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*All things arise and cease due to  
interdependent causes and conditions*

~Δ~

# Messiah Metaphors of the Seven Loaves and A Few Fishes

By

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*Summa Sophia: Questions for further study and for group discussion*  
*What do you think? What does it mean? What ought to be done?*

How many loaves have you? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. And they that did eat were four thousand men, besides women and children. (Matt. 15:34-38).

And he asked them, How many loaves have you? And they said, Seven. And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people. And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them. So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets. And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away.

(Mark 8:5-9).

Was it Five or Seven loaves? For the Five loaves see: Matt. 14:17-21, Mark 6:38-44, Luke 9:13-17, and John 6:9-13. See also, *Man of Miracles on the Five Loaves and the Two Fishes*, Summa Sophia (December 1999: Vol. 6, Series No. 12).

## **Messiah Metaphors of the Seven Loaves and A Few Fishes**

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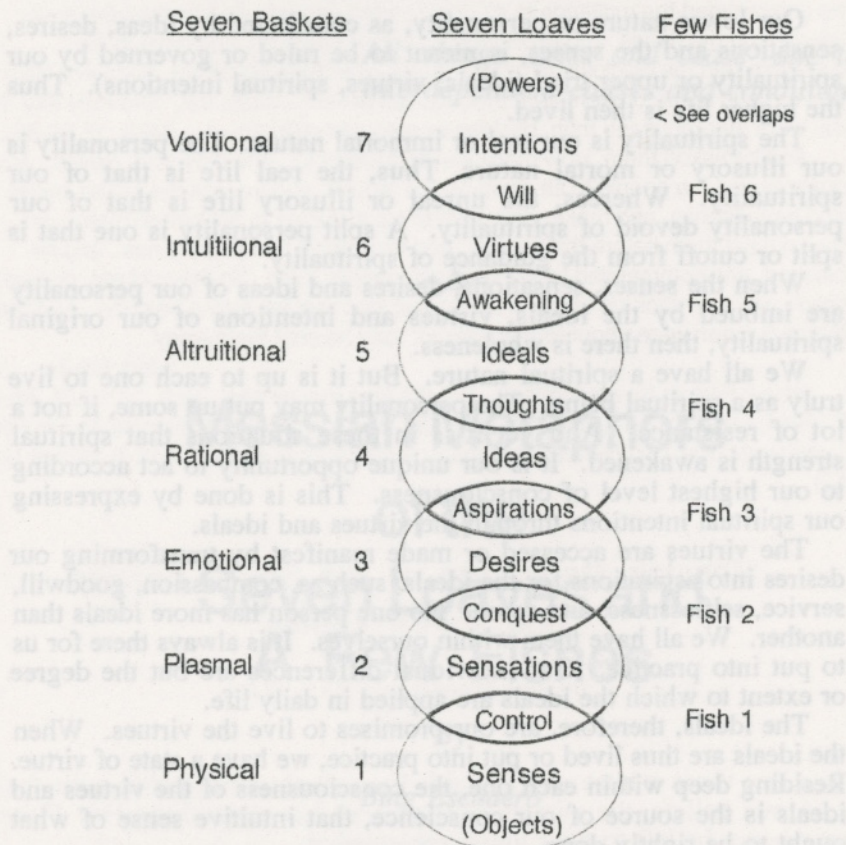
For those whose simple faith keep them comfortable with their preferred beliefs, the miracle of the Seven Loaves and the Few Fishes may better be left to their literal presentation.

For those whose faith can be advanced to the inner teachings of the deeper metaphors and their relevant significance, the following interpretations are offered for further consideration.

First of all, we need to remember the setting when the messiah went about with his mission. He was under surveillance by the Roman empire. His leadership was under suspicion as he descended from the throne of David. The people who were suffering under colonial oppression were looking for someone, a new king, who could liberate them. But the messiah reminded the people that his kingdom was not of earth. This was hardly understood. So with his reported teachings which the scribes revealed and also concealed.

The seven baskets symbolize the seven states of matter and energy, out of which our vehicles of consciousness are formed. The seven loaves correspond to the seven levels of consciousness. The few fishes are more subtly symbolized by the circle overlaps. For matter, energy and consciousness interpenetrate each other.

**Chart: The Seven Loaves and A Few Fishes**



Briefly, here are the dynamic metaphors. *Kindly keep referring to the above Chart.* In our Control (Fish 1) of the Senses (Loaf 1), there is the Conquest (Fish 2) of the Sensations (Loaf 2), and by transforming our Desires into Aspirations for the Ideals, our Thoughts as Ideas are in accord with the Ideals that, bring about the Awakening of the Virtues, by the Powers of our Will or our spiritual intentions. These teachings were *fed* to the people.

Our senses, sensations, desires and ideas constitute our personality or lower quaternary (Nos. 1 to 4). The ideals, virtues and (powers of) intentions are aspects of our spirituality or upper triad (Nos. 5, 6, & 7).

We live in a world of materialistic objects which provide us with wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth. Thus, there is spiritual nourishment when we are *fed* with the *bread of life* (baked by selfless service) and the *few fishes* drawn from the depths of the ocean of reality or the truth of our real nature.

Our lower nature or personality, as constituted by ideas, desires, sensations and the senses, is meant to be ruled or governed by our spirituality or upper triad (ideals, virtues, spiritual intentions). Thus the higher life is then lived.

The spirituality is our real or immortal nature. The personality is our illusory or mortal nature. Thus, the real life is that of our spirituality. Whereas, the unreal or illusory life is that of our personality devoid of spirituality. A split personality is one that is split or cutoff from the guidance of spirituality.

When the senses, sensations, desires and ideas of our personality are imbued by the ideals, virtues and intentions of our original spirituality, then there is wholeness.

We all have a spiritual nature. But it is up to each one to live truly as a spiritual being. The personality may put up some, if not a lot of resistance. And yet it is in these situations that spiritual strength is awakened. It is our unique opportunity to act according to our highest level of consciousness. This is done by expressing our spiritual intentions through the virtues and ideals.

The virtues are accessed or made manifest by transforming our desires into aspirations for the ideals, such as, compassion, goodwill, service, selflessness, and so on. No one person has more ideals than another. We all have them within ourselves. It is always there for us to put into practice. Our individual differences are but the degree or extent to which the ideals are applied in daily life.

The ideals, therefore, are our promises to live the virtues. When the ideals are thus lived or put into practice, we have a state of virtue. Residing deep within each one, the consciousness of the virtues and ideals is the source of our conscience, that intuitive sense of what ought to be rightly done.

Decisions based solely on ideas are not enough. For no decisions are ever right without the qualities of the virtues and ideals. Thus an ideal decision is that wherein the ideas are in full accord with the spiritual ideals. When the ideals come first, the right ideas are not far behind.

The virtues and ideals are what saves us from doing wrong. Thus no salvation is possible without those spiritual qualities that are virtuous and idealistic. A true messiah is one who points out to the salvational powers of the virtues and ideals within each one of us. It is the Teacher within. It is there for the asking. It is there to be tapped into its full potency. The proof of these truths are in our own efforts to translate the spiritual ideals into action in our everyday life.

Feed the hungry with these teachings. It is the bread of the life immortal blest.

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