

19 June 1961

READING 4

PREFACE

As we listen to these papers and look at the diagram (both the result of long assembly of facts and not a little specialised knowledge) we are lifted up above the little personal world that our minds inhabit, and feel happy that the sublime Doctrine of Cosmoses seems to be becoming a practical reality for all of us. One and all, we would like to take part in these discoveries and will be relieved to know that this does not necessitate worrying about figures or even thinking much. How is it done? I believe by remembering the ancient saying 'Microcosm reflects Macrocosm', and that the great function of man is that he was designed to be 'reflective', as Pierre Teilhard de Chardin stresses with so much evidence in his book *The Phenomenon of Man*. And this means not that he was made to think, but literally to *reflect*. Moreover that, he is in fact reflecting both worlds bigger and worlds smaller than himself, only he *does not realise it*. All he has to do is realize, to be conscious of, to recognise what is continuously going on.

The great teacher we have been listening to in India has also been speaking of the possibility of reflecting the Universe, which is otherwise called Cosmic consciousness; and has been showing precisely how the method of meditation (to us new, to him very ancient) leads naturally to this culmination, of which I have myself experienced the beginnings.

Moreover, the following answers were given:

Q. Will you define God?

A. Each man is made up of bodily sensations, feelings, intellect and soul. When he can see his body as the composite of all bodies, his feelings as the composite of all feelings, his mind as the composite of all minds, and his soul the composite of all souls, and that the Universe is composed like himself of the four elements, then this man *is God*. He is cosmic, limitless.

Q. In what sense could man be God?

A. Brahma is Lord of the Universe, Atman is Lord of each individual man. The relation between them is like this: The sun is shining everywhere and that is like Brahma. Suppose it strikes on a glass or a metal cup so that some rays are contained and some are reflected. Those rays are Atma – individual man. So a man has only to begin to Be what he is, in order to begin to Be God, that is to absorb, to transmit and to reflect the Universal Light.

Lest the orthodox be too quick to condemn the statement that man can be God, let me quote Saint Augustine himself:

Man is what he loves. If he loves a stone he becomes a stone; if he loves a man he becomes a man. If he loves God... I dare not say more or ye would stone me.

And finally remember that it was man who invented the word 'God', for which holy word there are as many meanings as there are men.

*

PART 1**THE RELATION BETWEEN THINGS****5. THE MOLECULE**

1. The world of molecules is the world of magic. Everything miraculous in Nature – the air we breathe, the sounds and scents, the colours and forms, and all the hidden things, the strange substances which influence behaviour, the very basis of life itself – all these things are associated with the molecule.

2. The molecule is about as small, in relation to man, as a planet is large. Both are of the order of a hundred million times. And just as the lifetime of a man corresponds to the ‘breath’ of the planets, so the lifetime of a molecule corresponds to the breath of a man – it is of the order of a few seconds.

3. If the lifetime of a molecule is only a matter of seconds (and that of inorganic molecules may well be less), its digestive cycle will only be a tiny fraction of a second – perhaps as long as a nerve impulse, or a sound vibration. The molecule actually ‘eats’ ions, or possibly the nuclei of atoms, just as we eat cells; and just as we provide food for organic life, by living and dying, so the molecule provides food for cells by living and dying.

4. So the physical world for the molecule is a very small world indeed – it is no larger in scale than a cell. It is, in fact, the world of chemical processes, seen as it were from the inside. The fact that time is so different on this scale explains why so many miraculous things can happen in a matter of a few seconds – the molecule has a whole lifetime in which to carry them out, for it lives in a different world of time.

5. The breath of the molecule is even quicker – it is of the order of several hundred million breaths per second. Molecules ‘breathe’ electrons, or sub-atomic particles; and by their own living and dying they are themselves breath for man. So their field of action in this case is much larger – it is on the scale of the whole of a man, not just a single cell.

6. On the level of psychic energy – of ‘impressions’ – the molecule is no longer confined within the limits of a cell or a living creature; it has the freedom of the air in which to move. Molecules are ‘impressions’ for Nature; and for the molecule itself, impressions have the frequency of heat rays. And molecules in the air around us must be especially sensitive to certain kinds of vibrations – to changes in temperature, sounds and scents, colours, humidities and other more subtle influences, which they can store in a form which makes it possible for Nature to absorb them.

7. Molecules, too, are associated with creative energy – they are in fact the substance of creative energy for the Earth. And in this sense their field of action extends to the extreme limits of the Earth’s atmosphere. Creative energy for the molecule is associated with the frequency of ultraviolet and X-rays – the molecule is sensitive to these influences of very high frequency, and is able to store them. In this way they become available to the Earth – available through the living and dying of molecules.

8. So the molecule provides food for cells, and it quickens the bodies of living creatures through the air they breathe; it fills the world of nature with scents and sounds, with the song of birds, the subtle perfumes that arouse the instincts of animals, the delicate changes in temperature

which awaken the growing plants. And lastly it is a kind of sense organ surrounding the whole Earth, sensitive to the most delicate vibrations – vibrations far more subtle than those we ordinarily perceive – influences coming from the other planets, the sun and even the stars of the Milky Way. No wonder the world of molecules is the world of magic!

*

PART 2

THE RELATION BETWEEN THINGS

6. THE SUN

1. The Sun breathes, and organic life is quickened, becomes alive. Once every twenty-five thousand years the Sun breathes new life into Nature. The scale is so vast we can hardly conceive it – even the whole of historical time is only a fraction of a second for the Sun, and ordinary everyday time as we know it is not time at all, it is frequency. Our lifetime of eighty years is in fact a vibration of some 10,000 cycles per second for the Sun, and our day and night is an even faster vibration of several hundred million cycles per second.

2. The difference between the Sun's time and ours determines the level of energy exchanged. For Nature it is vital energy or 'breath' that is exchanged, for Man it is psychic energy or 'impressions', and for the cell it is creative energy. Nature depends on the Sun for breath, we depend on the Sun for impressions, the cell depends on the Sun for photosynthesis. Conversely, the life cycle of Nature provides the Sun with vital energy, the life cycle of Man provides the sun with psychic energy, the life cycle of cells provides the Sun with creative energy.

3. That is why the Sun appears to us as he does – we see that part of him which is concerned with psychic energy. If his light were to disappear we should die, because impressions would cease. Nature would die too, if the Sun disappeared, but for a different reason – the life principle would leave her. And the creation of plant life would also cease, for cells could no longer obtain energy from the Sun's rays.

4. But although the Sun appears to us in the form of light rays and vibrations, he is really a living being. He is born, lives and dies, in his own time. This is difficult to understand – we cannot actually see him for long enough to know what he really is. We think of him as a star, as a point in space, but for himself he is not a point at all – he is three-dimensional. The planets make many thousand spirals round him every moment of his existence but even if we could visualise their path it would only be a geometrical figure – his real three-dimensional shape is unknown to us.

5. Yet we really do not know what the Sun is, and perhaps it isn't necessary to worry too much about his exact shape, provided we can feel his influence. Perhaps we do not realise we are *inside* the Sun – living creatures, the earth and organic life, and the planets surrounding him are all part of the Sun, existing with him as one whole. For the Sun, as he exists in his own time, is not separate. This earth is the Sun – it is part of his physical shape; organic life is the Sun – it is the vital energy in him, his life principle; mankind, too, is the Sun – part of the Sun's psychology perhaps, or his feelings and sensations; and the world of cells is the Sun – it is part of his creative energy, his power to create life on earth.

6. And the Sun is a star, existing in the starry firmament. As we look up in the sky at night, what is it all about, that great stillness? Somehow, this is the most baffling of all questions. Are we looking into the heart of matter itself, or is it some great living being, up there in the sky? It is all so quiet and so still, there is certainly a presence there, yet we have no way of finding it.

7. Actually, it is a question only of viewpoint. From our point of view we *are* looking into the heart of matter itself – matter that has been stopped, so to speak, and consists only of space without time. From the Sun's point of view it is quite different. The Sun lives in the world of stars, just as we live in the world of Nature. Everything in the world of stars is alive for the Sun – alive, and full of movement. Influences of many kinds reach him, from the clusters of stars in which he lives, from the Milky Way and from the other galaxies beyond. Some of these influences bring him physical energy, others bring him life. When the galaxy breathes, he is quickened. The source of all his impressions – his light – comes from still further away, perhaps from the distant nebulae, or the whole visible Universe. And the origin from which he was created – who knows who created the Sun?

* * *