Available online
http://lumenpublishing.com/journals/index.php/lumenphs/index
e-ISSN: 2284–5976; ISSN–L: 2284–5976

Logos Universality Mentality Education Novelty, Section: Philosophy and Humanistic Sciences
2017, Volume V, Issue 2, December, pp. 52-59

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.18662/lumenphs.2017.0502.06

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How to cite: Purcaru, A. R. (2017). Father's Teachings: The Ethical Conduct of The Spiritual Man; The Enlightenment. *Logos Universality Mentality Education Novelty, Section: Philosophy and Humanistic Sciences*, V (2), 52-59. Doi: https://doi.org/10.18662/lumenphs.2017.0502.06

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Father's Teachings: The Ethical Conduct of The Spiritual Man; The Enlightenment

Anca Raluca PURCARU[1]

Abstract: In the book The Enlightenment (Iluminarea), Father Iacob Ghergheluca teaches us how a spiritual man behaves. He is a model of love who practices the equality principle and loves all men. He is also s model of self acceptance who has discovered the presence of love within himself and offers it to the entire world. Enlightenment begins with self knowledge and it implies a metamorphosis of the creator consciousness that changes life experiences and life itself, as the consciousness is able to change the world.

Keywords: *the equality principle, the unicity principle, free will, unity consciousness, love, genuine relationships.*

Spiritually achieved persons teach others that all men are equal, because there is a "divine law of equality" (Illumination, p. 16). "Each inequality one perceives is a perception error." (p. 41) This law is the only law passed on by all spiritual teachers. No one is more spiritually evolved than others. "Spiritually speaking, all men are equal."(p. 130)

Spiritually achieved men live in this world but don't belong to it, as this world is not forever. They play the role of a teacher without being attached to it. They renounce the past and seize to live for the future and live fully and completely in the present, free from stress or fear of loss. They are always content because they accept and love themselves unconditionally, as they are. Fully accepting oneself means less reaction to others and will maintain only the relationships based on mutual respect. Only by not trying to become someone else, becoming oneself and being content with oneself can one be a part of The Unity – a state of harmony with the others in which one "only lives in order to fully be oneself, which requires no effort whatsoever. This is true freedom and detachment. "(p. 24) The spiritual man "moves spontaneously with the stream of life and not against it. He comes and leaves freely, with no deliberation, nor effort" (p. 24). He cannot change the outer world, but he can change his perceptions and reactions, by replacing the consciousness of duality with that of unity – the feeling of The Creator's presence and the hypostasis of The Holly Spirit living within. It is

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the consciousness of Christ, man united with God and his peers. The experience of death is exhaling with the last breath the inner light that has always been there. This is what the spiritual man experiences in life. He looks at the world with the eyes of love, not fear. They unconditionally love the world and are also unattached to it. He sees perfection within himself and in the world, sees all situations good as they are, feels no need to change them and emanates divine love for all beings, as all are equal. They also love those who do not share their spiritual beliefs. They respect Christ's two commandments, they love God and their peers as they love themselves: they practice love and equality. Separation implies some of us are wrong and need be brought down, equality means all of us deserve respect, no matter the convictions. This does not mean sharing those beliefs, only accepting those persons with their beliefs. This is the principle of acceptance that supports peace and tolerance. Peace of heart and peace of the world are possible only by renouncing the tendency to be wright and the need of agreement. One must not aggress those in a negative posture, because that would mean aggressing oneself as well. One's negative thoughts are the consequence of a negative perception that generates them. However, one must not force himself to think positive thoughts, nor blame himself for them, just be aware of them and of the fact that they are wrong, the shear awareness being a rectification. Love chases away fear and blamation. Life and the outside world are "a mirror of the consciousness" – the inner world. (p. 43)

The people who know themselves are able to engage in mature relationships, without wearing masks and role playing. Being oneself is "the supreme adventure for man" (p. 253). In the relationships, one may have the wrong idea that someone else may make him happy or complete, may heal him, chase away his sufferance, but this is not possible. No one must assume such a responsibility. Moreover, this is a form of conditioned love. Man must love and help himself before engaging in relationships. Some relationships gone wrong may be a lesson in order for man to learn how to know oneself. The purpose of a relationship is to bring illumination, as they often bring to light one's fears and weaknesses. "The partner is the mirror in which she looks in order to see herself." (p. 50) It is important not to project what one sees on the partner, this often being what leads to the destruction of the relationship. It is important that one becomes aware that one's thoughts and feelings are his own and one is the sole responsible for his actions, even if others are their trigger.

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Man also has free will, this is also a defining characteristic of the human experience. Man must also renounce control of the events and let God work in one's life. When one creates, he must have an idea, which must be nurtured and then let loose in the world. It must be a gift offered to the world and no longer one's idea. One is always free and may renounce compulsive behavior, no matter how difficult it may be, because man is not a victim, but a creator. Circumstances may imprison victims, but not creators. Victims complain and see themselves as deprived of their free will, creators learn, acknowledge their mistakes and are not ashamed of them. Free will is tied with the process of learning and spiritual evolution. There is a strong connection between one's desire for perfection and one's ability to practice forgiveness. One can be happy only when one can see his error, correct it and move on. There is another law, that of compensation, which means that the negative always precedes the positive. "Happiness is an important rhythmic movement; it counterbalances the pain experienced before. This truth clarifies the sufferance problem."(p. 186)

Miracles are the manifestation of spiritual achievement. It is only known that the miracle achiever surrenders to a Creation energy, to God. The spiritual man lives in the moment, appreciates life as it unfolds, appreciates the little things in life, as "whatever happens in a man's life is part of a miraculous chain of events, the sparkle of which one perceives only later." (p. 234)

There are two ways of living. One is trying to force events to unfold, the other is allowing the events to unfold. This requires the trust and discipline that a spiritual master has. His freedom also brings along trust in the universe. In order to control and manipulate, he askes himself how he can be of help in a situation or another. He never acts alone, a state of grace works through him. Miracles are the works of this grace and expressions of love that can bring love in other people's hearts. The gift of a spiritual master is not his own, it is God's.

In order for one to heal himself it is necessary to open the Pandora box – a true mirror of oneself, a box filled with self blamation and fear. Without looking in the mirror and suing one's face tortured with pain, healing is impossible. It is also necessary for one to take responsibility for what one has created in life. Sufferance is the opportunity for self knowledge and it can take many forms, but only a terrible sufferance impossible to endure is the crisis that may bring along spiritual change. This is "the existential primordial cry for truth and ending of sufferance." (p. 87). This

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cry is the first step of the way to freedom. Often one receives further help from God in the form of a therapist or a benefactor. Every healed person is capable of helping others to heal.

The unicity principle refers to the fact that "each man is meant to become who he really is. His destiny is to fully manifest his essence" (p. 89) One's essence is the divine essence. One must have the courage to be oneself, to be free and offer other freedom as well. Applying the unicity principle is the fall of all the masks. One sees in the mirror the face of God and becomes the carrier of pure love. He whom has achieved unicity loves all his peers as he does himself. Seeing one's divine essence is seeing the divine essence in others. It means applying the equality principle. Each man is "an irreplaceable jewelry that reflects God" (p. 93). One musn't renounce his essence in order to commune with God, one must only surrender one's ego, one's will and earthly expectations. One's preferences for certain events and outcomes must disappear and one must be detached. This does not mean that the spiritual man has no desires, but only that he is prepared to accept that some not be fulfilled and is content with what he has. Also, one knows that nothing in this world lasts forever and one must leave this world at some point. The spiritual man "lives in the world, but he doesn't pertain it." (p. 97)

Another characteristic of the spiritual man is the fullness with which he lives in the present moment. He has no regrets about the past, as he practices forgiveness as a way of life, has no expectations about the future, as the future is mysteriously guided by God. His trust in the Creator surpasses the need of control. He "spontaneously lives in the life flow", wherever life may lead him. (p. 100) He sees all creation as something wonderful and has no intention to change anything about it. When he offers his help he does so without intruding nor judging others, nor inflicting guilt upon them. Unconditional love is the way to overcome any disgrace and fear. Love is the cure for fear and fear is lack of love. All man sees is a result of what he thinks. If man is full of love he will see a loving world. Seeing one as not perfect is seeing an imperfect world. Therefore, "the drama of salvation is happening in the human being's own mind." (p. 119)

When man blames others for his own problems, he denies himself forgiveness. Those he must forgive also reside in his own mind. The spiritual practice is finding innocence both for himself and others. All men must be considered equal and one cannot love others without first loving himself. Others are the mirror for one's true feelings for oneself, the feelings one

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nurtures for others mirror self opinion. Blaming others means blaming oneself. Therefore, if one cannot forgive us, we mustn't worry, self forgiveness is what matters the most. In the same manner, forgiving others does not carry them to Paradise. No one should take responsibility for the happiness of others. Also, one musn't struggle to be perfect, sufferance as penitence is no good, only admitting one's errors and learning from those errors is. The loving thoughts bring positive energy, as the negative ones bring misery. Negatives thoughts must therefor be eliminated. Eliminating the ideas that generate the feelings of separation must become the practice of the spiritual man. For Christ, the power of love was sufficient to offer the gift of truth. He thought the lesson of equality: all men are equally lovable. All men deserve love. People may live by this teaching or not, it is actually only one decision man must take in his road to enlightenment.

The occasion to experience true love is the birth of a baby that man may adore with no expectations from him, and this is the attitude that man must preserve during his entire life. Unfortunately, some parents treat their offspring as a way of obtaining happiness for themselves. This a burden no one must carry. The parents are not their children's masters. This would wrongfully imply that the children are not equal to their parents and it is disrespectful. The parents shook be respected by their children, but this goes both ways, they must also offer respect and help their children to find their own sense of individuality. The parents should teach their children to experience unconditional love. This is sufficient for the children to respect them. Even drawing attention to the children's mistakes must be an act of love and not one that inspires fear or self loathing , by teaching them to take responsibility for their actions, as well as teaching them that they create their own life situations. Children must feel the love of their parents no matter what they do. This is unconditional love. Also, parents "have the duty to tell their children that their calling is to make the world a place fuller of love." (p. 142) It is important that one offers love even in the form of a kind smile - a gift that will be remembered.

The human being has the ability to love all men, but it is not necessary spending time with them of like them all. Love is a spiritual act of truth, as where liking is an illusion. If one is not comfortable with some men, avoidance is possible, it is probably that they are not suitable for him at that point of their life, a situation that might change in the future. Once someone is completely "awake", no one will please him or no none will be

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found dislikable any more, he will experience love together with his peers or just notice that the others are not yet awake.

Those who live only in the material world, when they loose their possessions they experience the lose of their identity, as where a spiritual person will never be defined by what one has. Her possessions are only there to remind her of who she is. Instead of identifying with her thoughts, feelings, personality and possessions, the person has the possibility "to look upon them as inner aspects that don't really represent her" (p. 201) and that one can change, ennoble them.

Everything that exists is already perfect as it is. The world is continuously changing, nothing remains the same except change itself, and God and His creative mind. As God creates with His mind, man also creates his mind and has the possibility to change his reality by changing how he thinks. There is nothing solid in the universe, there is no mater, there is only energy vibrating at different frequencies, as physics now revels. This does not mean that mater isn't real, just that is only relative to man's perception and that man has the strongest force – mentalism- with which he can change the world. Man is created in God's face, it is a mirror of God, what man creates is a mirror of himself, too. What man is except the divine part of him is called ego or shadow. Renouncing the ego and acknowledging the divine part within is called spiritual evolution and it refers to the fact that man evolves from matter – the lowest vibrating form of energy, resulting from the fact that God has set free His creation towards a life of its own – closer to God, to Spirit, to the Source, he "returns home" (p. 160). Except the speed of vibration, all creation is the same. If one wants to draw upon himself positive things, one must set his mind to a certain frequency, that is all. All creation has two poles, love and hate and so on. The polarity principle helps man to choose the higher pole, that is love. It is a simple mental exercise to imagine an axe of hatred at the lowest level and love at the other end and imagine lifting oneself up in order to achieve love and not hatred. If one has hating thoughts, that is what one will attract. Even if no new loving situation occurs, one might find himself with having enough love already. This works for prosperity and all others. Thus, man may set his mind to vibrate at the highest frequencies of all the aspects of life. By controlling this panel with the power of will, man may stop the oscillation process that is otherwise continuous throughout the cycles of creation. One's convictions about life determine one's life. Controlling these convictions turns man from a pawn on the chess board into "a chess player" (p. 192).

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Man should change his opinion on who he is, he is "an unique manifestation of The Creator's love and wisdom. Men who set aside the barriers of love become pure expressions of love." (p. 211) Love is generally obstructed by a competition spirit, hatred, pride, judgmental attitude, shame and so on. If one wants to experience the communion of love, one must withdraw from all this life drama. A true temple is an inner temple, a place of peace and love, and one can live there with God. Love has no opponent and it can receive all in and transmute all things. The mission of the spiritual man is to offer it to all the peers, as all men need love. Such a man is humble, as it is not him, but The Holly Spirit that works through him and he is also happy, as offering love brings him joy, without seeking to receive anything in return. Love is abundant, it is only the false perception of the lack of abundance that is the cause of misery. A selfish man will always live in fear of loosing his limited resources, and will never truly enjoy them. The source of abundance is inside us, inside the consciousness. The persons that become aware of the fact that they are loved, feel and behave differently than the others, they feel the world is on their side and not against them, they feel their prayers answered, as they are aware of the gifts they received, as where the others are not able to see these gifts, as they come in a different form than expected, therefore they expect only disappointments, and they will be disappointed, as in all self fulfilling prophecies. This happens because "the human consciousness is creator" (p. 226) and it molds life experiences. Victims are only creators who do not accept responsibility for their own creations and find someone else to blame. They will attract someone to take on this responsibility and to dominate them. A metamorphosis of the consciousness will change the experience of life itself. Change stars within. Human sufferance is often a n occasion for change, if one can admit the plague and treat it with love. No plague is inflicted by others (abandonment, attack and so on), all plagues are self inflicted. Offering oneself love is healing oneself and becoming a healing force for others. Forgiveness is the love offering modality. "Forgiving oneself, one takes on the responsibility to love oneself."(p. 233) Metamorphosis frighten people, but lack of change is even worse, as it imprisons people in the cage of their own mistakes. Free will allows people to free themselves, to admit their mistake and to change their life. It is "a divine key". (p. 255) Consequently, they offer it to the entire world. Offering love to the world is actually experiencing love within, becoming aware of the presence of love within.

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There are two kinds of consciousness, a duality one and an unity one. The first kind causes a terrible sufferance, as the latter offers peace and harmony. The calling, unlike the occupation practiced to survive, brings one joy, and the calling of the spiritual man is offering love, peace, freedom and healing. But it is important to understand that liberation is an inner act. In conclusion, a spiritual man may help other to find their way to enlightenment simply by being a model of love. He leaves the duality consciousness behind to live in harmony.

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