

Chapter X : THE STORIES OF JONAH AND THE WHALE AND OF JOB, THE BEHEMOTH AND THE LEVATHAN

The story of Jonah and the Whale has probably raised more controversy in the world than any other story ever written. It has also tested many a person's faith in the Bible. The "descriptions of the Behemoth and the Leviathan have also been a seventh wonder, hard to place and understand in any literal, physical interpretation of a Sacred Text. Similar is the experience of Job, and God's way with him through agency of Satan.

Both, Jonah and Job were righteous men who feared God and served Him. Their experiences were almost like those of Odysseus, the Greek leader in the Trojan War, on his homeward journey after the war. These and similar stories all have much inner meaning and value in the journey of the soul, **lost on earth.**

To interpret these stories as mere physical, historic, accounts misses the point they intend to convey to the students of the deeper aspects in Life, which deals not merely with forms and objects in time and space. To ask someone to translate and interpret music when he has no experience in it nor love for it, would be a similar

situation. Even written works on arts, mechanics or chemistry can be properly translated only by someone who knows the art with which it deals, through personal experience. Words can only convey what they mean to us.

The same holds true in the study of the Inner Life and the translations of all the Sacred and Mystic writings. Also, it should not be forgotten that the **secrets were meant to be guarded**, and were deliberately covered up when written about, for the sake of safety and security. These things were live topics in olden days, and much discussed. Yet they could not be openly discussed nor written about because those doing so were liable to severe punishment if what they propounded did not fit into the scope of understanding of the ruling powers.

Parables, myths, fables, fairy tales and stories with a hidden inner meaning were the accepted ways of teaching and writing Spiritual Truth in the days of old. Jesus Himself taught in parables. Even today, teaching in similes, metaphors, or by comparison with things men know and understand, is a favorite method of the Saints and Mystics of the East.

"Now the word of (Jehovah) the Lord came unto Jonah." (Jonah 1: 1)

This clearly indicates that Jonah was not an ordinary man, but a prophet who could talk with Jehovah. He was a mystic who had inner work to do in the Father's House, as Jesus also spoke of His work, according to the four gospels.

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it." (Jonah 1: 2)

In Biblical times there was a city called Nineveh, a town called Joppa, and a city called Tarshish, to which Jonah fled. But how could a prophet escape from Jehovah's order by merely going to another place on earth? It is evident that some deeper meaning was implied in Jehovah's command. Jonah understood this, but instead of going up as ordered, he went down to Joppa, in the opposite direction.

The names of these cities have a value and meaning similar to the places mentioned in Revelations by St. John, when he described the seven centers in the ethereal body of man as the seven churches. When these are read in that light of understanding, as a message or mystic method of going from one to the next higher and taking the consciousness there, it is a literal conquering of those places and becoming a ruler of that station of Life in one's own house, and of that same energy in the universe.

Jehovah was not only the Deity, but also the Initiator and Hierophant of Jonah, the disciple. He had told Jonah to go up one station further in his consciousness of development on the tree of his Inner Life. Nineveh represented the fiery, navel chakra, called the Manipura Chakra in the system of Yoga. Jonah was to "cry out against it", meaning that Jehovah gave him the mantra or words to repeat in order to conquer that citadel. This order is similar to the instruction Joshua gave to the children of Israel when they were marching around Jericho, and he told them to shout with a great shout at the sound of the trumpet, as he had been previously told by Jehovah, and the city fell when they did as instructed. (Joshua 6)

Again, it is the mystic way of conquering the mind and its lower emotional stages or stations of function, which is referred to in such quotations. Actually, the repetition is done mentally, with the **attention** of the mind. When this is done under the guidance of a living, true Master, then conquest and control are assured. It is the concentration of the mind energy at a given point that is the heavy armament which conquers the citadel of the lower emotional phases of the mind and their etheric centers or chakras, the whirling energies in that area; also the city of the Giants (the egos) when the inner reach is high enough to conquer the self.

But Jonah fled from the presence of Jehovah and went down to Joppa to take a ship to Tarshish. In other words, Jonah retreated to the next lower chakra, the Swadishtana or Brahma Chakra, which is watery in its essence. *Taking a ship* means riding on those watery energy currents. He must have been frightened, like the Children of Israel were by the Giants in the Promised Land. So Jonah set out for further retreat to Tarshish, the Muladhara Chakra.

Jonah 1: 4-16 describes the storm at sea and how Jonah was cast overboard. Each energy current of the body carries or conducts the consciousness of the mind, much the same as a ship carries passengers or cargo.

"Now the Lord (Jehovah) had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." (Jonah, 1: 17)

The twelve signs of the zodiac symbolize the finer energy currents which flow over the main body areas and centers. The Brahma chakra is in the pelvis, and the currents of the sign of Pisces, the negative pole of the Brahma chakra, are represented by the feet and are pictured as two fishes, one swimming upward and one downward. It was this downward, sensory current which became huge and powerful like a monster, and swallowed up the fleeing, sinking Jonah. Having lost his own control of that energy wave, it was powerful beyond all normal proportions, and he could not extricate himself for three days.

"Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord (Jehovah) his God out of the fish's belly."

(Jonah, 2: 1)

"Out of the belly of Sheol" is also mentioned in the text, *Sheol* meaning depth, pit or hell. And Jonah's prayer was heard. Jehovah extricated him from the clutches of this huge watery energy monster or fish, which was the downward current in Jonah's flight of consciousness on his Tree of Life within himself.

"And **the word** of the Lord (Jehovah) came unto Jonah the second time, saying, **Arise, go unto Nineveh,**" (Jonah 3: 1-2)

Then Jonah arose or rose up on the upward attention current and arrived at Nineveh. The people or the energies in the city of Nineveh, the Manipura Chakra, did not oppose Jonah as he had feared. Instead, they repented and fasted. (3: 5-10). Therefore, the city was not destroyed nor conquered by Jonah as Jehovah had commanded him to prophesy, And Jonah was displeased and practically told his Hierophant that was what he had expected it would

all amount to when he was yet in his own country, before he fled to Tarshish.

(Jonah 4: 1-4).

"So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city."

(Jonah 4: 5)

"Sitting on the east side" explains his position his attention-in the sensory currents on the anterior sensory part or side of his body. There he sat in consciousness and meditated on the fate of the city, his own chakra.

"And the Lord (Jehovah) God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief."

(Jonah 4: 6).

Jehovah, in His kindness, taugnt Jonah a lesson, by shading him from the burning sun in this fiery chakra within the body.

"But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered." (Jonah 4: 7)

The Hierophant withdrew this protection of Grace from Jonah, from the fiery heat of the solar plexus, the sun in Nineveh, the fiery chakra of the digestive energy, the Manipura Chakra. Yogis, who concentrate on the five lower chakras of the body, usually sit immersed in water when they get to that stage, because of the heat that is developed there. Jonah had to be made to feel this extreme heat because he did not act with implicit faith at the first command of Jehovah to go up and conquer Nineveh, the next higher center of consciousness. Instead, Jonah doubted Jehovah and fled.

So he fell lower into the clutches of the negative power of that region. Even then, he doubted and watched while he attempted to concentrate. His concentration and devotion were neither steadfast nor complete.

The symbol of the ruling nature at the watery Brahma chakra is always a huge water animal with a snout. This is the mystery of the whale of emotions which swallows up humans in its passion and spews them out again, when the finer current of devotion raises and lifts up the soul, in answer to its cries unto God. In Hindu symbolism, the whale is referred to as *Makra*, the great fish. The Muladhara or earthy chakra, situated below the watery chakra, is always pictured as an elephant, and is symbolically called *Ganesh*.

This brings to light the fact that God Himself does not extricate us from the mire nor does. He prevents us from further descending into it until we ourselves wish to be liberated, and by so doing direct our consciousness upward by thinking of Him. If God in His infinite mercy does so much for us when we merely think of Him long enough to cry unto Him for help, how much more help. He would give us if we could keep Him in mind always, in gratitude and thanksgiving for His blessings as well as when we finally realize the need of His help!

When we realize that by our own thoughts, words and deeds, most of us have forfeited every right to happiness before we came to this earth, then we can begin to comprehend to some extent the scope of His boundless Mercy and Love in showing us the way

to return to the realm of Eternal Bliss. That in turn instills in us the feeling of gratitude and devotion, which ultimately leads to true love.

Because Jonah doubted Jehovah's Word, he was taught a severe lesson and did not conquer Nineveh to live in it, but he sat outside of it in meditation until a future time, when he would have sufficient faith and devotion to turn to the Lord instead of attempting to do everything with his own mind, will and ego.

The account of Jonah in the Bible is a story of Initiation. In this case the disciple was swallowed by the dragon of the threshold, symbolized by the whale. He was saved by Jehovah who was his Guru and who initiated him. The Holy Spirit of the Lord, also called the Holy Shabd, the Holy Ghost, etc. is always the real Redeemer regardless who the Master, High Priest or Initiator may be.

The reason for Jonah's fall is given in the book of Jonah, chapter 4. In a fit of anger he listened to his own mind and was convinced beforehand in **his** way. Whenever one deems the mind above God's implicit instructions, that disciple has already fallen from grace and is caught in the meshes of his own **mind, the Behemoth of old.** Faith in the Master and love for Him are the only safeguards on the Spiritual Journey.