

[These are my walk-through notes for the talk of 1/20/2022, edited afterward to clarify a few points.]

Tonight, I wish to speak about the Ray of Creation, the cornerstone idea of the Work. I know a number of people who find this Ray of Creation idea difficult, inaccessible, or maybe even irrelevant. But it's really not any of those things, if we can just see what this teaching is pointing to. For a long time I sort of intellectually understood it, to a degree, but didn't really connect with it, possibly because its explanation didn't seem to correspond to my understanding of the physical universe. I assumed it was just an antiquated allegory. And maybe the centuries-old language is dusty now, and all the charts and numbers and notes and diagrams might have obscured rather than illuminated the actual idea. In any event, I let this Work idea go for a long time, and focused my attention on the work of David Bohm, and then evolutionary Christianity as presented by Ilia Delio, Teilhard de Chardin, and others. It wasn't until Cynthia Bourgeault, in *Eye of the Heart*, stated that Teilhard's view of evolution was essentially the same as the upward Ray of Being that I paid attention. And then suddenly, I can't explain how exactly, the Ray of Creation became alive to me. I felt it emotionally, as something truly beautiful. I saw it as a cosmic creation story that is not about good and evil, drudgery or doom, but a story of evolution, love, and light. A story of the light always and everywhere seeking to reach us, always present, always available, always ready for us when we are ready to receive it. So tonight I want to share what I see with all of you, and I wish to dedicate it to all of you out there who right up to this very moment think the cosmology is too difficult, or not for you. I hope it is useful.

[ONLY SHOW THE FIRST SLIDE WITH THE GREAT RAY, THEN GO BACK TO VIDEO]

So let's start with the main characters in this story. This is the only chart we'll look at tonight, just to set the stage for the story. We actually saw most of them already in the Laniakea video, with one very important exception.

Notice the arrows run in either direction—these are the two rays running through us, one exerting a downward influence and the other moving upward. The downward Ray is the Great Ray, which as a creative ray moves downward into more and more constraints. This is true of all creative octaves. The idea of writing a book is pure imagination, completely unrestrained. Once the idea emerges, it has an outline, which establishes the ground rules for the book. Then there is the writing itself, which is under more constraints as the plot follows its course. Once the book is finished, there is the whole matter of getting it out into the world, under all the additional constraints of publishers and royalties and copyright and all of that. And then people read the book, and their interpretation of it is under the further constraints of their own life experiences, prejudices, opinions, cultural conditioning, level of being, and so on. If it is a really popular book someone will want to make a movie about it, and of course there are more constraints of that industry—how to shoot it, how to keep it all within a couple of hours or so, the budget, the actors, the director—no wonder the movie is never as good as the book. In any event, creative octaves always go like this, apparently for God just as it is for us.

[END SLIDE]

OK so now that we've laid out the characters, these celestial bodies in descending order, let's go to the story. And as we go up the ray, instead of just doing the same thing in reverse, this upward ray is about evolution, so it is the story of consciousness. Light is the most universal symbol for consciousness—lights out, the light of the world, light-hearted, inner light, and so on.

Since this is the ray of evolving consciousness we can look at this upward ray in terms of light. There seems to be a perfect correspondence there.

We start with Absolute Nothing. So many constraints are here, no light is getting in at all. This is exactly the case with dark matter, which scientists believe constitutes most of the universe. Dark matter is matter that is non-responsive to light. It is the world the light cannot reach, because it is under too many constraints. Not because it is bad, or did something wrong, but just that it's under too many laws. In spiritual traditions of all kinds this is the hell realm, the void, the outer darkness.

Yet even here there is transcendence, some upward movement, evolution up this Ray. The Moon is a piece of this very dense and constrained matter that evolved, in its particular way, by coming close enough to the higher influence of the beautiful Earth to become caught in our gravitational field. In so doing, the light of our sun is able to reach it. This is a massive upgrade from World 192. But the Moon is too dense to actually receive this light, constrained as it is, so the light simply bounces right off. This is reflected light. Psychologically this is the level of formatory thought, mechanicalness, and of course mythic membership in all its forms—opinions, beliefs, what we call politics, sports, even many allegedly Christian beliefs are here at this level—for instance the idea that we should just read Scripture and believe it literally, without any questioning at all. All of the emotions we experience here are negative, because there is no real awareness of God in any of them—from shame to pride, this is the world without awareness of God. I understand many of us were raised in religions like this, where this wonderful unknowable God of love, light and beauty is out of the picture completely. This projected God of World 96 always seems to be caught in negative emotion, getting mad at whoever doesn't believe him (it's always a him, of course) and being so vainglorious he smites whoever doesn't follow his rules, which are mostly all about himself. I think we can all see that this is a World 96 God, the God of the Moon. Current events can show us this very clearly if we are discerning.

It seems in the Work there is a tendency to talk negatively about the Moon, as if feeding the Moon were a bad thing. It's not bad—the Moon's gotta eat too, you know. It's not my preferred influence, but that doesn't mean it's bad. In fact humanity would not be here without it. So instead of seeing Moon as this ominous thing, what the Work seems to be telling us is that Moon is a miracle, and we owe it something just as we do every part of the Megalocosmos. For the Moon, lifted up from the outer darkness, life is relatively wonderful. It is no longer unable to move. It rests peacefully in the loving embrace of the Earth's orbit. It is no longer completely cut off from creation, but is now a vital part of something greater. Its movement creates the tides, which are actually a key factor in evolution and the rhythm of Earth. The Moon is actually participating in *our* evolution, you see. Gurdjieff said it is our planet's clock. It is serving its higher power, the Sun, which it cannot even sense, and helped give rise to organic life on planet Earth. It is serving the Sun faithfully through total surrender and has a higher purpose. What about you?

And of course psychologically speaking, this level is within us—the whole Ray of Creation is within us. So we all have 96 in us, this mechanical way of being. Opinions belong here. It's not good or bad, it's just under more constraints and the light isn't getting through. This Moon in me is why I react the way I do to college football, whether my team wins or loses. It's a myth on top of reality, an extra layer of laws. It's why I won't buy anything anymore without checking the reviews—did it get 4 stars, or just 3.9? This is constraint, this is pure sleep. It looks like doing, it looks like thinking, but it really isn't. It's just reflected light, a sort of pretend consciousness. Not bad, just a reflection of what we could experience, what we are actually created to experience.

The Work says Moon aspires to go up a level, to the level of this beautiful blue planet of ours, which is World 48. This is the world of us, of I Mi/me/mine, the mental egoic level of consciousness. This is still considered the level of sleep in the Work, because it's not the level of consciousness we are made for, but it's a big big step up from the Moon. Here, we have the capacity to receive light. This is the realm of organic life, which is totally dependent on the Sun's light. Here everything here works with light—the plants, the animals, the oceans, and of course we humans. Because we have the capacity to receive light, we are bound to actually pick some of it up once in a while—the sun falls on the just and the unjust, as Scripture says. So even though the Work says humanity is still asleep at this level, there are also important positive emotions here—courage, acceptance, willingness, reason. These positive emotions available to us are what the Work calls Good Householder, because at level 48 they are our capacity to actually receive more light, and further evolve. It's up to us to use that capacity or not. This is wish. And that, in this great Work idea, is exactly the purpose of our self-reflective consciousness: To be Good Householder and wish to Work. This is also what Teilhard is saying, by the way, with the idea of the noosphere: to Work to the level of Conscious Humanity, World 24, produces some substance that is necessary for the further development of the cosmos.

But we have a bit of a problem here at World 48, which clearly has something to do with the Moon's influence on us, that downward drag. The Creation story in Genesis, which scholars believe was a written version of a much older oral tradition, actually tells us the nature of the problem buried somewhere between all the misogyny and dualism. Genesis 3:7-8 says that as soon as we have this self-reflective consciousness, we look at ourselves, and we judge ourselves and right down the ray we go all the way to the lowest calibrating emotion, shame. This isn't just grazing the surface of Moon, it's all the way down to what David Hawkins tells us is the lowest level of consciousness, shame. The rock bottom of the ray as far as consciousness goes. We have the capacity to see, but we don't seem to know how to use it very well. And the Moon is hungry! This is where help comes in. Without this help, we are lost right in the midst of the Garden. And we do have help. The Work is help, available to humanity at this level 48, constantly available. Level 96 cannot hear it. Level 24 can teach it. Level 12 doesn't need it.

The level above the Earth, World 24, is represented by the solar system as an entity, with the planets all rotating around this inner light of the Sun something like an atom. A cosmos, as we discussed last week. The sun is the inner light, and this level psychologically is also the level of Inner Light. Here light is not merely reaching us, but experienced as within the human person, radiating outward. The Worlds 48 are 96 are orbiting around us, but they are not I. We see them, we don't get rid of them. We actually need them to create our psychological solar system. We are the radiant witness, carrying the light within our bodies (but not yet actually seeing through it, which is World 12). This is the realm of peace, joy, delight, and love. There's still a bit of duality here—we still physically see a world of separate objects—but there is also an inner knowing that this appearance of separation is not reality. There is a wisdom here. Teachers are here. There is a knowledge that all of these parts form a single whole, just as the solar system's parts form a single whole. I hope you can begin to see why this cosmology is really not some distant far away concept. This level is also called the Kingdom of Heaven, and as Jesus said, it is "at hand." It is very near to us. And it is embodying light here on planet Earth. Lucky light workers are here. This is World 24, the Inner Light.

Above this is the sun itself. The sun/Son, the Light of the World. The Christic level, World 12. The realm of shimmering light emanating from all matter. Many of us have had brief experiences at this level, these moments when everyday objects take on this beautiful and

radiant quality, a certain inner aliveness that vibrates upward, unified with all other matter in a joyful celebration in which there is an observer but not a sense of a separate self. The longer it goes the more light is perceived as within and radiating in everything, rejoicing, glorious. Even brief World 12 experiences leave permanent impressions in us. The Sun meets us directly, and burns something of a mark inside us now. We see its light through its light. But we are not the Sun, but only a Witness to it. This is the Light of the World, reflected in all matter.

The Sun has a much higher intelligence. It feeds organic life, it shines on the Moon that serves it so faithfully, it holds all the planets in its orbit to create a new cosmos. The world above the Sun is a massive world filled with these Suns—the Milky Way galaxy. This is World 6. If you look up at the Milky Way on a clear night, probably from somewhere other than a busy city, you can see why it's called that—instead of seeing individual stars, you can see this beautiful milky swirl, all of the individual stars blended together. That is the nature of World 6—this is where duality ends, and the observed and the observer are one and the same. A blank screen. This is the No-Self state as Bernadette Roberts describes. Now for the overachievers in the room: as Bernadette herself said this isn't something you'd want to aspire to. The picture of a human self walking up a ladder and hanging out up here enjoying Level 6 is not real. There's no one there to experience it—the no-self state is also the no-experience state. It's like the cartoon where the guy is sitting on a cloud in heaven sighing "I wished I'd brought a magazine." There is no sense of self at all, and no sense of God either—nothing is separate. It is the maximum freedom for matter itself, and according to Bernadette and Ilia this is the highest level of consciousness a living being can experience. But not as a self.

This enormous Milky Way is obviously not the end of the story. The next level behind it, World 3, is represented by Laniakea, the immeasurable heaven. This is the realm beyond matter, the realm of pure consciousness. This computer-generated image of Laniakea we watched in the video gives us an idea of what this consciousness might look like. I don't understand what I'm looking at in that image of Laniakea, but it's mesmerizing and beautiful beyond words. World 3 is the maximal freedom for consciousness.

And of course this is not the end of the story. Beyond all consciousness, and so forever and always beyond all comprehension or understanding, is the unknowable Absolute. There isn't much to say here except that this means there is no possibility of ever seeing the Absolute, not in human form, not as pure matter, not as pure consciousness. Whatever God is, we will never know. This Work idea extends unknowability in both directions—we will never know All, we will never know Nothing, but between these two lie all of creation. Psychologically this is all in us, mirrored perfectly in the physical universe if we can see it.

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