

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

# The Powers of Thought



Izvor Collection



P R O S V E T A

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**Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov**

# **The Powers of Thought**



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**P R O S V E T A**

## Chapter One

# The reality of spiritual work

# I

It is clear for all to see, that man is better prepared for work on the material plane than for spiritual work. his five senses, which are the tools he uses in his work in the realm of matter, are far more highly developed than those which give him access to the world of the spirit. And this is why so many of those who set out enthusiastically on the paths of spirituality, often have the impression that they are making no headway, and end by being discouraged.

I have heard so many people say, 'What kind of work is that if it never shows any results? At least, when you work in the physical world, you can see the results of what you do: things change, something is built up or pulled down. Even intellectual work gives some visible results: you become more knowledgeable, better able to reason or to form an opinion about things.' Yes, all that is

perfectly true. If you want to build a house, in only a few weeks you can actually see it there, before your eyes; you can touch it. Whereas if you want to create or build something on the spiritual level, neither you nor anyone else will see the results.

It is quite possible that, in the face of this, some of you may begin to have so many doubts that you are tempted to abandon the attempt to do any spiritual work and to concentrate, like everybody else, on activities that give you tangible results. Do this, if you really want to but, one day, even at the peak of your career, you will inevitably feel that something is lacking inwardly. Yes, because your activity will be out of touch with the only thing that matters; you will not have planted the seeds of light, love, wisdom, power or eternity.

There is one thing that you have to understand once and for all in respect to spiritual work, and that is that it involves matter of such extreme subtlety that it cannot be investigated by ordinary methods. The work we do on the spiritual level is just as real as that which we do on the physical plane. When you work on the spiritual plane to edify something, set in motion forces and waves or bring light to the minds of human beings, your work is no less real than when you chop firewood or make soup on the physical plane. The only reason you cannot see what you do is that it is a different kind of matter. Actually though, when someone really lives on the

spiritual plane, he does not need to touch or see its realities in the same way as he sees those of the physical world. It is enough for him to sense that they are there. With time, however, they can also materialize on the physical plane.

If you don't know these laws and you keep expecting immediate results from your spiritual work, you may easily become discouraged, and then you may destroy what you had already accomplished, for this very subtle matter is extremely pliant and easy to mould and, depending on whether he is convinced and persevering or not, man's work can be constructive or destructive. Often, in fact, he does a lot of constructive work but never brings anything to completion because he destroys it again almost at once. But inevitably, sooner or later, there will be a physical materialization.

Actually, if you question the initiates, they will tell you that everything you see on earth is simply the materialization of etheric elements which have reached this degree of physical density. If you have sufficient faith and patience, therefore, all the things you wish for will also be condensed on the physical plane. If you tell me that you have wished for some things for years and that they have still not been translated into physical reality, I shall have to say that that is either because you don't know how to do this work, or because your desires are such that they cannot yet be realized. If

your wishes concern the collectivity, mankind as a whole, they will obviously be much more difficult to realize than if they concerned only yourself. While you are praying for peace, how many others are hoping for war! And, of course, their wishes prevent yours from being realized. But that is no reason to be discouraged. What did Jesus say in the Gospels?: *'Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'* The quest for the kingdom of God brings its own rewards.<sup>1</sup>

Spiritual work and material work are two different things. You must know what to expect and what not to expect from each. From your spiritual work you can expect light, peace, harmony, health and intelligence; but it will never give you money, glory or the admiration and gratitude of the masses. If that is what you expect from it you will be disappointed: you have got the two worlds mixed up. You must not expect any material advantages from your spiritual work. Your creations on the spiritual plane will remain invisible and intangible for a long time to come.

And now, let's say that the difference between a materialist and a spiritualist\* is that a spiritualist

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\* The word 'spiritualist', in the language of Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov, simply means one who looks at things from a spiritual point of view, whose philosophy of life is based on belief in a spiritual reality.



takes his house with him wherever he goes! Yes, a spiritualist can never be separated from his treasures, even in death, for they are all within. Man's inner achievements are the only things that really belong to him; they are the only things that are rooted in him and, when the time comes for him to go on to the next world, he takes them with him: all the gems he has amassed (his virtues and qualities) go with him, in his soul and spirit, and his name is inscribed in the Book of Eternal Life.

A spiritualist is rich, therefore, only to the extent that he understands that the only true wealth is spiritual. If he has not grasped this, if his consciousness is not enlightened, he is simply a poor wretch. Whereas a materialist always has some external possessions to fall back on, at least for a time, and this gives him an apparent superiority over the spiritualist. It is up to the spiritualist to understand where his true superiority lies, otherwise he is lost. Ah, yes: 'The Rise and Fall of Spiritualists'... somebody should write a book about it!

The wealth of a spiritualist is extremely subtle and intangible, but if he is conscious of it, he can possess the earth and heaven too, whereas others can only possess a little bit of the earth. Why is this so difficult to understand? Some of you will perhaps say, 'But I do understand! I understand that spiritual possessions are the only kind that

we can always be sure of, that nothing material can ever really belong to us because we can't take it with us when we die. But even though I know that I'm making a mistake, I still choose to live a materialistic life, because that's the life I enjoy.' Yes, I am sorry to say that this is often the case: when the intellect understands the advantages of one thing and the heart yearns for another, what is the will to do? It will obey the heart; it always tries to satisfy the heart. In order to live that vast, immense, rich life of the spirit you have to love it: it is not enough to understand it intellectually.<sup>2</sup>

My role is to give you explanations and convincing arguments, and I have plenty more of those up my sleeve, but one thing I cannot do, and that is to make you love the spiritual life. To be sure, I can influence you to a certain extent, for, when someone loves something very much, his love is contagious and can influence others; every human being and even flowers, rocks and animals, even inanimate objects, can communicate an element of what they possess to others. So it is possible for a few rays of my love for the splendour of the divine world to be communicated to you. But it entirely depends on you whether or not you accept that influence.

I always do everything I can to show you the path that it is in your interest to follow, but the desire to follow that path must come from you.

When someone loves something, he has the desire to draw closer to it. When you are hungry, you feel that you love food, so you get up and go and look in your cupboards or in the shops for something to eat. And it is the same in every area. If you love the spiritual life you will not just stand there with your arms folded; you will feel compelled to manifest your love, you will do everything you can to satisfy your need for the spiritual life.

To put this in a nutshell, let me say that there must be a Master to give clear explanations about what the spiritual life consists of and why it is important to come closer to that life, but it is up to his disciples to love it and begin to live it. The Master provides the light and the disciple's heart pronounces its own verdict: to love or not to love, and the consequences follow automatically. I hope that this is quite clear? The light comes from the Master, the love comes from the disciple, and the movement, the act, is the result of the combination of the two. You can picture the Master as a reading lamp: if a disciple loves reading, he will sit down beside the lamp and begin to read.

All the wealth of a spiritualist is within him and in his awareness of that wealth. If he is unaware of his wealth, he is poorer than any materialist: materialists always possess something, whereas he possesses nothing! But if he learns to expand his awareness and communicate in thought with all the

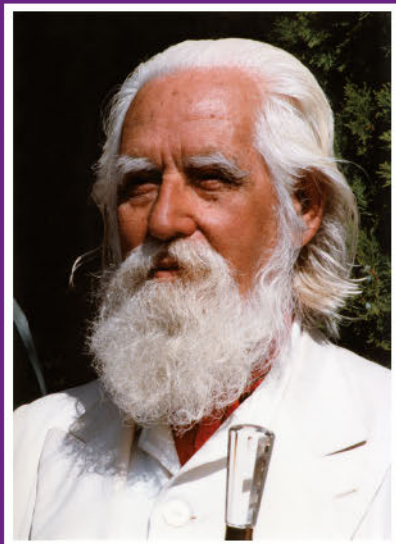
most highly evolved souls of the universe, he will receive their science and their light and joy, and what materialist could compete with him, then? Even diamonds and other precious stones pale beside the lustre of all those inner treasures, beside the splendour of a shining soul, a radiant spirit.

A spiritualist who has a vast and enlightened consciousness is as rich as God himself, far, far richer, therefore, than the man of means who possesses only earthly riches. A materialist does not know that he is God's heir, he thinks that he is heir only to his own father, or uncle or grandfather... and that is not much to boast about! The spiritualist knows that he is God's heir and that the wealth he has inherited is in his spirit.<sup>3</sup> As long as you have not learned to see things this way you will be permanently poor and wretched. You will say, 'Heirs of God, indeed! What fairy-tale is that?' It is no fairy-tale. Once your consciousness begins to be enlightened, you will feel that you are, really and truly, the Lord's heirs.

When human beings attach more importance to developing their intellectual faculties, they do so, unfortunately, to the detriment of other possible means of exploration and, especially, of realization: the subtle life of the universe is completely outside the scope of their investigations and activities. When they descended into the realm of matter, they forgot their divine origin; they no longer remember how

powerful, wise and beautiful they once were. All they are interested in now is the earth: in exploiting and plundering it for their own enrichment. But the day is coming nearer when, instead of perpetually focusing their attention on the outside world, they will begin to turn back towards the inner dimension. They will lose none of the possibilities they have acquired over hundreds and thousands of years (for their descent into matter will always be a most precious acquisition), but they will no longer concentrate exclusively on the material aspects of the universe; they will launch into the exploration of other, richer and even more real regions and, in these regions, they will accomplish the work expected of them as sons of God.

Yes, this is something you should know: when a human being dedicates his whole life to the light, his work becomes of decisive importance for the affairs of the world. Wherever he may be and whether he be known or entirely unknown to the rest of the world, he becomes a centre, a focal point of such power that nothing takes place without his participation; he harmonizes all the forces of the universe in the direction of one luminous goal; he even has a part in the decisions taken by the spirits on high. Does this astonish you? There is no reason to be astonished: it is quite normal. Why shouldn't the luminous spirits who watch over the destiny of the world take into account the opinions



*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

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