

CONTEMPLATIVE MEETING October 2023

EGO, PERSONALITY & SOUL - The Fullness beyond the emptiness

Word of welcome

Dear friends,

We cordially welcome you to this Contemplative Meeting of the Golden Rosycross.

Today we wish to reflect on the fullness of the Spirit
beyond the emptiness of the unfulfilled life.

It is the task of human beings in these times,
through self-activation, to pave the way within ourselves
to a new and completely fulfilling mode of life.

We would like to reflect on the seed of the Spirit,
and the rebirth of the Soul that guides us to walk our Path.

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Reflecting is beholding inwardly.

Seeing, hearing, and smelling, tasting, thinking and feeling are physical perceptions.

Our senses are the gateways to our body.

In this way, all kinds of things enter our being.

We are filled with them.

You may close your eyes and stuff your ears,

but did you ever try stopping your thoughts and emotions?

Do we actually think and feel of our own free will?

Or rather, do we continuously *observe* things and feelings within ourselves?

To a certain extent, this is passive; we allow our thoughts to dwell on something.

We think about the feelings that all of this has evoked in us.

Our emotions set us in motion.

We are kept in motion by our feelings and emotions.

In Lao Zu's Tao Te Ching we read:

The mystical techniques for achieving immortality are revealed only to those who have dissolved all ties to the gross worldly realm of duality, conflict, and dogma. As long as your shallow worldly ambitions exist, the door will not open.

Short moment of silence

Musical interlude

With what are *you* filled?

To what are *your* thoughts going out?

Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Just notice what you are speaking about in the course of a day.

This will give you a fair idea of with what you are filled,
with what you have filled your heart, and on what your attention is focused.

To what does your heart go out?

To your family, your relationship, your children, or perhaps your pet?

Of course.

To your work, your career, your living environment, your household?

Necessarily.

To your hobbies, your friends, your favourite team?

Quite contentedly.

To the well-being of your fellow human being, the environment, or other worthy causes?

Pertinent topics.

However, does this give you satisfaction?

Perhaps for a short while it does, but what about "fulfilment of life"?

Your attention goes out to what fills your heart.

You attract into your magnetic system to which your attention goes out to.

When your heart's desires are fulfilled for the time being, aren't you, too?

Or do you, on the contrary, stay behind with an empty feeling?

What do you really desire in your innermost depth?

Short moment of silence

Musical interlude

If our heart's desires, our longing, do not bring the fulfilment we are seeking;
 if we gradually begin to face our egocentric drive;
 if we acknowledge the words of Ecclesiastes that
 everything is 'vanity and striving after wind', [Eccl.1:2, 17]
 that the sun rises and goes down again while all things remain infinitely toilsome,
 then we will at a certain moment draw the conclusion
 that it is our very desiring that maintains this whole cycle,
 and that it is our desiring that underlies our dissatisfaction.

Therefore, what is first of all needed is insight and 'knowledge', gnosis.

Short moment of silence

We must move with the times and the times are changing.
 Our old thinking must pass away.

Research has shown that through the absence of stimuli,
 in due course the body will lose its unused functions.
 And this applies to the thinking faculty, too.

Your memories disappear if you do not revivify them regularly.
 There is no longer any reason to produce new memories.
 There is no longer any experience.
 You indeed become still;
 we might even say that you become wholly extinguished,
 Has then the Nirvana, the extinction, been achieved?

Is this the great goal?
 Is this detachment?
 Is this inner peace?
 Is this the silence, which we are seeking?

To us, there is no fulfilment in nothingness.
 We would rather know unrest and fear the great nothingness.

So, how can we then seek fulfilment in our lives?

Short moment of silence

Why are we equipped with the power of consideration,
 with the power of self-reflection, with having ideals,
 while we time and again have to draw the conclusion
 that ideals are very hard to realise in this world?

We do not want emptiness.
 We want fulfilment, lasting fulfilment!

Where does this eternal, inner conflict stem from?

As personalities, we are apparently unable to fill our inner emptiness,
 nor fulfil it permanently.

Descending into ourselves, we discover soul conflicts,
 caused by everything that has entered our system throughout time.

We preferably avoid the confrontation with these conflicts.

We seek beauty; and deny the ugliness.

We flee from the imperfections within ourselves.

Yet, the solution can be found by admitting this emptiness,
 this 'utmost emptiness' as it is called by Lao Tzu, into our innermost self.

Short moment of silence

Musical interlude

We read in chapter 16 of the book *The Chinese Gnosis* by J van Rijckenborgh,
 containing commentaries to the Daodejing:

*'The state of utmost emptiness is the state of the candidate,
 who has cleansed his heart of all impurities.*

*In other words, he has emptied the magnetic system of the sternum
 of desires, tensions and conflicts.*

*Such a candidate has become desireless, empty,
and in this state, he can sustain an unwavering tranquillity of the soul.
The equilibrium of his soul can no longer be disturbed.
He is safeguarded forever against change, for he has attained true peace,
as one of the characteristics of the people of God.*

*If the state of utmost emptiness has not yet been reached,
times of soul tranquillity will always alternate with moments and periods of soul conflict,
which prove that the magnetic system of the blood,
and hence the heart and the soul nucleus, is not yet completely pure.
So one of the most important tasks for a pupil
is to trace the inner causes of his soul conflicts.
These causes are always to be found in his own self.
Never, under any circumstances, can they be caused by another person,
or by something coming from outside oneself.'*

Therefore, what matters is attaining consciousness!
We should descend into the deepest caves of our own heart,
down to the sources of the subconscious!

Our own open heart will make us conscious
that behind the border of facts and the demonstrable,
there is a reality... a Land that acknowledges other values.
In the warmth of the heart that strives for Insight,
our Soul develops and prepares to enter this other Land:
The Land of the Light.

This is not preceded by peace and quiet, but by conflict and struggle.
The path, leading to the Promised Land, begins in the desert.
We have to admit the emptiness into ourselves,
because beyond the emptiness, the Fullness is awaiting us.

Often, we are full of ourselves and our interpretation of the world around us.
There is no room for fulfilment in us.
What we are able to attract into our system with our senses
always concerns transient things.
We are fighting a hopeless struggle.

*The ancient sages said: 'Leave the hearing of the ears to the ears.
 Leave the work of the mind to the mind.
 When the soul then becomes silent and without images, it is open to receive.
 Dao, that is, the Seven-Spirit, can descend into the open soul.'*

[*Chinese Gnosis*, J van Rijckenborgh and Catharose de Petri]

Short moment of silence

There is no empty space:
 As self-maintenance and selfishness decrease,
 love, self-knowledge and insight increase.
 Then, the notion of the smallness of the 'I' and the greatness of this 'Other' grows.
 Then the respect for the splendidly radiant being that we bear as a seed within us, grows,
 a being, irradiated by knowledge and wisdom.

In the process, which humanity has now entered, the development of a new thinking,
 we urgently need the intelligence of our opened heart.
 Surrendering to this intelligence, our mind will experience a baptism of love,
 and a surfacing of Gnostic impulses from our heart will then affect our thinking.
 It concerns a thinking linked with wisdom; a New Man is born.

Closing words.

Musical interlude
