

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

Truth: Fruit of Wisdom and Love



Izvor Collection



P R O S V E T A

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Chapter One

The quest for truth

In the ordinary course of our lives we often have occasion to say that something is either true or not true, and depending on the circumstances the word 'true' may not always mean quite the same thing. If we tell someone that what they are saying is not true we may mean they are mistaken, or we may mean they are lying. If they are mistaken it is usually because they do not know the truth. If they are lying, on the other hand, it means they do know the truth and have some shady reason for wanting to conceal it.

Generally speaking we can say that when the opposite of truth is error it belongs to the realm of science, whereas when the opposite of truth is falsehood it belongs to the realm of morals or ethics. But people also commonly speak of their desire to discover the meaning of human destiny in general and their own life in particular as a quest for truth, and this kind of truth belongs to the realm of philosophy and religion. It is in this area

that Initiatic Science can do so much to enlighten us and set us on the right path.

Many people are afraid to look the notion of truth in the face. They picture it as an ominous power that will take away their freedom to breathe, eat, drink and love. Try as you might to convince them that, on the contrary, truth will allow them to breathe and eat and love better than ever before, they remain unconvinced. Others speak of truth as something unattainable, as though it could only be found somewhere far, far away beyond the stars! But is it really so difficult to find the truth? Is it not rather that human beings do not know exactly what to look for or how to look for it? Or perhaps they like to think it is difficult, because this is a convenient excuse for their failings? In point of fact, it is not so difficult to find the truth if you look for it with sincerity. Is it possible to imagine that the Creator – or Cosmic Intelligence, or whatever you like to call it – should have made it impossible for humans to find their way through life?¹ We can accept the idea that the revelation of absolute truth can only be attained with difficulty, but it is totally unacceptable to suppose that humans are incapable of finding the truth they need in order to know where they are going and how to get there.

Many, many people have come and told me that they were seeking the truth. For years I would listen patiently to their tales, trying even to look

impressed, for after all people should be admired for devoting themselves to the glorious quest for truth! And then, after many years, I began to be very irritated by all these people who take such pride in their search for the truth – and who never find it – and I decided to give some of them a lesson.

One day an elderly man said to me, ‘I have been seeking the truth for more than fifty years!’

‘Ah, and you have not found it?’ I asked politely.

‘No.’

‘But you are still seeking?’

‘Oh, yes,’ he replied, with such an expression of smug self-satisfaction that it was obvious he was waiting for me to congratulate him on his perseverance. I looked at him for a long moment and then said,

‘My dear sir, let me tell you that you will never find it; the fact is that you are doing everything in your power not to find it!’

‘How can you say that when I am seeking...?’

‘Yes, but you have already found the truth more than once in your lifetime. It is very easy to find the truth, for it is everywhere. You have often seen and heard and touched it, but you have never accepted it as truth, for you have always had so many other things in mind. You are looking for a “truth” to fit your own tastes, and when the truth

you find does not suit you, you say, “No, no. That is not what I need,” and you turn your back on it. You keep saying that you are seeking, but if we were to analyse exactly what it is you are seeking we would find that you are only seeking something that will allow you to satisfy your desires and ambitions. No sir, forgive me for saying so, but you are not looking for the truth! You are looking for a servant to gratify all your whims. If you really wanted to find the truth you would have done so long ago. Even now you could find it if you wished, but that is not what you want.’

What a conversation! And I have had similar conversations with several different people... but I will not tell you what the outcome was.

It is enough for someone to say they are a ‘seeker after truth’ for those around them to gaze at them in wonder and admiration. How wonderful actually to meet someone who is seeking the truth! Not having the slightest idea how to evaluate what this person says, they are content to be impressed. Yes, it can be a profitable business this quest for truth. It can even be so materially rewarding that many people make a profession of it. They go from place to place lecturing about their fruitless search and write books about all their hopes and disappointments, and then, when their books are published, they receive all kinds of awards, and receptions are given in their honour, where they

are regaled with snacks and sandwiches, cups of tea and glasses of champagne. A profitable business indeed!

Then there are those who begin seeking the truth – as they think – because they realize that the energy and dynamism of their youth is beginning to desert them and they are forced to be less active. If you tell them that they will not find anything unless they are prepared to devote some time to reading, prayer, meditation and certain spiritual exercises, they say they cannot spare the time, they are too busy. But they still say they are ‘seeking’! They have no lofty ideal in view and no notion that if they really want to find something they will have to start by changing many of the ideas they take for granted. In such conditions it is useless to seek the truth.

All human beings are looking for something, and each one gives that something a different name: happiness, the meaning of life, truth, and so on. Why do they not find what they are looking for? Because they always expect to find it in the form in which they picture it. Even truth is expected to conform to their idea of what it should be. And very often, when they decide to follow a spiritual teaching, it is in the hope of finding theories and situations that suit their preconceived notions. This is why so many people go from one teaching to another without ever settling down.

There is always something that does not suit them: they do not like the look of their fellow disciples; they were not given a sufficiently cordial reception; they cannot see any material advantage to be gained; the teaching demands too much of them; the Master does not promise to fulfil all their dreams, and so on and so forth.²

People are looking for lies, illusions, soap bubbles, and because a genuine Master refuses to peddle illusions they turn away from him. They are unhappy in his school or they feel as though they were being coerced, and this is a sure sign that they are not really looking for the truth. Truth does not coerce people or make them miserable; if that is how they feel it is because truth is not what they are really looking for. If it were they would be happy.

No, although they continue to declare that they are seeking the truth they do not really want to find it. They wear their self-bestowed title as ‘a seeker after truth’ in their buttonhole as though it were a medal of honour! Well it is high time they changed this particular medal and put in its place one that says, ‘I have found the right path and now I am hard at work’! But this does not suit them at all; they prefer to continue as before, wilful and exacting, expecting God himself to defer to their wishes. But however demanding and importunate they may be today, the time will come when

they will have to acknowledge that none of their expectations are being realized. The fact is that the divine world cannot be forced. Truth reveals itself only to those who have the right attitude.

People look for truth in the same way that for centuries men looked for wives. What they were really looking for was a servant to give them children, cook and do the housework for them, wash and mend their clothes and put up with their bad temper. Yes, but there is no servant whose name is truth. It is the other way round: truth is a princess and humans must be her servant, her gallant knight. Do you want to be her prince consort? Why not? There is no law against it. The only condition is that you must show yourself to be worthy of the honour by rising to her level and not trying to drag her down to yours. The psychic world is governed by the same laws as the physical world. Any Tom, Dick or Harry cannot expect to walk into the royal palace, declaring that he is going to marry the princess and be proclaimed heir to the throne. All the fairy-tales you heard in your youth taught you that every young upstart who asked the king for his daughter's hand in marriage had to submit to certain ordeals, and if he failed to pass the test he had to die. Well, you should think about the lesson of these fairy-tales for it applies equally to truth. Truth is the daughter of God, and if you ask for her hand without being ready

to serve her and show her that you are worthy of the honour, you will simply be demonstrating your monstrous pride and she will send you packing. Truth is the daughter of a king and she is just as uncompromising as a fairy-tale princess. She will never lower herself or bow to your will, and if you refuse to serve her not only will you fail to win her hand but you will die spiritually. Perhaps you will say that truth is cruel; yes and no. It all depends on your attitude.

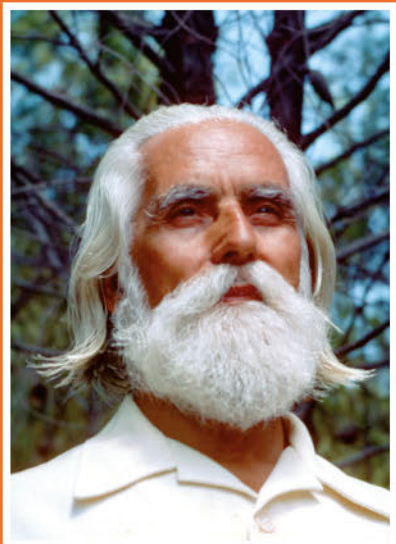
You will never find truth unless you make up your mind to serve her. Even many very spiritual people will never find truth because they expect her to help them to achieve their most material ambitions. As I say, they look on truth as a servant, or perhaps as a bank account that can give them material possessions, power, the means to seduce women, and so on. No, truth is a princess, and if she sees that you want her to stoop to do all kinds of humiliating jobs for you, she will simply dismiss you with scorn and indignation. Unfortunately, the theories that young people learn at home and at school have created a mentality in society at large that reinforces this attitude of selfishness and insensitivity. The world is full of people who constantly clamour for what they want and try to impose their will on others, without the slightest suspicion that it is precisely their violence and disrespect that closes all doors to them.

If you want to find the truth you must be humble.³ And to be humble means first of all stopping being so greedy in your attitude toward nature, your fellow human beings and your Creator. 'That is all very well, but we have so many needs.' Very well, let us take a closer look at some of those needs. Who is it exactly who is always asking for something? Who is it who demands ease, comfort and pleasure? Who is it who refuses all efforts, constraints or obligations? It is your lower nature. And is your lower nature really you? No, it is not.

Our lower nature is part of us but it is not our true self. It is the raw material we have to work with in order to nourish our immortal, eternal higher nature. It is our higher nature that we must identify with. As long as people make the mistake of identifying with their lower nature, they will believe they want this, that or the other thing, that they have been hurt or insulted, that they are suffering. They will continue to go through life saying that they are searching and searching for the truth without ever finding it.⁴ If you want to find the truth you must identify with the light, nobility and integrity of your higher nature.

Notes

1. See *The Wellsprings of Eternal Joy*, Izvor Coll. n° 242, chap. 1: 'God, the beginning and end of our journey'.
2. See *What is a Spiritual Master?*, Izvor Coll. n° 207, chap. 6: 'A Master is a mirror reflecting the truth'.
3. See *True Alchemy or the Quest for Perfection*, Izvor Coll. n° 221, chap. 11: 'Pride and humility'.
4. See *Man's Two Natures, Human and Divine*, Izvor Coll. n° 213, chap. 3: 'Our true identity'.



The French philosopher and spiritual Master, Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov (1900-1986), was born in Bulgaria and came to France in 1937. Although his work addresses many aspects of initiatic science, he explains: "The questions with which we are faced will always be the same: to understand who we are, to discover the meaning of our lives and to overcome the obstacles which we find on our path. So, do not ask me to talk to you about anything else; I will always return to the same subjects: our development, our difficulties, the path to be followed and the methods we need to follow it."

‘«If there are so many different and contradictory truths circulating around the world, it is because they reflect the distortion of human hearts and intellects. When someone says to you: «For me, the truth is that...», it is «his» truth, and this truth speaks of his own heart and intellect which are insufficient, deformed, or at otherwise highly developed. If the truth were independent of the activity of the heart and the intellect, everyone would have to discover the same. But that's not the case, you know that. Everyone discovers different truths except those who possess true love and true wisdom. These have discovered the same truth, which is why they all speak the same language.’

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