

18 May 1981

**PREVIEW READING 3****(FOR GROUP TAKERS)**

(for 2 weeks)

**PART 1**

Another concept from our Western system which is coming into prominence is that related to different levels of energy: 1) mechanical, 2) energy of life – biological energy, 3) energy of mind e.g. intelligence and, 4) energy of consciousness – unknown and undefinable.

The system says that a lower level never gives rise to a higher level by itself; but it is always the other way round. Thus all the mechanical energy in the universe never produced by itself the stuff of life let alone a living cell; again, living bodies of organisms alone are inadequate to produce intelligence etc.

The 'Big Bang Theory' invented by George Gamow some years ago implies that life and mind and consciousness all arose by chance from a mechanical explosion. Such a mechanical event could never give rise to living things, to intelligence, to consciousness. Violence can be used from above to change the shape of things as we see in such examples as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or, as we infer on current theories about the death of stars and galaxies, explosion of a supernova etc.

Our lecturer referred to a recent conversation on the radio between John Maddox and Sir Fred Hoyle at his home in the Lake District, in which they went over the evidence for organic molecules between the stars of our galaxy predicted by Hoyle and co-workers at Cambridge and recently confirmed by radio-astronomy. 'The commonest atoms that one had to make the grains out of were carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen... but what do they make? Well they make organic molecules.'

Then in relation to the evidence for an overall intelligence, he said. 'Well, I would go so far as to say that almost all that is seen in the universe is a product of intelligence. That, just as if an observer came to the surface of the earth, for example, in this district here, and saw all the walled fields, they would see that those are different from the rock structures which are not a product of intelligence – they've been the product of natural processes. But in the walls that run up the hills, and in the roads and houses and so on, they would see that an intelligence is involved, and I think that this is true in many astronomical and biological processes that what we are seeing are the products of intelligence.'

(Pause for Discussion or Meditation)

**PART 2. CONSCIOUSNESS**

St. Paul had moments of cosmic consciousness and our lecturer referred to one of them in this passage:

From Romans Ch. 8:

18. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
19. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

22. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.
35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?
37. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
38. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God.

Rather nearer home for all people in this family based in Colet is some personal advice from the Shankaracharya, given to R. by letter in 1973:

S. You want to know what is exactly the most important for you today from all the discourse you have had with me so far... roughly this may suffice to give you the gist of all that:

1. Physically you devote yourself to universal service, considering yourself everyone's servant.
2. Emotionally you give importance to the Supreme Power keeping in mind its unlimited benevolence and continual presence.
3. Mentally you regard yourself as one with Param-Atman who witnesses everything and shows himself in all the forms you see.
4. To achieve this one needs to give up gradually everything that stands in the way. Now 'giving up' can be done mentally at all times and in all conditions. Practise this 'giving up' all the time by considering your body, Manas and Buddhi as belonging to Param-Atman and so offering all these up to him.

(Record, 15 February 1973)

You couldn't do better right now than learning this by heart and reminding each other frequently to do it. In this way the tortoise wins the race over the hare every time!

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