of the sea. Yes, the leviathan is going to be caught and cut up and salted – and kept in our freezers, I suppose! Then, when the time is ripe, the righteous will gather to feast off its flesh. What a delightful thought! If we had to take that literally, I'm sure that many fastidious, Christian people would be thoroughly disgusted. So we must interpret it to see what it means: the leviathan is a collective being that represents all the entities of the astral plane (symbolized by the ocean), and if it is destined to become a festive dish for the righteous, this means that those who are capable of controlling and using the lusts and passions of their astral dimension will find in them a rich source of benefits and blessings.²

Lmrcq

1. See *Life Force*, Complete Works, vol. 5, chap. 3: 'Good and evil' and *La pédagogie initiatique*, Complete Works, vol. 28, chap. 6: 'Une attitude nouvelle devant le mal'.
2. See *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary*, Izvor Coll. n° 230, chap. 10: 'The woman and the dragon', chap. 11: 'Archangel Michael casts out the dragon', chap. 12: 'The dragon pours water after the woman' and chap. 13: 'The beast from the sea and the beast from the land'.



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.

‘God has given the mightiest, most potent form of power to the spirit and as every one of our thoughts is pregnant with the power of the spirit which brought it into being, that power is constantly at work. Knowing this, each one of you has the possibility of becoming a benefactor of mankind ; by projecting your thoughts into the farthest reaches of space, you can send out messages of light to help, comfort, enlighten and heal others. Those who undertake this work knowingly and deliberately, gradually penetrate into the mysterious arcana of divine creation.’

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

ISBN 2-85566-832-8



9 782855 668321 06

www.prosveta.com

e-mail: international@prosveta.com