July 30, 2020 – Review of Humanity  
Lauri Raymond

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***The Transformational Spark***

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**Food of Impressions**

Every effort of attention to think in a new way, every three-centered wish for our highest potential, every *jump for the rope* to catch hold of a Work idea, every fervent prayer for help, every turning of our attention toward impressions of beauty and truth, every willing surrender to God's will – introduces, in its own way, first conscious shock.

**Homework –** Utilize one or more of the practices listed in the email to apply the transformational spark of first conscious shock to incoming impressions (whether inner or outer).

**A deep, full breath: *It is very good.***

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**Pause and Review: Humanity**

*When I see your heavens, the work of your hands,*

*the moon and stars that you set in place –*

*What is man that you should be mindful of him?*

*Woman, that you should care for her?*

- Psalm 8:3-4

*God looked at everything God had made,*

*and found it very good.*

- Genesis 1:31

A large building

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**An Unfinished House**

One of the most useful Work analogies is the idea that, while there is a *divine blueprint,* we are created an unfinished house. We are self-developing organisms.

**We not *created* in the *perfected* image and likeness of God. Why?**

"To be created perfect would mean that we had no Work to do on ourselves at all."

In other words, we are given the great gift and possibility of *participating* as junior partners in our own development.

"[If] you receive this Work into your hands and especially into your hearts, then you will find that the circumstances in which you were born are the very things that give you force if you work."

– Maurice Nicoll, *Commentaries,* "The Work-Conception of Man as a Self-Developing Organism"

**What's in this house?**

**Many rooms on three ordinary levels:**

* **Moving Center** – body and its concerns of movement, survival, sex & food.
* **Emotional Center** – feelings and concerns of affection/esteem, like/dislike
* **Intellectual Center** – thoughts, calculations, measurings, and comparisons.

**This house – largely unexplored – is overflowing with very many manifestations: some familiar, others unimagined and undiscovered.**

* **Useless suffering** – recurrence, multiplicity, small wills, negative emotions, associations, identification.
* **Undiscovered treasures** – **Real Wish**, **Higher Centers**, **Real Conscience** **and** **Consciousness**, **Real I**.

The Work shines the light of Work ideas into this house of self – into its shadows and neglected areas, the heretofore unaccepted areas.

With a sense of discovery and delight, we practice non-critical self-observation, non-identification and Self-remembering.

"Once these qualities you object to are seen in yourself …

They are not in your dark side any more

and don't have so much power over you.

You gain power over them by naming them.

Then there is nothing dark or hidden.

There is Light everywhere.

When you have known yourself on this level

you will know yourself on another level."

- Beryl Pogson, *Centenary Fragments*

**![A picture containing colorful, sitting, chain, table

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**Levels of Being**

Though humanity is *one* at the ground of our being, most individuals *live* at different levels of being.

**What is our primary center?**

Many of us are mainly 'one-centered.' We reside and perceive everything through one **center**:

* Instinct-moving center – number 1 human
* Emotional center – number 2 human
* Intellectual center – number 3 human

First, we are called to be number 4 human – ***Balanced Human****.*

**What is Balanced Human?**

* Balanced so each center works in its own proper way
* Balanced between **inner and outer parts of centers**.

Along the way, we may begin to manifest the gifts and fruits of numbers 5 – 6 – 7 humans, those who are conscious and can understand themselves, one another and Reality as it is. Such ones exist on a wholly different plane, even amidst ordinary life.

"To achieve this state, the first essential step is **self-observation**."

- From Beryl Pogson, *The Work Life*

A star filled sky

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**Personality – Essence – Real I**

Real I is inmost Self – innate, whole, permanent, a unity of being, rooted in God, in Ultimate Reality, spacious, free of content. Real I is created in the image and likeness of God.

Fortunately, as self-developing organisms, we have within us – in every moment, if we only knew it:

* Many levels of consciousness
* **Essence**, a divine center capable of development
* **Personality** – an interface betweenessence and life, and it serves as an organ of digestion for the **transformation of impressions** into the energy needed for us to awaken and arise through levels of consciousness.
* Access to **Higher Centers**
* **Real I**

Real I is inmost Self – innate, whole, permanent, a unity of being, rooted in God, in Ultimate Reality, spacious, free of content. Real I is created in the image and likeness of God.

Real I is what it means to express a divine-human destiny, a full human life as it was created to be in our own particularity.

A person standing next to a fireplace

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**Aim, Wish and Will**

*Thy Will Be Done*

"This personal work of self-observation is for all one's life. Out of it comes the dawning of Real Aim, which in its greatest formulation is the desire to awaken."

- Maurice Nicoll, *Commentaries,* "Commentary on Aim"

The primary wish in the Work – Real Wish – is:

* To awaken
* To increase consciousness
* To be transformed.

**Wish**

* Is connected to and enlivens the **will**
* Engages all [**three centers**](https://consciousharmony.org/glossary-term/three-centers/) of our being
* It is a full body *YES* to an aim.

Wish is the most powerful thing in the world because the Universe is response to request.

*Ask and you shall receive …*

*…* although not necessarily in the way you think it should look.

Ultimately, every **aim**, **wish** and manifestation of **will** is in service to living out of *Thy Will Be Done* as a form of Self-remembering.

*A picture containing sitting, table, man, old

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**Conscious Labor and Intentional Suffering**

As will to God becomes all and everything, the fruits of a surrendered, receptive will include *conscious labor* and *intentional suffering.*

***Our lives are required for something …***

* Two distinct states and actions that often work synergistically.
* *Manifest* as self-love – concern with *me* and *mine* – diminishes.
* They are the fruits and graces of our prayer and Work.
* They involve community. We cannot do this in isolation. We need each other.
* We participate in them without regard to results. With non-identification.

"If you come into this Work only for what you can get for yourself, you will be disappointed. But something else can enter, the realization that it does not matter what one can get for oneself as long as one can do something that is necessary. This is a real step in our transformation."

- J. G. Bennett, *Talks on Tales of Beelzebub*

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**Homework**

Read through today's email a few times this week.

Reflect and listen for any topic that comes to meet you, perhaps returning to the in-depth exploration of the original email.

Allow it to integrate into your awareness and being.

Rest. Give gratitude for this precious life.

**A picture containing table, colorful, small, sitting

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*I ask to be the servant of the Lord,*

*a vehicle of divine love,*

*a channel of God's will.*

*I ask for direction and divine assistance*

*and surrender all personal will though devotion.*

*I dedicate my life to the service of God.*

*I choose love and peace above all other options.*

*I commit to the goal of unconditional love and compassion*

*for all life in all its expression*

*and surrender all judgment to God.*

*Amen.*