

Module 5 – The Divinity of the Text

Video:

<http://logopraxis-institute.online/?p=7638>

Exercise 1

Work with the questions from the video

- Can you think of a time when you couldn't see how what the Text was saying applied to your life?
- How did you feel about the Text in this instance?
- Can you think of another time when you could see a truth from the Text demonstrated in your own life?
- Reflect again on what feelings you had towards the Text when this occurred?
- What is it about the Text that makes it a sacred Text for you?
- How does it transform into something that feels sacred for you?

Reflections

As we have seen, the Text not only instructs us in how to think spiritually from the truths that it offers, but also is the primarily field in which we may practice what it teaches. And so, in this way it's body, as the text itself, becomes an instrument for instruction. For the very fact that it is a written text in the material world using language that is based in space, time and person, requires us to always be asking the questions.... How is what I'm reading describing the life of my spirit? Can I see illustrations of this in my life, in the processes that I experience in my thoughts and feelings?

- When it uses the term 'Lord', what image comes into my mind?
- And when it uses the term 'Divine Man' or 'Divine Human', what image comes to mind?
- How then can I translate this image into a correspondence, that is, as something which communicates how the Divine operates in my life? As something then that isn't based in the life of time, space and person but is based in my thought and feeling life instead?
- And what do I see in these images when I remember that the Text is a mirror to me of my own inner states of life?

... for things that are Divine, or that are infinite, are not apprehended except from finite things of which man can form some idea. Without an idea derived

from finite things, and especially an idea from the things of space and time, man can comprehend nothing of Divine things, and still less of the Infinite. Without an idea of space and time man cannot have any thought at all; for in respect to his body he is in time, and thus in respect to his thoughts which are from the external senses; whereas the angels, not being in time and space, have ideas of state, and therefore spaces and times in the Word signify states. (Arcana Coelestia 3938)

- What or who then is ‘the Lord’?
- And what is meant by the term ‘man’, as in, ‘human’? – if it isn’t about its physical shape but instead about function in the life of the spirit of my mind?
- What or Who is the ‘Divine Human’?
- And what makes it Divine for me?

...Those who have a corporeal natural idea of God as a Man, are wholly unable to comprehend how God as a Man could have created the universe and all things thereof; for they think within themselves, How can God as a Man wander all over the universe from space to space, and create? Or how can He, from His place, speak the word, and as soon as it is spoken, creation follow? When it is said that God is a Man, such ideas present themselves to those whose conception of the God-Man is like their conception of a man in the world, and who think of God from nature and its properties, which are time and space... Bring your thought into the angelic idea of God as being a Man, putting away, as much as you can, the idea of space, and you will come near in thought to the truth. (Divine Love and Wisdom 285)

The Text has the power to transform us by teaching first what is true, which enables us to start making distinctions between truth and falsity, and consequently good and evil. It therefore saves us from the sense of self that lives only in the material world. For this sense of self believes that life emanates out from it, and that we, or it, is the centre of the universe. When we live only from this sense of self there is no distinctions to be made, for we see only that “I see this” and “I touch that” and “I feel that” and that therefore the cause of my unhappiness is because I am being ‘done to’ by what comes into my sensory awareness. There is no distinction between what is being experienced and the sense of self that arises out of that; nor any acknowledgment that the Text alternatively says that all life flows in and that we are not the owners of it but instead vessels of reception to it. When this

teaching is remembered it provides the opportunity to separate from what we say “I” to, and therefore to be saved from our negative states.

Is this then not the Divine Human or God-Man that “wanders all over” our “universe, from space to space, and creates”? Offering us a new life, a new way of being in life with Itself, with our self and with others? Is this not the very nature of Divine Love; travelling over the landscapes in our mental life, bringing healing to the sick, food to the hungry, compassion to the inflicted, and balm to those who would sit and listen to It’s preachings? Surely this is the spiritual shape of the Ultimate Human, of Divine Humanity.

The material world’s finite manifestations then, just like the stories in Scripture, reflect inner realities back to us - if we are willing to see them. They offer us opportunities to see states that are with us that believe that what is seen, touched, smelt and tasted are exactly as we experience them, and then the Text offers an opportunity to question this; the opportunity to examine our inner responses to the outer world of effects. It gifts us with truths that create psychological space and distance from what flows in.

In fact, we can think of the truth that the Text is in our life as a spirit level. Just as a spirit level is a tool that is used to judge whether a brick is properly placed and correctly aligned in the building of the wall for a house, so too, we may use the Text to judge the quality of the thoughts and feelings that we are saying ‘Yes’ to; and to judge the spirit we are being affected by. And we may ask, are these thoughts and feelings well placed to be added to the building of the heavenly house of our mind? Are they orderly? Are they in line with the other well-placed bricks that exist there already? Are they aligned with what the Text says is true and heavenly?

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters--that you may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the Lord. For

thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive. (Jeremiah 29:4-14)

So yes, it's true that we may find ourselves stuck in the land of Babylon, where the exterior senses are constantly trying to rule and dominate. But the Lord has given us this tool that is the Text; that it might become a living manifestation of His Divine Human for us. He asks us to build the mind, as our house, with this tool. And He promises that if we practice using it, we will be freed from our captivity in Babylon.

Exercise 2

- Read through the set of numbers from the Heavenly Doctrines that accompany the video.
- Choose 1 that particularly speaks to you about the idea that the text is something that is sacred and Divine.

And now:

- Write down, in your own words, what the passage is saying.
- Create a task that will ask you to reflect on how this is true for you in your day-to-day life? That will remind you to look for moments of this being affirmed in your experiences.

Here is an example:

Text: The "Word" is the Divine truth, which in its essence is the infinite coming-forth from the infinite being, and is the Lord Himself as to His Human. AE 1104(3). In a word, those who separate the Divine from His Human, and do not think that the Divine is in His Human as the soul is in the body, and that the two are one Person, may fall into strange ideas about the Lord, even into an idea like that of a man separated from his soul. (Arcana Coelestia 4687)

My words: The Word can be thought of as a Divine Human when I remember that the way it looks externally can be likened to its body, but that what it teaches of a spiritual nature is like its spirit or soul.

Task: To remind myself of this every day before I read the text and to see if it changes how I feel or what thoughts I have when I'm reading it. To also reflect on the times when I forget to remind myself before I start and to compare if there is any difference.

Exercise 3

Use the meditation to refocus yourself before moving on to Exercise 4.

Psalm 137: <http://logopraxis-institute.online/?p=11595>

Exercise 4

Now revisit the questions from the video

- What is it about the Text that makes it a sacred Text for you?
- How does it transform into something that feels sacred for you?

Compare your responses now to your responses at the start of this module.

- What new things have arisen for you?
- What things has it affirmed for you?
- What questions are you left with?

Before Moving on to Module 6 ...

It can be useful in choosing a certain time of day to dedicate time to reflect on your tasks. If this is something that can be built into your daily routine then it will work to allow you the space to sit with what comes up for you for the rest of the day, knowing that you will have the time later to give it the attention it needs. If you haven't done so already, then this might be something you can consider before moving on to Module 6.

Support In Your Work

This type of inner reflective work can give rise to states of resistance or conflict, as well as opening up many questions. If you would like to talk with someone to explore this more, then you can email us at logopraxis.institute@gmail.com.

Optional Further Reading and Exploration

This section is optional as it's not part of the work that that is in the module, but it offers an opportunity to further explore around the subject and concepts.

The Stone at the Entrance of the Tomb: What Prevents us from Seeing into Deeper Things (audio and text)

<http://logopraxis-institute.online/?p=1857>

The Third Round: A Tutorial in Reading the Text as Psychological and Spiritual Processes (audio and text)

<http://logopraxis-institute.online/?p=12334>