



# **The Heights of Arrogance**

## ***The Dangers of Spiritual Practices Being Taught To Those Not Properly Prepared To Receive Them***

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For centuries have the Sages of the Kabbalah preached that certain spiritual practices are meant to be kept out of the hands of a curious untrained public. This is because those not properly prepared to handle them could suffer significant psychological damage if they made efforts to deal with that which is beyond their limitations.

Mind you, these warnings of the Sages of the Kabbalah are not unique. These exact same warnings have been made by the teachers of every spiritual system around the world in application each to their own.

How unfortunate that in each culture, in every century we have always had arrogant and ignorant souls who feel themselves superior to the warnings of the teachers and insists upon going after that which is beyond them to grasp. Some arrogance knows no boundaries and the mere suggestion of limitations causes certain souls to go into a rage. They insanely proceed down dangerous paths apparently oblivious to the psychological damage they cause themselves and the pain and suffering they cause to others around them.

Not for naught have the spiritual teachers of every spiritual system around the world safeguarded themselves and their teachings from the wild souls of the arrogant, undisciplined and those not willing to humble themselves to listen.

One who is properly trained and well aware of the dangers of firearms knows very well not to allow a child play with a loaded gun. The child on the other hand is totally oblivious to the dangers of the loaded pistol and instead sees only a shiny toy to play with and a mean and bad adult who is standing in his way of having fun. Tell me, my dear reader, whose reality is correct; whose reality should dominate; that of the experienced adult or that of the inexperienced child?

Due to his present state of immaturity, the child does not understand the scope of his limitations. Indeed, the child does not understand the nature of protection and the need for maturation. The child wants what he wants, when he wants it and is angry at anyone calling him a child and telling him he is not ready and able to do what he wants. As we so unfortunately see, some children never grow up.



Spiritual practices unlock very powerful forces within the human mind. When we speak about spiritual connections, we are at the same time talking about psychological connections. This truth is well documented in the writings of the Kabbalah as well as in Jungian psychology. While I am no expert, I am sure this same point can be found in the writings of many other spiritual cultures and schools of psychology.

Judaism is replete with stories of great and profound scholars who have dabbled in deep spiritual practices and were psychologically damaged because of their efforts. Modern history documents all too well examples of individuals and entire groups who have lost their mental balance by practicing certain spiritual pursuits or by trying to embrace certain spiritual ideals.

Indeed, the Nazism of Germany's Third Reich began as a spiritual occult movement of dabblers neither afraid of boundaries nor respectful of limitations. This led an entire society and generation into a mass psychosis of illusions of grandeur that brought on World War 2 and the deaths of tens of millions of souls.

Today we see cults that commit suicide in mass numbers and crazed individuals who claim they are speaking for G-d and killing in His Name, supposedly by His command. To a lesser extent we see self proclaimed so-called enlightened beings that proceed and act in ways that violate both Law and common sense proclaiming that they know better than the teachers do because G-d has directly told them so. Insanity, in all its forms, remains what it is, a psychological illness; a disease unseen and unacknowledged by the one suffering from it.

What is the motivation behind those who crave spiritual experiences beyond their limitations? The answer to this is a simple psychological truth. Spiritual pursuits fall into one of two different types, either one is pursuing a path of surrender and sacrifice to discover universal truths, or one is pursuing a path to acquire individual power for the sake of dominating the world and others.

One who seeks power is indicative of one who is mentally ill. One who shuns power, attention and authority is the only one who can be trusted not to abuse these things. Herein lies our contradiction, one who seeks these things must never be allowed to achieve them, whereas those who avoid these things are the very ones worthy of them and must be persuaded to pickup these burdens.

Only a properly trained and disciplined teacher can distinguish between those who are sincere and ready and those who are the power seeking imposters, who are like wolves in sheep's clothing waiting to pounce. This is why a teacher's directions are absolute, what the teacher tells the student, the student must accept wholeheartedly and willingly, never questioning and never challenging.



Only in this way can a teacher properly test the character of an aspiring student to ascertain what he would do with a loaded gun if trusted with one.

Would the student use his power like a wise and faithful law enforcement officer, or would the student become a criminal using his newfound power for his own ill-gotten gains. Character is the issue here, and without a personal teacher, individually guiding the student's direction, character cannot be tested. Without such testing, any teacher imparting spiritual knowledge is becoming a part of future crimes as opposed to becoming part of future solutions.

Let us turn now to the present proliferation of Kabbalah in today's secular world. Once Kabbalah was the sacred and respected domain for only the most highly trained and disciplined souls. Today Kabbalah is laughed at and mocked as part of the whimsical lifestyle of the rich and famous.

This downfall is similar to the fall of moral values in general and the use of illegal drugs in specific. At one time immorality was known to be wrong, it was frowned upon and those who partook in it were shunned. Today immorality has run rampant, it has become the norm, so much so that those who still stand up for morality are themselves condemned as wrong and are shunned because of it. At one time, drug use was known to be dangerous and bad for one, today drug use is considered the "cool thing" to do, and in spite of drugs being illegal there is no shortage of either supply or demand.

Modern morality has shown that people do not know what is good for them and cannot distinguish between what is harmful and what is not. Into this arena has the Kabbalah been stolen out of his lofty abode. Kabbalah has been twisted and perverted. So much garbage is taught in the name of Kabbalah that is in reality the outright opposite of everything Kabbalah teaches and stands for.

Yet, when challenged, the practitioners of the "new" Kabbalah demand to see written sources to validate the claims against them. They demand to see in writing where it says that what they are doing is wrong. Ask yourselves now a question, all the while that these new Kabbalists were not challenged they never asked for any written source other than their own cult literature. Why then now, only when challenged do they demand to see written sources that previously were of no interest to them?

The answer is simple. They do not seek to learn in order to accept admonishment from these sources. On the contrary, they demand them so that they can run these sources through the blender of their cultic teachings. They want to reinterpret the sources to make them say something other than their clear and defining meaning.



This is the way cults have always operated and how they successfully twist innocent minds. After injecting the poison of their beliefs into an innocent soul, any knowledge coming to said souls would be filtered and interpreted through the poison of the cult. This has happened countless times throughout history and every culture and religion has suffered from its cults and crazed splinter groups. History records how many of these groups grew and rose to positions of power that led to bitter conflicts, wars and the death and destruction of millions. So much for the value of cults left unchecked.

When individuals pursue spiritual practices outside of the cultural safeguards that provide their healthy parameters, the revelations received are incomplete. Instead of an individual having a sincere experience with a spiritual power, they only have a psychological experience called a numinous, wherein which an aspect of one's inner self is experienced in such grandiose proportion that one believes oneself to be having a revelation from a Divine source.

As psychology has proven repeatedly, nothing could be further from the truth. Yet, at the same time, the individual who has had this experience is so absolutely convinced of the "divine" truth of his revelation that he dismisses any and all evidence to the contrary. Such individual experiences are equivalent to being possessed. Indeed, one does become possessed by some force other than one's rational mind.

Under such an influence, one is liable to do anything that defies rationality, common sense and morality. One can look today to radical religionists who commit all sorts of crimes, believing they are doing the will of G-d. Mind you, this phenomena is nothing new, such numinostic ego aggrandizement has plagued mankind throughout human history. It is the danger of improper and imbalanced spiritual pursuits.

This explains why the Torah contained very stern warnings about false prophets. It is indeed a danger that one could pursue a spiritual path, appear to be spiritual and indeed have some kind of a spiritual experience. Yet, all this does not mean that one is in touch with G-d or with anything other than deeper aspects within one's own psyche. Only a properly trained teacher of the mind/soul knows the difference and knows how to train the aspiring student to discern the difference.

Therefore, without the constant and watchful eye of the trained teacher, no student can ever properly receive instruction and come to master spiritual expertise. Mind you, this lesson is true of any discipline. No one learns to become an experienced medical surgeon or a professional scientist of engineer unless one has a tremendous amount of training and hands-on experience. Expertise is not something that comes naturally. Without proper training and discipline expertise in any field is not achievable.





In conclusion, let me state for the record, anyone desiring to truly learn spirituality must do so properly, within the proper boundaries and context of that system. One must have a personal relationship with one's instructor whose guidance one follows as if it was the law of life itself. Anyone who claims that he knows better than the teacher, or has a clearer understanding of the teaching, which thus enables him to follow path other than the tried and true path walked by others for millennia is fundamentally flawed, incorrect, deceived and most likely dangerous.

Let this serve as a warning to those who wish to study Kabbalah without being fully versed and observant of Torah Law. You cannot succeed in this thing and if you even try, you will fall under a curse from Heaven to confuse you and block your success (Zohar, Naso 123a). Only we human beings tolerate fools, Heaven is not so forgiving. Anyone trying to enter a domain for which they are not prepared will, in the end, suffer severe psychological damage for attempting what Heaven views as the heights of arrogance.

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