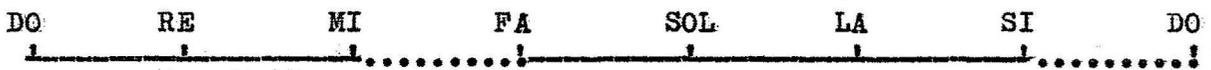


The idea that man cannot do, that everything happens, is a very stimulating idea, for it leads to the question 'how do things happen?' If one could see the world as it really is, without the illusion that we can alter anything, what would it be like?

First, we should see that everything is subject to law. Even accidents are subject to law, as every statistician knows. Accidents happen when different lines cross one another - lines of cause and effect. If you are walking along the pavement from a to b, and at the same moment a brick falls off a building onto your head, that is two lines crossing each other.

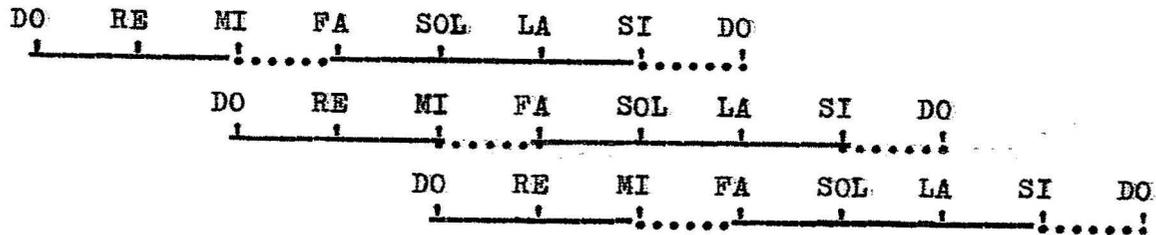
But lines of cause and effect are also subject to law. One might suppose that every line is different, but actually they all have something in common. They follow a certain pattern, which is known as the law of octaves. In the system the diatonic major scale, do re mi fa sol la si do, was used as a way of expressing this law. If you imagine some enterprise starting, like a new business or an architectural practice, you can see that it starts with a fundamental impetus - the note DO. The sounding of this fundamental DO carries it along through RE and MI. But sooner or later the impetus fades away, and the enterprise begins to falter. This dropping back, or 'recession' as it is called nowadays, coincides with the interval MI - FA, which is only a semitone, compared with the major and minor tones of the first two intervals.

If nothing comes along to revive the practice, it may fold up and disappear, which is what so often happens. In fact, many of our activities never get further than the first interval MI - FA. But if they get past this interval, which may come about if the original impetus is strong enough, they will continue through the notes FA, SOL, LA, SI, and finally come to a halt at the second interval SI - DO.



This is a picture of an isolated line of cause and effect - if such a thing were possible. In practice, of course, there are so many other lines crossing it in all directions that it gets very much distorted, and may even change direction completely. But in certain cases, especially in certain cosmic processes, it is essential that the line continues without interruption past the intervals. This would apply, for instance,

to the line of growth, or to the evolution of species. But how does nature do it? What she does is very simple - she so contrives things that several octaves overlap one another. When the first octave would normally come to a halt, a second octave starts with its fundamental DO, which carries the first octave across the interval. When the second octave in its turn begins to falter, a third octave comes in, and so on. In this way the continuity of the process is ensured:-



But if nature has learnt how to do it, why cannot we? It was said, earlier, that man cannot do. If he could learn from nature, might he not find the way?

That was the real point about this teaching. It was intended to show the way in which man has to go to find the kingdom of heaven. In order to reach the kingdom of heaven one octave is not enough. After a little while it will come to a halt - it will get no further. But if three octaves are going simultaneously they will get there - provided of course they are the right octaves, in the right relation to each other.

Yet no-one understood what this meant. It was taken to refer to different degrees of effort, different levels of work, and things of that kind. But in fact it is something quite different - it refers to the meditation. During the half hour there have to be these three octaves - that is what those who invented it must have discovered. And they so contrived it that it all happens naturally - it is designed to take place in a natural way, just as Nature does it.

Over and above the law of cause and effect is another law - the law of fate. During the course of one's life there are certain things - usually very big things, like birth and death or falling in love, which cannot really be explained, either by the law of accident or the law of cause and effect. The time and place of one's death, for instance - it may appear to be an accident, but actually it is one's fate to die

in that way. And nothing one might have done, or left undone, would have made any difference - that is what seems so strange.

Sometimes when people fall in love they feel the influence of fate. They will say it feels as if everything is being done for them by somebody else - there is nothing they have to do, for the decisions are already taken. And it seems familiar, as if it had all happened before....

This is an important clue - it means that fate belongs to the fifth dimension - to recurrence. Cause and effect belongs to the fourth dimension - the line of passing time. But fate is five dimensional, and this implies that there is something still higher - something belonging to the sixth dimension, which could free us from the law of fate. This higher dimension is the law of will.

What is meant by will? Not self will or wilfulness - they can change nothing. A man with a strong will may be even more helpless than a man without it. But real will - will that comes from above one, and yet is within one - how can it be found?

To find it means to experience it, and probably for you and me the meditation is the only way of doing this. When the meditation changes something in one - when one is released quite unexpectedly from a lifelong burden, or when one finds certain things become possible which could never have happened before - then perhaps in a small way it is the beginning of will.

Fate is what always happened, will is quite new. A great artist could never be bound by fate. Shakespeare, for instance, will never be writing the same plays, the same sonnets, over again. Next time he will be moving on to something else - a new adventure, a new experiment. But it is never one's own will, it is always beyond one - every great artist knows that this is so.

In this work there is a great deal which is old - old ways of thinking and behaving, old attitudes, old fears, old imagination. If we hang on to these things they will become part of our fate, and eventually they will die with us. But if we search only for what is new, things will begin to move - we shall move into a new world - a world quite different from anything we have experienced before. And so next time we shall make a new beginning.....

"Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

Matthew 14, v.52.