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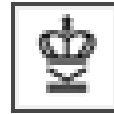
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**THE DIVINE MEANING OF LIFE
(IN THE TEACHINGS OF MASTER PETER DEUNOV (BEINSA DOUNÓ)¹**

**EL SIGNIFICADO DIVINO DE LA VIDA
(EN LAS ENSEÑANZAS DEL MAESTRO PETER DEUNOV (BEINSA DOUNÓ))**

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Abstract

The book "Science and Upbringing" has an important mission to present education and upbringing as a spiritual activity - spiritual, understood as the cosmic and divine evolution of man. The meaning of evolution is man who has two natures - lower (animal) and higher (spiritual), to transform the inferior (instinctive) into higher-human and cosmic. Supreme nature, explains Master Beinsa Dounó, comes from the Spirit, from God.

Keywords

Science – Beisa Dounó – Spiritual

Resumen

El libro "Ciencia y Educación" tiene una importante misión de presentar la educación y la educación como una actividad espiritual - espiritual, entendida como la evolución cósmica y divina del hombre. El significado de la evolución es el hombre que tiene dos naturalezas - inferior (animal) y superior (espiritual), para transformar lo inferior (instintivo) en superior - humano y cósmico. La naturaleza suprema, explica el Maestro Beinsa Dounó, proviene del Espíritu, de Dios.

Palabras Claves

Ciencia – Beisa Dounó – Personality – Espiritual

¹ An excerpt from the book of Eleonora Pencheva "The Spiritual paradigm and education in the 21st century", which is being prepared for printing.

At the end of the nineteenth century, Teacher Peter Deunov² (Beinsa Dounó) wrote a book on the education and upbringing of the Bulgarian people and its spiritual awakening. His messages are universal knowledge of the divine origin of man and of his immortal soul, the laws of nature, the meaning of human life and his path on the Earth. At the time of socialism, his ideas were mistakenly defined as religious-sectarian and his book "Science and Upbringing" remains unexplored. Today, the church also disrespectfully refers to the universal truths that he shares because he disproves its dogmas. For the seeker, the truths in Teacher Beinsa Beinsa Dounó overlap with the universal axioms we have seen in Hermetism, in Buddhism, in Nagualism - the spiritual nature of man is a reality that can be explored and come to be known. Many scholars now have their paths to the spiritual world, and if we can get rid of our preconceptions we can understand the truths about ourselves.

His book "Science and Upbringing" has an important mission to present education and upbringing as a spiritual activity - *spiritual, understood as the cosmic and divine evolution of man*. The meaning of evolution is man who has two natures - lower (animal) and higher (spiritual), to transform the inferior (instinctive) into higher-human and cosmic. Supreme nature, explains Master Beinsa Dounó, comes from the Spirit, from God, but "for thousands of years man has been a slave and blind, true devotee to the material world; He has been a slave to the power of the rulers, he has prayed to nature, offered sacrifices to gain its mercy and favor."³ After thousands of years of life in suffering and ignorance, man begins to overcome his inferior nature, to realize that the roots of his miseries are in his own "unbridled inferior inclinations". When he begins to master his animal gusts, "his own desires and aspirations," to see the connection between personal deficiencies and impairments in social life, man begins to seek the true knowledge that awakens the soul. Then "the great spirit who lives in his soul" can save him from stupidity.

In Beinsa Douno's teachings, the basic truths are also intertwined with Buddhism in which the causes of suffering derive from the ignorance of the mind, the ignorance of the origin of man and his life on the earth.

A basic law of real life, Master Beinsa Dounó says, is *the spiritual life* that begins when man realizes the need to reveal his high, divine nature and live according to its rules. Only then man will be able to fully perceive "the principles and laws of reason, the higher nature in him," and to develop within himself the powers and abilities that will give him the key to true success. The man on earth experiences various trials to realize his dual nature - a being of flesh and blood, but also a soul. The Master reveals the way of the conscientious man who learns to keep himself off the devastating influences, avoids doing evil, learns and applies the basic principles and laws of real life. He then has the right to

² Petar Deunov, philosopher and teacher of Universal white Brotherhood, founder of esoteric Christianity in Bulgaria. He graduated "Methodist Theological Seminary Drew" in Madison (New Jersey) and in 1892 became a student at the Faculty of Theology of Boston University. It studied medicine and in 1894 received a certificate giving him the right to practice. In parallel he studied music. In 1895 Petar Deunov returned to Bulgaria, settled in Varna. in 1896 he published "Science and education". He accepted the spiritual name Beinsá Dounó (from Sanskrit - the one who brings good by the speech) and established the society "Universal white Brotherhood", later transformed into a spiritual School. In it he lectured about the divine origin of man and the eternal life of the soul, about the love and the virtues of cosmic nature of Christ consciousness.

³ P. Deunov, Science and education (Sofia: Sofia University, 2007) (First edition Varna: Printing house of K. Nikolov, 1896), 15.

enter the New Earth, to which the spirit leads him to receive "his inheritance and freedom as an adult." This "legacy" is the right of divinity, the right to develop its "godlike" qualities.⁴ Of course, when he realizes that he has this wealth.

Observing young people, he concludes that upbringing of youth reflects the problems of education - it does not give them enough knowledge and opportunities neither in cultural nor in moral terms. Contemporary education, the Master writes, "suffers from serious shortcomings," and the reason is "the lack of real science and of true upbringing, or their misinterpretation and application in life." True science must incorporate **the highest ethical values of mankind**. The main vices and dishonesty of men are the result of the imperfect nature of generations of human beings whose minds and hearts have been "infected with negative thoughts and desires." The task of education is to change "profoundly" the character and the perceptions of such people. The task of education is the "complete shaping of man, ie.making his full and perfect soul image." In this sense, education is both knowledge and bringing up. Training is more about the development of the mind and its enrichment with knowledge, writes Peter Deunov, while bringing up is more about the *enrichment of feelings and the will*. By briefly reviewing the latest scientific achievements in revealing the nature of matter and the universe, Master Beinsa Dounó reveals his belief that true science will also provide the foundation **for spiritual education**. It must reveal the truth about **the spiritual universe** and the place of Man in it.

The true knowledge that must be taught in the school is about the whole universe, which is "nothing but God" that manifests and develops; about *the billions* of worlds that exist in this universe. It is a "collection` (sum) of thinking beings", "a collection of mental processes", and "it contains possibilities for the development of intelligent beings." With its suns and planets, the universe is a Great School through which people have to pass, and when they complete their development, a new Universe will be created. At the time Teacher Beinsa Dounó shares his truths with his disciples, official science has not yet revealed and recognized the spiritual nature of man and the universe.

It is only today, in the 21st century, that we come to realize that the meaning of human evolution is understood as the walk of the Spirit through all the spiritual levels of the universe, to return to God the Father. These truths have been revealed to the devoted ones in Ancient Egypt, have been painted on the walls of the temples, have been carved on emerald plates in order to be preserved over the centuries when we will be able to understand them. In his school Master Beinsa Dounó shares this knowledge again with his disciples in order for them to remember their divine origin and live according to it. He reminds that only the one who "recognizes and respects both his right and the right of all beings" is created by "the image and semblance of God," and when he violates the law of other beings, he deviates from the true image and lives "according to his own plan and in his own understanding". Man has lost his true direction of development - to the divine levels of reality because he has forgotten who he is, **he does not know his "image"** in order to clean it and to appear purified to his Creator.

As a dedicated *Teacher of the Universal White Brotherhood*, Peter Deunov (Beinsa Dounó) reveals the meaning of human residence in the low vibrational fields (in our three-dimensional reality). This is important not only for the experience of human souls but also *for the universe*: "the purpose of man in his bringing into existence is to *create*." We will send our human experience to God, and He will forward it to the future worlds - "in a

⁴ P. Deunov, Science and education... 16.

higher universe." As part of the Whole - of the Creator, the individual human Soul returns to Him with new experiences and new opportunities that enrich him. This maxim is a repetition of the *teaching of reincarnation in Buddhism* - every living being must pass through the Earth, through the various incarnations in order to *acquire knowledge and experience* and prepare for a more conscious and reasonable life. Master Beinsa Dounó reveals something very important for the human spiritual nature - man brings knowledge within himself in **potential, embryonic state** and on Earth he reveals and enriches it. It is only up to us when this *divine atom, this seed of our immortality* will unfold and we will manifest our own potentials as divine creatures. On Earth, writes Master, are *given the conditions to test this knowledge* so that we would be able to learn it. This is one of the inner laws of being.⁵

At the end of the 19th century there was much talk about the "end of the world". According to The Master, if there is an end, it will only mean that: "the world of ignorance, of delusions, of injustice, of lawlessness will end." In its place there will appear the new world - the world of virtue, of the the enlightened and intelligent man who will develop in the eternity. He explains that "in the old Adam's world," dominates the ignorance, accompanied by bad habits, vices, passions and desires wrongly directed by an education that seeks to educate man in selfishness and aiming to exploit others for his own profit "⁶. This aspiration has not disappeared to this day, but has increased and manifested itself in a variety of open and hidden forms. Alas, the education of the next five or six generations has not diminished injustice, injustice, egoism, lies, aggression, hatred. The upbringing that The Master believes to be "still in diapers" in the 19th century for the greater part of humanity has not reached even the "kindergarten" in the 20th century.

The vast knowledge in technology does not allow us to realize our *divine nature*. It is easier for us to assume that the meaning of our lives is in studying the ways of gaining profit, not the study of *the divine levels* of our own human personality. We repeat that we are children of God, but we do not realize what exactly our divine origin means, our separation from God and our return to Him. In the church, we repeat that Christ preaches love, but outside the church we kill coldly - through conflicts, wars, in the outburst of anger and lack of humanity . In fact, our "humanizing" is our becoming devine - leaving the spheres of lower vibrations, lower thoughts and actions and we learn to live with our best half, with higher thoughts and actions . Then our life becomes meaningful and spiritual. The more people get rid of their lower vibrations and understand the meaning of Life and its direction in this short stretch of time called rebirth, the faster the world will change. The more good people there are on the planet, the better our live will be. In spite of certain stipulations of definitions what is good and what evil, in the 21st century, humanity already has common concepts about them - the theft in all its forms is evil, the vengeance, the malice, the egoism, the murder...

Today, more and more people realize that a person comes into this life with a plan, with his mission which he has to fulfill with dignity. More and more people **take responsibility** for their thoughts and actions. And because the man is an eternal spiritual

⁵ P. Deunov, On the Way of the Soul, Collection, (From The Word of Master Beinsa Douno, (First Edition, 1896), Compilers: © Trendafila Baldevska, 2014 © Antonia Yordanova, Sofia, 2016 , Congregation talks 1926, p. 190, The Future Creed of Humanity, 1934, p. 89, Power and Life, 1920, pp. 178, 1940, pp. 263, 319, 126). The Deeds of God, 1940, pp. 263, 319; Great Reason, pp. 164, Righteous, 1930, p. 126).

⁶ P. Deunov, Science and education... 18

being, The Master writes, "we come up with a plan and a program that we have promised to complete *still in the invisible world.*" The physical world, however, swallows us and we think "that we live a spiritual life, and we live only physically." Man comes to "learn, **to acquire eternal life - the life of immortality,**" so "man must fight, get rid of the slavery and the limitations of death"⁷. " We have already understood that after centuries of "evolution," the most difficult is the battle with ourselves. The slowest man changes his patterns of thinking, the hardest he degrades his various attachments that drag him to the three-dimensional space. We are flattering that we live in luxury, but silk sheets do not hide our aggressive nature and our undestroyed animal instincts - we easily hurt, quickly offend, cruelly revenge and we are difficult to forgive.

In order to be able to harmonize ourselves, *first*, we have to admit that we have our negative traits in our character and we often do not manage with them; *second*, that all our conflicts, battles and wars immerse us in low vibrations, low passions, confused objectives and unnecessary aggression; *third*, that the sense of our growth as men, as consciousness, as "children of God" means living with our bright side, with the striving to bring closer to perfection our thoughts and actions . In this way all the divine potentials in us will be revealed. The proof of this is our life in harmony, in joy, in sincerity, in love!

God examines himself by the souls

The teaching of Beinsa Douno reveals the complex nature of the human Soul, the divine part of us that binds us to the Father: "The God has a relationship to the human soul and the human spirit, not to the body. The spirit is "the father of man," the soul is "the mother". By "soul" we understand a group or a set **of multiple entities or consciousnesses**, each of which has a degree of intelligence and a harmonious state. This ensemble, emphasizes P. Deunov, is not a single but a **collective consciousness** and is an expression of one of the states of the Divine consciousness. Here we open a bracket: this *set of multiple entities or consciousness* today we understand as **multi-dimensionality, multi-level of human consciousness**. Our transformation is our transition from the lower to the higher degrees of vibration of consciousness, its merging with *Christ's* consciousness, then with the Source. The aspirations of all souls "unite and flow into the circle of divine consciousness." The God sends all souls around the *world to explore what He has created*, and therefore God calls these souls "*Sons of God because they are one equal to Him*"⁸. Such statements are unacceptable and incomprehensible to the official church in Bulgaria and it calls the Master " a Heretic ". Today, official science begins to rediscover many truths in these claims as old as humanity.

The idea of deification of the man, turning him into a "God-man" is accepted in Russian Orthodoxy. The term is attributed to the Russian philosopher Vladimir Soloviev and is understood as *an evolution* of human qualities - the bad man is becoming better and better till "equal to God". Unlike Buddhism, however, the idea has not been transformed into a specific practice that actually changes the individual's consciousness and behavior. Reaching a higher cosmic level in Christianity to *Christ-consciousness* remains in sermons.

⁷ P. Deunov, On the Way of the Soul, Collection, (Path of the Dawn, 1999, p. 166, The Language of Love, 1939), 268.

⁸ P. Deunov, On the Way of the Soul... (The Attitude of the Simple Truths to Man, 1933, p. 205. The Language of Love, 2003, p. 37).

At the same time, evolution, in the direction of becoming God-man, in the Christianity is perceived more often as heresy, as the inadmissible boldness of the "sinful" person who cannot equate himself with God. As "heresy" is declared any other worldview that does not entirely share the Christian. Our own concepts and dogmas prevent us from assuming that somebody else can tell the truth. Our "trying to be equal" to God means the revelation of our divine potentials, this is the true path of our evolution as divine beings. But for the church that preaches this aim, every manifested potential is heresy. The churches have scattered and lost the real upbringing and education of man in revealing his godlike nature in their struggles for power and influence. Instructions on the way to the "kingdom of God" are so vague that few have understood how to find it. Christianity speaks of "the children of God," but at the same time defines as a heresy the maxim of Buddhists that each person is a Buddha when he frees himself from the captivity of his illusions and deceptions.

The human soul, says Master Beinsa Douno, has survived for billions of years in the bosom of the Divine consciousness. Its life there was of another nature: it "was not individualized, it did not know the individual life of the individual spirit"; it had been living in a "sleepy state". When it wakes up, it descends to Earth "to learn the inner meaning of this life - the individual life, to acquire its own immortal life and become a national of Heaven with certain rights and duties"⁹. "In its divine nature is its inner quest for its own immortality - merging with the Divine consciousness. Unfortunately, today we are often looking for ways to merge with the machines instead of the Divine Source. We have forgotten that it is more important to create conditions for the development of our souls - instead of developing machines, it is better to develop our intuition, telepathy, the creative potential of consciousness. This is not a heresy, but coming closer to the Creator - with every realization and implementation of our creative spiritual abilities, we are getting closer to perfection. Let us recall The Hermetic principle "what soever above, this is below" - our small divine potentials can unfold because they are part of the Creator's potential. These opportunities are revealed in love and faith and they are impossible when we hate, revenge, kill. In family and at school, we must be able to convince our children why being good is elevating to God; Why if they continue to be angry, vengeful, irresponsible, selfish - they will move away from their divine nature.

Teacher Beinsa Dounó emphasizes how important it is to learn to love and to walk on the path of wisdom to reach our soul, to our "sensible beginning": If you take Love and Wisdom out of the soul, it will disintegrate. " Through the soul God has given us the opportunity to "acquire" a higher consciousness. The soul is not material, it is "that exalted beginning in the person which seeks, suffers, which enjoys. **The soul**, he says, **this is the real Man**. *The mind and the heart* are satellites (background) of the soul which accompany her everywhere and help her. *The spirit* is that great, powerful beginning in the person who guides the soul, pointing to the right path of life. *Spirit, soul, mind and heart* are four tools without which man cannot exist.

The soul is born in the physical world in the physical body, and after death the soul is born in the spiritual world: The soul is the man who manifests himself in the Spiritual world among the angels. That is why **man is immortal** - his soul is immortal, and the body is the garment necessary for the soul to live the individual experience on the earth. The main task of man is to give the soul a chance "to develop, to expand, to occupy more space".

⁹ P. Deunov, On the Way of the Soul... ("Love gives life", 1999, p. 419; Collection " Strength and Life", Series I, 1915, p. 251); Eternal Rejuvenation, 1944, p. 88).

Together with the expansion of the soul, the love of man grows - "the love of God."¹⁰ How many slave owners have repeated the words of love to their neighbors in the churches, but they have accepted as "normal" to beat and kill their slaves. How many presidents are considered true Christians and responsible for people's lives, but do not evaluate the wars that lead to crime. Love, which does not spring from the heart, but from the tongue, is not love.

What is Death? The question everyone is asking himself and which scares almost everyone is "do we die"? What Teacher Beinsa Douno's teachings reveal is that death is just a *transition to another world*. When we identify ourselves with the physical body, we accept its death as ours. **We are the Soul**, which has temporarily settled in a human body, which after death leaves the body - it has played its part and the Soul passes into the other reality. One "dies, that is, he goes to the other world where he is born again"... This shows that dying and giving birth are multiple processes in life; Man can be born both in Heaven and on Earth. Earth is a great and peculiar school - "Out of the Earth, man is deprived of *those conditions of development* that can make him a citizen of Heaven."¹¹ On planet Earth, every one of us is responsible for creating the conditions our soul needs to be revealed, expanded. When the soul (and not our mind) governs our lives, it is meaningful, interesting, spiritualized.

Involution and Evolution

Teacher Beinsa Dounó looks at the development of mankind until the first decades of the 20th century as an *involution-descent from God to matter*. **Evolution** is a rise from matter to God - our spiritualisation. Every being comes out of God as a Divine ray, passes through all the worlds and returns to God again - it is "alpha and omega - the beginning and the end". The coming of Christ, the Master explains, is a turning point in the involution process – there begins an inverse evolutionary process - of love instead of hatred. One part of mankind today is still on its own path of involution, i.e. it continues its descent into an increasingly dense matter, but another part has begun its rise, its evolutionary path. These are the ones who have accepted the new form of Love - *Love as the principle of life*. They have outgrown their private life and "serve mankind, to the whole, and all." And those who live only in private life "continue to go down as they experience their inner transformation." When "the divine light enters the minds of men," they begin to see clearly and they are ready to "repair their lives." One comes to Earth to redeem his sins and then returns, according to the law of the karma. He is not free - he is limited by his karmic duties. Another person comes to be refined. Third - to help others - he has the greatest freedom of action¹².

In the Teaching of Beinsa Dounó, we re-discover the truths of hermetism which reveal the essence of cosmic laws. It explains the connection between each person and his actions for the common good, for society and for the cosmic whole: according to **the Universal Biological Law - the law of the whole**, "the good life and prosperity of your neighbor are a necessary condition for him and for you – for your better life and your

¹⁰ P. Deunov, On the Way of the Soul... (Talks, Explanations and Instructions by the Master, 1921, p. 207, Radiation of Life, 1937, p. 3; Laws of Good, 1940, pp. 123, 124, 146; The Deeds of God, 1940, p.33, 34, 240.).

¹¹ P. Deunov, On the Way of the Soul... (Pivot Points of Life, 1942, p. 142, The Three Lives, 1942, p. 145.

¹² P. Deunov, On the Way of the Soul... Tuning of the human soul, vol. 1, 1999, p. 246, The Spring of good, p. 992, p. 343.

prosperity. "In a broader sense, this natural law is known as the *second principle of hermetism - the correspondence: What is up there, there it is also down; What's down there, it's up there too. What is below is similar to what is up and vice versa - what is at the top is similar to what is down here for the implementation of the marvelous unity.* What is necessary for man is also necessary for society.

More perfect people - a more perfect society, more selfish people - a more selfish society. As parts of a *common body* and members of a large family, we cannot avoid the consequences of the common, collective activity.

More perfect people - a more perfect society, more selfish people - a more selfish society. As parts of a common organism and members of a large family, we cannot avoid the consequences of the common, collective activity. The good or bad character of an individual inevitably influences the nature of society and leaves an indelible footprint on future generations as well. The process of our becoming wiser begins with our responsibility for our thoughts, words and actions.

People, writes Master Peter Dounó, have not yet understood the "ultimate goal of life" and choose goals that bring them disastrous results; their main engines in life are the illusions of glory, lust, egoism, and the pursuit of getting rich. "It is time for the person to "free himself from these animal disabilities" to come "to that higher consciousness of the meaning of his life," from where he will see that "he was not born only to eat, drink, and die as an animal, but to improve himself, "and" through the power of his mind to perceive the general plan of the universe." It is not without importance what kind of means a person uses to achieve his desires: "noble purposes require noble means - this is a universal cosmic law." That is why the Master calls in schools to teach a "doctrine of the moral world" in order for man to enter the spiritual world, where Love and Truth act continuously in the soul."¹³ *The Man was not born to be a slave, he is not created to believe blindly, but wisely.*

In 1896, the Master sees in the future science the "spiritual section" that deals with "mental sciences" and "the science of the origin of the human spirit" - it will touch those areas of science that are now incomprehensible to modern scholars. "One should not strictly adhere to the framework of a science and be categorical in his conclusions - the mind must be free for new judgments, for new ideas. Science must be for the "welfare and the wellbeing" of man: "Every teaching, religious system, organization, and decree which do not have as ultimate goal the improvement of our spiritual life, will disappear before the judgment of Reason as straw in fire." Applying spiritual laws in the upbringing will give the right direction to the mental activity of man. The Spiritual laws will point to "*reasonable application of acquired knowledge*" - to the building of life, not to its demolition.¹⁴

Master Beinsa Dounó sees ***education as a process of incarnating noble thoughts and good wishes in human life.*** Under the roof of the "temple of upbringing", three truths are established: the truth of the universe, the true virtue, and true Love. They raise up the human being spiritually. The purpose of the spirit in nature is not to increase organic life in quantity, but to develop and improve it "in quality and degree of vibration". Consciousness vibrates with finer degrees when it expands and approaches the Source. We will note that the first books on the energy universe appeared at the end of the 20th

¹³ P. Deunov, Science and education... 20-21.

¹⁴ P. Deunov, Science and education... 22-23.

century. Master Beinsa Dounó talks about the vibration laws (vibration) of the energy fields in the universe (as well as about the vibrations of our cosmic consciousness) yet at the end of the 19th century - the devoted, dedicated minds know everything about their divine nature.

Each of our emotions has its vibrational characteristics. And the knowledge of how to transform negative emotions into positive ones is in front of our eyes. If we are not absorbed by our inadequate self-esteem, our illusory sense of superiority, our unrestrained emotions, and by the desire to control, we can do much for our own evolution. The teacher believes that selfishness has "*corrupted the soul of man, has trampled righteousness, choked conscience, has created slavery in all its species, caused wars, sent truth into exile, virtue in jail.*" He never gets tired of repeating this truth to his students because he is convinced *that we still do not know how to live as human beings. "Armament, he says, will not improve our lives - it belongs to the old civilization - "the civilization of primitive, rude and selfish man, whose only desire is to oppress others"*¹⁵. Alas, after 100 years, the vast majority of humanity has overcome its negatives, but some have been turned into a cult - selfishness, indifference, egoism... There is no way to understand *the spiritual meaning life* while we are killing one other in conflicts and wars which we create because of own ignorance as spiritual beings.

We have already noted the same message of Teachers-Naguals in the teachings of ancient toltecs - the *arrogance and inadequate self-esteem* prevent the student from understanding himself and the world because he lives in the prison of his own limited concepts which he has accepted as true and universal. That is why the "apprenticeship" at the wizards-toltecs means expanding the capacity of consciousness, increasing the possibilities for a fuller and more correct perception of the world and of the universe.

Throughout his life, the Master preaches that ***without the moral and spiritual laws*** that guide the intelligent life, mankind will continue on the involution line, will sink into the matter, and it will be increasingly difficult to return to the light, to the divine worlds. Evils, says the Master, are the result of "unrestrained human passions that do not obey any reasonable control, but constantly change - constantly exploding and quenching like a volcano."¹⁶ The transformation of man is only through moral-spiritual laws. They are the laws of development and require from man "an internal transformation and" regeneration". Sooner or later, all mankind will come out of the "abyss of matter". Virtue is the power, the engine that will change the character of man, and will make this return to the Divine Source more quickly. This truth, in all its forms, must be revealed to every mind. That is why *spiritual enlightenment* is a task of education and upbringing - it becomes the meaning of life. In his lectures, he teaches his students to *take responsibility* for building up their positive qualities and for breaking down the negative ones that stop their evolution. And if anyone sees a "moral dictate" in this process, it means he has not yet realized what it really means to be "a child of God." Master Beinsa Dounó believes that science will resolve the dispute in regard to the matter and the Spirit and will prove the spiritual nature of the universe: "the primary and only essence that fills the whole universe and from which all reasonable actions and aspirations derive."¹⁷

¹⁵ P. Deunov, Science and education... 40-47, 54.

¹⁶ P. Deunov, Science and education... 73.

¹⁷ P. Deunov, Science and education... 69-73, 79.

Every man's soul is also guided by this supreme law. The teacher is convinced that spiritual laws and "knowledge of the Soul" must be taught at school. The knowledge of God, the eternal Spirit that is present everywhere, the creation, the divine origin of man and the law of love - must be present in education and upbringing at an early age. Alas, his view of education remains alien to the people on whom such changes depend - state officials do not understand Knowledge and Truth in his teachings.

He founded his own Sunday school for children and adults and in his talks he reveals the truth about man's path towards his perfection. His disciples found in Sofia the School of the Universal White Brotherhood (24.02. 1922) and by December 1944, they published in several multi volumes the knowledge of spiritual laws. His teaching, which has become known as "downovisam" to this day (and in his native Bulgaria), is understood only by those who are not bogged down in the tracks of dogmas and understand the evolution of man as part of a cosmic development.

To summarize the messages of the Teacher Peter Deunov:

We have forgotten that we are a "semblance of God," but if we remember our divine nature, we will remember our "development plan" and we will go on the way back to our Creator.

We are getting "purified" (released) of all negative qualities, thoughts and actions and transform them into bright thoughts and noble deeds. Through every incarnation we are becoming more and more conscious, human, and we approach the divine image from which we have embarked on this journey through the universe.

Earth provides conditions to test the divine knowledge that we carry in the bud, to assimilate and develop it. This is one of the inner laws of being. Our divine nature enables us to develop the cosmic potential of the soul within us and to free ourselves from the limitations of death. We are a collection of many entities and minds, each of which has a degree of intelligence and harmonious state. We are multidimensional beings. We are a small cosmos: what is above, this is also below, whatever inside, this is also outside. This is the cosmic law of the evolution of consciousness.

We involute to get to know the lower states of matter. Evolution is elevation from the lower levels of matter to God, it is the process of our spiritualization. We replace hatred with LOVE and get to know eternal life.

Every being comes out of God as a divine ray, passes through all the worlds and returns to God again - it is "alpha and omega - the beginning and the end". We are the divine soul that is revealed when we give it opportunity.

What conclusions follow from this knowledge?

The school may be the place where the truth about man as a ***spiritual, divine essence embodied in a human body*** is taught and understood from an early age. Of course, only by teachers who have accepted their own divine essence and are on the path of self-transformation. Many parents have no knowledge but would trust the school.

The most serious and responsible public debate about the spiritual paradigm in our lives is forthcoming. It will not be easy, because we need a lot of wisdom to overcome our religious differences and to see common truths in all spiritual worldviews. For many people it will be the greatest test to go beyond their past views of God and the divine reality, the evolution of mankind and its connection to cosmic development.

There are truths in all religions, and also untruths in all of them. We are going to take down many labels of concepts, ideas, definitions which are proclaimed as universal, correct and scientific. We are about to rethink **the values** we live for and to give priority to the higher spiritual values that come from our divine nature. This will give us another meaning and another purpose of our lives. We can convey the knowledge to the children that the most significant qualities that characterize us as HUMANS, as God's children are **our kindness, sympathy, generosity, honesty, discipline, responsibility, nobility, balance, the ability to forgive, to love**. It is easy to love your boyfriend, it is harder to learn to love and **respect** each person because of his divine nature.

Today *profit* is the goal of "our evolution" and "prestigious" is the one who is rich. When we have enough wisdom and proclaim **MAN and his spiritual perfection as aim of evolution, then we will have understood the meaning of our life**. Cultivation of character can go along with education - when children understand the meaning of their existence **as spiritual beings and how they can be changed**, they will have other goals to achieve.

When we learn to appreciate and respect Life, we will not support weapons manufacturers and wars - then peace can be set on the planet. When we do not exploit the resources and labor of poor countries, lying to them that it is for their "good", we can create economic conditions in which everyone has a chance to work as well as normal, human living conditions. It is important to debate why we, ordinary people, show much more tolerance to different cultures and nationalities than our leaders who make decisions about wars rather than uniting humanity.

When we stop repeating that "man does not change and is cruel in nature", we will find the ways for our own transformation. It is important for children to convey a sense of their own dignity and significance that are not in the demonstration of wealth and "prestige" but in **the transformation of their instinctive nature into divine - Human**. Then our children will not be beaten and killed in schools, because we have not taught them to be Humans.

Because the bad, the rude, the angry, the vengeful, the jealous, the greedy people are still in their instinctive (animal) nature and have not evolved in Humans, in children of God. The ego of many people scream - "I do not want to change"! And that's their free choice.

It is important that wise men become more numerous. We can probably start with schools or schools of interest - where children, parents and teachers, which are close in spirit and understanding of the divine human nature will seek together common platforms for realization. A spiritual vision of the future, of the goals and tasks of education is a good start for changing the education system - an education that will reveal the spiritual nature of man rather than deny it.

When we stop thinking that all these changes are utopia and it is better and EASIER not to do anything, we will see our possibilities for change. Then we will recognize and respect those who have changed, who have come out of the sheep flock and have begun to think independently and boldly as Humans.

What if the truth is in them, and we are late by several millennia to realize it ?!

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