

**Excerpts from "Beelzebub's tales To His Grandson," G. I. Gurdjieff, Penguin group USA, copyright 2006.**

**Pages 569-572**

"... I often returned to the community of Russia, where during that period of the flow of time their 'great process of reciprocal destruction' and the 'annihilation of everything already attained by them' was taking place--a process which this time, as I told you, they called 'Bolshevism.'

"You remember, I promised to tell you about the real fundamental causes of this arch-phenomenal process.

"Well then, as I have already mentioned, this grievous phenomenon arises there as a result of two independent factors, the first being the cosmic law of Solioonensius, and the second, as always, those same abnormal conditions of ordinary being-existence established by them themselves.

"In order that you should understand better both these factors, I will explain to you each of them separately, and will begin with the cosmic law of Solioonensius.

"First of all you must be told that all the three-brained beings, on whatever planet they arise and whatever exterior coating they receive, always await the manifestations of the action of this law with impatience and joy, somewhat as your favorites look forward to their feasts of 'Easter,' 'Bairam,' 'Zadik,' 'Ramadan,' 'Kaialana,' and others.

"The only difference is that your favorites look forward to these feasts of theirs with impatience because on these 'holy days' it has become customary for them to abandon themselves to merrymaking and drunkenness; whereas the beings of other planets await the action of Solioonensius with impatience

because thanks to it the need for evolving, in the sense of acquiring Objective Reason, increases in them by itself.

"As for the causes that give rise to the action of this cosmic law, they are different for each planet, but always flow from and depend upon what is called the 'common-cosmic harmonious movement'; and as regards your planet Earth, what is called the 'center of gravity of causes' is brought about by the 'periodic tension' of the sun of its system, brought about in its turn by the influence upon this sun of a neighboring solar system, existing under the name of 'Baleaotoo.'

"In this latter system, however, the 'center of gravity of causes' is determined by the presence, among the number of its concentrations, of a great comet, 'Solni,' which, in accordance with certain combinations of the 'common-cosmic harmonious movement,' comes at times in its falling very near to its sun Baleaotoo, which is thereby forced greatly to increase its 'tension' in order to maintain the path of its own falling. This tension provokes the same in the suns of the neighboring systems, among which is the system Ors; and when in its turn the sun Ors increases its tension in order not to change the path of falling proper to it, it provokes the same tension in all the concentrations of its own system, among which is also the planet Earth.

"The 'tension' in each of the planets acts also on the common presence of all the beings arising and breeding on it, always engendering in the beings, besides desires and intentions of which they are not aware, the feeling called sacred 'iabolioonozo' or, as your favorites would say, 'religious feeling,' namely, that 'being-feeling' which, as I have already said, appears at times in the desire and striving for more rapid self-perfecting as regards Objective Reason.

"It is interesting that when this sacred feeling--or another similar to it likewise engendered by a certain common-cosmic actualization--is produced

in the presence of your favorites, they accept it as a symptom of one of their numerous diseases, and call it 'nerves.'

"It is necessary to remark that this impulse, inherent in the presence of all three-brained beings of our Great Universe, arose and was developed almost normally in most of the terrestrial beings of a former period, that is, from the time when the organ kundabuffer was removed from their common presence right up to the second transapalnian perturbation.

"But later, among the chief ills flowing from the conditions of ordinary being-existence established by them, especially since there began to predominate in the presence of every terrestrial three-brained being their 'inner evil god' named 'self-calming,' it came about that under the action of Solioonensius, instead of the desire and striving for a more rapid self-perfecting, a 'something' began to arise in them which they themselves characterize by the words 'need of freedom,' which is the chief cause of the appearance of these grievous processes of theirs such as this recent 'Bolshevism.'

"I will explain somewhat later how they represent to themselves this famous 'freedom' of theirs; for the moment I will only tell you that that sensation which arises from the action of Solioonensius strengthens the need in them for some change or other in the general outer conditions of their ordinary being-existence, which until then were more or less stable.

"After the second transapalnian perturbation occurred to this ill-starred planet, that is, after the 'loss of Atlantis,' the action of the cosmic law of Solioonensius in the common presence of your favorites took place at least forty times, and each time, thanks to this strange need of freedom which has become fixed in the majority of them, almost the same thing took place as has recently been occurring among the groups inhabiting that part of the surface of your planet called 'Russia.'

"Here it is extremely important to note that these terrifying processes could never have occurred among the three-brained beings of the planet Earth if those data for engendering the being-impulse of Conscience, which had remained intact in their subconscious--data to which the Most Saintly Ashiata Shiemash was the first to turn his attention, and which he relied upon for the fulfillment of his mission--had taken part in the functioning of that consciousness of theirs which has become habitual for them during their waking state.

"It is only because the data for the sacred impulse of being-Conscience do not take part in the functioning of this consciousness of theirs that the action of the law of Solioonensius, as well as of other inevitable cosmic laws, assumes these abnormal forms which are so lamentable for them...

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"And so, my boy, these terrifying processes of reciprocal destruction and of the annihilation of everything they have attained ensue partly from the following cause: in certain periods, when the action of the cosmic law of Solioonensius makes itself felt in their common presence, arousing in them the mentioned need for 'freedom,' then on the one hand, the intensity of action of the data already inherent in them for constantly engendering the impulse of 'timidity' in front of power-possessors automatically diminishes, while on the other hand, the intensity of action of those strange being-data provoking 'hatred' toward beings of other castes increases.

"That is why I said that this subdivision of your favorites into castes--bringing about in its total result these uniquely strange being-data which manifest more and more in their functioning and flow, as you have doubtless

been convinced by everything I have told you, from the conditions of their abnormal ordinary being-existence--serves chiefly as the second factor for the arising of these terrifying processes.

"These terrible processes usually arise and flow in the following sequence:

"It always begins like this. Under the influence of the action of Solioonensius, several beings from one or another group in whom data for engendering that strange impulse toward beings of other castes, particularly those of the ruling class, happen to have been crystallized more strongly than in the rest--see and feel reality more than the others and begin, as is said there, to 'rant,' and these 'ranting orators' become for those around them what at the present time are usually called 'leaders.'

"And further, thanks to this 'ranting' and also thanks to the action of the cosmic law of Solioonensius, which always combine abnormally in their presence, others in their turn begin to rant.

"When this uproar among the ordinary beings begins to act too cacophonously upon what are called the 'effeminate nerves of the left half' of certain power-possessing beings of the community, and these latter give orders to those whose jobs it is to grease with what is called 'Scottish cream' the navels of several particularly vociferous clamorers, it is then that these excesses of theirs begin and rise progressively to a climax, yet in the end, to the misfortune of your favorites, they always lead to nothing.

"If these processes of theirs had improved the existence of beings of subsequent generations even a little, then perhaps, from the point of view of a strictly impartial observer, they might not appear to be so terrible. But to the misfortune of all the three-brained beings of our Great Universe, no sooner does the 'blissful action' of this lawful cosmic manifestation cease, and these terrifying processes come to an end, than the 'same old story' begins again, and their ordinary being-existence grows more 'bitter' than before and,

parallel with this, what is called the 'sane awareness of the sense and aim of their existence' deteriorates.

"And it deteriorates, in my opinion, chiefly because after these processes, the leaders of the former ruling class are usually replaced by beings from other castes which have never had among their representatives, either of the present or past generations, persons of any experience, conscious or unconscious, of that being-manifestation which gives the ability to direct the process of outer existence, and sometimes even of inner existence, of surrounding beings who although 'similar' to them have not yet attained to their degree of reason.

"In all justice it must be admitted that although in the common presence of the three-brained beings of the former ruling class the data present in their 'subconscious' for engendering real being-Conscience also did not take part in the functioning of their 'waking consciousness,' these beings at least did have the habit of ruling, acquired by heredity and improving automatically from generation to generation.

"On the other hand, in the presence of the beings who have newly attained to power not only is real being-Conscience absent, as in the beings of the former ruling class, but in addition, certain 'charms' begin to manifest in a particularly stormy way and to give extraordinary and terrible results, 'charms' which in general are crystallized in the presence of terrestrial three-brained beings, especially of recent times, in consequence of the properties of the organ kundabuffer, such as 'vanity,' 'pride,' 'self-conceit,' 'self-love,' and others, whose functioning in them is still quite fresh, having almost never before been 'satisfied' to a sufficient degree.

"To these terrestrial beings who become 'impromptu power-possessors,' with no hereditary data at all in themselves for even the automatic ability to rule, one of the sayings of our dear teacher can be fittingly applied:

"I have yet to meet that idiot used to shuffling about in a pair of old slippers who would feel comfortable in smart new shoes.'

"And really, my boy, each time the action of Solioonensius comes to an end and a 'relatively normal' existence begins again among your favorites, the 'freshly baked' power-possessing beings 'cut those capers' thanks to which there is a continuing increase of the birth rate of what are called 'slugs,' 'snails,' 'lice,' 'cockroaches,' and many similar parasites which destroy everything good on that planet.

"As I have begun to speak about Bolshevism, in order to give you still another example of the peculiarity of the being-mentation of your favorites that has become proper to them, I shall tell you about one of their naive rationalizations which is not without its humor.

"This naivete of theirs, which arises from their excessively poor confrontative being-judgment, consists in this, that although during the last two centuries all events there, without exception, in the sphere of their mutual relationships occurred entirely automatically, without the participation of the consciousness or intention of any contemporary being, nevertheless they do not hesitate to ascribe, even with envy, all the good or bad results flowing from these events to one or another of their fellow beings.

"And this abnormality which has become fixed in the entirety of their spiritualized parts is due to the following causes:

"First of all, there have gradually disappeared from their common presence all those being-data, the totality of which can engender in beings the property called 'prescience,' and thus they are entirely deprived of the possibility of foreseeing imminent events in any degree whatsoever; second, having a 'narrow horizon' and a 'short memory,' they not only know nothing about long-past events on their planet, but even do not remember what happened

quite recently, even yesterday; and third, they have no knowledge of the cosmic laws thanks chiefly to which there arise those sorrowful events that proceed among them. So these contemporary favorites of yours are convinced with all their presence that this is the first time that the terrible process they call 'Bolshevism' has broken out on their planet and that nothing like it had ever existed before that 'darling civilization of theirs'; and they are even sure that it happened owing to the 'progressive evolution' of the reason of beings like themselves.

"Their reasoning on the subject of similar processes which have taken place many times in the past on their planet may serve as a good example to illustrate and characterize the phenomenal stupidity and rigidity of their being-judgment.

"The simple common sense of every three-brained being would indicate that such processes were bound to take place, and ever since I became interested in the strange psyche of these favorites of yours and began to occupy myself with observing them in every aspect, I myself have been a witness no less than forty times of exactly similar processes, which I would call the 'destruction of everything within sight.'

"It is interesting to note that almost half of all these terrifying processes occurred not far from the place where what they call their 'cultured existence' is now concentrated, that is, they took place on that part of the surface of their planet named 'Egypt.'

"These terrible processes occurred so often in Egypt because, in the course of long periods of time, this part of the surface of your planet has occupied, in relation to the 'common-cosmic harmonious movement,' the position of 'center of gravity of radiations.' And that is why the influence of the cosmic law of Solioonensius often acted on the presence of the three-brained beings breeding there, each time bringing forth in them this abnormality."



