

Sarkar

**The Fakir
and
the Science of Miracles**

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Chapter One: **The Circus of Mr. Lurie**

The director of the circus strolled leisurely through the city. There were still two days left until the first performance. He admired the colorful posters for the new program of his circus, which were adorned round on advertising stands with the words: “The circus of Mr. Lurie! Acrobats and riders! Tamers of tigers and lions! Jugglers and clowns!”

His thoughts were filled with satisfaction: “The city is large, there must be very many people here. The proceeds and multiplication in fame of one of the best circuses in Europe — all this is waiting for us here!” Such prospects amused the pride of the director, whose name was Etienne Lurie, and, in high spirits, he continued on his way.

Not too far from him, a crowd of spectators had gathered around one of the stands that had his poster on it. They were clapping enthusiastically.

Mr. Etienne was curious and came closer.

In front of the crowd, a little blond girl of about five or six years old bowed and collected coins in a basket.

“Do it again! We missed the beginning!” — several spectators, who had recently arrived, asked.

... The girl made a funny bow and an air kiss — as it was done on the playbill for the circus of Mademoiselle Sisi. And then she began to show her performance again.

The director was about to move on... But then a few movements of the little actress intrigued him to stay.

Yes, it was a real “nugget” — such natural flexibility comes once in a hundred years! The whole ridiculousness of it disappeared, the girl became the very definition of elegance and grace, and she was happy because with incredible skill she performed a few flips, did two cartwheels without stopping, and then gracefully bent backwards like a bridge. It was clear that no one had ever taught her such things; after all, the movements were not perfect. But, in fact, to perform such twisting poses, with such ease, requires years of training!

The director once again examined her from head to toe with a professional’s eye. A beautiful appearance, blond curly hair... She could easily be turned into an angel if one were to wash and properly dress her!

He was already starting to imagine the girl as a soaring angel in a white-pink dress under the dome of the circus.

When the audience dispersed and the girl looked pleased with the pennies that she had received, Mr. Etienne Lurie approached her and asked:

“Who taught you this?”

“I did myself. I saw the circus performers on the square and how they were applauded and given a lot of money. So, I too decided to make enough money to cure my mother.”

“Is your mother sick?”

... The girl became sad:

“She died this winter...”

“And with whom do you live?”

“The hostess, from whom my mother and I rented a room, allowed me to stay and live there, so that I could pay off her debt. My mother was ill for a long time and did not pay our rent...”

“Don’t you have any more relatives?”

“No...”

“Do you want to perform in a real big circus? This one?” — the director pointed his finger to the poster. — “You will have a beautiful dress with sparkles and a gold hoop in your hair. And — satin shoes.”

“I want to... But only who will let me go there?”

“I myself am the director of this circus. I want to turn you into a real performer!”

The girl’s eyes expressed surprise and delight. The director himself noted the immediacy and emotionality of his new acquisition.

“Now all that remains is to complete the formalities. If the girl does not have relatives, then it will be quite easy!” — he thought.

“What’s your name?”

“Katya.”

“We’ll have to think up a real circus name for you. For example — *Little Mademoiselle Kitty!*”

Katya was very surprised that she might be called *Mademoiselle*...

And the director took Katya by the hand and went to the nearest bakery. He fed the girl with cakes and offered tea. Through this, he finally won her over to himself.

Then he talked strictly with the hostess for a long time, while Katya packed her meager belongings.

He gave the landlady a little less money than she wanted. After all, Mr. Etienne did not like to waste money, spending it on the greed of other people.

When all the preparations were completed, he stopped the coachman and, loading up all the property of Katya, which had been stored in a small pack and suitcase, sat Katya beside him and asked the man to take them to the circus of Mr. Lurie.

* * *

Then, for a while, everything that happened next seemed to Katya like a fairy tale.

Even the fat German named Franz, whose job it was to choreograph the circus numbers, — and to whom Katya was given, at first seemed nice to her.

She even liked his funny accent. He used a mix of words from different languages, including certain circus words, which were unfamiliar to Katya, for body movements, as well as commands. And when he was angry, he spoke only in German.

The word “allé” was now the main word in Katya’s life.

She was dressed up in a thin leotard and a very short gown for trainings. And the circus dressmaker took measurements and began to sew a special dress for Katya’s performances — with sparkles and small wings.

Katya perceived all this as... magical!

And she even could watch all the shows every day!

In the inaccessible to the public premises of the circus, where specially trained circus animals lived,

she stroked — with permission of the trainers — clever dogs and cats, monkeys, and horses! With admiration, she looked at the huge elephant named Tubo, and the lions and tigers!

The world of the circus was special, with its own laws and rules. Katya studied them gradually.

But the feeling that her life had suddenly turned into a fairy tale, ended very soon.

Mr. Franz forced her to do more and more exercises every day from morning to evening. Her body was constantly sore from overstrain and bruises.

She always heard his: “bad!”, “wrong!”, “smile!”, “allé!”, “allé!”, “allé!”, “allé!” ...

And only very rarely did she hear: “good!”... But then a new exercise was invented at once, which was even more difficult than the one before...

And then a trapeze was added, which was raised higher and higher every time... And the fear of falling became torturous...

“If you are not a good girl, I will drive you into the streets, and there you will die of hunger!” — Franz shouted at her.

Sometimes Katya even wanted to be on the street and die, so that these endless tortures would stop.

Chapter Two: Tom the Clown

One evening, after another such angry tirade of Franz to Katya with accusations of her being

incompetent and lazy and threatening to turn her out onto the street to starve, Katya burst into tears in her small room — from the sorrow of her unhappy fate. She sobbed with her face buried in a pillow, it seemed to her that everything good in her life had ended forever, and that she would never again have joy and hope!

Suddenly, in the doorway, the head of a clown appeared, whose name was Tom. He, too, began to whimper loudly, and then, from special tubes hidden under his amusing red wig, streams of water, which depicted streams of tears, began to sprinkle out. Katya already knew that for this he was pressing a rubber bulb hidden in his pocket. But, nevertheless, she smiled through her tears. Tom cried louder and louder, and tears splashed in all directions!

“I wept harder than you! I’ve won!” — Tom said, walking into Katya’s room and sitting on a chair opposite Katya, who was crying on her bed. He added:

“Surrender!”

Katya completely stopped crying.

“What happened, Katya?” — Tom asked, and handed her a large checkered handkerchief.

Katya wiped her tears.

She told Tom about all her misfortunes.

Tom gave her some ointment from a jar and said that it would help to lessen the muscle pain and treat the bruises. Then he sat down beside her and asked:

“Do you want me to teach you how not to be afraid and how to do those things in your number that are not yet working out?”

“I’ll never be able to, I’m afraid of this trapeze! I cannot do it and I will never succeed in it!” — said Katya sadly.

“Forget such words, Katya! In the circus — they do not exist!

“Man can learn almost everything! A human’s possibilities are huge!

“For example, you can learn to control your own body — so that it does not control you! The body can whimper: ‘I do not want to, I cannot, I’m tired!...’, but you give it a command — and it obeys!

“But only, this command should be very clear and assured!

“Have you seen how Madame Matilda teaches the dogs to jump through the hoop, and stand on their hind legs? She gives them a clear command. So, you must learn to give the body similar commands!

“In this way, gradually, you will be able perform any number, no matter how complex!

“Do you want me to help you? We will train early in the morning while everyone else is still asleep.

“You want to be a real artist, right? Then — you must learn to never feel sorry for yourself, and, instead, do everything with joy! Only in this case, will the public be delighted to applaud you!

“But this is not the most important thing. Applause is only a recognition by others that you are performing well. But it happens that other people do not immediately notice what is important or beautiful. To prevent this from happening, you need to learn how to work so that you yourself can get joy from your performance!

“You see how all the artists of the circus work! What the public consider to be magic and miracles, is achieved by their daily work on every element of their number.

“When a person works hard to achieve a result, then, what seemed impossible yesterday, becomes not only possible, but only a small step that allows him or her to rise higher, to move further!

“And most importantly, if you conquer your fear of heights and pain, and learn to joyously do the things that you must do, — then you can be happy!

“But there is one small difficulty here: you cannot overcome fear once a and for all...”

“And how then?”

“You can just learn to keep fear under your control. Do not allow fear to command!

“In the same way, you can learn to overcome all the other emotions that make you weak and unhappy, and make you feel like a victim of some circumstances or other people.

“I’ve tested it in my life many times. If you give up before difficulties or indulge in your weaknesses — then you never become better! And if you do not give up — you become better every day! Maybe just slightly — but still better!”

*** * ***

On that day, the friendship between the clown Tom and Katya began.

Tom’s shows were always so cheerful! The whole audience would always roar with laughter and applaud enthusiastically!

And, in everyday life, Tom at was always ready to give everyone some humor and jokes that would “hit the spot”. No matter where he was or what time it was, he was as if always participating in his performance, playing the role of a joker, entertaining everyone!

Many in the circus loved and respected him, many even were afraid of him: they were afraid to become subjects of his jokes. Even the director of the circus Mr. Lurie sometimes respected his opinion.

But with Katya — Tom was different: he was a real and kind friend, without sad irony over what is happening, and without a lot of silly masks.

On the first day of their work together, it was very difficult for Katya to wake herself up at dawn, so Tom woke her up himself.

“To get up early in the morning — it’s great! The day then becomes much longer — and you can do everything that you have planned,” — he said. — “But to be lazy and sleep for a long time means that you have to hurry afterwards — to catch up with everything. And in the bustle and haste, we can forget how to notice the most important things in life!”

... And so, every day, Tom began to teach Katya not to be afraid of heights and to perform complex movements on the trapeze, overcoming the trembling of body and soul.

... He once was a gymnast himself... It was a long time ago, before a fall and injury, which was so serious that he had to become a clown.

He knew all the details of performing gymnastic and acrobatic movements — and began to help Katya to learn them while others were still asleep.

He lowered the trapeze to such a height that Katya was not scared. He reassured her, helping her to do various movements correctly.

Then Tom — gradually — increased the height. And he also added a trampoline-grid to catch her in case she fell...

But, most importantly, Katya learned to overcome her fear, she learned to achieve beauty and clarity in the execution of all her movements! She was happy together with Tom — for every such little victory!

Tom invented some new elements into the numbers, which Katya then showed to Franz. And he, attributing to himself their discovery, included those movements in the newly-created numbers.

And the numbers really turned out to be enchanting with their beauty!

* * *

The first performance of the “soaring angel” caused a sensation among the public. Katya was seen off with thunderous applause.

The little figure of a girl in a pink dress, embroidered with sparkles and with small elegantly made transparent wings on her back, shone in the beams of the spotlights. Katya did complicated movements under the dome itself, and then she as if flew around the arena from trapeze to trapeze.

Mr. Lurie was incredibly pleased!

Tours began in many European countries. One performance after another... And between them — endless trainings...

Katya got used to it.

But, one day, she complained to Tom:

“I do not see the life that is there, beyond the walls of the circus! I almost do not see even the cities that we come to! They all seem the same, only people speak other languages...”

“You, Katya, see much more than most people living in these cities! And certainly — more than the children of some craftsmen or workers from the factory.

“But, to live like that rich, dressed up public, who applauds us... I do not know if we should dream of such a life...”

“Once, I tried to live without the circus... I then earned a lot of money... I held on like this for several years. But, nevertheless, I did not manage to live this way for long — and I returned to the circus. After all, everyone here — is honest!... But there... Over there, they all also play their roles, but very many of them deceive others and often deceive themselves...”

“Is that why you became a clown, who makes people happy?”

“Yes, Katya. And people... They are always the same, no matter where you go, even though they speak different languages...”

... This conversation prompted Tom to begin to teach Katya everything that he himself knew and could teach.

At first, he simply read to her fairy tales with pictures, buying them in bookstores — they were not new, but cheap. Then he taught Katya how to read

and count. He also told her, as far as he knew himself, the history of the countries to which they came. And when such an opportunity was given, they together went for a walk around the city, in which Mr. Lurie's circus was on tour at that time.

Chapter Three: **Among the Aerial Gymnasts**

One day, while walking freely in the city, Tom and Katya went to the marquee of a circus-chapiteau. On a poster, which was not made in a printing house, rather simply drawn on a plywood board by an artist who was clearly not very skilled, there was an inscription that flaunted the words: "Air Acrobats of the Thibaut Dynasty".

Tom paused at the poster for a long time...

"Do you want to see real skill?" — he suddenly asked Katya.

"Of course!"

... They bought tickets.

The show was uncomplicated. The costumes and the whole entourage were very inferior to what was in the rich and world-famous circus of Mr. Lurie.

... But, when the performance of the aerial gymnasts began, Katya understood what Tom was talking about. It was perfect execution of the most complicated elements of a number. Light, flexible bodies seemed to fly like birds in the air. Incredible coherence and accuracy of movements made the extraordinary efforts of the gymnasts seem effortless and turned the entire area under the dome into a

magical space where people — as if were flying, only occasionally touching the trapezes or the hands of partners with their own hands or feet...

“Wow!” — Katya whispered euphorically.

... After the performance, when they were already going to the exit, one of the gymnasts suddenly called out:

“Tom? Is that you? It cannot be! I am so glad to see you!”

... Tom shuddered and turned around.

“Hello, Tonya!”

“Is this little one yours?” — Tonya with a caress in her eyes bent down to Katya, stroked her light golden hair. — “What a beautiful girl! And she is already so tall!”

... And, turning to Katya, she asked:

“Did you like the performance?”

“Yes!” — Katya enthusiastically said and added a few professional words describing those coups and techniques that particularly delighted her.

“Wow! So does the dynasty of Thibaut air gymnasts continue?”

“Yes!” — Tom suddenly happily answered. All the tension that he had been feeling this evening suddenly vanished. An incredibly beautiful and calm tenderness blossomed in him, which usually was hidden somewhere deep inside of him, under a lot of jesting masks.

“Will you go to your father?” — Tonya asked.

Tom shook his head:

“No, better not... It would be better if you all visited us instead, if you want to.” — Tom handed out invitations to the circus of Mr. Lurie.

Tonya frowned slightly...

“I do not know if it will be possible... You do know your father: he criticizes everyone for being untalented and he probably would not like to watch. I myself will try: I will come, if he lets me go...”

“In any case, you now know where to find me... Well...If you need my help...”

“Yes, thank you!”

... They warmly said goodbye.

*** * ***

Tom walked, immersed in his thoughts.

Katya pulled him by the sleeve:

“Did she say ‘father’? Did your dad perform there?”

“No, Katya, he does not perform... He is the owner of that circus. Do you remember, I said that I was an aerial gymnast? And that — I then had to leave... It happened like this...”

... Tom never forgot what happened then...

He was young, in love with Tonya, and brought her to their circus.

Then, they made a number...

His father was unhappy because — even though the girl was capable of it — it was very difficult to include someone into a number who was “not from the circus”!

... Then Tonya fell in love with Serzh, the juggler...

And then Tom got into an accident...

On that day, the old wooden suspension design under the dome broke, from which the ropes and trapezes were fastened. Tom held all the others with

his body for a long time, connecting the place of the fault with his hands. Those moments, while all the gymnasts descended, seemed to him to be slow in time...

... And then he could not save himself: he had no more strength left, and he fell down. His arm muscles broke, and he also fractured his spine...

... Tom dreamed of performing again. And this dream gave him strength. He learned to walk anew, to move his hands... Overcoming the pain, he forced his body to obey...

But, when he had more or less recovered, his father said:

“You will never be able to work really well under the dome again. And you should not be a burden here to others!”

... His father did not have any pity for anyone, including himself. If their positions were reversed, he would have done the same thing with himself. Tom knew this and tried to drive away the insult, and said: “Yes, a cripple, a disabled person cannot be their companion... But I almost have recovered in just one and a half years!... I was hoping that with a little more time — I could perform!...”

His father’s words sounded like a verdict: “You will never be able to!... Do not torture yourself and us! Go away and make a new life! Go away without saying goodbye to anyone: it will be better! Do not make any sentimental scenes! Good luck to you!”

His father turned and walked away... Tom never saw him again.

By the next day, Tom had already left...

His father was always ruthless with such matters. He never compromised and did not forgive

anyone who, even once, allowed oneself to deceive another, or who in some way failed or for other reasons did not meet his requirements for a real artist. He expelled those whom he considered incapable or unworthy, as if he had erased them from his life forever. And there could be no return to the past!

Tom then realized that his father was right, and that, despite all his efforts, he could no longer perform as before. And to engage in all sorts of ancillary activities and to look with pain or envy to be there — under the dome of the circus, where he would like to be... Spending his life on this sadness — would be a waste of time!...

And so, for several years, Tom worked different jobs. He easily mastered new ways of applying his forces in various matters, and earned a good salary. But the circus... remained an “unhealed wound”.

One day, he visited the circus performance of Mr. Lurie — and there he realized that he must return to the circus! It didn't matter what position he had to take, he just knew that he had to come back!

So he decided to become a clown and composed several funny numbers.

His first acts were not very good, but Mr. Lurie could discern talent in people. He had a kind of “flair”. He liked this young man with incredibly sad eyes — and he took Tom to the troupe. Mr. Lurie was not mistaken: Tom became a “star” of sorts. And his numbers became even better as time passed due to his clever irony, incredible ingenuity, and a willingness to laugh at himself... Mr. Lurie rightly believed that he helped Tom become one of the best clowns in the world!

For a long time, Tom tried with all his might to forget his father's offence, to erase it from his memory... But... he only managed to drive it very deep within himself.... Only today, he happily realized that he had forgiven his father and all of them... And that he simply loves all of them now! He loves Tonya — without jealousy, without pain and sorrow for the past, he loves their entire team, and he loves his father!...

He put his arm around Katya's shoulders. Without her, his beloved little Katya — this probably would not have happened.

That's what this was — as Tonya said — “the continuation of the dynasty”!

And what exactly is a dynasty?! It does not matter! Katya became the main joy and meaning in his life! She needed him! For her, he was a friend, a teacher, and a father! And she, in fact, had become like a daughter to him!

* * *

The next day Tom, nevertheless, slightly hoped that Tonya would come to their show, he even thought over the idea of how to make fun of himself for no longer being a gymnast now, but a clown...

After the show, he watched the public from behind the scenes.

Katya walked over and touched his sleeve.

“Don't be sad! They probably had to leave. You know: it happens...”

Chapter Four: A Holiday of Good Deeds

Several years had passed. Katya became the real “star” of the circus of Mr. Lurie.

Once, in one of the large cities, every day among the public in the first row, Katya began to notice a teenage boy, dressed in a suit, about the same age as she or slightly older, who enthusiastically clapped and did not remove his gaze from her.

A few days later, after another show, Mr. Lurie brought this boy and his father backstage to the room where Katya had taken off her wings and was about to change clothes.

“Well, here she is — our ‘star’!” — He introduced Katya. — “And this is Count de Noiri and his son Alex. You made an indelible impression on Alex, Mademoiselle Kitty!”

... Katya looked with surprise at her admirer and at the director, who became so unnaturally kind with her.

Alex handed Katya a gift: a beautiful box with a bow, and then unexpectedly for his father and for Mr. Lurie to hear, pronounced:

“I want Mademoiselle Kitty to come to our house today and dine with us. And tomorrow — I want her to spend all day with me: because tomorrow there is no show!”

He pronounced it in a tone, implying no possible objections.

“It’s not customary,” — Mr. Lurie tried, nevertheless, to object...

But, apparently, the boy’s father often yielded to the whims of his son. And now he took a voluminous bundle of banknotes out of his wallet and with an odd smile extended the money to the director:

“But we can make an exception, can’t we?”

“Yes of course!” — Mr. Lurie said, realizing that at the whims of this “baby” he could make a nice profit.

“Can I wash myself and change clothes?” — Katya asked.

“No: I like it this way! You are so beautiful in this dress!” — Alex said. — “If you want, you can take a bath in our house before going to bed! Let’s go right now!”

Katya left the unopened box on the table and threw on her old plain-looking coat, which contrasted so sharply with her glittering and sparkling attire for performances, and went to the count’s crew.

... They drove up to the luxurious mansion.

The servants accepted their outer garments.

Katya had never seen such luxury!

“It’s like I came to the palace of a fairy tale about Cinderella!” — she thought.

... Then there was a huge hall with a large table on which there were only three covered plates.

Alex’s father did not sit down: he said he was not hungry and left the children only in the company of lackeys who silently poured juice and served food.

Katya looked with amazement at several forks and spoons near the plate, not daring to choose one of them.

Alex broke the awkward silence:

“You can eat with a spoon, even with your hands! Here — there is no one to observe etiquette!”

Katya looked around in astonishment at the four servants, frozen in silent poses...

“Ah,” — Alex laughed. — “Go away: we ourselves will choose what to eat and drink!”

The footmen left with bows.

“Don’t you consider them humans?”

“Why? Yes, they are people... But these people do everything that I want; my father pays them for this. And if I want — they will be driven out onto the street. So, don’t be embarrassed!”

“And what about me? After all, I also came here due to your father’s payment.”

“You’re another matter! I like you! We had to somehow convince your director to let you go!”

... After dinner, Katya got accustomed to the unusual situation in which she had fallen into.

But then the caretaker came in and strictly pronounced that now it’s too late and it’s time for everyone to sleep. A maid led Katya to a bathroom which was trimmed with marble. Then, when Katya had finished enjoying the warm bath with snow-white foam from a special fragrant soap solution, the maid gave her a robe and a nightgown — all in lace — and led her to a separate bedroom.

... The next morning after breakfast Alex led Katya to his room. Katya was surprised to see little figures of people and animals made out of wood or porcelain, “magic boxes” with different wonders and music, painted houses, boats with sails, and even a railway with a locomotive, trailers, and rails.

“I have no toys, and I do not know how to play with them,” — Katya said, embarrassed.

“It’s easy, I’ll teach you!” — Alex replied confidently.

... They built a city for a while from the blocks, and laid a railway... But it got boring for Alex very soon. Then they went to the garden and let very beautiful and lifelike toy ships with sails out into the pond.

This also very quickly bored the young earl.

But Katya still did not cease to be amazed that it was possible to spend time like this...

Alex suggested:

“If you want, we can go shopping and I’ll buy you everything that you want: a new coat, shoes, elegant dresses, all kinds of toys, anything that you want... I want to make you feel good!”

“But your father will be the one who is paying for this... Right? So, it turns out that it is he — not you — who is giving gifts to me, and, maybe, he does not even actually want to do this...”

“Well then...” — Alex thought for a moment. — “I remember: I have my own money! I was given it as a birthday present, but I did not spend it! This may not be enough for all your desires, but this is my own money!

“Tell me: what would you like?!”

“Yesterday it seemed to me that I was in a fairy-tale castle, and now I want to be a fairy who does good miracles! So that — in real life, at least for a short time, life becomes the same as in a fairy tale!

“Have you ever dreamed of being a magician?”

“No...”

“Well, I have dreamed about this!... When I was little, my friend Tom, the clown, taught me how to begin every day with a good start. We turned it into a

kind of celebration. The main rule was to do something good for others! We went for a walk — and arranged little kind miracles.

“For example, in winter, we fed birds that were freezing and hungry. And, at the market, we bought food from the poorest old woman. And sometimes — we just walked along the street and gave smiles and kind words to people! Tom always knew how to joke so that where we passed, flowers of joy as if blossomed out!

“And today you, too, can help me to do little miracles!”

“But I am not good at making jokes...”

“Well, that’s okay: I thought of something else!”

... They went to the city in a carriage accompanied by only one servant who was in charge of the safety of the young count.

Instead of outfits and gifts, Katya asked Alex to buy chocolates, sweets, soft and lush buns and pies, and to put everything in large boxes.

Then, at the request of Katya, they went to the poor neighborhoods of that city.

“Formerly, I lived with my mother very poorly, we rarely had enough food. And it always felt like a real holiday — to get a piece of soft bread or candy,” — she told Alex.

... The poor neighborhoods surprised Alex. He had never before even imagined that there were people living in such poverty!

And Katya was so happy treating the children with free treats! She felt like a wonder-worker who could do miracles!

Katya was surrounded by little and older children. They looked at her circus outfit.

The children began to ask:

“Tell us about the circus, please!”

... At first Katya tried to describe the performance in words. And around her more and more little listeners gathered...

Then she began to show everything that she herself could do. An audience gathered from many neighboring houses. The children and their parents approached. And even random passerby stopped — and could not leave!

Katya invented her own show, as if she wanted to present the beauty of the whole circus action.

And she was enthusiastically applauded by both children and adults who had never before been and who would never be able to go to the circus! They applauded her so much that their hands even turned red from all the clapping!

Alex and his servant also clapped.

... But, after the performance, Katya became sad.

“Thank you for this day, Alex! Now, can you please take me back to the circus?” — she asked.

Alex obediently agreed. For on this day, there also was a change in him. In the morning, he ordered how to be entertained, but now, he tried more and more to give pleasure to Katya and help her. This brought him a new, never before experienced joy of *caring for another, for others*.

And he began to understand something new, which — from now on — could change his life...

“When I grow up, I will find you — and we’ll get married,” — he said seriously.

“It will never happen: you are a count, and I am a circus performer...”

“But, anyway, today, we had a good *holiday of good deeds!*”

*** * ***

In the evening, Katya thought for a long time, and then asked Tom:

“Tom, do you believe in God?”

“I guess I believe in Him, Katya! All the circus people here to some extent believe in the Higher Powers that control destinies, and in all sorts of signs.

“Here in the circus, we are all so different from each other: different nationalities, different faiths... Most of us risk our lives, going out into the arena with predatory animals or, like you, climbing to a height, from which a fall could be deadly. Or, some of us are riders, for whom a mistake could also cost lives... But even those of us who risk only disgrace, if a number does not work out — also usually perform some rituals: for everything to go well... Perhaps, man has a need to believe in help from above...”

“Do you have a prayer which you normally use?”

“No... It seems to me that any prayer is suitable. If God hears us, is it not the same to Him, what words we use to address Him?”

“However, He really does hear us, and namely here!” — Tom pointed to the center of his chest. — “From here, from the depths, He hears us! From here, He teaches us to forgive others.

“And if there is the warmth of love in my chest, then it seems to me that this is because God understands me and approves. But if inside here there is emptiness and sadness, then it seems as though He is not with me at all...”

“Why are some people rich — and others are poor? Someone was born into a family of servants and forced to work hard their entire life, doing hard work, — but someone like Alex was born by wealthy parents and is tormented by boredom, not knowing how to use his money and time...”

“Today, we were in the poor neighborhoods of this city. There was so much poverty and dirt! And people, including children, live there...”

“Everyone can probably change something in one’s own life, I suppose. Even children from these poor families can try to escape from that poor life and start learning... I met people who achieved everything that they had dreamed of, even though they were born in poor families.

“However, we must also realize, Katya, that happiness does not always come from material wealth!

“Sometimes happiness comes from embracing a beloved and dear person, just as we are sitting together now, embracing. We can talk heart to heart, we understand each other. In some of those poor families, children can receive much more love than in families of aristocrats...”

“Happiness cannot be purchased with money!

“And today you gave those people joy — and it’s great too! Perhaps, your treats and your performance brought more happiness to those

people than we will ever be able to give in our shows to the whole audience!”

Chapter Five: **Appearance of the Fakir**

Time went on; Katya was now 14 years old.

The spectators were no longer impressed by a girl, who was hovering under the dome of the circus. All the complications of the number that Mr. Franz had invented were not noticeable to the public. It did not matter how many turns in the air were made, or how difficult were the jumps in the performance... — the spectators were just not surprised by the skill of aerial acrobats!

Katya also worried that the previous ovations and cries of enthusiasm had now been replaced by lackluster applause and boredom among many of the public.

Mr. Lurie himself was indignant at the fact that everything in the number was now “as old as the world”. He threatened to drive Mr. Franz out of the circus if he did not make a new number.

And then Franz came up with a “death number”: the net-trampoline is removed, the safety cord is uncoupled in front of everyone, and Katya must jump from under the dome itself, every time seriously risking her life...

Tom offered to make a spare cord, which would be invisible to the public. But Franz did not even listen, saying:

“It is not good to deceive the public! Maybe you can play a fool and deceive fools, but I’m doing a real job!”

... Before the first performance, Tom admonished Katya:

“Do not uncouple the cord! After all, this is a very ‘distasteful’ number!... Spit on this audience, on this Franz, on the director!”

“No! When everyone shrinks from fear for me, and I jump — it will be so great! I must succeed!”

“Your head is being turned by the desire for applause, glory, and triumph! Why risk your life so much? It’s just a manifestation of pride!”

“This is my skill!” — Katya pouted.

Then she embraced and kissed Tom:

“Everything will be fine!”

... Recently, Katya had become stubborn: she argued with Tom, insisting on her way even when she was clearly not right.

Tom reasoned that this was because she was going through her “transitional age”. He said to himself: “The girl is growing up! She does not like too much care. She wants freedom and admiration from fans...”

*** * ***

Tom worried so much for Katya every time that, after a few months of such performances with her jump from under the dome, some of his hair had turned gray.

He had an inner feeling that everything was going wrong... He was trying to figure out a way to change this.

He even spoke with the director, Mr. Lurie, so that he would give the order to ban this number.

But the conversation turned out to be fruitless:

“Mr. Lurie, I ask you: let’s cancel this number! Give me two weeks — and I will make a no less spectacular number for Katya, one without such a senseless risk!

“The execution of this jump has been incorrectly conceived: the danger is too great, and it is very easy to make a mistake! And, no matter how hard she trains, this risk will not be decreased! Yes, I understand: we all live under God and the days of our lives are numbered... But here — Katya tempts fate every time! You cannot do it this way!”

“Leave it, Tom! All is well! Katya herself agrees to do this number. It would be different if she was afraid or did not want to...

And so, what you say is just ridiculous! Many circus performers work without insurance — and there is nothing to worry about!”

Tom tried again:

“Yes, there are always risks. Even by just eating a cookie, someone can choke and die!” — Tom pointed to the table, where there was a cookie jar and a cup of tea near Mr. Lurie, and continued: — “But there are also risks that are senseless and unreasonable! Why do you need this horror in the hall before the jump, or the cries of nervous young ladies?! Moreover, in this number, there is almost no beauty! And the technique is very doubtful!”

“That’s enough, Tom! Do not object! Crowds stand in line for tickets to see this number with a deadly leap! I do not intend to cancel anything! This conversation is over!”

Tom realized that he was powerless to influence the situation.

... Everything was fine for the first, second, third, and even fiftieth time... But then something terrible happened...

Tom saw everything while standing behind the scenes.

Katya only hesitated for a split second... She flew in the air, and did some flips... But the trapeze just barely slipped past the tips of her fingers...

If Tom had been nearby instead of Franz, he would have pushed the trapeze closer to her, he would have caught this fraction of a second and accelerated the movement of the trapeze... But Franz... did not notice... And the result was fatal...

... Katya’s flattened body lay on the ground of the arena, screams of spectators could be heard, and panic was all around... An entertainer tried to calm the audience. At once, Madame Matilda appeared with some dogs and monkeys...

... Katya was carried in Tom’s arms to her room. She was still alive...

He agonizingly waited for a doctor...

The doctor’s words sounded like a verdict:

“I’m powerless in this case... If she does not die in the next few days, then she will remain a cripple, and she will never walk again... So, perhaps, to die is the best way for the girl. I’m not a magician...”

... Tom followed the doctor:

“I have savings, I saved for my old age, I will give everything! Let’s take her to the hospital! Maybe it’s possible to do something!”

“You can pray if you believe in God. Besides, she would die before we even reached the hospital...”

... Tom looked desperately after the departing crew...

Snow fell on his red-haired wig, tears of despair and powerlessness appeared in his eyes...

He did not even know what to ask from God: for a quick and painless death for Katya — or for her to survive?

At that moment, a stranger touched his shoulder:

“Perhaps, I can help you?”

He was a tall Indian wearing the European dress of a rich man and a snow-white turban. He introduced himself:

“I am the fakir Ra-Mak-Mey.”

Tom had heard this name before.

In the circus world, there are famous magicians who show old tricks, wrapping them in a new entourage. But there are also those who, under the mask of tricks, do what the experts in this matter cannot explain in any way.

There were legends about the fakir Ra-Mak-Mey, newspapers published articles about his miracles, or, on the contrary, there were attempts to “expose” his tricks. But these attempts to “expose deception”, however, did not reveal the secrets of the magic of the fakir.

Tom also knew that their director had sent a letter to Mr. Ra-Mak-Mey with a proposal to perform in his circus.

The dark brown eyes of the fakir were special. They as if opened a passage to other worlds...

Tom... suddenly began to believe in the impossible, in a miracle...

“Katya fell from under the dome...,” — Tom deliriously began to explain.

“Let’s go: we can help her in time!”

* * *

Katya was in a coma. Life was about to leave her body.

The fakir, staying next to the girl’s body, told Tom not to enter and to close the door to the room.

It took about half an hour.

Tom prayed without words. He put all the strength of the soul into a request to God to save Katya, to restore her health! He asked God to forgive him for having very seldom remembered Him all his life, he said that he was ready for any sacrifices, he was ready to give any promises and to keep them, he was ready to give his life... Only let her live, let her recover!

When the door was opened, Tom thought that a wave of unusual warmth spilled out of the room, but then — it was as if the waters of the ocean poured through that open door!

... He recalled how several times in his childhood he felt what he himself called *the Presence of God*. In those years, as a child, he did not see the

Divine Light, and did not hear His words, but knew for sure: God is near! This was accompanied by a feeling of great joy, tenderness, and happiness! But later — all of this... was forgotten behind the bustle and sorrows of an uneasy life...

Now he was covered with a wave of a similar state, but a thousand times stronger!

Then the wave subsided.

Katya breathed evenly and seemed to just be asleep, as if nothing had happened...

Ra-Mak-Mey said:

“She will now live in this body for a long time. Her body is already healthy, but we will not wake her up for a while, so as not to make others around feel uncomfortable with a healing by the Will of the Higher Powers.”

“Do you know how to work miracles?”

“This was nothing more than the possession of a knowledge that can be used to restore the matter of the body...”

“Let’s go to have dinner and talk.”

They settled down in a quiet corner of a half-empty hall in a small restaurant next to the circus. Ra-Mak-Mey ordered them vegetarian food, juice, and water.

The dinner passed in silence, the conversation started after.

Ra-Mak-Mey peered into the space around Tom’s body and inside it for a long time, as if he saw right through the body and soul. Then he said:

“In fact, everything happens in accordance with the Divine Plan.

“As for the healing, there are different levels from which man can influence what surrounds himself or herself.

“Man is not only a body!

“And the human body, if one considers it carefully, is not only bones, muscles, and internal organs...

“However, all of this consists of the smallest particles that are organized in a certain way and move and interact according to certain laws. There are — how would I say it? — ‘rules’, which control how the material body is formed and manifested in this world.

“And, within every body, there are certain layers that are invisible to the ordinary eye, which are as if nested within each other.

“And, furthermore, there is a soul — a living immortal entity — that must control this body.

“Both bodies and souls live according to the laws, created by God.

“And if you understood how it is possible to control processes in bodies — from the spiritual world, then it would not be surprising that one can restore any damage in one’s own body. This can be done by one in relation to one’s own body, however, there are also exceptional cases when one can help another in healing.

“You would be surprised that healing the body is much easier than healing the soul!

“Katya’s situation is a kind of advance for her, a chance to correct some of her own mistakes. And, even more important, it is an opportunity to learn a lot and help other people.

“If we cannot explain it to her, then this tragic situation is likely to be repeated again — one way or another.”

Images of her falling began to appear before Tom’s inner gaze, and fear squeezed him like a vise...

The fakir stopped the growth of this emotion by using simple words, and it became clear that he could as if read everything that was happening in Tom’s thoughts and emotions like an open book.

“Fear is one of the most destructive emotions! Do not give in to it! You yourself taught this to Katya! For a person, fear can be useful only as a security deterrent against those processes and events of which the soul is not yet ready.

“I would not have been able to heal Katya, prolonging the life of the soul in her body, if God had not pointed out the possibility of a very favorable further course of events, useful not only for Katya herself, but also for many other people.

“If Katya did not have the possibility of a complete spiritual transformation, then her further life in the material world would not make any sense!

“I’m telling you this because you, Tom, played an important part in Katya’s fate.

“By the way, you prayed and spoke of your readiness to carry out any tasks from God!”

“Yes: I prayed and asked for this, I am ready!”

... Suddenly unpleasant thoughts slipped through Tom’s mind: what if the Hindu does not actually heal with the Divine Force...

“Doubts destroy faith!” — Ra-Mak-Mey said and fell silent...

Tom thought: “God, direct me so that I serve only You and not some powerful but dark forces!

Only to You I gave promises! And I thank just You for saving Katya!”

Ra-Mak-Mey, as if listening to Tom’s thoughts and appreciating his resolve, continued:

“Jesus often said to those who were healed: ‘Your faith has saved you!’”

“Are you Christian?”

“In the conventional way, no, but it does not matter. Do you think that Jesus Himself was a Christian — in the modern sense of the word?”

“Most likely, if Jesus were to come to the Earth now and started talking to people about God and healing others — then all the ministers of all Christian churches would have declared Him to be a false prophet or even an antichrist, just as the worshipers did in that old time.

“But, in fact, everything is so simple: GOD EXISTS! This is the basis and essence of faith!

“He is not restricted to any particular religious tradition or belief of mankind! He is One for all people!

“He is the Creator of the entire universe!...

“However, in India, most people only worship the ‘god’ Ganesha or other make-believe ‘gods’. They perform all sorts of rituals or do Hatha Yoga exercises. And they are sure that this is enough...

“You asked about my faith. I am not a slave of any religious doctrine.

“I will say one other thing: almost all people worship God or ‘gods’, but only very few personally know Him, the One Whom they worship!

“But Jesus knew the One Whom He called the *Heavenly Father*.

“I, too, know the Divine. For me, It is the Reality.

“He is ONE! Although, He is composed of a *Multitude.*”

“Are you a Messenger of God?”

“I’m just a person who has learned to look a little behind the ‘illusory world’ — into the Divine world and who has studied some rules and laws by which the Divine Primordial Consciousness controls His Creation. I do not know everything, and I continue to study.

“And the one, who studies, inevitably wants to share the acquired knowledge and experience — with other people who might need it.”

... On this day, and over the next few days, Tom and the fakir talked a lot with one another. They became very close, because Tom had found someone who could answer questions about life and death, and the purpose of everything that exists in the universe. These were the questions that had long haunted the soul.

... Ra-Mak-Mey signed a contract with Mr. Lurie and stayed in the circus, preparing to show his number.

Tom invented a shortcut for the long eastern name of the fakir — and he, along with everyone else in the circus, began to call him simply Mr. Ram.

Chapter Six: **Katya and Ram**

A week had passed since the fall. Katya remained in a kind of quiet slumber, but Ra-Mak-Mey did not hurry to wake her.

“Let her body get used to being healthy, and then everyone around will forget about what had ‘impossibly’ happened!” — he laughed, when Tom anxiously inquired about her health.

And, in fact, soon everyone was already merely casually interested in asking Tom about how things were with Katya, and Tom would answer with confidence: “Better! She is recovering!”.

So, no one in the circus was surprised when Katya had fully woken up. The only one who was really surprised was Katya herself, seeing Ram leaning over her bed.

“Who are you?”

Katya looked at the stranger, who was wearing an eastern-styled turban and sitting on the edge of her bed, gently holding her hand in his swarthy hand with his thin and graceful fingers.

His eyes were so friendly, caressing, soothing, and familiar...

But she had never before seen his face.

“Or have I?...” — she thought.

“Yes!” — she realized. — “I saw you in a dream!...”

In that dream, he as if found her and called her. She saw only his eyes in the Light, Which was like a gentle sun. His loving peace enveloped her like a cloud and then... But she could not remember what happened next.

Suddenly, Katya remembered something else... She recalled how she fell from under the very dome of the circus itself, feeling fear, pain, and understanding that this was the end...

Did it really happen? Or was it just a terrible dream?

“Am I alive?” — she wondered.

The stranger said:

“It was a kind of ‘terrible dream’. Do not think about it now! Your body is all right!

“And everything that happens to us here, in this world, is truly like a dream.

“But man is able to wake up — and know the Reality!

“But we’ll talk about this another time, if you want to, of course.”

“Who are you? Where is Tom?”

“Tom is performing right now. Soon he will come and be glad that you have fully recovered.

“And my name is Ra-Mak-Mey. But Tom shortened that name, claiming that it was too long. So now, here in the circus, everyone just calls me Ram. I like that name.

I am a fakir. Recently, I signed a contract with Mr. Lurie — and now I am also performing in your circus.”

“Can I stand up?”

“Yes... But... Tom is coming! Now I must go to prepare for my performance.”

“May I see it?”

“Yes.”

Tom carried Katya in his arms to the arena, still fearing for her health. Katya was cheerfully welcomed and seated next to the entrance of the arena — on the pedestal that was used for the performances of dogs.

Katya was not the only one watching the fakir’s performance from behind the scenes. Even the artists, who had already seen the different tricks of the show many times, watched it once again.

The show was fascinating not only because of the novelty of the different elements, but also because there was a special feeling which enveloped all the viewers.

A golden fog like smoke was released by the fakir at the beginning of the performance from an empty bowl. For this, Ram put his hand in the bowl and as if began to stir it. And then, this fog enveloped everything and everyone, giving everyone a sense of happiness.

Then four white pigeons emerged from the same bowl and took flight under the dome. There, they seemed to as if snatch a light translucent fabric out of the void, pulling it out with their beaks, and then bringing it to the fakir.

He covered these birds, which were sitting on the edge of the bowl, with the fabric — and they... disappeared.

Then a flame began to flare in the bowl. From it, Ram began to extract different objects...

And everything that happened after that was also magical!

Sometimes Ram invited someone from the audience to check the objects before another miracle — for firmness or for emptiness...

Most viewers believed that those who took part in this were so-called stooges: special helpers of the fakir, playing along with him. But the circus people knew that this was not so, and their surprise was limitless!

Ram's show ended the program — since it was the most new and spectacular! The public accepted everything "with a bang". Mr. Lurie even decided to extend the tour in that city.

Chapter Seven: **About Love for People and God**

Days went by. Mr. Lurie dismissed Franz after the tragedy with the fall of Katya. And Ram promised the director that Katya, when he taught her what he had in mind, would act in his part of the show.

And gradually Ram began to carry out his plans.

The preparation of this new program took several months.

In the meantime, there was also another training for Tom and Katya by Ram.

In these trainings, the questions for discussion would come from them. After all, Ram never began to explain something only because he knew it himself.

Tom found Ram to be a very interesting interlocutor. Even before the full recovery of Katya, they began to discuss many of the philosophical themes and problems of people's lives that Tom had wanted to understand before, but did not have someone who could at least somehow answer his questions.

One of the first of such conversations happened late in the evening after the performance, when Ram and Tom were alone together. In this conversation, Tom asked:

“Who needs this work of mine, on which I spend the days and years of my life?

“I'm tired of seeing dull faces laughing at primitive jokes! I am sad about what makes my spectators laugh!

“Sometimes I look at the crowd and I try to find at least one meaningful face... — and, seeing none, I then want to give it all up!

“But I tried to live without the circus! Out there — it is even worse!...”

“Well, wouldn’t it be a dream to make a number in which laughter would ennoble people to overcome their weaknesses and vices, and teach them to help others and be compassionate?”

“I already tried this. But people are simply stupid and evil! Everything, which I was trying to do, was useless!

“Explain something to me: does human life make any sense?

“After all, there has to be a reason why we are all jostling here on the Earth, in this booth of suffering and deceit!

“What’s the point in the existence of all this? We are not here just to run around in circles and from time to time trip ourselves up, are we?! We just keep repeating the same things! We fall, hit our noses on the ground — bang! Then fall down again, stand up, shake ourselves off, run again, and then fall down... And then one day — we can no longer even get back up...

“Why does God allow all of this?”

... Tom then recalled one of his previous numbers. He absurdly ran around the entire arena to reach the gymnastic bridge and jump on it as the balancers acted before him. He started running, and then with one foot, he dexterously tripped himself — and fell crashing full force to the floor flatwise — to the laughter of the audience. He got up, glanced around, looking for something on the sand of the

arena that could have caused such a fall. Seeing nothing, he then threatened someone in the audience, ran again, ran even harder — and then fell in an even funnier way...

... Waking from the memory, Tom continued the conversation:

“The majority of people are stupid and evil! For many years, I have seen how almost every evening they roll with laughter, when they see how a person has fallen, been hit, or deceived another... And they laugh in the same way outside the circus at those who have fallen into real trouble!

“But when trouble happens in real life with one of them, they do not laugh, but are angry and look for those who are guilty for their troubles, and then they take revenge on their offenders...”

“You do not love people, Tom! You made an exception only for Katya — and it saves you, giving you a reason to live!”

“Well, don’t you agree?”

“It seems to me that you complicate your life, thinking this way about people...”

“But why are people so stupid and evil? Can you explain this to me?”

“Let’s go.”

“Where?”

“You will see...”

They donned their walking-clothes and went out into the night...

After walking several blocks through empty city streets, Ram opened the door on which was the inscription: “Children’s Orphanage of St. Sophia”.

The sleeping watchman did not stop them.

They entered a large room, where an overweight woman in a dull gray dress and a white apron tried to cradle a baby who was yelling at full strength. The other children, who were lying in the other cots and cradles, heard the baby's weeping, woke up, and also started to bawl.

"Tom, answer me: why are they 'stupid and evil' — these little people, who are selfish and screaming about their suffering?" — Ram asked, pointing to what was happening.

"But these are babies, children, and they do not even know who their parents are!"

... The woman with the screaming child in her arms, became frightened, thinking that these strangers were possible inspectors, and began to make excuses explaining that the children are hungry and therefore do not sleep well...

Ram took the baby from the hands of the woman, began to rock it — and it suddenly fell silent. And, in general, suddenly everything was quiet: the rest of the children also stopped crying and fell asleep. On some of the faces, there were even smiles.

Then Ram took money out of his wallet and handed it to the woman.

"Buy what you deem most necessary for the children! It is a gift to the Orphanage of St. Sophia from an Indian guest who is here on an unofficial visit."

This explanation and the money rendered the poor woman speechless for a while.

And then Ram and Tom just as calmly walked past the sleeping guard.

Ram continued:

“The majority of the adults surrounding us are similar to these babies. Yes, they have adult bodies, but they — as souls — are still babies. They barely know how to think yet. They are full of selfish desires. They want to eat! They want to be loved! They want to be happy, but do not know how and where to seek happiness!

“And no one taught them that to fight, to take away from others for oneself, to hate, and to envy — is not just bad, but also generates a whole chain of misfortunes in their own lives! This is because they must then be born in the worst conditions and experience the pain that they had previously caused to others! In India, this is called the action of the ‘law of karma’.

These people do not know, do not feel their Divine Parent! They do not even look in the direction of God, Who alone can give true happiness!”

“God can give happiness? Why does He do not this?”

“We’ll talk about this some time later. For, as yet, you cannot even imagine the happiness that God can give a person! After all, you need to be at least a little ready to be able to perceive this happiness, and accept it!

“If you give a baby, who is screaming, a mountain of diamonds or make it the owner of a castle, it will not become happy and it will not stop bawling. It still needs only its mother’s milk and care... But the one who knows that true Happiness, which can be found in the *Unity with God*, will never exchange this happiness for mountains of diamonds or for factories or castles!

“But this is about happiness... And you asked me about the stupidity of people.

“The majority of the people around us are still young souls, who have not been brought up yet, and who do not wish to learn.

“They are still young and small souls. And so — they are stupid. They have not yet learned to love — and, therefore, they are evil.

“They are orphans, because they do not know their Divine Parent: the Mother and Father for all!

“Would many children want to learn if their wise parents have not taught them to joyfully learn about the world and to work for the good both of themselves and of other beings?”

“So, where is God? Why does He not teach His children? Why did He leave them to be orphans — here, in this cruel world?”

... Ram suddenly pointed a finger at Tom’s chest:

God — you will find Him here, in yourself!

“As for people — start teaching them! This is the meaning of your life, of which you asked me!”

“To teach? I?”

“Yes.

“You are no longer a baby! You are capable of thinking and drawing conclusions. You can watch how easy it is to control a crowd: how one can freeze it with delight by showing it beauty like, for example, that of Katya’s performance, or make it laugh at good jokes, or turn it into a frightened herd... And if at the head of such a crowd there is an evil man, then he or she can, by manipulating the thoughts and emotions of such people, turn them into a boiling hateful weapon to achieve his or her own selfish goals...

“Recall: people listened with enthusiasm to the preaching of Jesus — and then, those same people, demanded to crucify Him!...

But Jesus, nevertheless, taught people — both by His life, and death! And by those words, which are preserved in the Gospels, He teaches even now!”

“Ram, it is probably just in India that everyone can become a guru and teach people in their own way...”

“Everyone already, at least by one’s own example, inevitably teaches those people, who are with him or her, how to live and how to act. One teaches — either bad or good. So you: teach only what is good!

“We have a wonderful job for this! It allows us to directly address many people and give them the opportunity to begin feeling life and thinking more correctly!

“God will help people — through your deeds and words! You can begin to gradually awaken in people that which in them is truly good. You can start teaching them to think a little better, to look at the world and one’s own place in it...

“But it is only an individual who can significantly change himself or herself! This must be a fully conscious work on oneself-soul. Here, the two of us plus Katya can do it, if you want.

“As for other people... When will they get tired of enjoying information about wars, about the cruelty and atrocity done by one person to another, or about the tragedies and wrecks in someone’s life path? — I do not know the answer to this question...

“But do not take it too much to heart! The whole world around us does not have to correspond to our desires and the level of our own development!

“Just accept that if man has cognized the Light, then he or she can live in the Light, even if there is darkness around! It is so, because this Light is burning now in oneself!”

Tom asked:

“What can we change in this world?”

“What can be changed in a world where lies, violence, hatred, envy, the desire to rule over those who are weaker, and the fear of those who are stronger abound? What can be changed in a world where people live only by the animal instincts of obtaining food and reproducing, and do not use the opportunities given to men by man’s nature — which is supposedly higher than that of animals?”

“Often even animals are more intelligent and capable of love than so many people!”

“It’s all so, Tom, but...”

“God sees everything that is happening here. And He takes into account everything that we are doing, when building our future destinies.

“And there is an amazing FREEDOM granted to every soul: the freedom to choose — among different possibilities — Light, Good, and Love. And to choose God as the Main Goal!

“Only then does the opportunity become open to learn to move oneself into the Divine World and to look, love, and understand — in the way that God does.

Then, one no longer feels despair, believing that it is impossible to change the whole world! One begins to change oneself — and then everything

around also changes unexpectedly! This is one of the Divine Laws existing in the world order!

“Then, it will be possible to help others, showing them the way of liberation from suffering. However, only those, who understand this and want this, will travel this path.

“In this world, we can change very little. We can change mainly — only ourselves. It is the efforts aimed at changing oneself: the purification of the soul, and the approach to God — which change the world around us!

“Everything and everyone then begins to synchronize with the harmony that this soul carries. And, the stronger and stronger the soul, the more clearly its impact is felt by other people.

“Like the light of the sun, this effect can be unnoticed. But it exists and works!

“The light of the sun gives life the opportunity to grow and develop on our planet.

“Similarly, the soul, which has become the Light, helps others — even simply by radiating Love and Peace into the material world.

“Sometimes they say that a certain person is radiating joy and love. When such a person communicates with people, he or she has an influence on them. It’s as if he or she entered a dark room with a candle — and then it became evident, what in the room is the right thing, and what in it is trash.

“In the same way, the presence of a person, carrying the Light, illuminates in other souls the bad and the good, the important and the unimportant. And people then have the opportunity to ignite their

own lamps from that spiritual Fire, by following the example of the one who has learned much.

“But this is the choice of each person.

“And there are some who try to ‘turn off the light’, so as not to see the vices in themselves...”

* * *

Soon, Tom created a number with screaming babies and a stupid tutor of an orphanage. Everything fell from his hands, he dropped his pacifiers and ridiculously got confused on how to use diapers. Then in one or another cradle a baby started screaming. And from backstage, swaddled folds, depicting abandoned babies, were brought and handed over to Tom... Tom fussed, rushed between the cradles, and fell. And, at the end of the number, unwound swaddling clothes appeared under the dome and depicted the inscription: ORPHANAGE OF ST. SOPHIA, THERE ARE 185 OF THEM!

At that moment, the audience, which had been laughing to tears up until then, suddenly calmed down... Tom had never before stood in such silence at the end of a number.

And then there was applause.

After the performance, one of the spectators after handed Tom money, saying:

“This is what people gathered for the orphanage. Please, pass it on to them!”

Chapter Eight: **Principles of Life Established for Us by God**

Every morning and every evening, Ram immersed in meditation in his room.

Once, Katya asked:

“What is meditation, what do you do when you sit so still? You have not done anything for so long... Why?”

“It is the body that sits quietly and does nothing. Meanwhile, the soul communicates with God.

“Do you read prayers in the morning, before meals, and before going to bed?”

Katya was embarrassed:

“Sometimes I read them, and sometimes I forget...”

“Why do you read them?”

“So that everything will be good — with Tom, you, me, and all people! I ask God about this!”

“And does God hear you? What are your thoughts on this?”

“I do not know... Sometimes I think that He hears, since all people pray like that. And sometimes I think that He cannot hear, since there is so much sorrow around.”

“Know, Katya: you can address God in the same way as you would address Tom, by using simple words, for example! He hears and understands everything. He is — Alive! And — He is always everywhere!

“He is invisible to ordinary sight, but you can learn to both see and hear Him by the soul.

“And you can interact with God. You can learn directly from Him. Through my meditations I learn from God.”

*** * ***

Once, Katya asked Ram:

“How do you do your miracles? Are you a Messiah-Wonderworker, a prophet? But then why are you performing in the most ordinary circus?”

“What kind of prophet am I? And, even less so, a Messiah...”

“I just know a little more than most people do about how this world, visible by the eyes of our bodies, is arranged. And also — I know how to see by the soul in those worlds which are not perceived by the usual bodily vision.”

“Are you like those mediums who talk with spirits? We had a medium in the circus, his table jumped and spun when he summoned spirits, but then Mr. Lurie chased him away.”

“What mediums do is only a tiny little crack into the intangible worlds, and that’s assuming that such a medium is not a deceiver. And the spirits, with which mediums usually speak, are most often not Divine and are very fond of evil pranks and deceiving others. The fact that the world of spirits is invisible — does not mean that the Truth abides in it!

“There are so many invisible spirits...”

“In the most dense and darkest layers of the invisible (for the ordinary vision) space, there are

anger and violence. That place can be compared to the dirt of a garbage dump, the waste of the universe.

“In the middle layers, there are different gray states of sadness.

“There are also worlds of joy and happiness, which are usually called paradise.

“And there is the World of God, Who has created everything here!

“Those who are already entering the World of God, can continue to live in their bodies in the material world. Such persons can live in this world and be Conductors of Divine Love, Kindness, Wisdom, and Justice.

“This can be learned by anyone who is good — to the best of one’s ability. And this one becomes an example of a clean and righteous life, a life of love, without anger, hatred, condemnation, or the urge to snatch something for oneself at any cost.

“And this is more important than all miracles!

“Many sages have often told people the simplest rules of a righteous life! But people usually seek only physical health, happiness in the world of matter, power over other people, or supernormal powers for miracles — instead of observing those simple rules for a pure and ethical life that please God!

“But it is the observance of these rules that can lead to the true happiness that God gives to such people!

“It is possible to live among people — without suffering or bringing suffering to others.

“A constant calm and joyful state of the soul is a state of paradise that one creates for oneself and for other beings around.

“But, by constantly living in such negative emotional states as grief, anger, irritation, resentment, and others, one immerses oneself into a state of hell and also spreads it around, harming others.

“By living in one of these states at the present time, one also brings this into one’s future: the near future in one’s earthly life as well as in the future ‘posthumous’ existence of the soul.

“Have you ever noticed that when doing good, a person experiences joy?”

“Yes, Tom and I made the days so kind and happy! This was our ‘magic’ game.”

“And God also feels joy for that man who does good to others! In this unity of the joy of man and God, one can help others to be happy!

“And through this comes the sensation of Living God, of His Presence in one’s own life.”

“Can you teach me this? Can you teach me to feel God, to see and hear Him?”

“Of course!

“Most people in different religions are not looking for God at all! This is also true in my homeland of India. And everywhere: in Europe and in Asia, I have seen such huge perversions of religion! Such people only fulfill certain ‘rules’ — and expect that, *in return for this*, God must satisfy their desires.

“Another similar naivety is guard magic. You can see it here in the circus: one kisses a cross before a performance, another reads a prayer, a third puts on the accessories of one’s costume according to a specific sequence, or places a statue in front of a mirror... But all of this helps you only... *to believe* in your luck, not more.

“But to feel God, we need to establish contact with Him in mutual emotions of love! And your own love should be directed towards Him!

“God can be cognized only by striving with one’s mind and heart to such cognition of Him!

“This is how the world is constructed: one, as a rule, finds in it what one is looking for!

“The world is like a space in which there are a lot of objects. And one directs one’s attention from one object to another, according to what one considers necessary for oneself or for helping others.

“Until one finds an entrance to the World of God and rushes to there, — one will wander about among events and subjects that are not too important.

“Only through love for God, is it possible to cognize Him!

“It is love that allows us to connect — as souls — with the one whom we love.

“Try to feel the place where love arises in you! Think, for example, about Tom — and feel, *how* you love him!”

“Yes, it’s as if it becomes warm and joyful, here, in my chest!”

“Yes, love is born in the heart: not in the material heart, but in that one, which is in the soul. It is called the spiritual heart. It is located in the chest, where we feel the inhaled air.

“In India, such energy centers in the spiritual structure of an organism, where various states of the soul arise, are commonly called chakras.

“And here, right where the lungs are located, is the anahata chakra. It is here that bright emotions of love arise.

“You can learn to feel God by mastering this center. Thanks to this, the entrance to His World may be opened.

“Try to feel a little sun with rays in the spiritual heart! Try to shine by it and caress all good creatures!

“Soon you will learn that if you look at everything from the spiritual heart, then everything changes in a magical way!”

... Katya began to learn this, gradually mastering the ability to live always in a state of calm and joyful love for everything and everyone.

And Ram continued to reveal to her and Tom the rules for the life of souls in the material world.

*** * ***

Katya loved to ask Ram about that invisible and mysterious Divine world, about which Ram knew so much. All the magic of Ram’s shows was based on his knowledge and skills! And Katya thought that — very soon — Ram might even teach her and Tom, too, to create magical and good miracles!

And Ram repeated to them everything that he can do is not magic, like in children’s fairy tales, but manifestations of the Divine Laws of the universe’s life!

“The laws of God,” — he said, — “are not at all what some people invented and recorded in special books, so that everyone would follow them.

“The laws of God are the Principles of Love and Harmony, by which everything is created by God and must develop! Violation of these Principles —

voluntarily or involuntarily — brings disharmony, the consequences of which are what people call troubles and suffering.

“But such events are only pointers to the fact that one has violated the rules of harmonious life and that one should change something in oneself.

“The robustness of one’s own life is ruined by oneself alone, when one violates those Principles that are laid by God as the basis for the development of the universe!

“The observance of these Divine Principles by people brings beauty and joy, peace and happiness to their lives!

“If all the people of the Earth for at least two weeks observed the Commandment of Jesus of not responding to evil with evil, of wishing peace and love to everyone around — then probably the ‘golden age’ would come on the Earth!

“Answering to evil with evil, we multiply evil.

“And answering with love and peace — we will transform the world for the better, even if only slightly.”

Chapter Nine: **On Patanjali’s Commandments**

Once, Ram told Tom and Katya about a wise man who lived in India. The name of this sage was Patanjali¹.

¹ See also in the book “Ecopsychology”.

Ram spoke in detail about his Teachings, commenting on his understanding of each saying:

“The instructions of Patanjali are written for those who want to approach the Divine Perfection. They were divided as ascending steps — in order to make the gradual preparation of the soul and body for new states more evident.

“So, Patanjali outlined some preparatory rules for those who enter the spiritual Path.

“The first such rule should be called *non-harming other creatures*.

“This is a very important commandment, which should be thoroughly thought out and applied to everything in your life.

“You need to learn not to harm other people — and not just people — by deeds, words, emotions, and even thoughts.

“I explained to you once why I do not eat the bodies of dead animals. This is also included in the principle of not harming other beings.

“But I would like for you to always follow the principle of non-killing nourishment not in order to imitate me, but because you truly feel compassion.

“The second rule is *truthfulness*.

“This is the desire to always tell the truth. And in those cases when the truth cannot be said because it can hurt someone — then keep silent.

“This rule should mean sincerity, which is truthfulness not only before people, but also before God — with the constant understanding that He knows everything about us in every moment, and we can hide neither our deeds nor even our thoughts from Him. Such truthfulness before God makes it

very easy to perform the process of purifying ourselves as souls.

“The third rule is *not to want something that belongs to someone else*.

“For someone, it means *not stealing*, for someone else it means *not to be envious*. And, in the end, the fulfillment of this rule brings about a feeling of calm satisfaction with what God has bestowed, without striving for excessive material belongings. And this, in turn, will allow one to send one’s maximum attention to the Creator and improve oneself — out of love for Him — through meditative practices.

“The fourth rule is *freedom from all unnecessary and superfluous things in life*, which also distract one from the main task: the spiritual transformation of oneself as a soul.

“It is very important to learn to get rid of excess, dispensable things, and unnecessary attachments, which interfere on the way forward.

“If you do not clear your life of the old, then it cannot be filled with the new. Our old habits, desires, and aspirations should gradually give way to new spiritual aspirations.

“The fifth rule calls upon us *to learn to love God, to become ‘charmed by Brahman’* (the Holy Spirit — in the collective sense of the word) — as it is called in Sanskrit: the ancient Indian language.

“The sixth rule concerns *observance of the purity of the body*.

“This can be done only externally, through frequent washing of the body, cleaning teeth, and the like. But it is appropriate to add to this the

purification of the energy of the chakras and meridians.

“Later on, I can teach you this if you want.

“An important seventh rule is *clean food*.

“Acceptance of food should occur in a favorable atmosphere of peace and love.

“Food should be clean and filled with good energy when preparing it.²

“And let it be free of the energies of fear and pain, of which the bodies of dead animals are saturated.

“The eighth rule concerns *maintaining a positive emotional state*.

“To live in joy and to give this joy to others is very important and very much helps one to overcome difficulties in both the material life and the spiritual Path. We have already talked a lot about this.

“The ninth rule — *the direction of one’s thoughts on God, philosophical conversations, and the reading of spiritual books*.

“Necessary earthly affairs, including concern for others and other social obligations, should, of course, be carried out. But they should not overshadow the Main Purpose.

“The fulfillment of this rule allows us to turn the mind away from worldly problems — to God.

“There is also a rule called *tapas*. These are voluntarily accepted self-restrictions, self-discipline

² The energy of one’s emotional states as if gets “transferred” into the food during the cooking/preparation process. For this reason, it is very important to always cook food in a pure emotional state, especially when cooking for others. (Note from the corrector).

in order to master one's will and the independence from the desires of the body or the wanderings of the mind.

“There are people who suffer and even get sick — because of the absence of something that is unnecessary yet passionately desired in their lives. But the voluntary abstinence of delicious food and the observance of reasonable self-restraint from everything superfluous — both of these disciplines bring joy and health.

“And, if we apply these restrictions not only for health, but also for approaching the Divine World, then joy multiplies in the soul!

“When all of the above have largely been mastered, it then becomes possible to fulfill the eleventh rule — *the feeling that the Creator permeates everything that exists!*

“Patanjali also taught that one should observe tolerance for those who think and act differently, and always show *kindness* and *mercy*.

“It is very important for us to learn, while ascending the steps of the Path, *to be simple, devoid of arrogance, to overcome pride in ourselves, and to learn humility.*

“These are the preparatory rules of Patanjali.”

... Tom pronounced:

“And is this just the very beginning? Even if I tried all my life to master this, it would not be enough time!”

“Therefore, souls are embodied on the Earth not just once, but many times, in order — through their own bitter experience of mistakes and suffering — to gradually realize the need to comply with these rules.

“And further on in the Teachings of Patanjali, there are the stages of study on which asanas are mastered. These are special positions for the body that contribute to the purification of the chakras and meridians.

“Later on, *pranayamas* are used for this purpose, which teach one to move the subtle vital energies of the consciousness, which are called *prana* in India. This contributes to further purification and the ability to perceive the energies of Life in the subtle and subtlest worlds.

“Then the stage of *pratyahara* follows — *the management of the indriyas*. And *indriyas* are like tentacles of the consciousness, which are stretched out, like hands, to certain objects to which the soul’s attention is directed.

“Our thoughts and desires form energy ‘tentacles’ with ‘suckers’, which keep the soul in connection with what they are attached to. It can be either objects of the material world, or concrete people...

“And it is important to understand that *salvation* can be reached only if you redirect your attention to God! Then, for interaction with the material world, only a necessary and sufficient part of the soul’s attention and forces remains.

“This redirection of attention is called — *maintaining the concentration of one’s attention on God*, which in India is called by the word — *dharana*.

“Then the stage of *dhyana* follows. It means the mastering of meditative practices, which allow one, to an even greater degree, to fulfill all the principles listed above.

“And the last stage is called by Patanjali as *samadhi*.

“This is the teaching of the Blissful Mergence with the Divine Consciousness and fixing oneself in this status of being.”

“And have you mastered it all?” — Katya asked, delighted with the mysterious knowledge of the Indian sage.

“Well, let’s just say this: I can teach you something, but let’s not get ahead of ourselves! For now, I’m just glad that you listened with interest and are ready to start working on yourselves from the very beginning!”

Chapter Ten: **Preparing a New Show**

One day, Tom asked:

“Ram, why am I still not feeling free — beyond just those short moments in meditation that you have already taught us?”

“Yes, I now know these marvelous moments of joy and freedom, when I understand that He, God, is here! And — that it is a great happiness to know Him personally and to merge with Him!

“But when the meditation ends, I am again just a prisoner of the material world and of this body. Why is it so?”

... Tom was silent for a while, and, not waiting for an answer from Ram, he continued:

“All my life, I dreamed of a show where I could fly under the circus dome. But... again and again, I

still continue to depend on circumstances; in particular, on this injury crippled body, which can no longer be what it used to be... Are our dreams destined to never come true?

“And with all the horror that is happening in this world, where malice and vices triumph, and honesty and kindness are weak and suppressed, — is there really nothing that can be done about all this? Can’t you even influence this?”

... Ram smiled broadly, hugging Tom with an amazing state of caressing peace, and answered:

“Well then, let’s try to influence this world of illusions — at least a little! I propose making a new number about the true Freedom and what limits it. We will think about the plot. And, at the same time, your body will be treated: you will heal it yourself, and I will show you how.”

* * *

Ram, Tom, and Katya began preparing a new show full of miracles.

Ram began to teach Katya and Tom how to be in zero gravity, which he created locally around their bodies — and they soared freely above the circus arena.

Katya was delighted with what was happening! And, of course, many of her questions were addressed to Ram.

“How can you make my body weightless?”

“And why am I not at all afraid to fly?”

“The ability to control certain phenomena in the world of matter, such as bodies and objects, is just a

small consequence of the Knowledge about the Divine structure of everything in the universe.

“We are sometimes allowed to use these skills, but not for making money or for any other personal gain, and not out of our own desires, or in search of fame, or to control other people. These skills can only be used to show people the Path to true Freedom and to the Knowledge that opens the doors to the Divine World!

“For many people, the dream of flying is a kind of symbol for the dream of complete Freedom. It sometimes seems to us that the ability to soar above the Earth makes a person free. This, of course, is not so: we become truly free in a different way.

“Freedom is acquired by the soul that is no longer burdened with fears and passions, and which instead consists of love and peace. And — which, most importantly, has found a place for itself in God!

“To manifest some miraculous phenomena, I unite with the Power of God. In this case, it is not my mortal personality that acts, but the Divine Power of Love, the Divine I, Which is One with all life in the universe.”

“Ram, tell me how you learned all this, how did you once want to be able to fly?” — Katya asked.

“In India, there are many wandering magicians who entertain people in the squares.

“Once, when I was a child, I saw a boy rising above the ground at such a performance in puffs of smoke, and a magician said that he could make any body soar in the air.

“After the performance, I came to this man and asked him to teach me how to fly. He laughed and

showed me the rope with which his assistant, well hidden from the audience, lifted the boy's body.

"The 'magician' continued to tell me that I was light and flexible, and that he was ready to add me to his performances, because his assistant-boy was already too heavy for this number.

"I barely listened: my dream of free flight crashed! I realized that I had believed in an illusion... And how painful it was to know that this was just a hoax!

"But my desire for a miracle and my dream to do good magic, became the basis for my further searches.

"I decided that I would definitely find a way to fly above the surface of the Earth without cheating!

"In India, it is very easy to believe in miracles: it is woven into its ancient culture. Even semi-literate peasants talk about the Divine Forces, Which created everything, and believe in various superpowers of yogis and swamis.

"I began to look for masters who possessed this ancient Knowledge.

"In the beginning of my search, I met many charlatans and unenlightened 'yogis'. But, I so much wanted to make my dreams a wonderful reality that I did not give up.

"And later on, I found some true Masters and studied from Them.

"And when I studied, I realized that all sorts of superpowers — the so-called 'siddhis' — were not at all the goal of such training. They can even distract one from the main thing: from the cognition by the soul of the Divine World! Moreover, such abilities can lead one away from the Path by seductive tricks of

pride because of one's own power over material phenomena.

“Having well understood this, I directed all my attention to God — to that creative and creating Power of Love, which governs everything in the universe.

“I also realized that a person can cognize his or her Oneness with this Force, merge with It, and dissolve in It — through the transformation of oneself into Love!

“Moreover, this Force cannot belong to any one person in particular. It belongs only to God!

“It took many years...

“I no longer dreamed of showing performances...

“But, when my training was over, the Masters suggested that I do something unusual: under the guise of tricks and mysteries, to tell people about the meaning of their lives, about good and evil, about earthly and Heavenly love, and about God. They invited me to leave for Europe and show performances filled with deep meaning there. Thus, my current Ministry began.

“Talking about God and the Path of cognizing Him, which is customary to do in India, is very difficult to do here. Here, there is a ‘church’ that has usurped all rights to knowledge about God. And, moreover, very rigid rules have been enshrined in the minds of people over generations, making people believe that you can address God only through church servants. To contradict this directly would be insanity! But the circus is a very suitable place for a story about the illusory nature of life in the material world and about real miracles.”

... Tom also listened carefully to Ram's story.

* * *

Then Ram, Tom, and Katya went on to discuss the new show.

They thought over the details of the main — final — part of the performance for a long time: a story about the liberation of the soul from attachments to the world of matter and the way to Freedom

The scenario was as follows:

Tom, dressed as a somewhat funny and awkward man, enters the arena with ropes tied to his hands, legs, and clothes. Then, the circus workers take these ropes and pull on one rope after another, shouting: “come here”, “fall”, “crawl”, “forwards”, “backwards”, “do that”, “do this”... — and Tom's body either resists, or sometimes weak-willedly submits, or runs ridiculously, then falls, and then stands up. And he is pulled again and again ...

Then, Tom demonstrates how people themselves are responsible for tying themselves to the things of this world, when they say: “I want this, I want that”... And when he expresses such desires, new ropes then draw different objects towards him, such as a golden chair, table, and chest... And then Tom puts on a rich frock coat from the chest, and it turns out that it is entangled in an incredible entwined network of large and small ropes, resembling a web-trap. ...

And suddenly he sees — as a beautiful vision — the free and weightless Katya, flying in the rays of light.

And he begins to try to break out and to fly with her: in the Light, in that Freedom!

But, with all their might, the workers begin to pull on all the ropes at once... And then Tom takes off his outer clothes that are tied with ropes and remains in a body-tight leotard.

Tom starts to jump on a trampoline, tumbling and falling in a funny way. Then he jumps to a trapeze, hanging at a height. He again and again tries to fly there... and again and again he comically falls onto the trampoline net...

But he sees Katya soaring without a trapeze or safeguards, and he begins to climb up the rope, being inspired by love for this beautiful girl and that Light of Freedom...

Katya takes his hand, and they fly into the Shining Light and dissolve, disappearing in It.

... Then Tom and Katya come out from behind the curtains, and they bow.

Little by little, their idea for the performance became more and more detailed.

... And now, the new show began!

In the initial part of the performance, Ram worked with the audience. For example, he turned the contents of the wallet of someone from the public — into colored fog. And then, when the frightened spectator joyfully found his bills again in his own pocket, Tom appeared and joked about people's attachments to money.

Then there were small sketches devoted to guessing thoughts.

And in mini-stories with humor, human vices were portrayed, such as: anger, jealousy, fear, and gloom. Here, Tom showed outstanding ingenuity. And many viewers saw allusions in his jokes to very specific “powerful people”.

Tom was happy because he could so clearly expose evil! And he was even happier due to the fact that he could again be under the circus dome — and soar in zero gravity! All his dreams had come true!

And Katya and Tom now learned from Ram not only to fly. They learned to always live without fear for themselves and to rely on the Divine Power, Which was gradually being revealed before them by Ram in meditations.

Everything turned out great! The shows shocked the audience!

It turned out to be a beautiful depiction of how a person can see his or her attachments to “earthly” objects and of how one’s unnecessary desires create these attachments. It also showed how one can stop being bound by passions and circumstances, and free oneself by striving for the Main Goal!

In the final part of the show, Ram himself was almost invisible to the audience. He stood as a calm and motionless witness to all this delightful sight. And only a very attentive spectator could notice how, through the body of the fakir Ra-Mak-Mei, the Divine Strength rose and filled all the space above the arena. This Strength allowed Katya’s and Ram’s bodies to soar in the air, and it also allowed those present to feel the Freedom that is possible for the soul that thirsts for this!

... Once, Ram spoke to Tom about the current situation:

“We are trying to change this world for the better. Just a little bit... You yourself wanted this!

“You and Katya believed in the Divine Power, you both trusted in God, in His Love!

“This also happens during every one of our performances — obviously!

“But do you think that this is enough? If yes, then you are mistaken!

“The Divine Power, Which ‘switches on’ during the performance, embraces the audience. And this allows some people to feel what you and Katya already know, namely: the Love and Beauty of the Creator!

“All of our shows are devoted precisely towards helping souls to stop clinging to the ‘earthly’ — and to start striving to the Light and Purity of God! For then, and only then, can genuine Freedom begin to be opened for them!

“Not all souls, of course, but at least some of them can wake up from the sleep of everyday life and start thinking about how they live and why. And then they will be able to see the clutter of the many unimportant things, desires, and actions in their lives — and begin to change themselves and the world around them.”

*** * ***

The new tour in many countries was now a sensational success!

The director of the circus was very pleased, because the box-office earnings exceeded all his expectations!

Their performances awakened new significant states and thoughts in people. Many came more than once in order to relive these unforgettable experiences!

There were those for whom touching the Divine Light and Divine Love became clues to change their own lives, causing them to start thinking about the purpose of the time that souls spend in bodies on the Earth.

Tom with inspiration invented new jokes for the initial part of the performances that ridiculed human vices. There were transparent allusions to the greed of various rulers, and to the indifference of people living in luxury — to the suffering of those who were in poverty. And many other shortcomings of people such as vanity, greed, anger, and lust for power, were ridiculed in ever new comic scenes.

In each performance, these kinds of new jokes appeared. And often Tom, in a burst of inspiration, impromptu added something right along the way.

And during every show, the audience would laugh and applaud. Although, more often than not, people did not see their own vices but only saw and laughed at the vices of others. Indeed, it's easier!

Ram did not mind this and played along with Tom, saturating the jokes with the beauty of his magic tricks.

But one day, they had a conversation on this topic. Ram said:

“It is not wrong to confront evil. After all, by fighting for one’s understanding of truth, people become real heroes.

“However, you must know that God doesn’t fight against evil people! God uses all the processes,

taking place in Creation, — for the development of embodied souls! Even the people of evil, even the events that seem so terrible to you, are used by God to perfect souls!

“It’s time for you to outgrow this ‘fierce fighter for truth’ stage!

“The Divine Laws are not only the Laws of Good and Justice, but they also give every person the right of *free will!*

“Each person has his or her own difficulties, his or her own pain, his or her own feelings. For some, certain words or events are a trifle, but for others, the same may turn out, for example, to be a tragedy or a stimulus for serious thoughts. It is necessary to learn to understand people, and not to measure everyone ‘on your own’! Also, do not feel chosen to correct other people’s vices!

“Tom, you are still currently living as if you must constantly fight the evil outside yourself; and therefore, the world is seen by you as a battlefield. But leave it to others. Let others use this as a means of perfecting themselves!

“It is time for you to start living differently: touching everything gently, like a blooming flower or a newborn baby!

“The world and your attitude towards what is happening in it, will also change as soon as you change!

“The world of a fighter for truth is different in comparison with the world of a person who has cognized the Divine Bliss, who has cognized true Love and Beauty!”

“But evil does exist! And shouldn’t we expose this evil?!”

“Yes, evil exists... But next to every shadow there is a light... Yes, there is hatred, but even it only emphasizes the perfection and beauty of love!

“When you fight, trying to expose evil, then everywhere around you becomes a battlefield between good and evil, a war against injustice and tyranny. But when you bring love by yourself-soul, and give it to others, then you find yourself in the Divine World! You can live like that, and you already can!

“And this, too, is a way to transform the world — but without violence, without a continuous war for the truth!

“Everyone has their own truth... But the real Truth is *one*! This Truth is God!

“We are obliged to change only ourselves, and then the world around us also begins to gradually change, albeit slowly! This is the best that we can do.

“A person should not try to ‘perfect’ others! Everyone should transform only themselves — as souls — and give love, shine, and create! In return, someone may just turn away, but someone else may just want to also become *a lamp*!

“Poverty or envy in connection with the material wealth of others are not the cause of human suffering! If all the wealth from the rich is taken away and distributed to the poor, then after some time there will again reappear those who have become rich and those who are poor!

“In India, quite a lot of people give up property, their home, and the prospects of creating a family, to go to the mountains and search for the meaning of life and God. But only very few gain wisdom and

kindness through this, and even fewer gain the knowledge of God...

“The Path to God is the transformation of oneself-soul into love!

“And then all the love of the soul must be directed to God!

“Have you noticed how the power of attention works? That, to which the soul’s attention is directed, seems to increase in size and approaches a person. This is how, for example, fears and other interpersonal ‘frictions’ act. This is what we are unhappy with. When one focuses all of one’s attention on this, this problem becomes so huge that one ceases to notice everything else in one’s life.

“Compare this with the situation where the attention of the soul is turned to God. In this case, He surrounds this person from all sides with His Tender Infinity!

“When the love for God has awoken in the soul, then such a soul is filled from within with His Joy and Power!

“It all depends on the distribution of the attention of the soul, on its aspirations!”

... Ram handed Tom a book:

“Here is one of the best books about it: the ‘Bhagavad-Gita’! This, of course, is a translation. But I made some notes in the margins to make it clearer for you. If you have questions, I will be happy to answer them. And this is one of those books whose wisdom is revealed over the course of many readings. It makes sense to reread it.

“And now, I also wanted to tell you about something else: it is important to remember that those who will immediately begin to ‘remake’ the

Truth in their own way — that is, according to their own personal ideas about good and evil — should not be allowed to possess great personal power. We have already talked a lot about how these ideas can differ between different people and human communities! Do not forget that we have the right to only slightly open the door to the Divine World, so that people can look into it and feel God's touch. And what they do after, is their choice!"

"I understand..."

"Tell me, Ram, why do you continue to meditate so much? You devote almost all of your free time to this. Do you have anything more to learn in meditation? After all, you have already accomplished everything that one could dream of!"

"My meditations allow me to feel the happiness of Oneness in the Divine World!"

"And with regards to learning... Yes, there is always something to learn! For the one who is attaining and for the one who has already attained, there are still more seemingly incredible prospects for further improvement! This is the life with God, in God!"

Chapter eleven: **Prison**

Two years passed.

One may think that it would be impossible to get used to miracles! But, strangely enough, the life of Tom and Katya in their new situation in the World,

which they had previously perceived as Divinely magical, — became... habitual.

Of course, they did not cease to rejoice in their successes in meditations and in especially successful circus numbers. But, nevertheless, this happy life became... commonplace and no longer amazed them as it did before.

... The performances of Ram, Tom, and Katya were causing a sensation! The audiences were delighted!

Every evening, there was fame and applause!...

But there were other things too: rumors and gossip, speculations about “witchcraft” and “evil spirits”, and the filth of envy that filled the newspapers.

The latent discontent of those in power also grew, because there was a deep social and religious philosophy in the performances of Ram and his friends.

In the cities that they visited, the newspapers were full of headlines about the miracles of the fakir Ra-Mak-Mey. And many saw hints in the jokes of Tom and Ram to the corruption of rulers and judges, and to the shortcomings of all those power structures that were being used dishonestly and fraudulently by them to enrich themselves.

Sometimes there were exposés, from which some rich and influential people very badly slept...

Indeed, the manifestation of the apparent presence of God makes life very uncomfortable for those who lie and deceive...

Ram and Tom were not looking for dirt on local mayors and judges, but human vices everywhere are very similar. And the local residents drew parallels in

the funny characters of Tom to very specific representatives who were currently in power... And this was frightening to those whose wallets were full of unethically gained money.

And truly, clairvoyance, that is, in particular, the free perception of the thoughts and deeds of any man, is very frightening to people who have gone too far in their lust for power and material wealth.

... And then, one day the circus was visited by a specially prepared group of "guards". And they arrested Ram right after the performance. He was surrounded by policemen and people in civilian clothes with motionless facial expressions, as if they were wearing masks. They said:

"Mr. Ra-Mak-Mey, you are accused of fraud! Please, follow us! This man accuses you of stealing a large sum of money from his wallet during the performance!"

... A fat man, with whom one of the tricks had been performed that day, was peering over the shoulders of the policemen who surrounded Ram.

The indignation of the audience and the misunderstanding from the actors, did not stop them from executing the order. Ram was handcuffed and led away.

Tom and Katya hoped that this misunderstanding would be resolved very quickly, but they were wrong.

After the arrest, the charges escalated. Ram was charged with not only stealing money from that spectator's wallet, but even with making counterfeit bills.

The police searched the property of all three of them and found wads of prop money that Tom used

during the performances. Katya and Tom, from inability to prove this evident truth, dropped their hands:

“What can we do? How do we explain that it is a prop? After all, it’s obvious to everyone that at the arena during the show we do not throw real bills! The accusation is preposterous, fabricated, but how can we prove the truth? Yes, Ram can materialize any banknote, but he does not do so for ethical reasons. But how would police officers or judges believe that? Any one of them would only scoff!”

Tom was very worried about what was happening, feeling guilty. After all, it was his initiative to joke and make broad hints at dishonest politicians and businessmen, who grow rich through deception:

“It is all my fault, we shouldn’t have angered them!”

“No, Tom, Ram would never have taken part in it, if he hadn’t seen the use of it!” — Katya tried to console him.

“Yes, Ram sees good in everything! He probably sees good in what is happening even now! But, I am to blame!... And the worst part is, I don’t know what we’re going to do! Ram could get out of prison right now, he could shower the entire courtroom with genuine banknotes! But he wouldn’t! So, we must somehow prove the truth in court — without involving magic. But how? It is clear that all this is happening on the orders of the ‘elite’, and we do not even know whom exactly we have offended!”

... Tom and Katya tried to seek help from the director of the circus. But, to their surprise, he not only did not stand up for Ram in the negotiations with police, but quickly adopted their side.

Mr. Lurie explained to Tom and Katya that they had “crossed a line” with some “very important people” and therefore he would not intervene in the scandal.

The director then quickly fired Tom, Katya, and Ram. He left them with almost no money, saying that everything that they earned would go to covering the losses caused by the disrupted tours, which had already been scheduled.

And the circus left...

* * *

The men who had “ordered” Ram’s arrest gathered together in secret and discussed among themselves the undesirability of the prospect of a noisy trial. They had been watching Ram for a long time, and they already knew for certain that Ram was not an ordinary magician, but that he had a power they did not know and that he could use it... This frightened everyone in the meeting: “what if he really could read minds and reconstruct the past in detail? In the courtroom, what if he reveals all our dishonest acts, which have been so carefully concealed by us? What if he claims to be a prophet from God? Then he would be able to create a new religion, and crowds of fanatics would declare him God! And then what would the Church be able to do to oppose such a situation? After all, the ministers of the Church themselves cannot work miracles, as Jesus did! So, we have only one weapon: to declare this Hindu a “servant of the devil”! All this is a very dangerous

situation for us! We should not let this go to trial! The process should be stopped immediately!”

They called the chief of police and the director of the prison.

They jointly decided not to bring what was happening to the public process, and to kill Ram in the prison. To do this, they decided to put Ram in a common cell with thieves and murderers.

One of the criminals was offered to kill Ram in a common fight. For this, he needed to start a fight in the cell. He was promised money and the possibility to leave the prison and the country.

The name of that prisoner was Boer.

He was given the opportunity to hide a knife in his clothes, and he was placed in the same cell as Ram's.

* * *

Ram found himself in a common cell among people convicted of very serious crimes.

The appearance of such an extraordinary man caused more than just surprise among the inhabitants of the cell. There was also ridicule and attempts to humiliate and insult him...

But Ram was so calm and benevolent that all these attempts were shattered by his caressing smile and absolute calm.

Boer failed to provoke a quarrel and a fight in the cell.

When someone tried to rob Ram's place on the bunk, he calmly walked to the wall and sat on the

stone floor. And the small space around his body was immediately cleansed of all energetical dirtiness.

Then another criminal was brought into the cell, who possessed great physical strength and used to be a leader.

He managed to create a fight.

Ram tried to stop the fighting.

It was an opportune moment for the execution of Boer's plan. He confidently took out a knife. But the new convict was nimble and very strong. When he saw the knife, he thought that it was a threat to himself. And, snatching the knife from Boer's hand, he wounded him severely.

It took only seconds.

The body of Boer was on the floor... There was blood...

The noise would surely soon be enough to alert the guards, and they all would be given added time as a punishment for fighting and killing in the cell...

Ram asked for calm and quiet. He was suddenly obeyed. The wounded man was put on a bunk. Ram took the knife from the wound and stopped the bleeding. The wound was immediately healed.

Then, with a movement of Ram's hand, the blood on the floor disappeared.

"Don't call the guards and the doctor! He will be well in the morning," — Ram said quietly in the silence.

... Then the bewilderment finally was broken with questions:

"So, it's true what they say about you! Can you really do anything?! Can you extract money and gold from the air?!" — the shaken criminals began to ask.

Ram showed them a few simple appearances of objects from the immaterial world — into matter and back.

“What are you doing here if you can be free and immensely rich?!”

Ram answered calmly, as if extinguishing the rising wave of excitement over the demonstrated miracles:

“But I have no desire to possess wealth... And the Divine Powers have brought me to this place. So, this means that I need to be here!

“There is a Law from God — the highest and just! It should not be broken!

“But also, one is not allowed to use the Divine Power for personal gain.

“Moreover, a violation of the Divine Laws cannot be hidden from Him.

“From the side where Light, Love, Power, and Justice reside, everything is visible: not only the actions of people, but all the thoughts and desires with which they performed these actions. From there, the past, present, and possible future of any person are also visible.

“Each of you chooses and creates your own destiny, your own life!”

“So, are you saying that we all chose this kind of life for ourselves?” — one of them asked.

... Ram explained many things to these people in a simple and understandable language.

Boer, however, was still in a coma. A conversation with him still lay ahead...

But suddenly — unexpectedly — Ram broke off the conversation with his now very attentive listeners, saying:

“I have to go! A man urgently needs me! We will continue this conversation soon!”

He stood up. His body as if became composed of fog, and he passed through the wall into the next solitary cell...

Chapter Twelve: ***Pierre***

Having attached a noose made out of suspenders and a tie to the window grille, a young man was now going to take the last step of his life from the only stool in the cell. He wanted to commit suicide.

Ram appeared at the last moment...

Dumbfounded by what had happened, the youth froze with the noose around his neck.

Ram acted as if he were just visiting an old friend:

“Can I sit down on this bed since the stool is taken?”

“How did you come in?”

“Through the wall. You saw it yourself!

“But, Pierre, does this change anything? If you postpone your parting with the body, we will be able to talk about many things!”

... After a pause and without getting an answer, Ram continued:

“The death of the body is not the best way out!

“You will take all your problems and experiences with you — and extend them for many decades. And maybe — even for centuries. You will

take all your sadness, all your resentment, and all your disappointment with you! And you will not be able to change anything in this for a very long time!

“But you have the opportunity to change your fate right now! And yet you so easily want to refuse this opportunity!”

“Are you kidding me, sir?!”

“My name is Ra-Mak-Mei, but my friends just call me *Ram*. I think it will be more convenient for you to also call me this. I am your neighbor now, because my body has been temporarily assigned a place in a neighboring cell.

“It seemed reasonable to me to stop you before you took such an uninteresting way out of this life situation of yours, which currently seems like a dead end to you.

“For starters, I suggest sitting down. In this way, it will be more convenient for us to talk!”

Pierre was so dumbfounded by the unreality of what was happening that he obediently sat on the stool.

“That’s better!” — Ram continued calmly speaking. — “The fact is that you are here, in this world, in this body, in order to learn how to turn sadness — into joy, difficulties — into a way of growing strength and wisdom, anger — into love, and resentment — into forgiveness and care.

“Here on the Earth, through the experience of life, ignorance can become knowledge and wisdom, and the soul can grow in love.

“This is the greatest opportunity that God gives to man during an incarnation!

“As long as you live in this world, you can use this gift!

“Consider how well and timely we met! You can even thank God for this good luck!”

“Do I really have to thank God for being slandered by people whom I considered friends, or for being deceived by my beloved girlfriend?! Do I have to thank God for being in prison after being convicted on false charges and spending ten years here?!”

“Yes, and on a rare coincidence, I, too, ended up here on a fictitious accusation — and, because of this, we met!

“Should I continue the explanation or do you want to think it over on your own?”

“Yes, please, take the trouble to explain at least something to me, assuming of course that you are not a figment of my sick imagination and that I have not lost my mind... Try to explain to me: how can I rejoice and be grateful to fate or God for all this? What should I give thanks for? And does God even exist at all?”

... Ram answered very slowly and quietly, clearly pronouncing the words:

“God exists!

“God, the Primordial Consciousness of the whole universe, really does exist! It is true! This is reality! He can be cognized by man; and it is this, precisely, that is the main meaning of the life of a person-soul on the Earth!

“You have now been given a second chance at this life, like a rebirth in an already adult body! You have the opportunity to change what is bad in and around you — and become happy. And — even make others happy! This is a chance to improve not only

your life, but the lives of so many other people as well!”

“Are you joking?! Or are you crazy?! What can be changed? We are in prison! I was slandered by people whom I considered friends! My girlfriend treacherously betrayed me! I loved her so much!... I have no more money! I am disgraced and must spend ten years in prison! They are now rejoicing that they deceived a ‘simpleton’ and took possession of all my money, and my house!... She... she pretended to love me, so that later she could live in my house with another man and use all the property that I inherited! They specially arranged everything, and played it like a performance!...”

... Pierre’s voice trembled and broke... Bitter resentment and disappointment rolled up in his throat, making it hard for him to speak, but he continued:

“My life no longer makes sense! Nobody needs it, and neither do I! And what, are you trying to say that I should actually be grateful to fate and God for all of this?!”

“You still do not have wisdom, but draw very hasty conclusions against the background of momentary emotions and thoughts...”

“When you know that God, with the help of your body, can manifest many beautiful things into this material world: kindness, beauty, peace, and bliss...”

... Pierre interrupted Ram:

“Bliss? Are you kidding me! What bliss can a prisoner of ten years have?!”

“You still know too little, and yet you already want to stop learning...”

“Right now, you breathe, your heart beats, you think, and you are aware of yourself. You are not doing anything for this, but it... is happening!

“This miracle is called *life!*

“And this life of yours was launched into the process of development and improvement by God!”

“And death?”

“The death of the body is just the death of the ‘shell’. Life does not stop there. It only becomes much more extensive for perception than it ever was through the sensations received by the soul through the body!”

“So, there I can think and feel?”

“Yes. Though somewhat differently than here...”

“So, is there really a paradise with apples, a hell with cauldrons, and demons?”

“No, not so... Those are fairy tales. But the life of souls without bodies, and heavenly and hellish worlds — do exist. And Divine worlds exist!

“As for punishments, these can be those conditions that torment a soul and that it cannot change.

“Well, imagine, for example: how does a non-embodied alcoholic feel, who cannot drink?... That is the kind of hell in which such a soul lives.

“It also can be suffering from missed opportunities and from unfinished business, to which a person was attached, as well as life in the emotions of disappointment, sadness, and resentment...”

“It may be the life of a villain, boiling with emotions of hatred, among his or her own kind...”

“But, on the other hand, the ‘posthumous’ states of souls can be heavenly and pleasant. These are states of peace and joy, and this is a rest for such

correctly developing souls before they embody anew. Yes, such a life can be considered and called *paradise*.

“Souls again receive material bodies in order to correct their mistakes and continue their studies.”

“Then why did you stop me?”

“Because it is *here* that you can change your destiny of what awaits you *there!*”

“*Here*, you study and ‘pass exams’. *There*, you get ‘grades’ and an understanding of what you have already done and what you want to do in the future.”

“So, are souls no longer studying *there?*”

“Not exactly. They definitely learn! But they can effectively develop *there* — only if they are sufficiently powerful souls, who, without the help of their bodies, are already able to think freely and work as souls. And for pure souls, who are very small and therefore still weak, life *there* is like a babies’ slumber...

“God determines the timing of our incarnations. After all, He knows more than we do about our destinies and how best to implement them. Believe me!

“Those who “run away” from the classroom, because the lesson seemed difficult to them, are returned by God in similar situations again in the very next earthly life. This greatly lengthens the study.”

“How do you know all this? Have you been *there?*”

“Yes... Many times... Man can visit those worlds, leaving his or her material body, only for a while during meditations.

“The meaning of life, by and large, is to become a soul-love and enter the worlds of God forever! This was taught by both Jesus and Others. And, it is important to understand that one who has not entered the Kingdom of God, while living in the body, will not receive it even after death.”

“And what, were there Others like Jesus?”

“Of course! Many travelers, who attained the knowledge of the Divine, shared their experiences with others. And also, many other Messengers from God came to this world, and They spoke about the Truth.”

“Kind of like how you are helping me right now?”

“Well yes, but there are different variants of helping...”

“So are you a real prophet?”

“No, I am still just a beginner... I show tricks...”

“Wow! You’re just a beginner and you can already go through walls!”

“The real achievements of the soul are not in commanding objects on the material plane, but in knowing God and merging with Him into *One!* But it is difficult to explain it in words...”

“If you could enter here through the wall, then can you leave this terrible place at any time? Can anyone make you stay in jail?”

“No one.”

“Then why are you still here?”

“Well, for example, to talk with you, Pierre.

“And false accusations happen very often... One wants to show people the beauty and wisdom of the Divine Creation, and to tell about the Highest Justice and the Laws of Love — but ends up in

prison, accused as a fraud and a liar! The story of Christ Jesus, Whom people have worshiped for many hundreds of years, has never taught people not to crucify or not to kill, but to listen and read the Divine Commandments and try — with their help — to learn from God!

“The main thing is to understand that if God brought me into this situation, then I can very well wait until everything that He has planned is done and until all the events, for which He created this situation, have happened.

“Some good souls should receive their lessons of peace, love, and self-confidence. Others, infected with the evils of greed, deceit, and violence, will be able to see the destructiveness of the path they follow. Through this, they can then get a little chance to get better.

“People of good then will be able to accomplish their good deeds.

“Those who need help can receive it.

“Nothing in this world happens by chance or in vain...

“In every moment, we find ourselves in the best situation for our own improvement!

“These are very important lessons of acceptance, non-resistance, and humility — before the Will of the Creator.

“This does not at all mean that we should remain inactive! It is always necessary to do the best that we possibly can in every moment! And this teaches us, among other things, not to complain, not to feel sorry for ourselves, and not to blame others for what happened to me.

“Most people live so unconsciously that they don’t even have time to understand the beauty, happiness, and greatness of the opportunities, which have been given to us by God!

“One way to arouse one’s awareness is to learn to thank God! And this means learning to give thanks not just for the food on one’s table or for the shelter above one’s head, but for everything.

“After all, even the ability to see, breathe, walk, and talk deserve one’s thanks. Most people only begin to appreciate the value of such ordinary abilities once they have lost them. Usually, only in old age, having lost visual acuity and hearing, and experiencing pain in their weakened bodies, do people suddenly realize that their lives have almost passed, and that they already have no more strength to change anything...

“The moments of strong emotional feelings of love remain the most vivid in the memory of the soul! All the rest is just like a gray monotony and humdrum.

“People, who are ready to learn, thank God not only for joy, but also for difficulties, and for the pain that sometimes allows them to wake up and begin to think, realize new things, and change themselves!

“After all, all the difficulties in our lives are only lessons, and not tragedies or troubles!

“True Bliss can only be given to the soul by God. And nothing can stop it, even here in prison!”

“It’s impossible!”

“Pierre, do you want to know, do you want to feel that God really exists?”

“Yes.”

... Ram changed something in the space of the small cramped prison cell... An intangible Light embraced them...

Pierre was sitting leaning against the wall. Tears of happiness flowed down his face. He was now experiencing the first touch of Divine Love. The soul was cognizing a Bliss beyond all imagining...

No one broke the silence for a long time. Upon returning to the previous perception of the world, Pierre said:

“How is this possible? Here, in prison, I experienced more love and happiness than I have ever felt in my entire life! What did you do to me?”

“No, not me... This Light is God! I only slightly opened the veil, which hides the unimaginable Divine Miracles and perfect Gifts of Love — from those who are indifferent to Them!

“Where is the line between what one considers a miracle and what one does not consider a miracle?”

“This line is drawn by one’s knowledge of the Laws of Life! After all, that which is habitual is not perceived as a miracle.

“Each next level of cognition opens up great new opportunities for development!

“Well? Have I convinced you that this life is worth living? Then, if you do not mind, I will come back later to visit you again. And then together, we will think about what useful things you can do in the near future...”

Chapter Thirteen: **When It's Hard...**

As usual, Katya woke up early: before dawn. Over the past three years, she had become accustomed to harmonizing the mornings with the perception of God through morning meditations, in order to be filled with strength and joy for the whole day.

How easy it was just recently!...

But now... The memories of recent events were weighing down on her with nasty severity. After all, everything had collapsed so unexpectedly and so quickly: "Ram, our friend and teacher, is in prison!... We were left with almost no money in a foreign country and now do not know how to help Ram. We could find only one lawyer who agreed to defend Ram in court. But the amount that this person requested was huge. He said: 'I understand that your friend is innocent, but you must also understand that, in defending him, I put my career and even my life in danger. Regardless of the decision of the court, I, as well as you, will need to quickly leave the country and start life in a new place and look for money! I can promise with an eighty percent certainty that I will win this case if it is open. But there still remains a twenty percent chance that they will simply crush us, not taking into account either facts or common sense. In this case, I would like to have a guarantee that I can leave the country without becoming a beggar. And you, too, must consider what you will do in this case.'"

Katya made an effort to drive away the overwhelming despair...

The cheap hotel room that they were renting was cold. Outside the window, there was a gray haze and rain... It was the end of autumn...

Katya started the fireplace. The uncomfortable room began to fill with warmth.

And in the same way that she was kindling a fire that gives light and warmth, she tried to kindle a shining sun with love in her spiritual heart, saying to herself: "There, on the street, above these gray clouds and rain — there is always sunlight! And God — He is everywhere and always! I already know this well! I have felt it many times! And God is Love!"

This dawn of love required considerable effort from Katya. After all, it is not easy to rejoice when there is no reason for joy, to be calm and loving, when all events are terrible and there is not even a ray of hope!...

Katya recalled all that Ram had taught them. The source of love in the depths of her spiritual heart began to radiate in all directions, illuminating the space around her body.

Katya continued to do the most ordinary things: she cooked breakfast and set the table... And from this heartfelt love, there flowed soft, ever-expanding Light: "We will not give up! We will stand strong in these difficulties! God exists! And right now, right here — I can feel His Love! I know how to soar in this Love of His, and how to give It to others! I can! Right now, I can be in Mergence with this Love — this caressing, tender, and infinite Love of God! I don't know why we were given these tests, I don't know

what to do... But I know this Love of God! I trust His Love and merge with It!”

Katya felt that it worked! Peace and Radiance of the Divine Presence, emanating from the depths of her own spiritual heart, filled the room. She even thought that outside the window the rain had stopped and the sun began to shine. She went to the window, but there... gray streams of rain filled the space... The light that she saw around her was... not material.

Katya thought that it was Ram here. She saw his smiling face, consisting of Light, and heard the words: “Well done, Katya!”

Tom entered the room and tenderly embraced Katya, stroking her golden hair:

“What a hostess you have become, my girl!”

“Let’s do a ‘good day’ today, Tom, as you taught me as a child! It seems to me that exactly today everything will start to work out!”

“Yes, I even found something for this!”

Tom showed an announcement in the newspaper about a duel between two famous wrestlers.

“I know one of them. At one time, he was an athlete and a fighter in the circus, where I also performed. If he has not changed in recent years, then he will certainly help!”

“Will he lend us money? But how will we be able to pay him back?”

“He can help us, but not financially...”

“Have you ever helped him like that yourself?”

“Yes... But that is not important... He was always a person of great and selfless kindness! With this force, he even defeated opponents in the arena battle: without malice, without aggression. He

seemed to drown them in his kindness — and then laid them on both shoulder blades.”

* * *

The day, in fact, was developing successfully. Even the sun began to break through the clouds. And the rain stopped.

Tom and Katya came to the arena, where the fight was supposed to take place, long before the start.

There were already a lot of people. Everyone was betting on which of the rivals would win this battle.

“This is a strange place!” — Katya said. — “Is it really pleasing to people to watch fights? Is guessing which of the wrestlers will win, really an honest way to make money?”

“Yes, people are very indiscriminate in what brings them satisfaction... Such is this world... There is a lot of evil in it, and good does not always win... But you and I are here to save Ram!

Let's get to it!”

... After Tom made some explanations to the guard, they were allowed into the room where the athlete was preparing for the fight.

Tom's friend was a man with a powerful body and the gentle kindness of a huge soul. He met Tom and Katya cordially and immediately responded with a willingness to help:

“I don't have too much money, friends: I never know how to manage my finances... But take this and bet! I will definitely win this fight! They say that my

adversary is distinguished by meanness and cunning, which means that he is worth teaching a lesson! I'll lay this villain on his shoulder blades, at least for you! And then the amount will be sufficient — and you will be able to do everything that you need!"

* * *

Tom and Katya had hoped to get the necessary funds, but now she was... wavering.

Katya doubtfully asked Tom:

"Are you sure that what we are doing is good? Are you sure Ram would approve of this?"

"Not sure... But this is a real chance. And we have to try!"

"And what will happen if your friend does not win this fight?"

"Then we will lose the money that he gave us — that he gave unselfishly, from a pure heart, to help us... We will lose, but it will not harm anyone.

I don't see another way now..."

... Tom and Katya watched the wrestling match.

Katya had never seen such fights before. She wanted to close her eyes and not look at what was happening. But, even covering her face with her hands, she continued to see it with the soul...

It was a battle of an enormous good power combined with the body — against a force consisting of sticky black hatred...

These energies penetrated the fighters' bodies during the fight, sometimes they mixed... It was scary to look at it!...

And the audience in the stands rejoiced, being delighted with the spectacle of such a fight...

Tom's friend managed to win, but it came at a very high price. After the solemn presentation of the medal, he was taken to the hospital with broken ribs, barely standing on his feet, and almost dying.

Tom went with him... Of course, to even think of using the money now to save Ram, was out of the question...

Tom said:

"Katya, don't worry: I have to stand on guard in the hospital and make sure everything is fine there. Perhaps I will need to remove those clots of hate energies that remained in the body of my friend after this battle, alongside the injuries. Then the body treatment will be more successful. Ram taught me a lot in order for me to restore the health of my own body. I'll try now to help by using this same knowledge... I'll probably return in the morning..."

* * *

Katya walked slowly, trying to comprehend everything that had happened lately... Why rush to an empty hotel room where nobody is there and nobody needs you...?

She stopped at the circus building, where a poster maker ripped off old posters to stick new ones.

How recently they performed there so successfully... And now — the poster of their number was lying on the dirty pavement...

And again, Katya had to make effort after effort so that the Light in her heart would not go out, and so that love could flow and radiate...

At this time, a young man in an expensive coat and top hat stopped at the poster lying on the pavement and asked the poster maker:

“Tell me, is this young girl on the poster Mademoiselle Kitty?”

“I do not know. The Fakir Ra-Mak-Mey once performed here. However, a scandal arose from this performance and this man was arrested. The circus has left. Now other tours will come here.”

The poster maker pointed to the new poster. He finished sticking the poster and collected the scraps of the old posters to throw them in the trash can...

To Katya, that young man seemed familiar. And the words “Mademoiselle Kitty” sounded unexpectedly: after all, she had not been called by that name in the circus for several years.

The young man turned around and froze in joyful surprise:

“You..., are you... Katya? Mademoiselle, you probably do not remember me, but I am Alex... I am that boy who was in love with you, and with whom you managed to make a ‘holiday of good deeds’... I have been looking for you for a very long time! It is a miracle that we met!”

Chapter Fourteen: **Spiritual Science**

The new appearance of Ram through the wall and into the chamber was met by Pierre with undisguised delight!

“Oh! I have been waiting for You, sir!

“I thought a lot about You: what You said and showed!”

“It will please me, Pierre, if you will use the word ‘you’, and not ‘You’, in your addresses to me. This will make it easier for us to communicate more confidentially. After all, this is how we communicate with friends, this is how we communicate with God! Am I right that I can already claim to be your friend?”

“Yes, of course! Yes! What You... you showed me last time was incredible!

“And yet, where did all these miracles come from? You appeared here through thick masonry as if it was something ordinary and easy!”

“It is not difficult at all... To go through a wall is much easier than, for example, to defeat negative thoughts attacking one’s mind, or to transform negative emotions into love and peace!”

“So why don’t you teach me how to walk through walls too? Would we leave here right now and be free and happy?” — Pierre said, a little jokingly, but with hidden hope.

“What is stopping you from being happy right now, here? After all, you have already experienced that Divine Bliss is possible!”

“Yes... But it didn’t depend on me... That Miracle came and then just went away...”

“You can learn to make your happiness depend on you. Well, or more precisely — on the relationship between you and God! It makes sense to make an effort!

“We will postpone the ability to pass through walls for later. Unfortunately, one can’t be on the thousandth step of the ladder of the ascent without going through all the previous steps.”

“How do you know all this? Why do You do all this? How? Tell me, who are You... who are you, really? A magician? A fakir?”

“I am an heir to the Knowledge and traditions of ancient India...”

“In fact, this Knowledge was known in many countries and civilizations. This was also known to Jesus Christ, of Whom you have heard a little, and Who is revered in European countries as the only Divine Son of the Heavenly All-Father. But many Messengers have come to people throughout the history of the Earth, to greater or lesser extents possessing the Knowledge and Power of the one God the Father for all peoples.

“This is precisely the Knowledge, the Divine Science. The Masters know and are able to do some of what people call miracles, but this is not the main thing. Jesus Christ also performed such miracles, but not for the sake of healing or other manifestations of God’s Power. He did this in order to tell people about the most important thing for them: about God, about how a person is supposed to live on the Earth and why.

“This is the most important Knowledge, the Laws about the structure and existence of the universe and about the structure of man, and about the purpose of life on the Earth. This is the Knowledge not only about the human body, but also about the existence of many other things in its immaterial nature. This is the Knowledge of how and why God created man and all life on our planet.

“After all, God created a unique connection between soul and body! And this life — makes sense! It can be dedicated to learning and improvement! This is what Jesus said: ‘Be perfect, as your Father in Heaven is perfect!’³.

“There is genuine Knowledge about God — it is not legends collected by someone, and, most importantly, it includes practical methods of cognition and research. All this has been verified by the experience of many ascetics over many millennia. All this can be learned!”

“And what? — can this Knowledge be used in modern science?”

“Yes, of course! This Knowledge is very important both in scientific research and in the everyday life of every person!

“God is the Foundation and Creative Force for everything! This is what some people believe... But... having just faith... only slightly brightens their lives...

“Some people in the modern world now argue that science can and should investigate everything without taking into account the existence of God.

³ Matthew 5:48.

This is their great mistake! For this reason, materialistic research has come to a standstill.

“Such ‘scientific’ researches reach a certain stage — and then the end of success comes. The rest can be learned only with the inclusion of God in one’s worldview! Namely in this is the whole secret!

“The laws of God cover everything from the dense world — to the subtlest worlds. These non-material worlds are not perceived by ordinary people using the limited capabilities of the senses.

“Scientists have already discovered a lot with the help of instruments. And yet, there are Laws of the subtle and subtlest worlds, laws of Spirit, to which all the laws of the world of matter are subjected!

“For example, it seems to you that this wall is dense, thist water in a cup is liquid, and that air is weightless and transparent.

“And passing through the density of a wall with a dense body is perceived by you as a miracle... But it is natural for you to pass through liquid water or permeable air — with your body. There is no miracle in this. But water, air, and stone are made up of microparticles. And, as a person who wanted to devote your life to science, you know that. You also know that there is space between these particles. And this space is much larger than the particles themselves that make up matter. This has already been discovered by the physicists, which you also consider yourself to be.

“But that’s not what we are going to talk about right now.

“Different densities and other states of energy exist, too, in worlds that are not visible to the material eyes of an ordinary person.

“For example, emotions and thoughts that are evil give souls destructive states. Such souls have dark colors — for those who look with clairvoyance, that is, those who see with the soul, without the help of the eyes of the body.

“Love, tenderness, peace — they give souls lightness. They are subtle, luminous, and transparent.

“And one of the tasks of the human soul is to become a subtle and tender soul, becoming like God in this.”

“But what can I do right now, being here? How can I begin to learn, to study all this?” — Pierre asked.

“Let’s start with something simple, from the beginning!

“If we assume that God exists and that He is Love, what can a human soul do to get closer to God?”

“Maybe we can try to become Love too...”

“That’s right! But no matter how much you think about love, no matter how much you talk about loving, it doesn’t work, does it?”

“Yes... Yesterday, I tried to... I tried to love, to forgive... But this... is only thoughts, they are not as if living... But that other day, with God... — that day, there was Living Love!”

“You understand this correctly. And so, you need to learn to feel and give others this real, *living* love!

“Try to feel: where is love born in you? And what happens if you try to feel it in your head? — It doesn’t work, does it?”

“It doesn’t work... I’m just thinking about love, but it’s not what I want to feel...”

“Yes, because love is born in the spiritual heart! There is also a lot of words that have been said about this, but try to make this knowledge your own through experience! Only the success in personal experience makes us knowledgeable!

“Where the lungs are located, there is an immaterial structure called the anahata chakra. The spiritual heart can begin its growth from it.

“There are many immaterial structures in the human body: in the East, they are called chakras and nadis; these are special cavities and channels that conduct and accumulate subtle vital energies in the body.

“Try to fill with light the space in the body where inhalations and exhalations occur.

“Then imagine, for example, a lotus bud in the spiritual heart and give it the power to open up!”

“I’ve never seen a lotus flower... Only in pictures...”

Ram smiled mysteriously.

Then he held up a moving image between his hands: a white-gold-pink flower bloomed in space right in front of Pierre’s astonished eyes! It was very large, much larger than Pierre had imagined!...

Ram said:

“This plant has the property of not being wetted by water, even when growing in water. From the silt and mud of the bottom, the bud grows and reaches

the light above the surface of the water. And then, a delicate flower opens!

“In India, the lotus flower has become a symbol of the purity necessary for the spiritual ascent.”

Pierre touched the shining pink-and-white flower with his hand. His fingers passed through the luminous three-dimensional image, but it felt as if he had touched a small Part of the Bliss that he had experienced before from the Divine Presence.

“How do you do it?”

“This is a simple visualization... You need to create a detailed image — and then it is filled with power-light and becomes visible to other people who are capable of clairvoyance. And if you practice this for a long time, then all people will be able to see it.”

Pierre again felt the bliss of the tenderness of the fragrant flower...

Then he tried to create an image of such a lotus in his chest. But... he was almost unable to do anything... He kept losing concentration and did not perceive anything, except his efforts.

Ram continued:

“Don’t worry! These are exercises that help develop the ability to see, perceive, and feel the worlds of subtle energies. You have time here to work on it well.

“First, you need to relax your body and mind. You can breathe deeply and calmly, concentrating on the breathing movements of the body. All efforts in this meditation must be gentle...”

“You can use the image of not only the lotus, but any flower that you like. Each of them will add new shades of emotions to your nascent love.

“Or you can feel the gentle morning sun in your chest in the area of your lungs — and send its rays in all directions, trying to stroke everything around! And — illuminate the space with them as far as possible!

“Or you can imagine the image of a gentle candle flame — and fill the space in your chest with warm light. Then you will fill the entire torso, arms, legs, and head with this light! And then — you can spread this light wider and wider!

“You can create a space of peace and bliss within the heart chakra and send tenderness from this center forward, left, back, right, up, and down! Waves of unselfish love can spread over a great distance!”

Pierre tried several times. He gradually felt a subtle and blissful warmth in the center of his chest — and from there waves of tenderness began to be born.

He performed the exercise with the candle best of all!

Ram praised his progress.

Then they moved on to another topic:

“You asked: what can you do here? Here, you can still work by carefully reviewing your entire life, by recalling the moments of bright and pure love, and by learning to stay in such love without special external reasons. When reviewing your life, you can ‘turn on’ this state of love, and as if mentally relive — correctly — those moments of the past when you ‘boiled with anger’ or ‘were choked by despair’.

“In this way, you can re-evaluate wrong emotions and actions in the past — and repeat these

situations again in your imagination, reacting correctly.

“To recall your own grievances or wishes of evil to those who caused you harm, and transform these emotions — it would seem that this is easy... But it is not so...

“Love your enemies and bless them who curse you...’⁴, ‘Love is patient, love is kind, love does not envy, love does not boast, is not proud, does not behave rudely, is not self-seeking, is not easily provoked to irritation, thinks no evil and does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth... Love never fails...’⁵ This is what God taught and teaches people. And such commandments are found in all true Teachings!

“Such work on oneself-the-soul of transforming oneself into love — changes a lot in one’s fate. It allows one to get rid of the negative past and start living in the present, which builds a bright future.

“This is a small part of the rules by which people’s destinies are built.”

“Are you saying that I should forgive the people who accused me of murder and locked me up in prison? And, that am I supposed to forgive infidelity and treacherous betrayal?!

“My beloved was the mistress of my so-called friend. She pretended to love me so that I would marry her... And now they live in my house... And my servant, who saw them together, became a victim of their crime. But she accused me of killing him ‘out of jealousy’. But they killed him: I don’t know if he or

⁴ Matthew 5:43.

⁵ Corinthians 13:4-7.

she did it, by accident or on purpose... But they lied to me to get rid of me! And I should forgive?" — Pierre was seething with indignation.

Ram looked at Pierre long and kindly, until the tumultuous indignation subsided, and Pierre himself saw all his anger as if from a distance. He saw himself as if it were through the eyes of Ram, who had just explained to him so much about the laws of love...

Pierre sighed guiltily, and Ram went on calmly:

"Yes! You can forgive! And it will make you much freer!

"Each of your emotions adds and multiplies the darkness — or the light in yourself and in the space around you! Even by just thinking a slightly bad thought — you add a little bit of badness to your fate!

"If bad thoughts accumulate in your head, then your energy begins to radiate sadness, condemnation, and hatred...

"Or you can live differently — spending the strength of the soul on the message of love and peace! And then God can enter your life! For you begin to do what He does — *giving Love and Light!*

"Do you want to spend your strength and your life — on hard feelings and a desire for revenge? After all, every moment of life in the body on the Earth is very valuable and significant! It was given to you by God!

"If in you-the-soul there lives hatred, jealousy, or the desire to retaliate — then the cup of evil in your fate receives an addition, and the cup of good is emptied by the same amount!

"After all, it's inside you that such 'scales' exist! You are the owner of that power of the soul that can

create good and joy — or, on the contrary, sadness and pain!

“And there is an opportunity to learn to control your mind and your emotions!

“However, the process of changing yourself-the-soul — takes time...

“Even what is understood and realized does not instantly become a new quality of the soul. It is necessary to learn to be love and peace — and to displace everything else from yourself!

“This is the great magic of the transformation of the soul — to learn to change the state of anger, despair, and resentment in yourself — to the state of tenderness, affection, love, and peace!

“And God is always ready to help a person in this! This is how God enters our lives, and we can begin to recognize His Presence by directing our love — to Him! From Him, a Response necessarily comes! This is how the relationship between man and God is built!

“From this page of the *science of miracles*, we started today...

“Try it! Learn to be love and give light and tenderness from the spiritual heart!

“Unless something else comes up, I will visit you again tomorrow!”

Chapter Fifteen: **About Death and Life in Love**

Ram visited Pierre every day and directed Pierre’s efforts in the spiritual labor over himself.

And in the cell now, Ram was surrounded by attention and reverence from almost all of his cellmates. For them, their emotions were very unexpected and surprising. They listened to Ram and... believed him! And all of this was not just because he did not reveal to the guards who was guilty for Boer's wound, and not just because before their very eyes Boer, who was supposed to bleed out and die, not only survived, but was now outwardly quite healthy.

The very state of amazing benevolent peace emanating from Ram seemed to dissolve all negative thoughts and emotions in the space around him and now filled the whole prison cell. It was as if an invisible sunlight surrounded Ram and dispersed the darkness in the surrounding space.

On several occasions, after Ram passed through the wall into the neighboring cell to visit Pierre, those who were previously inveterate villains and criminals tried to discuss among themselves what was happening.

With all their desire, and no matter how hard they tried, they could not find any malicious intent or self-interest in Ram. They discussed among themselves all their doubts and suspicions, and their surprise at this man was without end.

And whenever Ram returned, the space again became filled with such a state of peace and kindness that negative thoughts could no longer be held in their minds. Emotions of aggression and anger could not survive in his field of love!

Only Boer was filled with hatred.

Most of the time, the prisoners who, "as fate would have it", turned out to be neighbors of Ram

were now devoted to conversations with him. And, through these conversations, they received answers to many of their questions.

And Ram's answers, which were expressed in very simple words, often dumbfounded his listeners and changed their understanding of how they could live.

The possibility of selfless help to each other and to other people at first seemed to them like an absurd and empty fantasy. On several occasions, they expressed their doubts to Ram, saying:

“How could it even be possible to give money — not on credit — but simply out of a desire to give, disinterestedly? Or, how could it be possible to help people find a decent and honest job, or to help find housing for those who may need it — without any benefit for oneself, even in the future?

“How to imagine such a life? Even just imagining it is hard! What if they cheat you? And what if in response to good, you receive evil?

“Is it really possible to help others, requiring only one thing in return; namely, that those who received such help willingly help others too when they themselves ‘get back on their feet’?”

And Ram told them that the reward for helping is namely the joy of giving!

All this seemed very unreal to them...

But Ram very confidently said that they will live in the reality that they themselves create. And that those who are not disappointed with their first difficulties and failures, will soon feel the Great Power, Which people call the Holy Spirit. He also said that the joy that a person feels in his or her spiritual heart, which at first may only be for brief moments,

will grow steadily! Only heart love makes life full of meaning, kindness, and happiness! And everyone has a choice on how they will live further. But, of course, all this is possible only when appropriate personal efforts are applied to this...

* * *

Only Boer himself was gloomy and did not participate in these conversations. Everything that Ram said caused rejection and anger in him. Everything connected with Ram seemed to destroy the very foundations of his own life, and he hated Ram *for everything*.

What was happening around Boer also caused irritation in him. And this irritation and rejection in him were only further increased by what his cellmates had told him about how Ram had healed him, and by how they said that Boer should be grateful to him. He was also angered by the facts that the giant, who had wounded Boer, even asked him for forgiveness, and that Ram himself was also trying to talk with Boer.

Unbearable malice strangled Boer! He recalled again and again all those who — either by lies or by violence — had forced him to be a “good boy” ever since childhood: he was completely hated by his father who would beat him with a belt, and he was hated by his drunk mother, and by the overseer of an orphanage, and by a priest who severely threatened him with all the terrible torments of hell... He hated them all. He hated those who had broken and mangled his whole life! And words about kindness and justice only increased the hatred in him.

Throughout his whole life, he always did everything contrary to the calls to love and the calls to be kind...

He poured out the anger that was accumulating in the soul — on all people...

He hated and despised all people without exception — both the strong, whom he dreamed of deceiving, and the weak, over whom he could triumph in episodes of his cruel violence.

He sought *freedom* for himself only, and he believed that such *freedom* could come from having so much “power” that he could exceed the strength of others and prevent others from committing violence upon him.

He wanted to suppress and command others, and inspire fear...

And his whole life was a struggle for this perverted “freedom”.

He moved from one situation of his own cruelty — to another even worse one, until the prison became an almost permanent habitat for him.

... One day, Boer was taken out of the cell and brought to the office of the head of the prison:

“So much time has passed, but you still have not fulfilled the order. Why? Do you no longer need freedom and money? Have you given up?”

“Some things happened... And now, I no longer have weapons...”

“You have no more than two days. Otherwise, that magician will be free, and you will rot in prison! Then no one will cancel your life sentence!”

... Boer received a new murder weapon and conveniently hid it in his clothes.

When he was brought back to the cell, he met Ram's long gaze. It seemed to Boer that this man... knew everything...

The knife seemingly burned his body through his clothes, as if it had been heated in a fire...

At night, Boer had a dream in which he killed Ram. That dream was very similar to reality. In it, he killed the fakir with the knife; however, the fakir did not die, but came back to life with an affectionate look and said that there is no death, and that freedom consists in not obeying the anger and hatred boiling inside... But Boer did not want to hear about it even in the dream!

But those eyes of the fakir... — they then looked deep into the soul... Love flowed from them... The fakir said: "There is another way out of suffering, there is another way to live!..."

But even in the dream, Boer could not allow himself to believe that the love, which the fakir emanates, really exists... The emotion of remorse, which could have washed and cleaned the soul, approached Boer *from the depths*; but this emotion was rejected by him with great effort... His state of inner guardedness against everything around — with the help of hatred — blocked the emotion of remorse!

Waking up, he still felt the gaze of those eyes and saw lips that said: "Do not!"...

Having not fully understood the dream, Boer woke up wondering what exactly does "Do not!" mean.

He saw Ram surrounded by all the inhabitants of the cell. He was again telling them something. And the others listened with attention to him...

Thoughts, like a hackneyed record, sounded in Boer's head: "He is alive, still alive... I just need to stick a knife into him and I will be free! And then he will stop torturing me!".

It seemed to Boer that he was choking with anger... He felt for the knife hidden under the mattress.

Boer, with the determination of a fanatic, saw Ram's back. And, with a staggering gait, he came close and thrust the knife...

It was so unexpected that no one had time to hinder what had happened. After all, everyone had been intently listening to Ram's speech.

Ram, turning to his killer and looking in his eyes, said:

"But there was a different way, a different choice!..."

... The prisoners wanted to tear Boer apart right then and there for the murder...

But Ram's almost lifeless body managed to utter the words:

"Do not take revenge!..."

* * *

Boer, of course, was not released as a reward for his atrocity... He was placed in solitary confinement. Life imprisonment — that was the result for him.

Boer was no longer afraid of anything, not even death... He realized that he had completely ruined his life: he mutilated and squandered it...

Ahead of him, there was only death and, after that, the unknown...

At times, he saw the face of Ram — as if in a dream. But it was actually in reality. The face of Ram, consisting of Light, spoke and answered his thoughts... He received mental answers that could never have crossed his mind...

* * *

Before that event, Ram's friends were busy doing everything for his release from prison.

The money and connections of the young Count Alex were set in motion. And everything very quickly began to bear real fruit...

The preparations for the release of Ram progressed very successfully. It seemed that only a little more remained before the charge would be dropped completely. The false witness agreed to withdraw his statement, and the case was soon to be closed without any fuss and without a trial.

It seemed that everything was settled...

And then... they received the news that Ram was killed by a cellmate in prison...

Katya was in despair! She did not cry, but there was a feeling that soon she might even lose consciousness.

Tom held on a little better.

He decided to go get Ram's body from the prison, telling his friends:

"Alex, Katya! We do not all need to be present for this. I will go alone and hire people. Wait for me

here! When I return, then we will decide how to proceed further...”

Alex wanted to support Katya... But... how could he console her?

Katya whispered:

“We were too late! Do you understand?! We did everything so slowly! We could not save him!... He saved my life, and, for Tom and me, he was...”

... Katya sobbed... Alex hugged her and stroked her hair...

“We did everything we could, Katya, dear! I love you, I will do everything to make you happy! I understand that right now my confession of love is not appropriate, but I will do everything I can!

“We can create our own circus. And you and Tom will recruit a troupe and perform...”

“Or, if you want, then we’ll leave to my country estate...”

“I am ready to do anything that you say, anything that you ask!”

“Wait, not now, Alex! You didn’t know Ram...”

“I probably love you too... A few days ago, I would have been happy with such words as those.

“Yes, I thought that one day we would create our own magic show. And this show wouldn’t be dependent on anyone! We would make all the decisions ourselves! But now... all this does not make sense — without Ram!...”

“You yourself explained to me about the immortality of souls, about Love, Which is Divine and All-Encompassing... You told me so much about what Ram taught you!...”

“Yes... I know all this, I understand everything. I understand that for Ram there is no death and that he

is with God and in God. And there — in the Unity of all the Perfect Ones — he is well! I understand all this!...

“I will surely cope with this!

“But I don’t know how now everything can become good here...”

* * *

Tom came back. The people, hired for this, brought in the body of Ram and laid it on the table in the middle of the room. They got their money and left.

... The face of Ram’s lifeless body was so calm and beautiful!...

Katya thought that the Light around his body was getting brighter and brighter... And that his eyelashes shook...

Ram opened his eyes and sat down.

He, smiling affectionately, said:

“Have I really taught you nothing? Why do you mourn *the clothes of the soul* if you know that this soul knows *the Great Unity*?”

Tom and Katya threw themselves into the arms of Ram.

Then, when everyone calmed down, Ram explained:

“My friends, you know that I can leave my material body! I told you how the bodies of the fakirs were buried in the ground for many hours, and then the owners of the bodies ‘rose from the dead’!

“Sorry to make you worry!

“I did not die and did not resurrect. I just stopped the vital processes in my body for a while — and people considered me dead.”

“Are you injured?” — Katya asked anxiously.

“Don’t worry, Katya! While I was ‘dead’, I repaired this body a little, and now it’s quite healthy,” — Ram answered with a smile.

Then he turned to Count Alex, who stood a little apart, watching with amazement what was happening.

Ram said:

“Alex, I want to thank you for everything that you have done for my release and for my friends! I hope that Katya and Tom have already managed to tell you a little about the fact that we were united not only by the circus...”

Katya blushed a little:

“I am ashamed, Ram, but I had very little time to tell Alex about the most important thing. But now you can continue to teach us all!”

“Yes, but you yourself need to learn to share your knowledge and understanding of the spiritual world.

“I will soon leave you for a while and give you some errands.

“We will meet again when you are done here.

“We will all leave here.”

“But what about the news of your death? What to do about it?”

“If they ask you about this, you can tell them that you dispersed the ashes into the wind. This is customary in India. Now I will change into clean clothes and then I will show and tell you something.

Let us all relax! We've had enough worries for one day!"

... Ram folded the old clothes, which he wore in prison, and placed them on a metal tray. And with a flash of Fire, they turned into ashes.

"This is the fate of all matter: it turns to dust.

"And the purpose of everything that happens in the Creation is the multiplication of love in immortal souls!

"All right! These ashes can be dispersed!"

... Then Ram spread out a big map and showed his friends a place in the mountains.

"I'll be waiting for you here. I will go there first, and the sooner the better. The 'late Ra-Mak-Mey' should no longer be seen by anyone! Therefore, I will simply move my body there without crossing any state borders. My body will simply disappear here and appear where I should be now.

"And you will follow me after a while in the most ordinary way. First, on a train. Then, on horseback. And after that, I will meet you.

"We will spend several months in the mountains. I still have a lot to teach you.

"In the cities, people live like ants in an anthill. People barely notice even each other and hardly perceive the world around. Their thoughts are only on food, their households, reproduction, and the accumulation of money... People are chasing many of the illusory values of the material world like wealth, fame, power, or a high position in society, believing that others will *pay attention* to the owners of all this, obey them, and glorify them!

"But by chasing all of this, it's as if they are trying to use their palms to scoop up a reflection in

the water. And if, in your palms, you try to take and hold a reflection in the water for a long time, it will flow out between your fingers along with the water...

“But there is another *manifestation of life*. This is the life of souls.

“Such a life is simple! And it can be filled with happiness!

“Where does this happiness come from?

“This is the ability of the soul to love, which can be realized at any time, at any moment. It is from these moments that a **GENUINE LIFE** can be woven!

“In this state of giving unselfish, unconditional love to other creatures, the passage to the world of Eternal Light and never-ending Joy opens.

In It, All are One in Love!

In It, one cannot lose Those Whom one Loves!

“This Light-Fire is the Creative Power of God!

“In India, It is called *Brahman*. You can draw a parallel with the Christian name: *the Holy Spirit*. But very little is explained about this radiant intangible Divine Power — even in the holy books of different religious movements. Nevertheless, all the spiritual ascetics who really perceived the Divine World knew about this Living Force and interacted with It.

“After all, God is the **ONE CONSISTING OF THE MULTITUDE OF PERFECT ONES!** This refers to the very many Souls That have achieved the Great Unity; They live in Mutual Mergence. They create and support everything that is needed in the Creation!

“At the place where we will go to in the mountains, it will be easier for me to show you a lot and tell you more about the Divine Power. The beauty of nature, silence, and solitude — make it much

easier to begin to perceive the world of the non-material Light.

“But before you set off on the journey after me, traveling in the most ordinary way, you should take care of some unfinished business that you have here and one request from me. Perhaps, two or three more fellow travelers will be added to our journey.

“There is now some work for that lawyer who agreed to defend me. The day after tomorrow, there will be a review in court of one case in connection with some newly discovered evidence and circumstances.

“I hope that my young friend, Pierre, will be released, and he may even want to travel with us.

“Katya will have time to teach Alex what she already knows. After all, he has to make a decision about whether he wants to go with us on this path, which is not only earthly, but also spiritual.

“In the mountains, I can continue to show you all that which is much easier to explain when away from the bustle of big cities and an endless series of earthly affairs.

“And then, we will all together create a new magic show in order to little by little reveal to people the science of miracles.

“I already have some ideas!”

[To be continued.]