

Ariadne

Pythagoras' School in Crotone

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“I, Pythagoras, am reopening My School on the Earth! Here and now and with your help, My friends, — this is the beginning!

I would like to attract the attention of youth to the laws of existence and to the meaning of life!

I would like to direct people’s love to the Wisdom

And to glorify the beauty of the Earth!

I would like to make the law of Kindness — the foundation of life for the community of people

And to open widely doors into the World of Divine Love, Peace, and Bliss — for those, who will rush to It violently!”

(Pythagoras: in “Classics of Spiritual Philosophy and the Present”)

Chapter One: Girlfriends

Ariadne took a bath. The slaves smeared her body with incenses and expensive oils, combed her luxurious hair. She was dressed in an outfit of fine expensive fabric with embroidery of gold thread along the edge. She was like the very embodiment of grace!

She came up to the silver mirror, which reflected the splendor of her body in all its glory.

One of the slaves — with a low bow — handed a casket with ornaments. Among the numerous expensive and exquisite jewelry, Ariadne took only the diadem of fine work. She touched up her hair and fastened it with this ornament in the form of a thin golden twig with pearls.

Ariadne gestured for the slave to retire.

“What else do you need?” — she mentally was speaking to herself, reflected in the mirror.

Exquisite luxury of the house, decorations, outfits...

The wealth given by her father was great. Both father and mother now live in Athens and do not pester her with parental care. The most beautiful and wealthy of suitors ask her hand, and she can choose...

Thoughts flowed smoothly, as if the dialogue with the beautiful reflection, which Ariadne saw in the mirror, continued:

“What more do you want? Marriage? Children? It is only necessary to choose one of the admirers — and this will become a reality.

“Why don’t you get it?”

“Fate fondled you like a warm sea. Why such emptiness is inside you?”

“Or you need to understand — what all this is for?”

“It will be another one or two decades — and the beauty will fade. What will remain then? What will happen to this beautiful Ariadne?”

Ariadne dismissed the thoughts of old age and death...

Today she was waiting for her friend Ferenika, who promised to visit her.

* * *

Ferenika, a beauty with fiery reddish curly hair, as if flew into the house of Ariadne and brought into the surrounding space all the irrepressible liveliness of her nature, enthusiastic and amazed exclamations, giggling laughter.

The girlfriends embraced tenderly. Exquisite treats accompanied and delighted their conversation. They discussed Ariadne’s suitors for a long time, but no one was given preference.

Ariadne sighed:

“All this is good, but the heart does not burn with love to any of them... And so marriage, birth of children, and after — old age, death?... All this — for what?! Why beauty should fade and go to the grave?!”

Why did it bloom?! Must be the appointment of life!”
— Ariadne, at last, expressed vocally all the thoughts that today clouded her morning.

“You argue like a *philosopher*. Have you heard this term already, signifying the sage who loves wisdom above all else? Have you ever been at his performances? And have you heard his speeches?”

“Who are you talking about?”

“So you have not heard of Pythagoras? He’s here since recently. And — he is organizing a school for the ethical education of the youth or something like that. The speeches, which he gives, are admired by many! And they say that he is handsome, like Apollo. And — it has the power of Zeus!

“It is said that he is the possessor of Divine Knowledge, received from above! Perhaps — from the Gods Themselves!

“And they say that he is called Pythagoras, because Pythia in the Delphic temple even before his birth had already prophesied to his parents the great destiny of their son!

“Still they say that he became a priest in Egypt. And — he studied the magic and mathematics of the Chaldeans in Babylon. And now he decided to disclose what he knows — openly.

“And tomorrow — he also speaks! You can go and listen to his speech! Moreover, all worthy men will be there too! And you can shine with your beauty!”

“And you — will you go?”

“No... I’ll die of boredom there! I’m not like you, and reasoning about the meaning of life puts me to sleep. I want to live — but not talk about life’s meaning!

“If youth and beauty now shine in me — I really want to enjoy it, not ponder old age and death!

“Well, I say goodbye! Now my ardent admirer is waiting for me! And today we will have fun all the night until morning! I’m not ready to change this date — for the speech of even the best of sages! You will tell me about this Pythagoras later!

“Forgive me, friend, but I am like that! See you soon, dear!”

Chapter Two: Speech of Pythagoras before Inhabitants of Crotona

The next day, Ariadne decided to go to the performance of Pythagoras.

She took her place in the amphitheater. Many citizens of Crotona gathered here to listen to this sage who calls himself a *philosopher* — that is, *lover of wisdom*.

Before her hearing, there were talks about Pythagoras between the assembled:

“They say that he was in Egypt and trained by the pyramid priests.”

“They say that he can talk to animals — and they listen and understand him.”

“It is said that the inhabitants of one village complained of a bear who attacked cattle. And Pythagoras talked to him — and convinced him to eat only plant food and not meat. And, they say, the bear obeyed him and did not cause any more ruin.”

“And Pythagoras himself does not eat meat!”

“All this is fudge! Don’t believe the gossip and chatter in the market!”

“Did you hear that Apollo himself endowed him a golden body?”

“Now we will see for ourselves: is his body made of gold! You always believe empty tales!”

“Yes, there he is! He goes!”

... Pythagoras went out into the middle of the amphitheater. He moved slowly. And while He walked, the conversations ceased and the silence fell.

This transparent silence embraced, filled each of the listeners.

After this, Pythagoras began to speak:

“I’m glad to welcome you again, inhabitants of Crotone!”

“In our last meeting, we talked about souls: the fact that more than once souls come, incarnating in bodies, into this world we see. Then each soul leaves — with the death of the shell of its corporeal body — the dense world, and, having taken its new body, is born again, years later or sometimes even centuries.

“Perfection of the soul is the goal of all incarnations!

“Today I would like to speak with you about *virtue*.

“Virtue creates deeds of good. This is a property of souls that have a happy desire to do good — and they carry it out in life.

“What do you think: why virtue is beautiful, and vices ugly?

“Have you noticed that if a person happily performs the shameful, then his or her pleasure is very

fleeting? Very soon, from such pleasure, nothing remains, but only disgust and boredom embrace such a person. And he or she again seeks to find some source for pleasure... This never quenched to the end thirst drags this one... amid the nonsense of such a life...

“And you should know that the consequences of shameful acts will in future shape the fate of such a person.

“On the contrary, it is easy to see that when efforts are directed toward the accomplishment of the worthy — then virtue generates good inside and around such a soul!

“The joy of the deeds of good warms and ennobles the soul!

“Such efforts develop the strength of the soul!

“And the fruits of those efforts remain with the soul, forming its future destiny. They form the beauty of the soul, which is not taken away from it even with the death of the body!

“At birth in a new body — all the acquired beautiful properties get new opportunities for growth and improvement!

“So — as a result of the corresponding labor over oneself — the soul can become beautiful and similar to the Immortal Gods¹!

“According to the laws of earthly ordination, a person always gets back what he or she has given to the world.

“What does it mean: ‘gave to the world’ — you ask?

¹ Pythagoras meant the Holy Spirits.

“The universe is entire, integral. The creatures both covered with fur, and reptiles, marine life and avian creatures, and every fruitful grain, and trees, and herbs, and variety of various blooming flowers, and people, and mountains, and seas, and sky bodies, — all are interconnected. The Great Gods unite and direct such connections in this created world.

“The universe lives according to the laws of Harmony.

“So gradually: from the grains of consciousness in the smallest creatures — souls grow in the bodies of plants and animals. And, having found the human body, a great opportunity before the soul is revealed: the transformation into God!

“Every particle of the universe affects the Whole. And one who does evil, — violates Harmony with his or her life and actions. This one does not know that he or she causes harm to oneself, when he or she harms others.

“Take, for example, the branches of a tree. They are separate, but they together make up a whole tree. That’s how all beings, including people, are as branches in the life of the Whole. They do not notice that they all have one Root: the one Divine Source of life of Everything. And the harm, supposedly committed only to another being, is harmful to the Whole.

“That is why the laws of the development of the Whole imply retribution with pain — for evil, and reward with happiness — for good.

“So, gradually, Gods direct souls to understanding what is love, Light, and Good.

“Goodwill and the deeds of righteousness and justice for all beings — this I regard as the foundation of a righteous life.

“Ethically right behavior gives us freedom, although it may seem for many that this is not so.

“Ethically wrong behavior, oppositely, enslaves a person. Although at first such one may not notice it — and does not guess the consequences of his or her immoral actions. But most of them are evil, which was done in relation to other beings.

“A person can believe that the restrictions, imposed on him or her by ethical norms, hamper his or her desires to live as one please. And it may even seem that non-observance of ethical rules gives freedom...

“But this is because one does not see the entire picture of the Whole, does not feel one’s inseparable connections with this universal Whole, a small part of which is every being.

“I repeat that any harm caused to man or to another creature, returns a bad fate to the one who caused this harm. From this retribution, one cannot hide!

“From the Divine Omniscience, we cannot hide even our thoughts!

“It is meaningless for one to deceive oneself and cover up by self-justification one’s vices and try to make the voice of conscience inaudible! This is similar to how one turns away from the impending disaster by standing with the back to it — so as not to see the upcoming payoff, and to think that this is the salvation...

“On the contrary, it is necessary to expose the vices in oneself and eradicate them! Then — problems and troubles will soon leave our lives!

“Such healing of the soul — heals also our bodies and fates! It helps to find happiness in life!

“The rectitude, when it is respected by a person, takes care of its health and fate in advance, without causing in the future its misfortunes and illnesses!

“Prudence is a mind filled with *a desire for good to everyone and everything*, and not just oneself!

“There are ideals in the mind of everyone: that is, what one would like to be. These ideals can be created truly beautiful! And you can try to embody them in your life!

“It is possible for a person to become what he or she wants — only to appear in the eyes of other people. But you can bring to harmony in yourself both external and internal — and this will be the honesty and purity!

“Hypocrisy is a mask — for other people. But it does not hide from the Divine Views — what the person seeks to hide. And it does not make true — what one seeks only to show before other people!

“It’s possible to bring all the soul’s forces in yourself — into harmony!

“One, who lives in harmony with oneself and with the world, is pleasing to people and pleases Gods!

“One, who does not know the meaning of life and one’s goals, is like a loiterer who stands or hangs about on the road, does nothing useful for oneself, but only blocks the way for others! So many people wander around in their lives, indulging in pleasures only for the flesh. They go from birth to death of the body, not getting much for their lives on the Earth!

“When the soul acquires the right understanding and meaning of life, then all energy, wasted before on useless, — is now directed to the main.

“Emotions and thoughts, in which a person lives, and not actions alone, — also affect the fate.

“A stunted and fading flower does not please anyone and is not interesting to anyone. So persons, ever sad, complaining about fate, condemning others, frail and infirm by bodies and souls, — attract to themselves — by this way of living, thoughts, and emotions — troubles in their future. But instead, you can change your lives and, as far as you can, get out from the vicious circles of despair, discontent, anguish, and suffering!

“Angry, using strength for violence against others, — cause fear. There are no states of souls more disgusting than anger and fear! The fate of such people is sad!

“But the fragrance of *beautiful qualities* of the soul spread around! And just as a beautiful flower attracts butterflies, honey bees, — beautiful souls, by the fragrance of good and harmony, bring to their lives and others — success, well-being! Such a state, in particular, attracts other people of good — to be near!

“But in destinies, many consequences of earthly deeds can be intertwined. The consequences of atrocities in the past — can overtake the soul after a considerable time. Similarly, the ‘cornucopia’ does not necessarily immediately begin to shower with awards those persons who decided to change themselves. After all, usually time passes before the soul confidently changes its present destiny — by its thoughts, emotions, and deeds.

“You can use any difficulties to improve yourself!

“One is able in all events and circumstances to see the benefit for oneself!

“Let’s take — as lessons of wisdom — any of our achievements and defeats!”

... Ariadne listened — and the waves of golden Light touched her with tenderness, love, peace. The meaning of Pythagoras’s words came and grew stronger.

These were not just words, but they carried the Divine Power and Knowledge!

Who is he? What kind of Gods does he worship? What does he want? Why is he so attentively heard by all these so different people?

... Pythagoras meanwhile continued:

“The power of a person can be turned to subjugate others. But the same power can be directed to discipline your own desires and emotions, thoughts, and intentions.

“Kindness is the base of everything good in the soul. It directs the soul into accordance with the principles of goodness and the desire to good for all surrounding beings.

“Let’s try to think about it broadly!

“It is necessary to treat with love not only parents and children, wives, and husbands!

“But we must also love plants that bring us food and give us outdoor beauty!

“And birds must be contained in our love, which delight our hearing!

“And let us love the whole of nature, which is so created by the Divine Power that everything

around gives us blessings, if we love everything here!

“And the Primordial Creator Himself, the Creator of Everything, — we must train ourselves to love and honor!

“This is a wise beginning for everyone who would like to start the path to good — right now! Everyone can accept this decision for oneself now!

“And next time we’ll talk in more detail about how to do this. Let’s talk about the ways, possibilities, and goals of the soul’s transformation. In particular, we will refer to the meaning of human life here on the Earth.”

Chapter Three: Leonardo

Still impressed by what she heard, Ariadne slowly descended the steps of the amphitheater. Almost all the listeners have already dispersed, only a few have surrounded Pythagoras and asked questions.

A little in the distance, Ariadne saw a young man who seemed familiar to her. Perfect complexion, with dense light curly hair, some strands of which so burned in the sun that they became light golden. Shining eyes.

Ariadne could not take her eyes off, because something else surprisingly beautiful was in him. It was something like Pythagoras Himself, but not external! He, like Pythagoras, radiated the Divine Energy — pure and shining...

And suddenly she remembered: he is her childhood friend from Athens, Leonardo!

Ariadne joyfully approached:

“Is it really you, Leonardo?”

“Yes, Ariadne! How glad I am to see you! You have become such a beauty!”

“I’m also very glad, Leonardo! You have changed so much! I could hardly recognize you! Are you with Pythagoras?”

“Oh yes, Ariadne! I’ve changed a lot — thanks to Him!

“Yes, I am with Him! We are constructing a school here, in which there will be training for those who aspire to Wisdom and Beauty!

“There will be temples where people can remain in silence and listen to Divine Revelations. Also — houses for all students, and an amphitheater in which we will listen to Pythagoras! There will be tracks along the sea, and a place for swimming, and a beautiful garden!

“Do you want to come with me? I’ll show you all this!”

“Let’s go! I was very interested in listening to His speech!”

... On the way, they were talking:

“Tell me: how did you get to know Pythagoras?”

... Leonardo pondered briefly, then began the account:

“Now even to remember brings shame... There was a trial of three citizens of Athens. The speakers spoke in turns: in accusation or defense. The charge was false, the sentence was cruel. The orator who spoke in defense was inept, his statements in de-

fense of the accused were weak and uninformed. He then blushed, then paled in excitement, but he could not connect his thoughts into orderly evidence and clothe the truth in words...

“My friend and I used to go to such meetings to have fun, practice wit. But we never spoke publicly. We never worried about the results, but there was only a false pleasure from the feeling of superiority over others — superiority in the mind and eloquence...

“And now, having already ridiculed the absurdity of accusations amongst ourselves, we scornfully ridiculed the awkward defender.

“Suddenly Pythagoras appeared near us.

“He suggested I speak in defense of the accused — to act better than the man who was so obviously defeated in the opinion of those who will now have to pass sentence.

“At first, I refused, saying that this fuss about ridiculous charges is not serious...

“Pythagoras answered then:

‘But behind these words is the fate of those three people! Do you not have the courage and the intelligence to apply your eloquence to protect them?’

“... He then touched my pride. And I made a speech.

“It should be noted that my first public speech was not very successful, but it was quite effective.

“I disproved the arguments of both inept prosecutors and the absurd statements of the defender, then I illuminated the situation as I understood it. Under the rapid approval of all listeners, the accused were acquitted.

“The most unexpected thing for me was the gratitude of that unqualified defender, Theoritas, for my speech. He was not touched at all by my kinky ridicule over his performance. He sincerely rejoiced that my speech showed the truth and saved people from false accusations and an unfair sentence!

“Nearby Pythagoras stood. And suddenly, I became painfully shamed for all I did, flaunting before people my wit!

“My friend, with whom we mocked, did not understand me and, in perplexity of the change that occurred in me, left us.

“But I — embraced Theoritas as a friend.

“I will introduce you, if you want. Now his performances far surpass mine — in eloquence. He wanted to master this — and he has managed.

“And now I’m attracted to something quite different: the ability to master... However, we will talk about this later.

“And then — Pythagoras invited both of us to go with Him.

“He said that He had conceived the creation of a spiritual school that includes a community of like-minded people — where wisdom and eloquence serve Truth, where justice has power, where kindness reigns in all its splendor, where evil and other vices are subject to denunciation and annihilation. Because they are the greatest folly and insanity that can be inherent in people.

“... And here we are! Look: how beautiful it is!”

... The place was really beautiful! There was a wonderful view of the sea, one wanted to spread wings like a bird and soar over all this natural beauty!

... Leonardo showed Ariadne the future layout of the school. He led her along the slope and the top of the hill and described with delight in words not yet built houses, not yet laid out marble stairs.

Ariadne listened, smiling slightly. So far only a small group of students worked in the distance, constructing a basin; in the way of the mountain stream, to form a convenient place to collect fresh water.

“And are you digging the ground, building a swimming pool, planting a garden? Why do you wear stones and paint walls? Why you yourself — instead of slaves — work here!”

“No, Ariadne: everyone does the work that is feasible for him or her! Well, the slaves — there are none and never will be! It would be immoral if one person serves another in coercion, not out of a desire to help!

“Here — the greatness of those souls who strive for Purity and Light!

“And the work in any earthly — it helps them in this!

“Yes, there are among us those who, by the will of fate, were in slavery. They were bought by Pythagoras. And many of them are much smarter, more honest, more beautiful souls, than those who think of themselves as aristocrats!”

“Are you hinting at me?”

“Oh no! Not at all! Sorry!...”

... Suddenly Pythagoras came out to meet them.

Ariadne did not know what to say and how to behave in surprise...

“I salute the beautiful by both soul and body Ariadne! I’m glad that Leonardo spoke so well of our plans!”

... And then Ariadne did not hear whether Pythagoras was speaking or was silent. That wave of Light that she felt during Pythagoras’ performance — became the Ocean of Divine Light, Which embraced from all sides and filled the body with bliss...

When she returned to the usual perception of the world, Pythagoras was no longer around.

“I do not remember anything, Leonardo! There was only Light — everywhere: outside and inside me! What was it?”

“The Divine part in you is ready to wake up! You — as the soul — are ready to awaken and comprehend the reality of being. And in it — the world of both objects and people and even the seas and mountains is only a small superficial part of the Great, Perfect, and Whole Creation.

“Shall I escort you home?”

“No, thank you! I must now comprehend all this — myself...”

Chapter Four: The Slave

The next day, Ariadne was again at the performance of Pythagoras and again saw Leonardo, but only from afar. Today they did not talk.

She came home in deep thought because of what was happening to her now...

It still existed as if in some kind of gentle transparent and luminous fog. Calm joy filled her.

Thoughts seemed to come up — and then dissolve again. And the soft joy did not disappear even for a moment.

What's happening? Did I really fall in love? But — to whom: with Pythagoras? Or — with Leonardo? Or — with this beautiful Divine world, of which Pythagoras speaks?

She tried to rethink what she heard: "A person can become God-Man, God!".

"Is it too presumptuous and immodest — to think so? And if Gods punish us for such impudence?"

"However, no: it's not insolence, but the desire to become better! After all, I feel that this is true — what Pythagoras says!

"Many times in my childhood, I myself dreamed of becoming like a Goddess! And — not by only the beauty of the face and the whole body, but also to be wise and to perform magical acts of kindness!

"But those were childhood dreams... And here — everything is real! Or... just seems real?"

"Here — Pythagoras says that this is the meaning of human life — to become Perfect: such as Gods — and then wisely help all people!..."

* * *

At that time, a young slave brought supper for Ariadne.

Ariadne, still as if in another world, knocked the tray, which the slave was going to put on an inlaid table with golden legs. All that was on the tray

fell down, staining the fine outfit of Ariadne. Expensive ceramic painted cups were broken, a golden goblet clattered and rolled on marble slabs...

The slave fell to her knees in fright:

“Forgive me, Mistress! Sorry!”

... Ariadne was not cruel or arrogant with slaves. The slave was not at all threatened with punishment! But she shrank as if she expected to be struck.

Ariadne has grown accustomed from childhood, believing that there are those who are obliged to serve her, performing all the necessary work, and she never paid much attention to these people... “of another sort”.

But today, she suddenly saw that this young and beautiful girl, the same age as Ariadne, — because of Ariadne’s guilt — was now in a state of fright and confusion! She was kneeling, not knowing where to start: should she change the outfit of her mistress — or remove the debris?

... Ariadne knew almost nothing about the fate of Dianta: about what happened in her life, which made her a slave... And it did not even occur to ask her about it!

Ariadne recently bought her from a man who was very cruel to his slaves. Dianta repaid for this salvation with special devotion and love, which was not peculiar to other servants. But at the same time, Dianta was always silent, closed, as if she wanted to hide from the whole world around her.

Ariadne hurried to reassure the girl:

“Why are you so scared? It’s me who’s to blame: I touched the tray with my hand!”

... She gently lifted the girl from her knees and looked into her eyes, wet with tears.

“Let’s go swimming in the pool!” — she suddenly suggested and led Dianta with her as a friend.

Throwing off her clothes, Ariadne, laughing, plunged her beautiful body into clear water, ducked, admiring the mosaic image of Neptune at the bottom of the pool.

Reaching up, she called Dianta:

“Well, what about you?! Jump here quickly!”

... When they came out from the water, they were already almost friends.

... The same evening Ariadne wanted to know the life story of Dianta, but heard from the girl quite a bit:

“My father was a merchant and highly educated man. He told me a lot about distant countries, taught to read, write, count. After the death of mother, he began to take me with him to distant wanderings.”

“You can read and write, but you never told me about it!... Tell me more about yourself! What has happened to you?”

Diana gloomed:

“I would not like to remember this... What for? The past is no more! And me — the same one — is also not! I’m nothing! I allowed myself to become a slave, I allowed to mock me! I should kill myself, but then I did not do it for some reason and allowed to trample down my honor and desecrate cleanliness! And now... it all does not matter! I do not know why I’m still alive!...”

“Listen, you’re no longer a slave, Dianta! From this moment — you are free! You can start all over again!”

... Dianta shook her head sadly:

“No... It’s impossible to erase from life what was! I am not worthy of freedom, purity, and happiness!...”

“You should not say that! Listen: tomorrow, if you want, we’ll go to listen to the Sage Pythagoras! Perhaps you will want to study in His School — just as I now dream!”

*** * ***

The next day, Ariadne announced to the rest of her slaves that they are free without any ransom! She even gave everyone money. Some of them returned to their lands, several people wished to remain in the house of Ariadne and help with housework, since they had nowhere to go and no reason to depart.

Ariadne was filled with ecstasy because she began to practice the deeds of good! Then she chose one of her outfits for Dianta. When Dianta saw her reflection in the mirror, even a smile touched her lips a bit...

They went together to listen to the speech of Pythagoras.

*** * ***

After the speech of Pythagoras, Leonardo himself approached Ariadne and Dianta with the words: “Pythagoras said that you and your friend have something to talk about with Him.”

“And I just wanted to ask you about this! Dianta really needs to hear the Teacher’s advice! And now — He already knows about it! Miracles!”

“You have not yet seen His miracles, beauties!” — Leonardo smiled.

... When the audience dispersed, Pythagoras, Leonardo, and the girls settled on the steps of the amphitheater for a conversation.

“Should Leonardo and I probably leave?” — Ariadne asked.

“No, My friends, I will not say anything that you all would not find useful to hear. Perhaps, someday, you yourself will be able to pronounce such words for other people.”

... Pythagoras gently took Dianta by the hand and began to say:

“Today is a significant day in your destiny, Dianta! You can be reborn to a new life — the life in Love and Light! — like Aphrodite, born from the waves of the ocean!

“You can begin to learn how to lose the heavy burden of the past! You can start creating a wonderful future for yourself and for others!”

“How is this possible? I cannot change myself so quickly!...”

“Yes, a soul changes not quickly!... But you — must open the new life for yourself! Today, for example, you will learn how not to be upset over the past, Dianta! I, too, once was a prisoner of Persians, and I know well what slavery is!”

“Do You really know that I was a slave up to this day?

“However, I cannot hide my disgrace...

“But You... — great Pythagoras — were never a slave, although, perhaps, a prisoner! But I — became a slave instead of dying!... I allowed myself to be mocked, humiliated!... I myself permitted to be trampled in the mud!...”

“And now, are you going to reproach yourself for this up to your death?

“Do you want to take your despair with you into the afterlife?

“Do you want to make your sadness eternal?

“Do you want to turn the beautiful life, given to you by the Creator, — into self-punishment and torture for yourself?”

“Oh no!...”

“Dianta, perhaps, you could have done something worthier then. Maybe — you could not. But now — all this is not important! Look: you are here — at this moment — alive and listening to Me!

“The past — let it be the past! You will not live in it anymore! You should not bring sadness back to the soul with a memory of the past!

“You are free: to choose life in the past — or in the present, which you create for yourself right now!

“All that was, is already carried away by the river of time!

“Don’t keep your thoughts and emotions in the past!

“Now — in this very minute — you can start to change yourself and your life for the better! It makes no sense to mourn failures — when you are given the opportunity to correct them!

“Feel what wonderful opportunities are opening up now before you! All is in your hands! And I’m ready to help you! Do you want it?”

“Oh yeah!”

“Then forget your dark past and do not torment yourself with the uncertainty of the future, in which you have not yet started to see the Light!

“It’s the mistake: to see the world gloomy, devoid of kindness and joy! You are wrong when you see yourself in this world as a victim of atrocities and of your own wrong actions! You should no longer feel worthless, fallen!”

“Can You teach me to think and see things in a different way?”

“Yes, I’ll try to reveal the Truth to you a bit and show how it really is. This is in order that you yourself in future know and learn to live in accordance with the Truth!

“Truth is the Divine Primordial Power controlling all the existing!

“Truth is the manifestation of Love, Beauty, Harmony, Wisdom, Kindness, Caring, Perfection!

“Truth is God!

“I’m not talking about a fictional ‘god’ from some particular cults and not about a statue of marble on the altar to which people bring sacrifices.

“But there is real God — All-Creating United Power!

“He really exists!

“He is like the ocean, which unites in itself several rivers flowing into it and bringing their waters into the boundlessness of the ocean!

“In the same way, the One Primordial united in Himself all the truly Divine, that is, Those Who have attained the Perfection and become One with Him — throughout all time, to which there is no account!

“God is the Great Primordial Power — possessing the highest Wisdom and Justice!

“He created the Laws, according to which everything develops in the universe!

“All this can be cognized not as *special words* — but as the Reality, that can be seen, felt, understood! And then man can become the Integral Part of Him!

“Now, to begin with, feel that you are always surrounded by the Light of His Love!

“And this Light of Divine Love is near in every second!

“This Light is everywhere! The Divine Light hugs you from the outside and is ready to fill you!

“But sadness, fear, despair, which now is inside you, does not allow the Divine Love to flow into you!

“Open yourself by the love of the soul — to meet the Love of God! And then you yourself will see this Divine Light!

“Feel this Light, too, with the hands of the spiritual heart!

“You know how to love!

“The Light of Divine Love is always ready to carry you — as on Its Hands!

“This Light can support, protect from dangers and direct your life!

“In Him, you will discover the meaning of your life personally, and also the role that you can play on this scene of the material world — for other beings!

“To help others, you can accomplish much, carrying to them love, care, revealing the steps of knowledge — while your body-shell is present in the

world of objects and bodies, visible by the ordinary sight!”

... Dianta felt herself a soul free, soaring in that Light, Which was shown and revealed to all by Pythagoras!

“The Love of God! What a happiness!” — Dianta has long forgotten how it is to be happy... But now — the true Power of Divine Love filled her!

Pythagoras went on to say:

“Wash in this Sea of Light! Look: you — as the soul — are now free and similar to the Light! And this can be your future, if you yourself want it! You can rush to the Light and become the Divine Soul bearing Love to others who live on the Earth!

“Live, feeling this Ocean of Love! God loves you, cherishes you, carries you by His Power, guides you!

“You will soon learn to live this way always — if you want to and practice the simple rules, which we teach in our School!

“And you will be able to help others find out what is slightly opened today for you!”

Chapter Five: On Positive and Negative Emotional States

Ariadne and Dianta now did not miss a single public appearance of Pythagoras.

Moreover, they were allowed to attend the talks of Pythagoras with the selected most promising students.

... On this day, Ariadne, Dianta, Leonardo and other students gathered on the shore of a small bay at the foot of the hill on which the building of the School was built.

They were sitting on flat comfortable stones. This part of the coast was sheltered by rocks from the side winds and winds from the land. It was like a cozy terrace for overlooking the sea. The stones were brought and laid here by disciples. Now this small secluded amphitheater served — in good weather — for Pythagoras' conversations with them.

... They sat for a while in silence, listening only to the soft splashing of small waves and the voice of seagulls.

Then Pythagoras began to speak:

“Today, I told the people of Crotona about the role of positive emotional states, accompanying the right intentions.

“I said, among other things, that, by setting ourselves up — as souls — for good deeds, we also call the Divine Assistance into our plans and thus multiply the success of our actions many times over. At the same time, it becomes possible to do in joy — any good deeds, both great and small.

“It is also important to understand that this is not true: to do things that should serve good, while also being sad or annoyed. It is because our wrong emotions significantly reduce the effectiveness of any action!

“Now we, my friends, can talk about this deeper.

“It makes sense to do any exercise for the body and soul, any work that we perform — tuning in to the right emotional way! This can be both the performance of gymnastic exercises, and the study of new texts, and work on building. It must also be significant for meditations.

“It is necessary to perform any even very simple action — with the understanding that the energy fields from our mental states are spreading from us outward and filling the surrounding space.

“For example, cooking, if it is performed with the right emotional mood, — it will bring much more benefit than the same action, performed ‘by inertia’ or in a negative emotional state.

“Also food — when cooking it by one in an irritated state — this food is filled with the disharmonious energy of the one who cooks it.

“And also the best that the product can bring will not be assimilated, if a person eats in greed or is in a bustle, hastily swallowing bite after bite.

“These simple examples show how, as with any other action, the right emotional state ensures success, and the wrong one — prevents proper execution of deeds.

“I’ll draw your attention to — that people in many ways predetermine the events around them. They, acting, create each time fragments of the universe, surrounding them, — by filling the space with their own different energies. But they usually do not know about this.

“And every thought, every emotion, every action, and even just spoken words — are parts of such a construction, made by a person in the environment

for himself or herself both for now, and for their future.

“Our emotional states also significantly affect the lives of other beings.

“That is, everything that we do is better done fully conscious: watching our own states at every moment and regulating them.”

... Pythagoras was silent for a while, allowing the students to comprehend what has already been said. Then he continued:

“There are different — by the qualities and time of their implementation — intentions.

“If someone creates an intention to buy butter or fruits at the market, then, most likely, it will not be difficult to fulfill. But from that person — from the emotional state of him or her — it will depend: with joy and pleasure that task will be performed — or as an onerous duty.

“It is from a variety of such situations, our everyday life is formed — and this predetermines the existence (good or bad) of our bodies and us as souls.

“In our such activity there should not be excessive and unnecessary actions. Otherwise, everyday vanity will eclipse the main things that we really need to do.

“After all, a person has more significant goals!

“For example, we set for ourselves the goal of making ourselves-souls like Gods.

“A person should not miss the main goal of his or her life — among minor tasks. If so, then life plans — for this day, the next month, years ahead — naturally and consistently are built up as steps leading to the main Goal. So, gradually, the habit of *improving oneself* — leads to a more successful spiritual life for

both the devotee himself or herself and many people around, who observe his or her perfecting.

“Just as a sculptor creates — from a block of marble — the beautiful sculpture, gradually removing the superfluous and then grinding the resulting shape, so one, in cooperation with Gods, can transform oneself-soul, approaching the Ideal which one has set for oneself as the Purpose!

“But if we forget about the really important Goal because of the small-time matters — then we cannot achieve this Goal.

“One can begin every day so that one’s intentions are easily fulfilled. One can adjust oneself-soul — as a musical instrument for perfect sounding!

“How the lyre can be tuned in accordance with musical harmony — so one can adjust oneself to the states of the Divine Light and the Creating Fire!

“If we do this, the inspiration, received from Gods, will fill every hour of our lives!”

... Pythagoras paused again. A transparent silence enveloped Pythagoras and his disciples sitting on the bank.

Ariadne even thought that in the soft non-material Light, she began to perceive beautiful Faces and Hands. Then she realized: the Divine Souls had approached...

Pythagoras again began to speak:

“The soul has to remain either in *silence*, or *sound* in tune with the Divine Souls!

“The silence is very important! It allows one to harmonize the whole space, which every time is covered by this soul.

“The silence also allows union of the soul with the Divine.

“Here is the lira. When it does not sound, it is as if it keeps in itself all the sounds of the world in beautiful silence.

“A skilled performer, touching the strings, produces amazing melodies of great beauty.

“So we, too, can — by any of our actions — from silence — bring harmony and beauty to the universe!

“When the intentions of the soul are illuminated by inspiration — they are realized easily!

“But if, in the day ahead, we see hard and undesirable work or insurmountable obstacles — then we will not be lucky!

“And sometimes one can think that this deed is impossible altogether...

“Such thoughts and emotions impede and reduce the force that would have to flow into the implementation of the conceived.

“But if we adjust ourselves to the joy of labor, to the power of the soul, which overcomes barriers, also to love and inspiration for ourselves in labor and earth affairs, — so we put good fortune into our lives.

“And if our intentions do not contradict the Divine Plans — they will necessarily be realized!

“If somewhere, we made a mistake in our plans and failed — then it should also be accepted with joy: as a lesson offered by Gods.

“... Joy let fill with vitality the body and soul!

“But we can use in emotional moods not only joy. Love, peace, goodwill towards others — all this multiplies and intensifies the harmony that we bring to the world! Such our thoughts and emotions activate the power of the soul and give energy to achieve results!

“But we must also remember that it makes no sense to invest strength and inspiration in poorly conceived plans.

“Our intentions will be properly nurtured in *silence* and coordination with the Divine Plans. Each of us should learn this!

“The perfection of this is when the human body becomes an *instrument* for the Divine Omnipotence, Love, and Wisdom!

“... There are two dynamic streams in the Creation: one goes to the Perfection, the other flows down towards degradation, decay, dying. And it is important for man — to be included in the ascending flow of developing souls, to feel that Gods are ready to support and help.

“It is easy to feel, for example, in the simplest exercise that we can perform every morning:

“Let us get up. We will feel that we are surrounded from every side by the wonderful universe — the Divine Creation! And we will send love to everyone and everything in It!

“We will feel each in ourselves the space in the spiritual heart, where love is born, and we will begin to send this emotional state forward.

“We will feel that the more we pour out our love, the more we are filled with the Love of the Divine — as the Force that flows into the spiritual heart from behind, from the Depth.

“By this, our *giving love*, we disappear in the River of Divine Light, Which flows through our bodies, healing and transforming them.

“So — we enter the world of the Divine! In It, we can live together with Divine Souls! *From Them* — we then learn to continue *to give Love!*

“... Let’s repeat this exercise in all directions: to the right, back, left, down, and up.

“In fulfilling this, we can really cognize how the soul, giving pure and unselfish love, enters the space where Divine Souls dwell.

“And we can learn — through our efforts of *giving love* — to merge with the Streams of Joy of the Creator’s Tenderness, Which gently carry the Divine Love into the Creation.

“And then, we can learn to enter the Mergence with the Great Power of the Divine Light, and later — with the Creative Divine Fire!

“Then any intention of the soul will be realized by the Power of Creator’s Love!”

Chapter Six: Healing the Boy

After some time, Dianta requested permission to stay in the Pythagorean School’s building for a few days, and she was allowed to do so.

Ariadne, of course, also agreed with this. She herself did not want to part with the great Sage for a minute! But Pythagoras said that it would be better if she still lives in her house and prepare it for the reception of the guests of the School, which will soon arrive. At present, only one of the houses was completely built, and to place all guests there — it was difficult. Therefore, all those, who were from Crotona, spent their day in the School, and at night went to their homes.

* * *

Ariadne went to the house by the usual road and at the same time continued to stay in the space of Light, in which Pythagoras Himself lived, spoke, and taught them to dwell.

The setting sun colored the objects around with a warm golden glow, making everything so beautiful that it seemed even a bit unreal.

Ariadne had seen such beautiful sunsets before, but never before she had felt such ecstasy from harmony and beauty of nature!

The world seems to have changed completely because of the changes that — thanks to the initial lessons of Pythagoras — occurred in herself! The world now began to feel nice, full of joy and beauty! Life now had purpose and meaning — and it seemed to Ariadne that happiness was splashing and pouring everywhere around, also that it was possible to scatter it in handfuls from the heart like seeds of love, or to radiate, as the sun does now, giving its light to everything! There was a feeling that the wings grew behind the back, and — it is only necessary to push off from the surface of the Earth — and you can fly!

And when she thought about Pythagoras — she saw His face, consisting of Light. It was not some kind of image that you recall when thinking about someone. It was a living, moving, Holy face! His gaze penetrated the soul and saw every emotion and thought of Ariadne...

“This is too much! This is — some kind of delusion!” And if Ariadne thought so — the face of Pythagoras disappeared from perception, as if He did not dare interfere in her life, if she did not want it

herself. The world — immediately as if became gray... Or... it's just a little cloud has obscured the sun?

“Sorry! I like it when You're around! But this is so unusual and unexpected!...” — Ariadne mentally said. Again the sun shone with a golden glow all around, and Ariadne was filled with Peace and Love.

* * *

The next day, Ferenika again visited Ariadne:

“Did you promise to tell about Pythagoras? Have you listened to His speeches all these days, so that we have not seen each other?”

“Oh yeah!”

“And what do you think of Him?”

“I do not know how to tell you... I seem to plunge into the sea of Light... And His speech sounds like music and penetrates the soul to the innermost depths! He talks about the most important for all people!”

“Did you fall in love with Him, or what? After all, they say, He is beautiful, like Apollo himself, who descended from Heaven! And yet, meanwhile, He is already many years old, and He visited distant countries and studied all the teachings. And people even argue that He is endowed with the eternal life of Gods! Is this all true or fiction?”

“Are you going to listen to me about Him, Ferenika, or will you tell me all about Pythagoras yourself?” — Ariadne said with a smile. — “However, I know what news will keep you quiet for a while: I met my childhood friend, Leonardo, and he is one of Pythagoras' close disciples!”

“Oh! Tell me quickly: which one of them are you in love with? You are so shining with happiness that I cannot take my eyes off you!”

“In love with?... But this is another, unearthly happiness, which embraces and carries to the higher worlds of the Divine! I now love this whole Creation, including flowers, trees, mountains, the sea with emerald waves, hovering seagulls over the sea! I love Leonardo and his friends from the Pythagoras School! I love Pythagoras, Who revealed to me all this incredible happiness of life and soul perfecting!”

... Ariadne began to tell Ferenika the main thing that she understood, learned in recent weeks and that so changed her whole life...

True, Ferenika was more interested in details about Ariadne’s relations with Leonardo: about whether he was confessing his love for Ariadne, were they kissing already or not?...

*** * ***

At this time outside, there was a noise and exclamations of the crowd. Several chariots shot by Ariadne’s house. The drivers, in drunken voices, were shouting something about the victories... They rushed past with a roar. The noise of the departing chariots, the neighing of horses already almost died down...

But then the enthusiastic screams of the crowd turned into frightened cries.

“Something has happened there, let’s have a look: maybe we can help!” —Ariadne said.

She got up and walked quickly through the garden to the gate. Ferenika rushed after her, trying to prevent her friend:

“You said you let all your slaves go! And if it’s dangerous — who will protect us?!”

... Almost opposite the gate, people crowded around a boy of ten or twelve years driven down by chariot...

He suffered badly, there were obviously many fractures, the child was in coma.

“We’ve already sent for the doctor, but to carry the boy far in his state — this would be wrong!”

Ariadne suggested:

“Let’s carry him to my house, it is here next!”

Four men, laying the boy on a raincoat, took him to the house of Ariadne and then, having decided that everything now does not depend on them, they parted.

Ferenika exclaimed excitedly:

“What are we going to do with him? What if the doctor will not help — and the boy dies? We do not even know who his parents are! And this rascal, who knocked the child down, he did not even think of stopping!”

... Ariadne almost did not hear her friend. The question of what to do, she now addressed to Pythagoras: to that shining image of Him that she could now see.

.... Pythagoras entered the house in a few minutes. Ariadne did not dare to ask how He managed to get to this place so quickly: did Gods lead Him in advance, or are there other ways to control space and time?

Pythagoras embraced the whole space with His gentle calm:

“What has happened here, Ariadne? Do you need My help?”

... Ariadne pointed to the couch, where the boy's crippled body was laid:

"He was hit by a chariot..."

"Now, my friends, calm down, go to the garden or sit down here, and do not have more fear, anxiety, and thoughts about pain and death! Everything will be fine!"

Ariadne and Ferenika sat quietly in the far corner of the room.

For some time, Pythagoras healed the mutilated body of the child, restoring the broken bones to a healthy state.

When He had finished, He said, addressing Ariadne:

"He will be alive and well! And he will not become a cripple! Until tomorrow he must sleep. But, since you took up in his salvation, you'll have to take a little part in his destiny, Ariadne! And I cannot avoid this too!"

Pythagoras gently stroked Ariadne's hair.

"Don't worry: all this — for the best! I am very glad that you guessed and managed to call Me!"

... Then He turned to Ferenika, who still could not recover from the miracles that had occurred in her sight:

"I'm glad to welcome you, Ferenika! You could learn to control the fire that burns in you so brightly and so passionately!"

"Still, I ask you, dear little talker, not to tell anyone details about what happened here. Otherwise, our School will become a place of pilgrimage of all the infirm. But we must heal not bodies but souls! We must teach people to keep and create harmony in a life in which there will be no room for disease!"

* * *

The doctor came to the house of Ariadne, when Pythagoras had already departed. He was sweating from the heat of the day and grumbled, cursing the weather and the child, who, after all, — anyway will die!

Ariadne greeted him with the words:

“Thank you and forgive me for troubling you! But the boy just fainted. People were afraid that his bones were broken, but now everything is fine! Your help will not be required!”

... When the doctor heard from Ariadne that the boy had just fainted and received several bruises, he was so furious that only a large reimbursement allowed him to calm down and reconcile himself with everything that had happened.

[To be continued.]