

The Power of God's Love

Carl Ferré

Here are my responses to questions received from Steve Yochum via email.

First, thank you for your excellent questions and for your patience in waiting for my response. Before responding to the individual questions I wish to point out that macrobiotics is not a theology. Macrobiotics is a set of principles that can be used to answer questions regarding all areas of life, including theological ones. Thus, it is my hope that the responses given here will help clarify macrobiotic thinking as taught by Ohsawa.

QUESTION:

In Essential Ohsawa, George Ohsawa states that most Christian theologians are dualistic in their thinking though they may not know it because they teach that Satan is against God and that they endeavor to distinguish man from God. I know God from personal experience and from personal bible study. After 54 years of life I have concluded that God, the universal infinite creative conscious personal creator is to be distinguished from his creation just as the potter is to be distinguished from the pot. I believe Satan is against God



CARL FERRÉ

and that evidence abounds supporting this conclusion. What are your thoughts on these points?

When I was growing up, I attended Sunday school and bible classes every week in addition to yearly summertime retreats and camps. During these events my views were formed. To summarize, I was taught that there is a great on-going struggle in the heavens between good and evil. God is good but there is evil in the world

because of Satan. As humans we have a choice to follow God and the forces of good or Satan and the forces of evil. The very idea that we could go against God lead me to the conclusion that humankind must be separate from God.

One of Ohsawa's greatest teachings is the unifying principle by which everything that can be viewed as antagonistic is also seen as complementary. This, and other Ohsawa teachings started me thinking more deeply about these issues. Could Satan actually be necessary and connected to God as if two sides of the same coin? Could we actually be connected to God and not really separate at all? Do we really have free will? I was left to ponder these and many other questions. Over time I came to see that it is a matter from where one is looking.

In his teaching of the order of the universe, Ohsawa is very careful to distinguish the finite world from the Infinite world, the relative world from the absolute world, or, as the Apostle Paul describes it, the incomplete world from the complete world. Viewing things from the finite world we see day versus night,

(continued on page 30)

(continued from page 12)

hot versus cold, good versus evil, God versus Satan, and humans as separate from God. Ohsawa pointed out that day has no meaning without night, hot no meaning without cold, good no meaning without evil, God no meaning without Satan, and humans no meaning without God. Viewing things from the perspective of Oneness (the Infinite World), we begin to understand Satan is necessary for us to know God. From our finite eyes we conclude that Satan is against God, but from our intuitive understanding we conclude that there is nothing but God.

QUESTION:

Do you believe God used yin and yang to create all that is?

The simple answer is yes with one change – God first created yin and yang and then created all things. Note that any other names can be used for yin and yang such as heaven and earth, light and darkness, expansion and contraction and so on. If one reads the creation story in Genesis followed by a reading of Ohsawa's Order of the Universe, the similarities are striking. What is important to understand is that each of the worlds in Ohsawa's presentation relies completely on the next higher world. Without the plant world the animal world could not exist. Without the world of elements, the plant world, and thus the animal world, could not exist. And, of course, without God, nothing exists.

A more intriguing question might be: "Why did God create anything at all?" It appears to me that Ohsawa just describes what the order is without answering the question of intention. Many theologians believe that everything was created for humankind's benefit, or at least that is the way it turned out. But, perhaps we exist for God's benefit, for without us God has no eyes, ears, and so on since there

is no differentiation in the Infinite World. Either way, creation happens every moment of every day for without it, even for the slightest moment, the finite world would cease to exist.

QUESTION:

What do you think of the possibility that sin is a powerful yang force, which for example hardened pharaoh's heart, and that Jesus entered the world when He did because the yang power of sin was strangling the soul of humanity and only the infinite yin power Jesus represented could change the condition of humanity and so it will be once again as the world is hardened (yangized) so to speak, as in the days of Noah. The return of Jesus will be the yin balance required to avoid the death-like calcification of humanity. A preview or foreshadowing occurred in the Old Testament when lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt (yang).

This is a very interesting idea although I have never thought of sin as a powerful yang force. If sin were defined as separation from God, then it would follow that sin, as the most extreme separation, would be yin. Of course, extreme yin would produce a most powerful yang force. Internally it may be that humanity is becoming more hardened (calcified) but the outward signs are more of loss of focus or scattering energy. Either way there is no need to worry because the Infinite power Jesus represents is neither yin nor yang, but rather beyond them both. This power is God's Love for which we should all be eternally grateful every moment of our lives.

QUESTION:

Do you think the order of the universe is another way of describing God's law and that faith in yin and yang actually translates into faith in God? A corollary question would be, if we as Christians really had the

faith of Abraham, Noah, Moses etc. wouldn't we trust in the healing power of yin and yang instead of drugs, machines, and other manmade symptomatic cures?

Answering the corollary question first, if we really had the faith of Abraham, Noah, and Moses we would trust in the healing power of God's Love. If our faith is weak, or to amuse ourselves, we can use the healing power of polarity (yin and yang), vibration (magnetism), energy (light), elements (hydro-therapy), herbs and plants (the more natural the better), and finally man-made drugs, machines, and similar "symptomatic cures." Note that these approaches follow the seven worlds of the order of the universe.

While the principles of yin and yang, coming from the very origin of the relative world, can be used with any "cure," most people choose to put their faith in the medicine that corresponds to their style of eating and to their manner of thinking. Those who eat a typical meat-and-sugar diet choose man-made drugs, machines, and the like. Vegetarians are more likely to choose natural herbs and vegetables, and so on. There is no judgment here, just understanding. Any method can be used as needed. What is important is that people learn to elevate their understanding so that they acquire faith in their own intuition. Each person intrinsically knows what is best for them and will seek that remedy.

To answer your other question, I see the Order of the Universe as a description of our origin and Ohsawa's stages of judgment as a road map to our destination. Knowing where we came from and where we are going are very important concepts. Equally important however is to know where we are. Since the finite world is part of the Infinite World, it follows that we are in God's Kingdom already. Even a limited understanding of this fact leads to the greatest joy.