

The spirit and the oppression

In Valparaiso there was a meeting with "properthinking" people who had of themselves the image of success and who necessarily had to clash with Silo's proclamation that reads thus: "My teaching is not for the triumphant, but for those who carry failure in their hearts".

Someone then asked (in an amiable tone), if he would explain the meaning of the proclamation.

Silo replied that he would speak about the spirit and the oppression.

"There existed a very powerful man who had a great number of sheep. In order to impede their escape he built a fence. Nevertheless there were some sheep who tore down the prison and were able to run away. To prevent this, the powerful man brought dogs that guarded them night and day.

"In spite of everything, some were able to escape while others were killed by the watchdogs that ruined their flesh and skins with ferocious bites. Enthused by this, the dogs entered the sheepfold and continued the massacre.

"The powerful man realized that the fence was too fragile to contain them and the watchdogs were dangerous.

"He then sent for a magician. This one put all the sheep to sleep and made them dream that they were free. Upon awakening, they continued believing that they worked voluntarily and they no longer abandoned their master.

"Thus, the powerful man removed the fence and the watchdogs, just taking the sheep at his pleasure when he had a need for meat and skin.

"The sheep is the spirit of the human being. The powerful man, he who wants to utilize it. The fence, the watchdogs and the magician, are the assistants of the oppressor.

"To fence in the spirit is to separate it from the world by means of ignorance. To surround it with guards is to maintain it in docility through violence and force, instilling it with fear. Finally, to put it to sleep is to degrade the spirit with persuasion and beautiful falsehoods.

"Throughout time these three forms of assassination of the spirit have been used.

"Ignorance and fear have not been sufficiently powerful so as to contain the impulses of freedom. (On the other hand, an ignorant and fearful man is not as useful to the oppressor as the man who has been instructed, and it is no longer necessary to exert violence upon him for he is in accord with the infamy).

"When a man needs neither fences nor guards and conforms with the falsity of his life it is because his spirit has died.

"There are those who sell their inner freedom so as to achieve material security or material well-being. They are ones who call themselves free because they do not desire another life, and they take offense when someone speaks of the need to awaken.

"When men sleep in this way, they collaborate with the oppression and work for the well-being of the oppressor. They are considered "useful" to the causes of the State which, in turn, docilely serves an empire.

"A man who has degraded himself to such a point is a triumphant. He is put forth as an example of work and as an example of self-improvement. He receives his salary at the expense of the suffering of others whom he considers incapable.

"The triumphant can become such only by collaborating with the commandments of the master, be it called State, Morality, or Religion.

"The false triumphant sleeps, but his dreams are often full of dread for sooner or later some sheep awaken and begin to awaken others... Little by little, within the sheepfold, it is noticed that they no longer believe in false freedom.

"The triumphant have no need of this teaching for they have already satiated their ambition. What for so much outcry, when it is to the failures to whom I direct my word?

"I only believe in those who recognize themselves outside the fence, and who do not enjoy the benefits of the triumphant.

"Ah, triumphant! You cannot reproach me for not speaking for you, because you need me not. And if I speak for the one who needs me, why do you meddle with me?

"Failures are the poor and the sick and those without strength and those without future. They are the ones who have been defrauded in their ideals, maimed in their loves, chastised in their faith, betrayed in their kindness.

"When you recognize your failure I shall give you comfort, for only then will the spirit be yours and you will discover the need for internal liberation, the need for renouncement, the need to kill desire".

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