

Summa Sophia, GdE
(Group dynamics Edition)
Volume 6, Series No. 9

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

~::~~

The Travelers

by

Bing Escudero

September ©1999 v1.5

*To receive your next Free Copy,
send a self addressed stamped
long envelope.*

Summa Sophia
17521 SE 236 Place
Kent WA 98042
U.S.A.

Phone (253) 630-0148

*Available only for private or group study
Not for sale in any form*

*Summa Sophia: Dedicated to every seeker of wisdom
What do you think? What does it mean? What can be done?*

The Travelers

by Bing Escudero © 1999 v1.5

After many days of travel on foot, two companions decided to take a rest at the first opportunity they hoped to encounter along the way.

Not before long, they came upon a remote monastery. After a few knocks on the door, a young monk came to greet them. They asked if they could rest for a few days, as they were going through a difficult journey.

The young monk said that it was the custom in the monastery to first have a silent debate. With any one of them was okay. And if the debate was won, both of them would surely be welcomed. The senior companion took up the challenge. The would-be debaters walked into the next room. And the door was closed.

After being seated facing each other, the young monk started the silent debate by raising three fingers. The senior traveler responded immediately by raising one finger.

This was countered by two fingers.

The challenging response was a circle, made by the tips of the thumb and forefinger, shoved close to the face of the monk.

The counter argument was just as spirited. With all fingers spread out, a hand was raised with palms strongly facing the opponent.

In a final conclusive statement, the equally strong response was a tightly closed fist.

The young monk stood up and said that if his worthy opponent would just wait awhile. The monk explained he had to make a report to the monastery chief who would give the final decision on the outcome of the silent debate.

The young monk left the room. He was excited. Hurriedly he went to the chief monk. In his brief report of the silent debate, he recommended lodging, adding that he had just met an enlightened being. The chief monk asked how he arrived at this conclusion.

"Well, I raised three fingers, representing the Teacher, the Teaching, and the Community of spiritual seekers. But he countered with one finger, pointing out the One Wisdom that unites all Three.

"So I raised two fingers, representing the principle of polarity that is expressive of the One, and from which all multiplicity arises and ceases.

"My debating opponent responded with a circle made by the tip of his thumb connected to that of the forefinger, for the circle represents the number Zero, the absolute reality that encompasses all polarities and their multiplicities.

"So I countered with my five fingers spread out and, the palm of my hands facing him, as without the sensations of the five separate senses, extensions from the mind as the palm of the hand, our debate could not be even possible.

"But my enlightened opponent countered with a fist, implying that the five senses and the mind cannot be separated from the one absolute reality."

The chief monk thanked the young monk for his report. Also, he was now free to go about the rest of his duties for the day.

As a matter of routine, the chief monk decided to check out matters for himself. So he went to meet the person who debated his young monk.

After exchanging greetings, the chief monk asked, "How was the silent debate that just took place?"

The traveler turned instant debater said, "It did not go very well."

"Why?" the chief monk asked.

"Well, your monk started the debate by calling me a thief, a liar, and a cheat."

"How did you know that, it was a silent debate."

"Simple, he raised three fingers in front of me."

"So?"

"I raised one finger pointed at him for he was the one who was the liar."

"You did?"

"Furthermore, he also included my traveling companion, by raising two fingers. So I objected with the zero sign, the tips of my thumb and forefinger touching each other, as nothing was closer to the truth."

"Really?"

"Yes, but he made matters worse by threatening to push my face when he raised the palm of his hands with all the fingers spread out."

"Then?"

"I concluded the debate by raising my fist, as I just wanted to give him a good beating."

Under this situation, the chief monk said it might be better for them to move on, as their stay in the monastery could hardly be a pleasant one. And he was also sorry about the outcome of the silent debate."

The chief monk escorted him to join his other traveling companion, bid them both good-bye as they went out of the door, after wishing them better luck in the continuation of their journey.

As the two companions kept walking on their way, the other one who was not present during the debate, asked what happened, why they were not given lodging.

Summa Sophia: Last Quarter of the Century
First Tenets Offering

As they talked to each other, the silent debate was recounted.

"First, three fingers were raised at me. So I raised one finger."

"Why did you do that, he was just asking you if we expected three meals a day to go with the lodging. And you blew it by pointing to one meal being just as acceptable. Well what happened next?"

"He raised two fingers, so I countered with the tips of my thumb and forefinger joined together making a circle."

"Well, you did it again by making another mistake. He was offering us two meals a day, and I can't believe you would be willing to accept zero or no meals whatsoever. This just gets worse. Now, just tell me how the silent debate ended."

"With all five fingers spread out, he raised the palm of his hand right in front of my face. And I concluded the debate by raising my fist."

"You finally blew it. He was offering us three meals a day, plus a morning snack and another one in the afternoon. How could you still ask to add some fruits as big as your fist. This is unbelievable. Now we don't even know if we can survive the rest of this journey."

* * *

Amidst the stresses and sorrows of the journey of life, we stopover to meditate in order to relax. But it is the other way around. Relax in order to meditate. In that unconditioned state of total silence, the mind (mental, emotional, physical or cerebral) ceases to interpret reality. Welcome! Enter into real meditation. At last, the rest of the journey is a glorious one.

* * * *

Just in case you are still looking for the best definition of meditation, here it is---*Meditation is not what you think.*

If you have any more questions on meditation, like all the questions (as to how, why, when, what, where, who), here are the answers:

How? Be quiet. Meditation is about *not* knowing. Or, *not* about knowing. It is about real understanding.

Why? When you come to this real understanding, only then will you really know.

When? At any time. During your daily meditation. And in-between when you thought you were not meditating.

What? Yes, begin each day with meditation. Persevere. From the unreal to the real: Study; Serve others; Go veggie diet, free from alcohol, tobacco, drugs, unhealthy habits. Exercise.

Where? Any place where you are.

Who? You (because you are The One).

> ss99_TheTravelers