



Dharma Circle March 2020 Summary

There are two general views of Reality: Materialism (*"it's all matter"*) and Dualism (*there's spirit, and there's matter"*).

Both views are wrong. The old science spirit battle is over. Reality is more like pan-interiority. The Principles that govern interior and exteriors are interlocked, and they deeply relate to each other.

This Sacred Text Study with Dr. Marc, is from one of our major lineage teachers:

Abraham Kook, from The Lights of the Penitence 14:38

*"It sometimes happens
that the spirit falls into smallness
and the person cannot find within himself any inner contentment
because of the scarcity of her good deeds,
because of the calculated sum of her sins,
and her minimal diligence in Torah;*

*and this person must strengthen himself
with the mystery power of Thought*

*and know that
"one who can infer one thing from another -
her thought is more valued by tire Holy One, blessed be He
than all sacrifices and burned offerings.*

*Now since this is so,
holy thought and exalted conceptual images*

*possess all the unique qualities of the sacrifices
and all the unique qualities of the ritual acts connected to sacrifice.*

*And the person should encourage herself greatly with the fact
that sometimes paucity of actual deeds and study
happens to a person only because of her strong inclination
towards the secret of Thought,*

*and it could be that many aspects of her fallings happen
because she did not value enough the essence of his thinking.*

*Therefore, let her strengthen himself even more with inner insight
in order to understand
that the mending of the entire world
and the cure for all souls
all depend on the fundamental principle of Thought;*

*and let her raise his thought as far as he can
and she will rise to Teshuva from inner love.
"Happy is the nation that knows the sound of the shofar,
O Lord, they walk in the light of your presence."**

Marc's reading of the text:

*"It sometimes happens
that the spirit falls into smallness
and the person cannot find within himself any inner contentment"*

We all had times when we realize that we don't have the experience that we had thought we would. Our actions haven't added up to the sum total of the vision of our dreams. It doesn't look like what we thought it would look like. Our deeds didn't create that world we thought we would. We can't find the joy. (and when I say we must return to Joy, this is different from spiritual bypass – we must walk through the pain, to find joy on the other side).

*"because of the scarcity of her good deeds,
because of the calculated sum of her sins,
and her minimal diligence in Torah;"*

"Scarcity of the good deeds", means the good deeds didn't create the worlds we thought they would create.

*"because of the calculated sum of her sins,
and her minimal diligence in Torah;"*

We somehow missed the mark. We have a sense that we don't pour ourselves in transformation and study in the way that we need to.

The response might be a surface depression. This kind of low-grade depression is what blocks our capacity to experience ecstasy. It blocks our access to our true nature, to enlightenment.

That sense of 'is this all there is'? is what leads us to doing things to cover up the emptiness.

*"and this person must strengthen himself
with the mystery power of Thought
and know that
"one who can infer one thing from another -
her thought is more valued by the Holy One, blessed be He
More than all sacrifices and burned offerings."*

We retreat from the world of action into the mystery power of thought. We tend to think that what is real, is that which occurs in the world of enactment.

"Did I offer my sacrifice, do the ritual, succeed in the deed"? Often it doesn't manifest as we thought it was going to be.

We all have our different version of the story, but whether we're 73 or 42, we're never where we thought we would be.

We think what is real is that which manifests, what we accomplished. However, the world of manifestation or action is not the only real world.

*"Now since this is so,
holy thought and exalted conceptual images
possess all the unique qualities of the sacrifices
and all the unique qualities of the ritual acts connected to sacrifice."*

Sacrifices means: actions in the real world. Thought itself is an action. The palace of thought is a real palace. It's true. Thought itself is a reality. The thoughts, feelings, imaginings that we have, ARE REAL.

The story that I live in in my mind is real. It's not escapism.

*"And the person should encourage herself greatly with the fact
that sometimes paucity of actual deeds and study "happens to a person only because of
her strong inclination
towards the secret of Thought,"*

Paucity = little amount / lack of fulfilment. Sometimes the reason I don't get absorbed by the world of action, is because I have a particular gift in the world of thought. The palace of thought impacts reality. It is as real as the external world is.

The playground of my mind and feeling are the playground of Spirit, and are most real. Reality prevented me from being drawn into the world of manifestation, in order to allow me to be in the playground of my thought.

"and it could be that many aspects of her fallings happen because she did not value enough the essence of his thinking."

Many ways that we fall, can't quite get the right relationship, can't quite succeed. It could be that many aspects of her fallings happen... I wasn't living deeply enough in the reality of my imagination.

"Therefore, let her strengthen himself even more with inner insight in order to understand that the mending of the entire world and the cure for all souls all depend on the fundamental principle of Thought;"

Mending > Tikkun, healing of the entire world

*"and let her raise his thought as far as he can and she will rise to Teshuva from inner love. "Happy is the nation that knows the sound of the shofar, O Lord, they walk in the light of your presence." **

Teshuva = transformation

Shofar = the Ramshorn.

*Psalm 89:15

<https://biblehub.com/psalms/89-15.htm>

We live in two stories:

1) Our public story. What happened and didn't happen. The job I have and the job I don't. The dreams that happened and the dream that didn't happen.

That's the Story of the deeds. Story of ritual and sacrifices. We all live in relationship to this story.

The second story is the story I tell myself about Reality.

In that story it's always perfect. Reality is a love story.

In that story no one is left outside of the circle and there's enough time for everything. It's already fulfilled. It's already done.

To live in that story **not as a function of insanity**, but to actually create an equally powerful Reality in your mind.

It takes as much commitment as to build anything in the manifest world.
Can we live in the palace of thought?
Can we erect the palace of JOY?

Ordinary love is connected to material reality. Does it look the way it should be?
Outrageous Love is different. The Difference between Ordinary Love and Outrageous Love is the difference between a very high number and infinity.

Outrageous Love is the Tao.

The intrinsic quality of rapture and value that is always present.

Living in that story is enlightenment.

Nothing can ever take that JOY from you.

In that story you have the perfect lover. You get to be gay and straight, wealthy and poor. That story is TRUE. It's not a fantasy story. That is the holiness of the imagination. Homo Imaginus. Not made up. Imagination is a faculty of perception, where I can see that inner reality and live there. That's what an artist does. That's music.
In Hebrew: Faith, Amen (Oman in Hebrew: ART). To be an artist, stretch words beyond their breaking point and enter the inside.

The choice of the Enlightened being, is to build the palace of imagination in your mind and in your heart, body.

The prophet is one who lives in a world created by his imagination.

The exile of the Goddess, is when we exile fantasy to only the realm of the sexual. The Sexual models the Erotic, it doesn't exhaust the sexual. Fantasy means that we create a reality in our mind that we live in. We want to imagine the most true, good and beautiful life that we can live. We get to create a palace of thought.

"The most beautiful world our heart can imagine".