

19 February 1968

#### READING 4

The expression, 'decision to work', (the subject of last week's Reading) is apt to fill us with alarm when our days already seem so full and so short! But 'decision to work' doesn't mean to undertake more and more arduous activity; on the contrary, it means determination to get enough peace and energy twice a day so that we may 'begin to be what we are'.

To *work*: what for? If work begins with this second stage of the Ladder, we shall know what we have to 'decide' if we understand more about the third stage. To do this we should return to the analogy of radio – a favourite one with H.H. When we first heard about the Ladder in 1962, the third stage (called 'Effort') was described as 'the crystallisation of certain particles of fine matter within the organism, which causes one to strive towards Sattva (love of the work)'. On our forebrain diagram a man reaches a decision rationally in the outer tier (3) by observing that he is not getting what he wants, and tries to find a way to live better. Without his knowing it, this is producing a crystallisation at a certain point in the second tier among his turning thoughts, feelings and bodily desires, where there would ordinarily be no 'still point' to depend on. In the following conversation H.H. describes the role of Master in relation to one under discipline.

S. He realises through the actions, deeds, words and movements of the pupil how much he can bear, and he gives the example of an electric meter – it shows you how much voltage it can take, beyond that not. So at the third stage he applies this, and gives him the power to go along the Way; and then, later on, the second impulse is given so he can Realize completely and become like the Master himself. The help at these points is direct; and this process is known only to the Master, and unless the pupil becomes the teacher, he would not realise the importance of these shocks.

R. So you agree with our teaching that for every octave of seven steps to go to completion, the conscious help or impulse must come in at two intervals, and that because in the ordinary activities of man this help is not given, all man's activities come to nothing?

S. He says yes, and he explains about the one under discipline. He says that with the intense desire and right efforts he will surely get the necessary impulse and help at the appropriate moments. Particles of matter surrounding him will be created with his strong desire and right direction, and these particles will help him to get along and go to the end of the Way. These external impulses may be given whether a man has a visible Master or not; they may come from an unknown source.

He gives an example from radio transmission. The pupil's efforts have a crystallising effect on him, and this makes it possible to receive impulses from cosmic consciousness, just as radio receiving sets can receive messages on different wavelengths. He emphasises this in the sense that it is not necessary that an instructor should be physically present, but it can go on in his absence.

J. I remember that in our System we were told about men becoming receiving stations and later transmitting stations.

R. The essential seems to be that some crystallisation of these particles should take place, and according to its extent, so that will attract the help when needed?

S. replies yes, this is how it works. The extent of crystallisation decides how much impulse he needs to get further.

R. Perhaps we have taken 'crystallisation' wrongly. We picture a state of affairs where the solution of a salt becomes super-saturated, and then when one crystal is added, this makes the whole lot crystallise. But you seem to be describing a gradual process.

S. replies that both are true. For some time there is a gradual process until the solution is super-saturated, but then when a special particle is added to the common particles, it makes them special altogether. That is according to natural law – to lift up the particles, and when more powerful particles are added, the whole group is lifted up and changed into something higher.

(11 October 1962)

#### COMMENT

We know, nowadays, that invisible changes in a biochemical crystal will deform it, thus setting up 'piezoelectrical currents'; and we know also that in the forebrain there are similar transducers which convert biochemical into electrical energy. We think too of the principle of the small crystal set in radio reception, and those who know more about this field can fill in the picture. An additional conversation gives us a way to think about it psychologically.

R. More immediately important to me is the question of how the aspirant can establish perfect understanding (within his capacities) with the Realised man?

S. There are two needs; one is the intense desire to establish that relation, and the second is the efficiency, the *power* to do what is needed. Take for example the radio; if you have a good radio in your house which is efficient, it can catch the waves and give good results. If the radio is not efficient it will make a lot of unnecessary noise and give distorted effects! So with people. People with fast and efficient systems in themselves take these things quietly, hold them, and if they have the inner power to take the discipline and carry out instructions, they achieve their goal quicker. Others are of coarser fibre; by their own nature they cannot take things easily and execute them with despatch.

(18 October 1962)

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More than five years have gone by since those talks, and now very many of us here have reached the point where we have to give up all the flurry and worry and self-analysis, and concentrate merely on being quiet and efficient radio receiving sets, with little 'background noise'. All those contents of the Limbic circuits belong to a distant past. For this Society to carry out the great function for which it has been prepared, we must become first a really efficient receiving station, and then we shall be able to transmit as well.

All this makes it possible to think about paragraph 2 of Reading 2 (page 8, 1968/2), about which we can say more later.

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