

Contemplative Outreach

Spiritual Journey with Thomas Keating

Part 2 Tape 6(b)



Not Free to Move into Full Personal Responsibility

Few people have really accessed the Mental Egoic Level.

It means becoming fully human with full personal self, full reflective self-consciousness and a strong ego with its personal identity.

This is the present stage of the evolutionary process.

In the movie, “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” the parents had consciously moved out of the Mythic Membership level but unconsciously they had not.

Who am I? Where am I? What is my real motivation are the real questions.

Motivation is Absolutely Everything

The parable of the Good Samaritan challenged Jesus’ hearers on ethnicity.

The divine action invites us to recognize how tenuous is our access to some of the stages or full human consciousness.

Inner freedom is the name of the game in the Gospel.

Age 4: the socialization process begins.

Age 8: logical thinking begins to activate.

Age 12: abstract thinking begins to develop.

Age 16: the right side of the brain with intuition and insight begins to develop.

Growth is the name of the game in Christianity.

Sarx and Soma

Sarx means the whole human condition – flesh and emotions and body.

Sarx is the body self which is closed to growth in Paul’s letters.

Sarx on a societal level is political and national self-interest and obsession with security and “the national interest.”

It is solidarity with other people, the opposite of such obsession, which is the beginning of the movement into the Intuitive Level.

One’s Fear of Death Increases

With each new level of self-differentiation as a stable kind of consciousness, one’s fear of death increases, one’s sense of responsibility increases hence one’s anxiety and guilt feelings increase.

The development of the individual self is fixated on the emotional levels of consciousness.

The false self is the syndrome of undigested emotional experience from childhood.

Centering Prayer helps you to address the false self and to begin to develop on the Intuitive Level of Consciousness.