

ALBEDO
- SEPARATION -

«You should learn this very important fact: “separation” can have two different destinations. The one you reach by the road leading to the lower subtle world, the other you reach by the road towards the upper subtle world.

There are some who, by means of psycho-physical practices, are able to separate themselves from their dense physical bodies and “hover” within the sphere of *feeling* rather than *will* and *knowledge*; that is, they enter the individualized psychic sphere.

In this case, what has happened?

The psychic ego, characterized by the projecting sensorial mind, by feeling and by cellular instinct, has dissociated from the dense physical body (⊖) and entered the hyper-physical sphere which western Occultism calls “astral”. But such a change of state (this is what normally happens to most individuals when they “die” to their physical bodies) does not modify either the consciousness nor the vision nor the direction of the being; this state still remains within the ambit of the individualized psychic sphere (☿); it is a mere extension of individuality and it is not the rectified mercurial Center (♁) but, once again, just the psychic, lunar ego or vulgar Mercury. The blemishes that this vulgar Mercury may have had on the physical plane have been moved by the Mercury onto the lower subtle plane. If “alchemical separation” were this simple coming and going to and from the “world of the *Manes*” and the corporeal world, then Alchemy would be just a great illusion; one could say, a huge hoax. This transition is consciously carried out by trained *mediums*, by many persons who operate within the field of parapsychology and by some under the effect of certain drugs.¹

Even though from this level it may be possible in certain cases to intervene upon the gross corporeal dimension by means of the *ether* element or *ākāśa* – son of Saturn, or alchemical *antimonium* – this does not change the above consideration.

As long as one operates within the infra-individual (gross or subtle) sphere, alchemical, initiatory or Philosophical death has not taken place. What counts, in initiatory terms, is the “trans-formation” of the individualized psychic state (☿) into universal spiritual state (♁), or of vulgar, lunar Mercury into philosophical, solar Mercury under the influence of the Sulphur-Spirit (♁), or the winged lion.

¹ This is why all theories that try to present the real experience of the *mystes* in the Eleusinian Mysteries as visions caused by use of drugs such as hallucinogen mushroom were false. On the contrary, such experiences were associated with a “consciential vision of Reality” and, therefore, implied a real sharing and comprehension of the Mysteries by the disciple. In sum, vision to be such must be a-formal, and thus it cannot be perceived by the gross and subtle senses. Such vision has nothing in common with the psychedelic images induced by drugs, etc.; therefore, even though some mixtures (consecrated by a *Sacerdos*) were administered, these had only a purifying function, that is to free the psychic body from imaginative dross. In this regard, “the experience of pure and perfect visions” or *epoptéia*, to which refers the Divine Plato, cannot certainly be compared with images from the collective or individual sub-conscious which ultimately is the terrain of drug-related hallucinations.

In *Vedānta* terms, this means the trans-formation of the *ahamkāra-manas*² (strictly human condition) into *ātmā-buddhi* (divine condition).

The breaking of the psychic ego level must take place at this critical consciential point. This break implies passing from the mortal to the immortal, from the particular and individual to the universal and archetypal, from the unreal to the real, from the *pitṛyāna* pathway (the way of the ancestors) to the *devayāna* one (the way of the gods).

In qabbalistic terms one might say that the breaking of the psychic ego level occurs with the solution of the lower quaternary (*Nezach, Hod, Yesod, Malkuth*) and with the transfer of the mercurial Center into *Tiphereth*. This is the rectified Mercury (☿) extracted from the cave of Saturn, intermediary between the Celestial Jerusalem and the Terrestrial one»³.

«*Om asato mā Sadgamaya
Tamaso mā jyotir gamaya
Mṛtyor mā amṛtam Gamaya
Om Śāntiḥ, Śāntiḥ, Śāntiḥ*»⁴

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² *ahamkāra* is the true meaning of the word *anātma*.

³ Raphael, *The Threefold Pathway of Fire*, Ch. “Fuoco di Vita”, *Albedo, sūtra* 88, 89. Aurea Vidyā, New York, 2000.

⁴ “Lord, lead me from the unreal to the real, from darkness to light (from ignorance to knowledge), from death to immortality”. *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad*.