

OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE STATES

PART 1

I think you will agree that in our discussion at the Annual General meeting the problems connected with interesting people in the System today were clearly in evidence but no solution – no inspiration – was forthcoming. I believe now that the common ground which could form a link between science, art, religion, philosophy, psychology and any other avenue lies in the recognition of objective and subjective states of consciousness. Briefly, by way of definition, ‘*objective*’ means the point of view that the universe is clearly ordered by law, or in religious language, ‘God works through laws’. (Schools of the right sort provide an objective approach. Anything not connected with such Schools is bound to be subjective to a greater or lesser degree.) Subjective states are characterised by personal opinion and bias depending upon identification, imagination and negative emotion.

The System has told us a great deal about objective and subjective *art*, and it is not difficult to divide works of art on this basis, with great profit. *Science* also, if it is to have any real meaning, is the study of laws by observation and experiment, and the higher and more successful the science, the more scrupulous is the objective approach in the setting up of experiments. But it is in the conclusions and theories arising from the facts that the subjective enters and spoils the scientific outlook.

What is not so generally realised is that there can be objective and subjective *religion*. Here is an example of at least an approach to objective religion in a letter received from a friend who worked in the System with Mr. Ouspensky for many years, but who latterly chose the religious path. You will see, however, that she retains her memory of the System and I think her letter contains a very valuable suggestion for us.

(from Mrs. Maitland Edwards)

I have been thinking quietly during an Easter Retreat here of the Law of Three in relation to the Passion of Jesus Christ. I reminded myself of the formulation that ‘for every manifestation on every plane three forces are necessary – Active, Passive and Neutralizing’. I saw more clearly than before how this truth had to be expressed in scientific language so that people’s minds should be free of the inevitable associations provoked by religious language. In this way the formulation made all the impact of newly revealed truth.

My Retreat in this Convent is, naturally enough, conducted in religious language by those who speak it as of second nature and to those who accept it in the same spirit. I find myself transposing what I hear into another key, so to say, and in this way I believe I get more light.

The Russian saying comes to my mind that ‘God Himself is unable to trump the ace of trumps’. This means, I think, that God works through laws. For God’s Will to be manifested on Earth the co-operation of man is needed. The only perfect co-operation was that of Jesus who by a complete fulfilling of His Father’s Will was the first and only One to demonstrate the working of Three Forces in perfect harmony. I believe that when He gave His new commandment ‘that ye love one another’, He revealed Third Force to man, who is normally Third Force blind.

As Jesus speaks from the Cross those who have eyes to see and ears to hear will always feel their world to be turned upside down by the reversal of all human values.

The impact of the law of love can leave no one unmoved. Man, without knowing it, is witnessing in operation the Third Force which makes the manifestation possible of God's Will on Earth.

PART 2

You remember that there are said to be four states of consciousness. The first, deep sleep, is purely subjective; there can be nothing objective about dreams. The second state, called 'waking sleep', in which we live for the other half of our lives, being largely governed by dreams is referred to as the 'subjective state of consciousness'. In the third state man becomes objective for himself. He sees himself dispassionately as he sees other people, without either elation or remorse. In the fourth state, he sees things outside himself – the laws of the universe, other people – as they really are.

Having during the last session studied mainly the Law of Seven in the form of the octaves of radiations and of the three foods, we want this session to study the Law of Three Forces, using Mr. Ouspensky's favorite method, the study of the six triads. We have often done this before, but what we have failed to realise is that *we cannot in the usual subjective state see and rightly distinguish the six triads*. It is necessary by some means to bring ourselves from the subjective state first to the state where we see ourselves objectively, and the six triads within us and in our external actions, and then later we may have glimpses of the fourth state, cosmic consciousness, in which we can see the six triads in each cosmos.

The material given you today is designed for use for two weeks, to serve as a preparation for the study of triads by helping us to rise out of our usual subjectivity.

Moreover, the success of any practical methods designed to increase consciousness must be judged by whether one becomes more subjective or more objective in one's outlook, and the meditation is no exception. I have yet to meet an example of anyone reaching a more objective state of consciousness through the meditation without the help of a School. It is actually through meditating that we can most quickly and easily come to distinguish the subjective from the objective. We sit and close our eyes, and at once all the subjective sides of our nature try to interfere. By attending to one object only and bringing the mind back to it again and again, we reach a state where *nothing subjective exists*. If we achieve this process again and again, a more objective point of view gradually takes root in us provided we are constantly accepting the help of other people. But it is the easiest thing in the world to take it all subjectively, with oneself becoming more and more, and other people less and less important.

The Seeker

I sought my soul,
 but my soul I could not see.
 I sought my God,
 but my God eluded me.
 I sought my brother,
 and found all three.

Anon.

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