

Start with Meditation

This was the question posed when we decided to look at Man from three aspects – his Aim, School, - that is the bridge between ordinary man and Realised Man, and his role in the Universe.

It is clear now that understanding the purpose of School depends to a certain extent in seeing how this idea developed over the long life of our organisation from Mr Ouspensky's time, through the reign of Dr Roles and the meeting with the Realised Man, His Holiness Shankaracharya Shantanand Saraswati.

When I first met the Work, at the age of five, 80 years ago, Dr Roles had just turned thirty-one and Mr Ouspensky was in his early fifties.

Mr Ouspensky had just finished translating into English *A New Model of the Universe* and was now planning again to look for School. But in a different way from his travels before W W 1, when he travelled extensively in search for School throughout the Middle East and India.

Now it was his intention to gather people of like mind together to create a preparatory school, that might attract the attention of the 'Inner Circle' and more easily lead to the finding of a Realised teacher, who could bring about the transcendental change required to move all those connected with him from waking sleep to reality.

Certain events and new thoughts had taken place since he had first written *A New Model of the Universe*, which had added to his understanding of School since he first published this book.

After having met with a system of knowledge given to him by Mr Gurdjieff many new ideas were propagated that led Mr Ouspensky to consider that there were three different levels of School within the 'Inner Circle of Humanity'.

The first was a School that brought ordinary Man from waking sleep to Self Consciousness. This process called upon Man to try to wake up and in its process required that Man form a Permanent Aim in order to achieve Self Consciousness. It had to be an aim that took precedence over all other aims connected with the many 'I's' found in a man or woman's ordinary psychology.

The second level of School was where a man who was Self Conscious which knew everything about himself developed to a Man of Objective Consciousness and knew not only everything about himself but also about the laws governing the Universe of which he is a part. Dr Roles later referred to this as Cosmic Consciousness.

The third School was the rise of Man from Objective Consciousness to a 'Man that can Do' – a Man of all Possibility, in the System this was referred to as 'a man immortal within the limits of the Solar System'. This level of Being seems to appear in human history very rarely and in times of great need. In the Christian tradition He is known as Divine Man, with all that this means.

Pause

Mr Ouspensky was trying to find and create a School of the first level. This is the one that wakes us up and brings us to Self Consciousness. Unfortunately the Second World War came and his work was interrupted and he never made the contact he wanted.

He passed this task on to Dr Roles, telling him to find a better method of Self Remembering, that could lead him to find an 'Inner Circle' teacher. He said that if we could find the method that we might also find the source of the 'Fragments of an Unknown Teaching', which we had inherited as the 'System'.

Mr Ouspensky also said something else back in 1935, which puts a serious responsibility on the shoulders of everyone who wishes to stay on the train and see that the Work succeeds in fulfilling its aim. He said:

If I can say if I die to-morrow, work will continue, it means a school is established. If it depends wholly on me, it means a school is not of sufficient strength.

The power of a School, as we can see from history, depends on what one can call its long life. That is the length of time its memory continues to exist in the history of the human race. Hence the importance of keeping that memory alive by remembering the teachers and leaders who taught us, and by continuing with their work.

Dr Roles found the method (mantra meditation) and teacher as Mr Ouspensky had instructed. And the language changed in terms of School. We now sought for Self Realisation and Full Realisation. But the Aims remain the same.

The final conversation that took place this time round between Dr Roles and his second teacher, the Shankaracharya, confirms this.

Dr Roles: This very last remark of all again comes from all four of us. When, with Sattva, one realises fully for a short while, that one has nothing one can call one's own, then one is overwhelmed with gratitude to the Shankaracharya and His Holy Tradition, without which one couldn't even make a start. May God bless him and give Him peace now and forever.

The Shankaracharya replied: The tradition which the Shankaracharya is furthering at this stage and time, and to which He belongs, is also the Tradition to which you belonged before meeting, and which you are now pursuing and which will be with you forever after.

Pause for meditation and questions

In 1908, during his pre WW1 travels in search of a 'School', Mr Ouspensky saw for the first time the 'Whirling Dervishes' which he recognised immediately as 'School' and referred to the Mevlevi Order as 'the soul of Constantinople'. He later thought that they had disbanded and disappeared. In the search for a 'method' Dr Roles and associates made direct contact with the source which we found still existed. Sheikh Resuhi Bakhara was sent in 1963, with the blessing of the Mevlevi Order, to Colet House to teach us the Turning, as it is now called. It has been found by initiates to be a powerful method in creating a love for God and fellow Turners.

What we have learned from all that we have been given, is that throughout the history of civilisations Schools have always existed and that the aim of them is the same. Schools are a **Unity**. It is only 'sleeping man' who sees **duality**. He alone imagines contradictions and looks for differences in true religions and traditions.

Schools are a Unity. They appear and form at times of necessity. They are adapted to the environment where they appear and one of their aims is to help mankind to fulfil his purpose in the Universal Scheme.