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MAN AND HIS LIFE-FORCE

Behind every movement there is power. Without power, no movement whatsoever could take place. Therefore everything which exists and can be experienced directly by the senses must be a manifestation of power. It makes no difference whether it is the light of the sun or the weakest whale-oil lamp from the past. It makes no difference whether it is the roar of the animal or the whirring of a tiny insect's wings. It makes no difference whether it is someone's caress or his handling of a murderous dagger. It makes no difference whether it is his death-cry or his heartbeat. It makes no difference whether it is the flashing eyes of hate or the gentle, all-forgiving smile of love. Everything is a manifestation of power. But if everything is a manifestation of power, then man's daily life must also be a manifestation of power. His way of speaking and behaving is also a manifestation of power.

Now, power can only be realised as movement. Movement can in turn only exist as a realisation of power. It is this realisation we see. By its very nature, the power itself is inaccessible to our senses. When a railway train rushes past us along the track, it is not the power itself we see but its realisation. We see the train moving along the track. The train itself is not the power - it is something which is kept moving by the power. In the same way, power - just like time - will always be something which is inextricably present in everything which can be perceived. That which cannot be perceived can no more be a manifestation of power than it can be a manifestation of time. So if everything is a manifestation of power, then power must be a common factor found in all

that exists. The whole of our way of thinking and behaving is a manifestation of power, and a manifestation of power is of course the same as its realisation.

Now, power is not the highest 'something' in existence. The highest 'something' can only be that which controls the power. Is power then controlled? Yes, all power in Nature is bound by law. The manifestations of power - in other words all created phenomena - will always ultimately be a joy and a blessing for living beings. This applies to the earth's transformation from a glowing and blazing state of fire to its present, splendid condition as a world inhabitable for evolved people, just as it applies to the ripe grapes, apples, oranges and other edible fruits. If the power - which manifests itself as the fruits and the conditions of the earth - had not been bound by law, how then should the earth and the fruits have become the blessings for living beings which is actually the case? If the power which lies behind mankind's works and creations, such as the making of houses, machines, clothing and other everyday articles, had not been bound by law, how then should these things have obtained precisely that form which they have obtained, that form which makes them useful items? If that power - of which all the functions occurring inside the living being's organism are results - was not bound by law, how should these functions have come about or been maintained in exactly that state of functioning and movement which is a condition of life for the organism's originator?

Now, how is this regularity brought about? We see that regularity is the realisation of another form of power. Power can only be changed by power. A weaker power can be overcome or controlled by a stronger power. But if logic, which is the same as absolute sense and purposefulness, did not exist behind the stronger power which controls the weaker powers, resulting in all the life-conditioning, created phenomena such as the earth's transformation and the conditions for vegetable and animal life-experience, then the powers would never have become the blessing and potential for life-experience for living beings which is in fact the case. Without rational control of the forces, their realisations would only be random, which is the same as chaos. But in Nature's creations, or control of the forces, we never see random chance in any situation whatsoever. It is a total impossibility in Nature's creations. Isn't our organism perfectly formed in even the very finest details, not only

the organs we can see, such as the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and glands, but also the senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste etc.?

Is one to believe that random chance has directed the forces behind these organs to such a complex, logical co-operation like the cogwheels in the works of a clock? Is it not a fact that the works of a clock cannot possibly build themselves or be the result of a random combination of forces? But how then should the living being's organism, which is a far more complex combination of forces than the works of a clock, be able to be the product of chance? And this is not to mention the complex pattern for the direction of forces which has shaped the earth's transformation in order to fulfill for us the possibilities of life. No, wherever the forces are a joy and blessing for living beings, they are bound by logic, which again means they are a result of logical thought. Logic is actually the same as regularity. But regularity can only exist as combined chains of thought, by which regularity comes about. But regularity can only exist as the wishes and desires of living beings. So we here arrive at the point where we can see that thought-function lies behind the creative processes of the earth and Nature, exactly as thoughts, wishes and desires lie behind the creations of man, such as houses, bridges, means of transport, foodstuffs, articles of clothing etc. Are they not all expressions for previous wishes, desires and intentions? So we here arrive at the point where we can see that behind all powers in the entire universe there lies consciousness, which means thought processes, desire and will. We now see that two sorts of creative processes occur in the world, namely, man's creative processes and Nature's creative processes. Nature's creative processes are the more logical, whereas logic is often lacking in the creative processes of man. A lack of logic in the creative process is here to be understood as the same as a failure of control. But where control, or man's logical command of the powers, has failed, the powers are out of control, and can then only release themselves in chaos, which means the same as having no purpose or direction, being the result only of chance.

When people go so far as to act in such a way that they destroy their organisms with vices and fatal addictions, it means that they lose their power to control the forces logically. But this in turn means that, in their life-functions, releases of power which are more or less prerequisites for life are entrusted to the play of chance. And where

there was previously healthy functioning of the organs based upon the logical control of the forces, there is now chaos and chance, based on lack of control of these forces. And a corresponding part of man's organ-functions becomes impaired - either the bodily organism itself or the mental part of man's structure. All illness without exception is an expression of such impairment, whether mental or physical. But an impaired faculty to manifest and experience can only give an impaired result. So someone with such impairments who must live among other people can then only experience life with these other people and surroundings in an impaired way. And it is this impairment which is mankind's great trouble today, now more than ever before. People struggle with a world of ill-health. They struggle with a profusion of other forms of suffering. The root of this struggle has released itself in literal mass-murder of fellow-beings. Terrestrial mankind has created a growth of this capability to enormous proportions by means of its atomic weapons. Some groups of people struggle with exchange-rate difficulties, while other groups struggle to preserve a monopoly over valuable resources. Some groups perish in poverty, amorality and degradation, while other groups perish in wealth with its excessive luxury, gluttony and idleness. Some groups perish in their daily lives through perversity or mental derailments, sadistic murder, psychopathic behaviour and mental illness. What is the cause of all this? The cause is simply the lack of logic in the control of the life-force. Man has lost control of his life-force. Much of his daily life and thereby his way of thinking and behaving are only directed by chance and chaos. But how can one keep oneself healthy and free from illness; how can one be ensured against other people's anger and bitterness; how can one maintain even a normal experience of life, which means real joy and pleasure in living, when that which restrains the force promoting this well-being is out of control and this force is thus only directed by chance?

The life-force is present in the physical body of all beings from the moment of birth to the moment of death. During the embryonic stage and throughout the years of childhood until the being himself consciously takes over command, the being is led by Nature's own logical control of the forces. And as long as instinct leads, everything is perfect. But where the being himself has taken over command of what he should eat, how he should live, how he should behave towards other beings - people, animals and plants - it is entrusted to the being himself to control the

forces in favour of a normal way of living and existing. But here the troubles arise. Man is not developed enough, which means that his sense of logic concerning the purely bodily and mental area is not so advanced that with this sense of logic he can ensure himself a perfectly logical control of his innate life-force. And where logic fails, chance takes over. And where chance, or a mistaken perception, controls, man guides his life-force blindly, even if he thinks that he acts in full accordance with reality, in other words, perfectly. But where the life-force is not subject to this logical control it becomes a death-force. And we see that millions are killed by their own life-force because it has become a death-force. Very many people today suffer from the fact that much of their life-force has become a death-force and only a small part of it has been preserved as life-force.

Now, how can one see how much of the innate, original life-force is death-force and how much is still life-force? One can see this in those areas where the being is in conflict with Nature's method of creation. Nature, which really means God, never loses control over His life-force and therefore everything which is created by Nature becomes unfailingly in its final result a joy and blessing for living beings. That this logic must be the only one which can remove chaos and chance and thereby catastrophies from all existence should be considered as a matter of course. But the living being is a part of God, a part of the Creator, and man is the being here on earth who is furthest advanced in this relationship. Therefore he has been given freedom to direct the life-force in himself. And when he directs his life-force so badly that he loses control over it and it thereby becomes a death-force, then this really only stems from the fact that he is not yet practised enough in handling this life-force. He has not yet learned enough about how to control his life-force in favour of life and therefore it becomes in favour of death. People cannot therefore be blamed for their imperfections. But we see, of course, that they would like to learn when they begin to discover these imperfections. They must learn to think logically and to create logically. Is this not what we see in connection with technical and chemical creative processes? Does one not here have to study for many years in order to obtain the logical thinking by virtue of which one can control the material forces so that they become useful and logical? This logical thinking behind creation ensures that houses, skyscrapers, bridges and factories do not collapse;

and likewise that the chemicals in modern chemistry are not combined in such a way that they blow up laboratories or in other ways become highly dangerous for people. That our behaviour towards our fellow-beings and our attitude to daily life must be logical thus becomes self-evident. How can one experience a perfect relationship to one's fellow-beings if one's behaviour is not logical, but is a collection of uncontrolled forces which are dangerous for these fellow-beings? These fellow-beings must then of necessity react to this release of force because they see that it is lethal or deadly for them. Only the being himself cannot see that his life-force has become a death-force, both for himself and for others. In those instances where we think in bitterness and anger; where we wish to torment or inflict pain on our neighbour; where we speak ill of him in order to injure him; where we live at the expense of others; where we would rather allow ourselves to be served than serve; where we do not forgive our neighbour - there our life-force becomes a death-force both for ourselves and for our neighbour. It cannot possibly create joy and well-being for ourselves even as it cannot create joy and well-being for our neighbour. Long before the life-force has reached the blood and the physical organs, it has actually already begun in our innermost being which also consists of organs. Here inside our own organism it is also lethal. And therefore it becomes lethal in the blood and promotes illness in the physical organism and furthermore it then becomes released towards our neighbour and here too becomes detrimental to life, or lethal.

In relation to what I have explained, one will now be able to see that the life-force is the most important innate blessing. But it demands logical control so that it can continue being a life-force. All illness, all unhappiness and suffering, all unhappy fates reveal a correspondingly impaired and uncontrolled life-force. The being has become a death-being instead of a life-being. Therefore Christ's words: "You shall love God above all things and your neighbour as yourself" here become scientifically evident as the fulfillment of all the laws. To the same degree as this love is lacking, the being's life-force becomes a death-force. To the same degree as he wakes up every morning and with the whole of his heart wishes to be a joy and blessing for living beings, to the same degree he obtains a one

hundred per cent life-force which again means corresponding health in mind and body, meaning bliss, happiness and love, which means initiation or "the Great Birth". He has become one with God.

This lecture was given by Martinus at the Martinus Institute, Copenhagen on Sunday 23rd October 1955 and was published in the Danish edition of Kosmos 8-1983 under the title "Mennesket og dets livskraft".

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Kjell Höglund:

UNIVERSE ALIVE!

In our part of the planet we can follow a line of evolution starting with man as not much more than a naked ape. We can follow him through the world of the Old Testament, and further into the world of the New Testament. Today man is in desperate need of yet another guidebook, as he now is about to enter another unknown territory. He is in need of a third testament. He is in need of a map before he can safely continue his spiritual journey. You cannot travel safely through any unknown area of life if you do not have a map.

From a God of War to a God of Peace.

In the days of the Old Testament man's daily life was dangerous. It was a matter of "life or death". There were enemies to be killed, there was revenge to be carried out, there was hunting that simply had to be successful, there was Nature who could go against you or with you, either crushing your plans to dust or bringing them out into splendour and glory.

In a situation like this you could certainly do with a powerful ally. So the God of the Old Testament was a God of revenge, punishment and aggression. There was no need for a meek and forgiving God in those days.

And man walks on along the avenues of history. He gets tired of making war. Now he is prepared to listen to someone who talks about a God of love. This is soothing to his ears. The problem with the fearful God is obvious. If you don't manage to cooperate properly with him, he might very well be as fearful to yourself as to your enemy. But, on the other hand, if there is a God of love, all you have to do is believe and trust in him and he will take care of everything, he will forgive your sins, and in the end he will of course see to it that his children are secured a place in Heaven.

The empty house.

Nearly two thousand years have passed since Jesus walked this earth, talking about his Father of love. Man has had many new experiences, so he is a little wiser, a little more intelligent. As a result of his growing intelligence, he has gradually entered into conflict with traditional religion.

The wisdom of the New Testament was never intended to be analysed from an intellectual point of view. On the contrary, it was intended to serve as an emotional nourishment for the tired warrior who longed for peace.

When modern man was unable to understand the ways of God with his intelligence, he began to doubt the very existence of God. Instead he turned to what he

could see and touch. He became an expert on matter. And so it happened that the creator gradually evaporated out of his own creation.

Yes, the creator has disappeared from his creation. The ship is sailing across the ocean - but there is no-one on board. The house is built - but it is empty. The universe is full of suns and globes - but it is not inhabited. The work of art bears the hallmark of a genius - but the artist never existed. The garden is filled with fruits and flowers - but the gardener himself is absent. The universe is an empty shell. It is merely a coffin, where death is the natural state of being, and life, just an accident.

The consideration of an object.

But let us then forget about the creator. We still have the creation, even if some of us perhaps would prefer another name for it. This creation, or universe, is the very object of research in the materialistic age. Let us now consider this object.

What is it that surrounds us on all sides? It is matter. And what is matter? It is energies, vibrations, forces. And what are vibrations but another name for different movements in space and time?

When we gaze into the empire of stars, we find planets spinning around their axes and circling around suns; we find solar systems rotating in great formations called galaxies; and we see these galaxies majestically flying through space.

And it is the same with the atomic and subatomic realities. Everything here is rotating, vibrating, moving, oscillating. The cells are pulsating, the heart is beating, man is walking on earth. Wherever there is matter there is movement.

But movement can only be the result of a force. It is impossible for me to move my hand from one point in space to another point in space if there is no force to initiate the movement. A car could not be driven without petrol, from which the necessary force is derived. If you want to make a change in the world of matter, you must use a force. Force is the mother of movement.

If we study this force more closely, we find that it is directed. Everything around us is forced to move in logical patterns. The scientist can detect mathematical laws for the movements of planets and stars, just as he can for the movements of atoms and molecules. The cells and organs that constitute our physical body cooperate in a most marvellous way; billions of delicate movements work together according to such a superfine logic that it is almost unbelievable. The most brilliant of engineers must stand humble and bow his head in admiration. No man-made machine could compete.

Arrow in the blue.

But logical structures are a sign of thinking. If I want to clean up my apartment I would have to arrange my things according to some plan. For instance, I may decide against having my shoes in the refrigerator from now on, and I may come to the conclusion that it is not such a good idea to sleep in the bathroom after all. I suddenly remember all the trouble I have had lately in keeping my TV-set up on the roof - not to mention those endless problems in using my bicycle as a chair.

Now I have finally had it. I just can't take any more. I begin to think. I begin to make some plans. I begin to make some logical arrangements according to those plans. I slowly begin to create some order out of chaos.

But what about the universe? Isn't there order in the universe? Isn't there order among the stars? How about our organism and the arrangement of matter in cells and atoms? There is order everywhere. And wherever there is order there is thinking. But thinking and planning is not an arrow in the blue. It is always connected with a living being.

It was not the order in my apartment which created me. It was I who created some order out of the mess in my apartment. Where there are logical structures there is a living being behind them.

It is therefore a logical necessity to conclude that there is a directive force or consciousness behind the universe. The universe is a logical structure arranged by a gigantic universal mind. In other words, *the universe is a living being.*

The living God.

Here we have reached a remarkable point in the spiritual journey of man. First he had his God of war and revenge. Then he settled for a universal Father of love. Then, as his intelligence grew, he decided that God didn't exist. And now, suddenly, this same intelligence is beginning to demonstrate that the universe is alive!

So Plato was right when he wrote in the dialogue "Timaeus" that: "this Cosmos has verily come into existence as a Living Creature endowed with soul and reason owing to the providence of God."

And as the universe is *everything*, this living creature is, by definition, all-embracing and therefore also all-powerful, possessing all existing wisdom and knowledge. But such a being must surely be all-loving! We know from our own experience that knowledge is the basis for understanding, and understanding is the basis for true love. So if you have a creature who is

in possession of all the knowledge in the entire universe from eternity to eternity, this creature will understand and love everyone.

This is, as I said, a remarkable situation. Man here stands before a living universe that is all-embracing, all-powerful, all-knowing and all-loving. According to the Bible these are the very characteristics of the living God. Furthermore, this idea of a living universe fits very well with the conception of a Father in heaven. It is also said that God is everywhere, and the universe certainly is.

So modern man, who denied the existence of God, suddenly stands before him, *and indeed inside him*. Wait a minute, that was also what Paul said: "In him we live, and move, and have our being". (Acts. 17:28)

A curtain is lifted. Man raises his head and he looks at the stars. He has walked through the valley of the shadow of death, and now he sees a great light ahead. There is still a long way to go, but now there is light at the end of the tunnel. The prodigal son is returning from his long and arduous journey away from his Father's house.

The cosmic connection.

So we see that the universe is alive and well. You are a living cell in the body of the universe. Your body is in itself a universe, consisting of endless worlds and myriads of creatures striving for happiness in their own particular world-cultures.

We are the flesh and blood of planets and milky ways; we are brothers and sisters of flowers and stones; we are all members of the same family, sharing the same reality, living in the same house, seeking the same goal. We are all pumped by the same universal heart through the bloodstreams of life.

This article is based on a lecture given by Kjell Höglund during the English-speaking International Course at the Martinus Centre, Klint, Denmark in the summer of 1982.

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE

Rolf Elving will be visiting England again in April/May 1984 to give a series of four Sunday evening lectures (beginning on 29th April) and study groups in Totnes, South Devon.

A more detailed programme will be available nearer the time from:
Mary McGovern, King Edward VI College, Fore Street, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5RP.

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