

## The Unfragmentary Reality of the Mind

"Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law."

One of the most seemingly problematic and enigmatic of Crowleyan doctrines in Thelemic cosmology centers on the abstruse issue of hidden Masters, or Secret Chiefs, or Mahatmas (as Blavatsky used to call them). Crowley also referred to them as preterhuman intelligences or discarnate minds, or (to use his exact words), "Intelligence or Individuality (of the same general type as ours) [essentially if not "really" i.e. in phenomenal terms] independent of our human brain-structure" . Is such a thing an Old Aeon relic, to be discarded as today's contemptuous (and occasionally presumptuous) Thelemites seem wont to do? Or is there a subtle truth to the notion?

An excellent example of how those whose winks of reason - which are thought to keep these intellectual horses (or horses' asses) from getting themselves lost in a metaphysical mess of misdirected thinking - are such a total obstruction that they keep them from seeing at all, is how these majestic thinkers can casually dismiss the possibility of preternatural prophecy (read: "forth-speaking" not just prediction) owing to the so-called insights of scholarship. They simply fail to realize that they might be allowing their opinions to be so fully inundated with the critical tendency that they drown intellectually in an abyss of falsehood - and where they most certainly should not, for among all dire warnings in The Book of the Law this one is most emphasized. It is dangerous for one to let go of the lifejacket of reason in the abyss of faith; but by thorough consideration, with an open mind, one can arrive at the certainty that so capably sails the sea of Understanding.

One such instance occurs in respect of the Revelation of John. Scholarship concludes, based on a variety of factors, that this was the work not of a single individual but of a plurality (and consequently a result of dispersed discombobulation of thought). Also, it is commonly accepted that one particularly important piece of the mystical puzzle of this book - namely the problem surrounding the number of the Beast (which is central to Crowleyan cosmology) - is itself based on fallacy. For it is a fact that all of the earliest manuscripts have 616 (not the Crowleyan 666) as the actual value. ("The figure 616 is given in one of the two best manuscripts, C -Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus, Paris- by the Latin version of Tyconius (DCXVI, ed. Souter in the Journal of Theology, SE, April 1913), and by an ancient Armenian version (ed. Conybaere, 1907). Irenaeus knew about it [the 616 reading], but did not adopt it (Haer. v.30,3), Jerome adopted it (De Monogramm., ed. Dom G Morin in the Rev. Benedictine, 1903). It

is probably original. The number 666 has been substituted for 616 either by analogy with 888, the [Greek] number of Jesus (Deissmann), or because it is a triangular number, the sum of the first 36 numbers (1+2+3+4+5+6. ..+36 = 666)" -Dr. Paul Lewes, A Key to Christian Origins] It is also commonly assumed that the meaning that the original scribe(s) had in mind was Nero, whose name in Hebrew adds up both ways - i.e. NRVN QSR = 666, and NRV QSR = 616. This is perfectly sound and reasonable, and of course we hold no objection.

However - in this case as in most such cases - those who are quick to dismiss the notion that a supernal discarnate mind, as being completely functional outside the parameters of space-time, and as having been directly involved in the Cairo Working as Rose Kelly claimed (or as Crowley tells us that Rose claimed), might have been at all responsible for this sort of revelation, are simply missing the forest for the trees. There can be assumed (at least in Crowleyan conception) to be a dichotomy of awareness in the human mind, wherein on one side - the side of human existence most saturated with ordinary or temporal perception - is vulgar realization and mundane thought, and on the other, the god-awareness, or the preternatural perception of the Master-consciousness in man. The Masters, while certainly (insofar as the plane of temporal perception is concerned) objective to our own limited awareness, are nevertheless (on a plane beyond the frames of temporality) ultimately the seat of human existence, and united therewith. However, it should be understood that full realization of this never occurs in mundane thought (consciously that is) except in the most rare (and consciously unwilled) event of Samadhi.

In this case of the number of the Beast of Revelation, while the scribe most likely had a certain limited historical reference in mind as the meaning of the value, this fact does not preclude the involvement of an alternate meaning known solely in the deep-seated portion of the mind, outside the limits yet within the realm of the function of the brain of the scribe being utilized by that Master ("Holy Guardian Angel" if you care to use such an archaic concept). The factor in the equation of human potential involved in this apparently unsolvable problem, which in time and space is more or less resolved through the evolution of consciousness and accelerated (again more or less) by initiated interactivity, is what is referred to in Liber L, 2:32: "there is a factor infinite & unknown..."

It is in light of this complex conception perfectly well and good to take this notion of the intervention of hidden Masters in human affairs into account when considering the origin not only of The Book of the Law - founding Document of spiritual Law in the New Aeon - but in every case of visionary or potentially Class "A" communication.

Whether the manifestation or epiphany of discourse was in fact objectively perceived (as Crowley claimed), or only apparently so (as a possible consequence of the effect of the energized enthusiasm of the mind of the seer), is actually irrelevant. The fact remains - if indeed it be a case of genuine supernal intervention (or as Crowley mistakenly wrote early on, "genuine automatic writing" - a statement he later corrected) - then it fails to matter, for ultimately there is no difference between the two temporally displaced minds.

So it is perfectly rational in the final analysis to take as "gospel truth" the Crowleyan notion that Secret Chiefs and Holy Angels are real and that they are behind certain of the events of mankind. It would be equally reasonable to extend this notion further, and to suggest that, somewhere between the temporal realm of consciousness and the transcendent perch of "unfragmentary" perfection which is seated if you will not at any particular location in the universal mind but at once in all points thereof, there exist static clots of mind (formerly called ghosts or spirits) - not ascended - whose ability to extend their existence through faith (however misplaced), and unwillingness to let go their falsehood, enables them to continue to interact with humanity and influence men to think as they do, effectively using weak incarnate minds to wreak havoc on the overall Aeon scheme, opposing as they always do the essential change which propels the mass-evolution of consciousness to its natural destination. But being limited themselves (however more powerful than your average temporal mind), they lack the final knowledge (which if they would simply relinquish their opposition to change, they would obtain) which comes upon magical disintegration and reintegration of the ego, and opens the door to the Mastery that co-exists with man without measure. Anyway, knowing as they do the ways to effectively counteract the mischief of these spectral insurgents, the Masters of the human race have no chance of faltering against them in the long run.

We need not feel pressured by the fear inherent in reason, which motivates and fuels the critical faculty of our limited minds, to reject the more unbelievable notions of the New Aeon mindset which is encapsulated in Crowleyanity. For fear leads to failure; and to fail in matters such as these is the greatest possible miss that will result inevitably in the "fall down into the pit called Because", where the initiate "shall perish with the dogs of Reason."

"Love is the law, love under will."

-Aleisterion