

11-27-16 Readings: *Light is a Living Spirit*

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Excerpts from Chapter One – *Light: The Essence of Creation*
(Gender-neutral language adapted by Patsy Fine)

It has been said that God is a consuming fire, and in most mythologies, the god of fire was the most powerful of all the gods. We are not speaking here, of course, of the fire, which burns in our hearths; physical fire is only one aspect of the universal fire. Actually, there are many different kinds of fire: the fire that burns in the hearts of people, the fire that slumbers at the base of the spine, the fire of the sun, the fire of hell, the fire hidden in the stone and metal, etc.

Have you ever realized that fire is visible only if it is accompanied by light? This is because light is the matter by means of which fire manifests itself. And if we transpose this image onto a higher place we find that light is the substance, which emanated from God, the primordial Fire, at the beginning of the world, when God said, 'Let there be light.' It is this Light, which St John, in the Prologue to his *Gospel*, calls the 'Word': 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... All things were made through God...' Light is the Word uttered by the Creator and by means of this Light God created the world.

The physical world as we know it, is simply the condensation of the primordial Light. God, the active principle, emitted Light and used that Light as the raw material out of which God created the universe. And it is here that one gets a first glimpse of the two principles, masculine and feminine, which are at the origin of the created universe. God, the primordial Fire, the masculine principle, drew from within Godself and project outwards from the feminine principle, Light, the matter with which God created.

We are told that God created the world out of nothing. If we understand by that that God used nothing from outside Godself, then this is true, and it is this that is so difficult to understand, for we human beings can create only by using materials and tools which are not ourselves. The truth is that it is not possible to create something out of nothing; to say that God created out of nothing simply means that God drew the raw materials of creation from Godself. The universe, therefore, is God's very own substance; it came from God, it has become exterior to God, and yet it is still God. . . . One day, even scientist will discover that light is the primordial matter from which the universe was created, and if humans learn how to set about it, they too will be able to create, like God.

According to the *Book of Genesis*, the very first event in the world was the creation of Light. God said, 'Let there be light'. But what was light? In Bulgarian there are two different words for light, *svetlina* and *videlina*. *Svetlina* designates physical light and has the same root as the verb which means 'to shine', whereas *videlina* designates spiritual light and is formed from the root of the verb which means 'to see'. *Videlina* is the light which enables us to see the spiritual, invisible world; it was *videlina* that was condensed into material form and gave us *svetlina*, physical light. . . .

The light that we receive from the sun is not the Light of that first day of creation of which Genesis speaks. Beyond the visible sun is the invisible, dark Sun, which pours a ceaseless stream of energies into our visible sun, and the visible sun transforms them and sends them on in the form of light. The light that we see is not that which God created on the first day, when God said, 'Let there be light'. The light that we see came later. The first sun emitted the primordial Light, *vidlina*, which the visible sun transforms and sends out as rays of visible light (*svetlina*).

Videlina, true Light, only lights up objects that cross its path; if it encounters no obstacle it remains invisible. The presence of true Light, then, is revealed by the obstacles in its path.

In the beginning was *videlina*, that first movement within the spirit of God which manifested itself by blazing forth, radiating from the center to the periphery; that first movement outwards from within. Before creating, God encompassed Godself in a circle of light, which we may call God's aura. The limits of this circle were to become the limits of the universe and once they were established God projected into the luminous circle of

videlina, God's aura, images, which then crystallized and took on material form, and in this way *videlina* supplied the matter of creation. And when St John says, at the beginning of his *Gospel*, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God', 'the Word was with God' means that nothing was created without the participation of *videlina*, God's aura. The divine Word is Light.

We can witness this same process of creation as it is enacted by initiates. They, too, possess a luminous aura, which not only surrounds and protects them, but also provides the matter for their creations. When initiates wish to create by means of their thoughts, they use the same methods which God used in creating the universe: they project an image or pronounce a few words and these projections, as they pass through their aura, take from it the matter they need to manifest themselves. These images or words clothe themselves, as it were, in the matter of the aura. Someone who wants to give concrete form to an idea but who does not possess this subtle matter of the aura can never create anything. You have probably experienced this: there are days when, however eloquent you may be, your words have no effect on people; your audience remains completely cold and unmoved, whereas on other days, on the contrary, a few simple words produce a striking impression. The reason is that those few words were alive; before they reached their target they had been steeped in your aura from which they had drawn life and strength; thus made powerful they were able to reach the souls of others and cause them to vibrate. On the days when your aura is weak, your words will be meaningless and empty; there is nothing there. You speak, but with no effect. Your words are not impregnated with that element which only the aura can give, *videlina*.

The power of initiates comes from the fact that they know how to impregnate their words with the pure, abundant, intense matter of their aura. The spoken word is only a vehicle or support, it can only take effect if it is steeped in the creative element, *videlina*. Those who do not understand how to speak magic words can shout and gesticulate as much as they like, but will never be heard by the higher spirits nor persuade them to come to their help. But initiates who quietly utter the same words, without a single gesture, simply by the inner power derived from their aura, will obtain mighty results.

It was not the spoken word, which created the world, it was the Logos, the divine Word, Light. The Logos was the first element to be set in motion by God, and the spoken word is the medium, which the divine Word uses in Its work of creation. [Actually in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament to Christians, it was Sophia; the writer or editor of St John's *Gospel*, changed the first element, *Sophia*, to *Logos*.] When that primeval force came forth from God it was spirit; it became light as it returned to God. The dark sun sends *videlina*, the spirit, to the bright, visible sun, and the bright sun sends it back to the dark sun in the form of visible light, *svetlina*. The spirit becomes light as it returns to God. When God initiated the first movement, God's Spirit, the Word, was set in motion, and when It returned to God It had become light. Whatever goes out from the center to the periphery, returns to the center once it has reached the limits of the circle, and in this way a continual ebb and flow, a circular movement, is set in motion from the center to the outer periphery and from the periphery back to the center. On its return journey towards the center, the current of forces is invested with new and different qualities and provokes new and different reactions as it goes. Its nature is not the same on the way out as on the way back.

'In the beginning was the Word', the first movement of the divine Spirit who created the circle of the universe. In the same way, before magi perform a magical rite, they form a circle around themselves. The origin of this custom, which dates from very ancient times, is to be found in the secret science concerning the human aura. When we read that magi must stand within the circle they have drawn, this does not mean, simply, that they must draw a material circle on the ground and stand within it. It means that they must create the living circle of their aura and take up their stand within it. In other words, their spirit must be active and watchful, otherwise they run the risk of falling prey to invisible entities. If magi are content to draw material circles around themselves but have not lived in such a way as to develop pure, brilliant, powerful auras, they may, perhaps, get what they want from the ceremony, but when they step out of the magic circle, all those entities who obeyed them while they were in it (for the invisible entities respect the symbol of the circle and obey the magic formulas pronounced by magi) will cluster round them to pursue and harass them.

Any magician who is unaware of these laws will have problems of this kind. The invisible entities, who are well aware that the aura is neither pure nor luminous, will end by revenging themselves on the magi for forcing them to obey them in spite of their unworthiness. Magicians of this kind do not know that in the beginning is the Word. They do not know, in other words, that before launching into all kinds of bold undertakings, they should build up an aura, a true magic circle of light. But this circle cannot be drawn automatically, with a piece of chalk or any other material means; it can only be created by love, purity and selflessness. Why do you suppose that so many people who embark upon the practice of magic not only fail to get any results, but seem to become prone to all kinds of mishaps? It is because their aura is not sufficiently powerful, luminous and pure, so when they try to project a thought they have not materials with which to clothe it or make it strong. If you want a thought to take flight you have to give it wings, and those wings can only be found in your aura.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' When God created this great luminous circle God impregnated it with God's own essence. Trees, plants, animals and humans were all, at one time, images floating in God's aura. Everything that exists, exists in the aura of God. As St Paul puts it: *'In God we live and move and have our being.'* We are all immersed in God's aura; it permeates and pervades every particle and fiber of our being. Meditate every day on the power of *videlina*, that living Light that is the primordial element of all creation. ...

Light is matter in its subtlest, most tenuous form, and what we call matter is simply highly condensed, concentrated light. In every zone and region of the universe, therefore, we have the same fundamental matter – or the same light – in varying degrees of condensation or subtlety. Every that exists on earth in a solid, condensed state, exists also on the etheric plane in a more refined purer form. And this is the whole point of our spiritual work: to learn how to find all the things we need in that subtler, finer state which most nearly resembles their primordial state.

When we go to watch the sun rising in the morning, this is what we are doing: nourishing ourselves with the purest of all foods, light. When Jesus said, *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst...'* he was not thinking of physical hunger and thirst. He was speaking of the hunger and thirst for truth, wisdom, justice and freedom, of that ultimate hunger and thirst, which ask only for fire and light.

The soul hungers and the spirit thirsts. The soul consumes fire and the spirit light. Fire is a masculine principle and the soul is feminine, and every being is nourished by its complementary element. The soul yearns for a positive, active dynamic principle: it feeds on fire. The spirit, on the other hand, is masculine; it needs the feminine principle, so it drinks light. And just as the masculine principle engenders the feminine principle, so fire engenders light. Light is a manifestation, an emanation of fire. When you light a fire it produces light, and the purer the fuel of that fire, the purer and subtler the light it produces.

Light is the raiment of fire and this is why light is always associated with matter. In the sublime regions on high, light is related to matter and fire to the spirit. This is why God, the primordial fire, first created [transformed a part of Godself into] Light, and Light then created the world; nothing that was made was made without Light. Every time you light a fire, the story of the creation of the world is being re-enacted before your eyes.

References

'Let there be light' – *Genesis 1:30*

'In the beginning was the Word' – *John 1:1*

'In God we live and move and have our being' – *The Acts of the Apostles 17:28*

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst' – *Matthew 5:6*

Angels and other Mysteries of the Tree of Life, Izvor Collection #236, Chapter 6, 'Ain Soph Aur, unlimited light' and Chapt 8: 'When god drew a circle on the face of the deep'.

The Splendour of Tiphareth – The Yoga of the Sun, Complete Works, vol. 10, Chap. 1: 'All that exists on earth exists etherically in the sun' and chap. 2: 'Obtaining etheric elements from the sun.'

The Mysteries of Fire and Water, Izvor Collection #232, Chap. 14: 'How to light and tend fire.'