The dimension of the divine opens forth from the human face...It is here that the Transcendent, infinitely other, solicits us and appeals to us. The proximity of the Other, the proximity of the neighbor, is in being an ineluctable moment of the revelation of an absolute presence... His very epiphany consists in soliciting us by his destitution in the face of the Stranger, the widow, and the orphan...God rises to his supreme and ultimate presence as correlative to the justice rendered unto men. The direct comprehension of God is impossible for a look directed upon him, not because our intelligence is limited, but because the relation with infinity respects the total Transcendence of the other...A God invisible means not only a God unimaginable, but a God accessible in justice. Ethics is the spiritual optics...The work of justice—the uprightness of the face to face—is necessary in order that the breach that leads to God be produced—and "vision" here coincides with this work of justice. Hence metaphysics is enacted where the social relation is enacted—in our relations with men. There can be no "knowledge" of God separated from the relationship with men. The Other is the very locus of metaphysical truth, and is indispensable for my relation with God...The Other is not the incarnation of God, but precisely by his face, in which he is disincarnate, is the manifestation of the height in which God is revealed.

> —Emmanuel Levinas, Totality and Infinity, pp. 78-79 (translated from the French by A. Lingis)

Extended, the lines of relationships intersect in the eternal You. Every single You is a glimpse of that. Through every single You the basic word addresses the eternal You... In every sphere, in every relational act, through everything that becomes present to us, we gaze toward the train of the eternal You; in each we perceive a breath of it; in every You we address the eternal You, in every sphere according to its manner. All spheres are included in it, while it is included in none. Through all of them shines the one presence.

—Martin Buber, I And Thou, pp. 123, 150 (translated from the German by W. Kaufmann)

Love of God, Love of Fellow: Encountering God in the Face of the Other

You shall love the Lord your God (Deut. 6:5). And it is [also] written, You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18). Behold these two loves are joined and united through the oneness of God be He blessed, for thus do we conclude [the blessings for the Shema] with the words "He who chooses His people Israel with love" and "He who loves His people Israel," and utter the verse of unity. And after this [an exclamation of] the love of God, You shall love the Lord your God. The Ten Commandments also conclude [with the words] that which belongs to your neighbor (Ex. 20:14).

ספר השל"ה הקדוש - שער האותיות - אות בי"ת - בריות

(דברים ו, ה) 'וְאָהַבָּתָּ אֵת ה' אֱלֹהֶידְּ', וּכְתִיב (ויקרא יט, יח)
'וֹאָהַרְתָּ לְרַעְּדְ כְּמוֹדְּ'. הָנֵה מְחֲבָּרוֹת אֵלוּ שְׁמִּי אֲבְבוֹת,
(ומתייחדים) [וּמְתִיחָדוֹת] עַל יְדֵי אַחְדוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרַדְ, כִּי כֵּן אָנוּ
מְסַיְּמִין 'הַבּוֹחַר בְּעַמוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהַבָּה', וְ'אוֹהֵב עַמּוֹ
יִשְׂרָאֵל' (ברכות ק"ש), וְאוֹמְרִים פָּסוּק הַיּחוּד, וְאָחֵר כָּדְּ אַהְבַּת הַשִּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְ, 'וְאָהַרְתָּ אֵת ה' אֱלֹהֶידְ', גַּם עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבְּרוֹת מְסִיְמִין 'אֲשֶׁר לְרֵעָדְ' (שמות כ, יד; דברים ה, יח).

...[A person] will be complete in all of his [ethical-religious] qualities when he loves his friend as himself...And if he loves his friend as himself, all the more so will he love the Holy Blessed One who acts with freely given love [love with no thought of return] toward him; the truest love...For You shall love your neighbor as yourself is the leg upon which the world stands; indeed, You shall love your neighbor as yourself is that which causes You shall love the Lord your God.

<u>ספר השל"ה הקדוש - שער האותיות - אות בי"ת - בריות</u> תִּמְצָא רָבָּא דְמִצִוֹת הָם תִּלוּיִים בְּאָהֶבַת חַבֵּרוֹ כַּמוֹהוּ, כַּל מצות צָרָקָה, וַלַקָט שָׁכְתָה וְפַאָה, תִּרוּמוֹת וּמֵעֲשִׂרוֹת, וּמַשֶּא וּמַתַן בָּאֱמוּנָה, וָאָסוּר רָבִּית, וְהַרְבֵּה כֵּיוֹצֵא בָּהֶם, אַחַר כַּךְּ כִּמְעַט כַּל הַּמָּדּוֹת, הָרַחֲמִים וְהַחֲנִינָה וְאֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם וְרֵב חֶסֶד, וּלְדוּגוֹ לְכַף ּוָכוּת, וְשֶׁלֹא לַעֲמֹד עֵל דַם רֵעֲך, וְהַרְחָקֵת רְכִילוּת וְלָשׁוּן הַרַע, וְהוֹצָאַת דְּבָּה, וְלַצָנוּת, וְקִנְאָה, וְשִׂנְאָה, וּנְטִירָה, וְעִנְיֵן כֵּעֵס וָרָצוֹן, וּרְדִיפַת הַכָּבוֹד, וּמִדוֹת אַלְפֵי אַלָפִים כַּיוֹצֵא בָּהָן, שֵׁיִקַיֵּם רֹב מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה וְלֹא יֵעֲבֹר עֵל רֹב לֹא הַעֲשֶׂה, וְיִּהְיֶה שָׁלֵם בְּכֶל הַמִּדוֹת כְּשָׁיֹאהַב לַחֲבֶרוֹ כָּמוֹהוּ. וְאַף מֵה שׁלֹּא שַׁיֶּךְ בֵּין אֶדָם לַחַבֵרוֹ, כְּמוֹ מַאֲכָלִים אֲסוּרִים, וְחָמֵץ בְּפֶסַח, וְכַיוֹצֵא בָּהָם, יָקַיָּמֵם בְּקֵל וָחֹמֶר, אָם יָאֱהֹב לַחֲבֶרוֹ כְּעַצְמוֹ, קֵל וַחֹמֵר יֹאהַב יְאַהַב לָהַקּדוֹשׁ בַּרוּךְ הוּא הַעוֹשֵׂה חָסֵר חַנָּם עַמוֹ, חַסֵּר שַׁל אַמַת, וְהוּא אַדוֹן הָעוֹלֶם, וּבְיָדוֹ הַכֹּל יִתְבֶּרֵךְ שְׁמוֹ, הַרֵי 'וְאַהַבְּמָּ לְרַעַדְּ בָּמוֹף' הוּא הָרֶגָּל שָׁהָעוֹלָם עוֹמֵד עָלָיו, הָרֵי 'וְאַהֵבְתָּ לְרַעַף בָּמוֹדְ' הוא הַגוֹרֶם'וְאַהֶבְתַּ אֵת ה׳ אַלֹּהֵידְּ'.

One who is bonded [or 'cleaved'] to [the attribute of] peace, and fulfills You shall love your neighbor as yourself, he is then called by the name of God. As it is written in the Sifrei, "in the time to come, the righteous will be called by the name of God. For You shall love the Lord your God is intended [or 'directed'] toward You shall love your neighbor as yourself. [A person] who fulfills one, fulfills the other, and when the love and cleaving of God is upon him, then he is called by His [God's] name. For the name of the Holy Blessed One is "Peace."

ספר השל"ה הקדוש - שער האותיות - אות בי"ת - בריות

וְהַדָּבֵק בַּשׁלוֹם, וְמְקַנֵּם 'וְאָהַכְתָּ לְרֵעֵךּ בָּמוֹדְּ' (ויקרא יט, יח), אָז יִהְיֶה נִקְרָא בְּשֶׁם ה', כִּדְאִיתָא בְּסִפְרִי (עקב מ"ט) שֶׁלֶּעָתִיד יִהְיוּ נִקְרָאִים הַצַּדִּיקִים בְּשֵׁם ה', כִּי 'וְאָהַבְתָּ אֵת ה' אֱלֹהָידְּ' (דברים ו, ה), מְכֵנָן ל'וְאָהַבְתָּ לְרַעֲךּ בָּמוֹדְ', הַמְּקַיֵּם זָה מְקַיֵּם זָה, יִּכְשָׁאַקְבַת וּדְבַקוּת הַשֵּׁם עָלִיוּ, אָז נִקְרָא בִּשְׁמוֹ, כִּי שְׁמוֹ שֶׁל הַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוֹדְּ הוֹּא 'שֵׁלוֹם'. www.jtsa.edu/eitan-fishbane

Love of God, Love of Fellow: Encountering God in the Face of the Other

For love of neighbor is integrated with the love of the Holy Blessed One; the magnitude of the obligation to love the neighbor is for the sake [or 'honor'] of the love of the Holy Blessed One. That is, [a person] should recall that he is made in the supernal image and likeness, and the portion of the soul that dwells within him is a divine portion

from above. Thus are we called "Assembly of Israel," for we are all assembled and united together in the secret of his blessed unity.

ספר השל"ה הקדוש - שער האותיות - אות בי"ת - בריות

כִּי אַהְבַת רַעֲּך מִשְׁתַּלֵב עִם אַהָבת הַקּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּך הוא, כִּי גֹּדֶל חִיּוּב אַהְבַת הָרֵעַ הוּא לִכְבוֹד אַהְבַת הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּך הוּא, דְּהִיְנוּ שָׁיזְכֹּר שָׁהוּא עֲשׂוִי בְּצֶלֶם וּבִדְמוֹת עָּלְיוֹן, וְחֵלֶק הַנְּשָׁמָה שָׁבּוֹ הִיא חַלֶּק אֱלוֹהַ מִּמֵּעַל, וְעַל כֵּן נִקְרָאִים אֲנַחָנוּ 'כְּנֶּסֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל', כִּי כַּלְנוּ מְכָנָסִים וִמִּתְיַחָדִים בְּסוֹד אַחְדוּתוֹ יִתְכָּרַךְּ.

According to the sage, Rabbi Avraham Yagel: These two loves are the two pillars of the Torah, and so it is fitting that they resemble one another. And just as love of God is Ito be performed with all of one's heart, soul, and might...so too in love of [one's fellow] creatures... With all of your heartthat is to say that one should not hate any person in one's heart. As it is written (Lev. 19:17), Do not hate your brother in your heart. Hatred in the heart mainly comes from jealousy... With all of your soulthat is, even though your friend is not your equal in [ethical-spiritual] attributes, you nevertheless are obligated to tolerate him and [even] love him for the sake of God who made him this way... With all of your might—[overcome] the hatred that befalls those of the same tradecraft... A given artisan should think [instead] that all derives from God, all wealth and honor...

ספר השל"ה ההדוש - שער האותיות - אות בי"ת - בדיות והַתָּכֶם הר"ר אַבָּרָהָם יָגֵל (לקח טוב דף ז.): וְלְהִיוֹת שֶׁשֹׁהֵי הָאָהָבוֹת הָאֵלוּ הֶם שָׁנֵי עַמּוּדֵי הַחּוֹרָה, רָאוּי שֶׁיהִיוּ דּוֹמִים זֶה לָוַה. וּכְמוֹ שֵׁאַהַבֶּת הַמַּקוֹם הִיא בְּכָל לֶב וַנֶפַשׁ וּמְאֹד, רְצוֹנִי לוֹמַר, כִּי לְקַיֵּם מִצְוֹת ה'...צֶרִיךְ לְהָתַלַהֵב בַּנֶּפֶשׁ מִשׁלְהַבֶּת הָאַלֹהִים וָהָיִראָה הַפּנִימִית, עַד שָׁאַפָּלוּ אַדָם נוֹטֶל נִשְׁמָתוֹ לֹא יַעבר מִפּקוֹדֵי ה' וּמְצִוֹתַיו...בּן בְּאַהַבֶּת הַבְּרִיּוֹת יִהִיוּ שַׁלשׁ אָלֶה. כִּיצֵד, 'בָּבָל לְבַבְדְּ', הַיְנוּ שָׁלֹא לְשָׁנֹא שׁוּם אַדֶם בַּלֶב, כְּמוֹ ָשׁנָּאַמֶּר (ויקרא יט, יז) 'לֹא תִשְׂנָא אֶת אַחִיךּ בִּלְבֶבֶדְּ', וְהַשִּנְאַה שׁנָּאַה בַּלֹבֶבֶרָ שַׁבַּלֶב רָבָּה בָּאָה מָחַמֶת הַקּנָאָה, וּגְדוֹלָה הַשִּׁנָאַה הָבָּאָה מֶחַמֵּת הַקּנָאַה... יִבְּכָּל גַפְּשָׁדְּ', הַיִּנוּ אַף עַל פִּי שֶׁחַכֶּרָדְ אֵינוֹ שָׁוֶה בִּמְדוֹת ּבְּנַפִשָּׁךְ, חַיַּב אָחָה לְסִבּל אוֹתוֹ וְלֶאֲהֹב אוֹתוֹ, בַּעֲבוּר ה' שֶׁכֶּכָה בָּרָאוֹ... המין השלישי מֶהָשְנְאַה, הִיא הַבָּאָה מֶחַמַת דְּרַרָא ַדְמָמוֹנָא, וָזֶהוּ שָׁנָאֲמֵר (שם) '**בְּכָל מְאֹדֶדְ',** וּבְזוֹ הַשִּנְאָה, גַּם כֵּן אוֹתָה הַנּוֹפֶלֶת בֵּין בַּעֲלֵי הָאָפֶנַיּוֹת, שָׁכֶּל אֲפֶן שוֹנַא בְּנֵי אַמְנוּתוֹ (בראשית רבה פל"ב ס"ב), ועל דֶּרֶךְ הַדָּבֶר הַזֶּה גַּם כֵּן מֻזְהָרִים אָנוּ. וּכְשֶׁיַחִשֹׁב הַבַּעַל אָמָנוּת שֶׁהַכּּל מֵאֶת ה', הָעשֶׁר וְהַכָּבוֹד, וְאֵין אַדָם נוֹגֵעַ בָּמַה שׁמּוּכֶן לַחֲבֶרוֹ (יומא לח ב), לא יִשְׂנָא ַלְבַעַל אָמַנוּתוֹ, אַדְרַבָּה יֹאהַב אותוֹ מִפְּנֵי הַדְּמוֹתוֹ אֶלְיוֹ.

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Love of God, Love of Fellow: Encountering God in the Face of the Other

There should be a great peace between a man and his wife, for the [divine] name Υ "H dwells among them. As our Rabbis of blessed memory said (BT Sotah, 17a): "...a man and a woman attained [an indwelling of the Divine Presence among them, and did not [instead] attain a fire that would devour them." If they engage in conflict, heaven forbid, then they erase the [divine] name, and all that remains is fire. Behold, the greatness of the commandment to bring about peace between a man and his friend is well known. All the more so [should it be] between a man and his wife. And if it is said that [there should be peace] between a man and his friend's wife, how much the more so with his own wife! He and she should see to it that there is peace between themthen they will be happy in this world, and it will be good for them in the world to come.

<u>ספר השל"ה הקדוש - שער האותיות - אות דל"ת - דרך ארץ (ליש)</u>

וְיִהְנֶה שָׁלוֹם נָּדוֹל בֵּין אִישׁ לְאִשְׁתּוֹ, כִּי שֵׁם יָ"הּ שׁוֹרֶה בֵּינֵיהֶם, כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָמִרוּ רַבּוֹתִינוּ זִ"ל (סוטה יז א) שֶׁאִישׁ וְאִשׁה שֶׁזָכוּ כוּ [״אִישׁ ואשה זכו שכינה ביניהן לא זכו אש אוכלתן״]. וְאָם עוֹשִׁים מַחֶלֹקֶת חָס וְשָׁלוֹם, אָז מוֹחֶקִים הָשֹׁם וְנְשְׁאָר אֵשׁ וְאֵשׁ בַּר מִנֶּן. וְהָנֵה גוֹדְע גֹדֶל הַמִּצְוָה שֶׁל הָבָאֵת שָׁלוֹם בֵּין אָדָם לַחֲבֵרוֹ, וִמְכֶּל שֶׁכֵּן בִּין אִישׁ לְאִשְׁתּוֹ, וְאָם אָמְרוּ בְּאֵשֶׁת חֲבֵרוֹ בֵּן, לַחְבֵרוֹ בִּן, וְאִדֹּם בְּיוֹלְהָה הָוֹא וְהִיא שֶׁיהְיֶה שָׁלוֹם בֵּינֵיהֶם, וְאָז לֵּעֹרְיָהם בְּעוֹלָם הַנִּיהָם, וְאָז אַשְׁרִיהָם בְּעוֹלָם הַנְּא.

ספר השל"ה - ספר במדבר דברים - פרשת עקב תורה אור (א)

והגרים הם אהובים ליוצר כל יתברך, שכן השוה אהבתם לאהבתו, דכתיב ואהבת את ה' אלהיך וכתיב ואהבתם את הגר. וזהו סוד רבי עקיבא שהיה בן גרים, נכנס בחלק האהבה של הש"י בקדושתו, ובכן עלה למחשבה.

ספר ראשית חכמה - שער הענוה - פרק חמישי

טעם אהבת החברים על דרך הכתוב הוא כי טעם אחר שהוא אמת ומוסכם בפי הכל היות כל הגשמות אצולות ממקום גבוה, צריך שיאהב כל נשמות חבריו במה שהם חלק אלוה ממעל במציאות שהוא אוהב את נשמתו, וכמו שהאלהות העליון מתייחד תכלית הייחוד וכן הנשמות למעלה אין בהם קנאה ותחרות ושנאה חס ושלום, כי המדות האלו הם מדות חיצוניות מהקליפה החיצונה אבל בקדושה הכל הוא באהבה וכמו שהארכנו בשער האהבה בפרק ראשון ובפרק ששי עיין שם. ואף על פי שאמרו רבותינו ז"ל שבגן עדן תחתון כל אחד נכוה מחופתו, אין זה מפני שנאה, אלא מתבושש הוא בחשבו שהיה ראוי שישיג הוא למדריגה ההיא שיאיר בו האור העליון יותר ממה שיש לו שכל חשק הצדיקים בגן עדן הוא זה, נמצא שהיא קנאה המביאה לידי אהבת השם ואוהב את חבירו שזכה למעלה ההיא על ידי מעשיו. והנה מצד ב' דברים צריך לאהוב את חבירו, הא' מצד הנשמה, הב' מצד הגוף. ועל ב' בחינות אלו אפשר שאמר הגביא (מלאכי ב, ו) הלא אב אחד לכלנו אל אחד בראנו, מדוע נבגוד איש באחיו, ופרש רש"י ז"ל, הלא אב אחד לכלנו הוא יעקב אבינו ע"ה. ובודאי בחינה זאת הוא בחינה מצד הגוף שיעקב אבינו ע"ה היתה מטתו שלמה בלי שום ערבוב קליפה, וזכה להוליד י"ב שבטים שהוציאו ע' נפש והכל בקדושה שלא יצא שום אחד מהם לחוץ, ולכן אז נבדלו ישראל משאר האומות, אמגם יעקב חבל נחלתו כדפי' בשער הקדושה פרק א. ולכן אסור לגו להתערב ולהתחתן עם שאר ע' לשון. וכן פירש בזוהר והעתקנו לשונו בשער הקדושה פרק ד שאמר זכאין אינון צדיקיא וכו' גופא דילהון קדישא נפשא דילהון קדישא. אל אחד בראנו, בראנו הוא מצד הנשמה כי הבורא יתברך מצד רוחניותו בורא הנשמות שהם רוחניות כמותו כמו שפי' ז"ל ג' שותפין באדם וכו' והנשמה משתוה להקדוש ברוך הוא בה' דברים כמו שפי' בפרק קמא דברכות בענין ה' פעמים שנאמר ברכי נפשי את ה'.

Love of God, Love of Fellow: Encountering God in the Face of the Other

Page 5 of 5

ספר ראשית חכמה - שער האהבה - פרק ראשון

עוד נתבאר ענין האהבה (זהר כי תשא דף קץ עוד ע"ב) זה לשונו, אוריתא רחימו ואחוה וקשוט אית בה, אברהם רחים ליצחק יצחק לאברהם מתחבקן דא בדא. יעקב, תרוויהו אחידן ביה ברחימו ובאחוה יהבין ליה רוחיהו דא בדא. למדנו הרשב"י עליו השלום סוד מהות האהבה, והענין במה שאמר למעלה מזה בענין אהבת החברים, כל חבריא ביומור דרבי שמעון רחימו דופשא ורוחא הוה ביניהו. ועניך זה מבאר כי אחבת האדם לחברו הוא על ידי הנפש, כי רצון הנפש היא האהבה, ואף על פי שהגופים נחלקים ונפרדים זה מזה, הנפש של זה וזה היא רוחנית, והרוחניות אינו נפרד אלא מיחד תכלית האחדות, ובהיות הנפש של חבר אחד מעורר רצונה לאהב את חברו, גם חברו יתעורר נפשו ויאהב אותו ויהיד שני הגפשות אחת, כמו שאמר הפסוק בענין דוד ויהונתן (שמואל א יח א) ונפש יהונתן נקשרה בנפש דוד ויאהבהו יהונתן כנפשו, ואהבת דוד ליהונתן הורה אהבתו לו, כאמרו (שם-א כ מא) וישקו איש את רעהו ויבכו וגו' עד דוד הגדיל, וכן אמר בפטירתו (שם ב א כו), נפלאתה אהבתך לי מאהבת נשים: ומציאות זה שיתקשרו הנפשות זו בזו ומציאות בהתעוררות האהבה למדנו שלמה המלך עליו השלום באמרו (משלי כז יט) כמים הפנים לפנים כן לב האדם לאדם, ופרשו רבותינו זכרונם לברכה (ילקוט תתקסא) אמר רבי חנינא וכי יש פנים למים, אלא מה המים הללו אתה נותן אותם בכלי ומסתכל בהם והם נראין לך, כך לב האדם לאדם, עד כאן לשונו. והוא מבאר במה שפרשו שם, כי כמו שהמים שבכלי בהסתכל האדם בהם פניו יראה בהם פניו, והם שני מיני פנים, האחד הפנים שהוא מסתכל בהם שהם אור ישר, והפנים שבמים שהוא רואה אור חוזר מלמטה למעלה מהמים שבכלי אליו, ושני הפנים הם אחד מתקשרים כאחת, ואם האדם יעלים ראותו מהמים לא יתראה במים שום דבר, שאם אין אור ישר אין אור חוזר. כן לב האדם לאדם שבעורר האדם רצון לבו לאהב את חברו, הרצון ההוא יעורר רצון לב חברו אליו. ועם היות שאמרנו שהפנים שאדם מסתכל במים הם אור ישר, זהו לפי המציאות הגשמי, אבל במציאות הרוחני זהו סוד התעוררות תחתון העולה ממעשינו אל השכינה, והוא ענין מין נוקבין הנאמר בזהר, ואם אין התעוררות תחתון אין התעוררות עליון, שנאמר (בראשית ב ו) ואד יעלה מן הארץ, ואחר כך והשקה, כדפרשו בזהר בפרשת בראשית: ולהבין דברי המשל על הנמשל בכל ולהבין פרטיהם הוא כי כמו שבהסתכל אדם במים כדי שיתראו שם פניו צריך שני דברים, מים וכלי, ואם יחסר אחד מאלו לא יתראו פנים כלל, כן צריך נפש ולב, וכבר פרשו בתקונים בכמה מקומות שהגפש משכנה בלב, הלב הוא הכלי והגפש היא המים שבכלי, שלב בלא גפש הוא ככלי בלי מים, וכשם שההסתכלות במים אם אין כלי לא יתראה דבר, כי הכלי מפני שהוא עב הוא הגורם שתחזר הצורה ההיא לאחור, כי המים הם פשוטים ומפני פשיטותם הצורה המתראה בהם עוברת חוצה להם אם אין דבר שיעכב הצורה, והוא כדמיון המראה הלטושה, שאם אין אחריה רקיע עבה שיעכב הצורה, תצא הצורה לחוץ ולא יראה האדם דבר, כן לא יקנה האדם אהבה בנפש אדם שלא ראה צורת האדם ההוא, כדי שבהתעורר אהבתו לו תתעורר אהבת חברו אליו, והסתכלות הפנים במים הוא התעוררות האהבה המתעורר מרצון נפש שבלבו אל נפש שבלב חברו, ואז שתי הנפשות יתקשרו קשר אחד באהבה. אף על פי שיהיו רחוקים זה מזה, כי המים שהם הנפשות הם דקות ורוחניות כלם חלק אלוה ממעל, אין ביניהם פרוד, אף על פי שהם בכלים נפרדים, והוא כדמיון עצמות פנימיות האלהות שהוא בתוך כלי הספיר שהפנימיות כלו אחד מתיחד, אף על פי שהכלים משתנים. וכבר ידעת שהמשיל ברעיא מהימנא (סוף בא מב ב) הפנימיות למים המתפשטים בתוך הכלים, שאם ישברו הכלים יחזרו המים אל מקורם ויהיו כלם מקור אחד, כמו שהיו קדם ההתפשטות. ובחינת אור ישר ואור חוזר שהם הפנים לפנים איני מבארו כי אני סומך על מה שנתבאר ממורי עליו השלום. והגה בהקדמה זו נבין מה שאמר המאמר ברחימו ובאחוה יהבין ליה רוחיהו דא בדא, כי התקשרות המדות באהבה זו בזו הוא על ידי רוחם הפנימי, כי מצד הכלים הם כלים נפרדים לפעלתם זו חסד וזו דין וזו רחמים, אבל על ידי הרוח שהוא אחד כדכתיב ורוח אחד להם מתקשרין ויהבין ליה רוחיהו:

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AELRED OF RIEVAULX SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP

Aelred of Rievaulx (1110-67) was born in the northern border country of England. Writing of his youth, Aelred reveals much about his character: "When I was just a boy at school and the charm of my companions was a great delight, amidst the habits and vices that usually threaten that age, I gave my whole mind to affection and vowed myself to love, so that nothing seemed more pleasant to me, more delightful, more useful, than to love and be loved." He entered the Cistercian house of Rievaulx in 1134. In 1142 he met Bernard of Clairvaux, a meeting that had a profound effect on him personally and intellectually. In 1147 Aelred became

abbot of Rievaulx, where he died twenty years later.

With Bernard's sponsorship, Aelred wrote a mystical treatise titled The Mirror of Charity, but he is best known for his analysis of the form of charity that he felt was both the model for the most direct experience of God and the way to attain the goal—the love he called spiritual friendship (spiritualis amicitia). In his work of that title, written in dialogue form, Aelred took many ideas from the classical ideal of friendship set forth in Cicero's treatise on the subject, but he transformed these notions on the basis of his understanding of God as offering us the highest of friendships and his insistence that all true friendship is a gift from above given through Christ. The English Cistercian's conviction that deep spiritual friendship is not in any way a hindrance, but rather a sure way to experience Christ, is a reminder of how important the role of friendship has been in the mystical path. Aelred's friendships were between male monks; other examples of spiritual friendship have been between men and women, as we find in the case

136 · Essential Writings of

of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross. In these relationships the male was often both confessor and guide, on the one hand, and also pupil and admirer of the female mystic, on the other.

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I.

BOOK I. THE ORIGIN OF FRIENDSHIP, SECTIONS 1-10, 69-70

AELRED. Here we are, you and I, and I hope that Christ may be the third between us. Now there is nothing to disturb us; there is no one who interrupts our friendly discussion; nobody's voice or shout creeps into this thankful solitude. Now then, my beloved, open your heart and pour forth whatever you want into these friendly ears. Let us be thankful for this place, time, and leisure. . . .

IVO. That is how it is, and I am very thankful, knowing that you care about your son whose mind and intention have been revealed to you by the Spirit of Charity himself. I hope that your esteem would grant me this at least, that as often as you visit your sons who are in this place, you will at least once let me have your full attention when the others have gone away so that I can pour out my burning heart without any worry.

AELRED. Of course, and freely! I am very delighted to see that you are not ready for vain and useless matters, but always ready to talk about something useful and even necessary for your progress. Speak with confidence and share all your concerns and thoughts with your friend so that you may both learn and teach something, both give and receive, both pour out and draw in.

IVO. I'm ready to learn, not to teach; to accept, not to give; to draw in, not to pour out. This is how my youth orders, my inexperience compels, and my monastic profession commands. But so that I don't foolishly waste the time needed for other things on these matters, I want you to teach me something about spiritual friendship, namely, what it is; what usefulness it brings; what its beginning and end are; whether it can exist among all people (and if not, among whom); how it may be preserved unharmed and brought to a holy conclusion without any harmful dissension.

AELRED. I confess that you have won me over, but since I do not

know myself and don't want to lie about my abilities, on these matters I will not teach you, but rather talk with you about them. You yourself I will not teach you, but rather talk with you about them. You yourself have opened up the way for both of us, and enkindled that most splendid light at the very threshold of our search, a light that will not allow us to wander away on bypaths, but that will lead us on the right path to the sure goal of the question under review. What can be said about friendship that is higher, or truer, or more useful, than that it ought and is proven to begin in Christ, advance according to Christ, and be brought to perfection by Christ?...

[There follows a discussion on the relation of charity and friendship and the three kinds of friendship: carnal, based on harmony in vice; worldly, based on hope of gain; and spiritual, based on similarity

of life, morals, and pursuits among just persons.]

IVO. What is this? Are we to say of friendship what John, the friend

of Jesus, said about charity (1 Jn 4:16), "God is friendship"?

AELRED. It is unusual for sure and has no scriptural authority, but what follows concerning charity [in John's epistle] I do not hesitate to apply to friendship, that is, "he who abides" in friendship, "abides in God and God in him" (1 Jn 4:16)....

II.

BOOK II. THE FRUIT AND EXCELLENCE OF FRIENDSHIP, SECTIONS 18-21

AELRED... Pay heed to a few things about how friendship is a step toward the love and knowledge of God. There is nothing dishonorable in friendship, "nothing feigned, nothing of pretense, and whatever it is, is holy, and voluntary, and true" (Cicero, On Friendship 26). This all belongs also to charity. Friendship shines forth beyond other things with the special prerogative that those who are joined together with the glue of friendship feel that everything is delightful, everything is safe, everything is charming, everything is sweet. Therefore, on the basis of the perfection of charity we love many people who are a burden and pain to us. We are concerned about them in an honest, not a feigned or pretended way, but truly and voluntarily. But we do not admit them to the secrets of our friendship. So in friendship honesty and sweetness are joined, truth and delight, charm and will, attraction and action. All

these things are begun by Christ, are advanced through Christ, and are brought to perfection in Christ. Therefore, it does not seem to be too steep or unnatural an ascent from the Christ who inspires us to love our friend to the Christ who offers himself as a friend to be loved, so that sweetness will follow upon sweetness, and charm upon charm, and attraction upon attraction. And so the friend who cleaves to his friend in the spirit of Christ is made one heart and one soul with him (Acts 4:32). Ascending to the friendship of Christ through the stages of love, he is made one spirit with him (1 Cor 6:17) in a single kiss. The holy soul sighs for that kiss, saying, "Let him kiss me with the kiss of his mouth" (Song 1:1).

III.

BOOK III. HOW AND WITH WHOM FRIENDSHIP MAY BE PRESERVED UNBROKEN, SECTIONS 128-33

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AELRED. So that we can finally close our discussion as the sun is setting, I take it you do not doubt that friendship comes from love. How can a person love another person who does not love himself, since he ought to order the love he has for his neighbor from a likeness of the love by which he is dear to himself? But someone who demands from himself or requests for himself something shameful and dishonorable does not love himself. The first thing therefore is that each person chastise himself, not allowing himself anything that is indecent, and not taking away from himself anything useful. Loving himself in this way, let him also love his neighbor according to the same rule. But because this love gathers many together, let him choose from them those he may admit to the secrets of friendship by an intimate bond, in whom he may pour out his affection with abundance, baring his breast even as far as his vitals and marrow, that is, the inner thoughts and intentions of the heart. He ought to choose him not according to frivolous attraction, but according to reasonable observance, and according to similarity of manners and contemplation of the virtues. After that, let him depend on his friend in such a way that all foolish levity is banished and delight is present; and let the duties and services of goodwill and love not be lacking. And then let his faithfulness, honesty,

and patience be tested. Little by little then add the sharing of advice, the dedication to common pursuits, and even a certain similarity in expression...

Prayer for one another is added to this, which, in memory of a friend, is more efficacious the more lovingly it is sent forth to God, with flowing tears that either fear excites, or loves brings out, or sorrow evokes. Praying to Christ for a friend in this way, and wishing to be heard by Christ for a friend, directs the attention to Christ lovingly and longingly. Suddenly and insensibly, when at times one attraction passes over into the other, touching Christ's sweetness from near at hand, as it were, the person begins "to taste how sweet he is," and "to feel how delicious he is" (Ps 33:9, 99:5). In this way he ascends from the holy love by which he embraces a friend to the love in which he embraces Christ. He will joyfully feed upon the spiritual fruit of friendship with an open mouth, awaiting the fullness of all the things to come in the future. That will be the time when the fear we now have for each other, and which causes us concern, will be taken away, and all the trouble that we now have to bear for each other will be removed. Then death's sting will have been destroyed, along with death itself (1 Cor 15:54), whose pangs now often burden us so that it is necessary that we grieve for each other. Then we will rejoice in the eternity of the Highest Good with full assurance, when this friendship to which we now admit only a few will be poured out upon all, and from all poured back into God, and "God will be all in all" (1 Cor 15:28). The End.

Translated by Bernard McGinn from Aelred of Rievaulx, Liber de spirituali amicitia, in PL 195:661-62, 669-70, 672, 700-2.

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BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX On Loving God

CHAPTER 10.27-29

degree—and at this point Bernard wonders if it can ever be attained in list without regard for one." Bernard's presentation is structured around fan de grees of loving. (1) the carnal love by which a person loves himself for his om sake; (2) the progressive love in which a person loves God but for his own bath. (3) the free love by which a person loves God for God's sake, and finally (4) in perfect love in which a person loves himself only for God's sake. This fanh -involves union with God. This is not a union of substances, but a bown chancellor, and written about 1130, is one of Bernard's most attractive works! and how we should love God: "You want me to tell you why and how God should be loved? I say that God himself is the reason for loving God; and the way to low him is without a way." Throughout the work the abbot insists that love for ou must be pure---"God is not loved without a reward, aithough he should be lovel The treatise On Loving God, addressed to Cardinal Haimeris, the payed the activation of the power of love. The work begins with a discussion of wh sets out the main lines of his teaching about how the soul returns to God thrug union of wills according to 1 Corinthians 6:17.

THE FOURTH DEGREE OF LOVE: MAN LOVES HIMSELF FOR THE SAKE OF GOD

ately the world of sin (Gal 1:4) envies him, the evil of the day disturbs flesh bother him, the weakness of corruption offers no support, and sometimes with greater violence than these, brotherly love calls him back. Alas, he has to come back to himself, to descend again into his ing. "Unhappy man that I am, who will free me from this body doomed longer Countains of God" (Ps 35:7). This love is a mountain, God's tow-Wis 9:15) understand the fact? When will this sort of affection be felt come in its own eyes like a broken dish (Ps 30:13), hastening towards God and clinging to him, becoming one with him in spirit (1 Cor 6:17), O God, my share for eternity" (Ps 72:26)? I would say that man is blessed and holy to whom it is given to experience something of this sort, so rare in life; even if it be but once and for the space of a moto experience yourself, to reduce yourself to nothing is not a human sentiment but a divine experience (Phil 2:7). If any mortal, suddenly rapt, as has been said, and for a moment is admitted to this, immedihim (Mt 6:34), the mortal body weighs him down, the needs of the being, and wretchedly cry our. "Lord, I suffer violence" (1s 38:14), add-Happy the man who has attained the fourth degree of love he no conger even loves himself except for God. "O God, your justice is like wwho will climb the mountain of the Lord?" (Ps 23.3), "Who will give "This place is made peaceful, a dwelling-place in Sion" (Ps 75:3). "Alas for me, my exile has been lengthened" (Ps 119.5). When will flesh and blood (Mt 16:17), this vessel of clay (2 Cor 4:7), this earthly dwelling that, inebriated with divine love, the mind may forget itself and besaying: "My flesh and my heart have wasted away; O God of my heart," ment. To lose yourself, as if you no longer existed, to cease completely ering peak. Truly indeed, it is the fat, fertile mountain (Ps 67:16). me the wings of a dove, that I may fly away to find rest?" (Ps 547) to death?" (Rom 7:24).

All the same, since scripture says God made everything for his own purpose (Prov 16:4), the day must come when the work will conform to and agree with its Maker. It is therefore necessary for our souls to reach a similar state in which, just as God willed everything to exist for himself, so we wish that neither ourselves nor other beings to have

been nor to be except for his will alone, not for our pleasure. The satisfaction of our wants, chance happiness, delights us less than to see his will done in us and for us, which we implore every day in prayer saying: "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven ..." (Mt 6:10). O pure and sacred love! O sweet and pleasant affection! O pure and sinless intention of the will, all the more sinless and pure since it frees us from the taint of selfish vanity, all the more sweet and pleasant, for all that is found in it is divine. It is deifying to go through such an experience. As a drop of water seems to disappear completely in a big quantity of wine, even assuming the wine's taste and color; just as red, molten iron becomes so much like fire it seems to lose its primary state; just as the air on a sunny day seems transformed into sunshine instead of being lit up; so it is necessary for the saints that all human feelings melt in a mysterious way and flow into the will of God. Otherwise, how will God be all in all (1 Cor 15:28) if something human survives in man? No doubt, the substance remains though under another form, another glory, another power. When will this happen? Who will see it? Who will possess it? "When shall I come and when shall I appear in God's presence?" (Ps 41:3). O my Lord, my God, "My heart said to you: my face has sought you; Lord, I will seek your face" (Ps 26:8). Do you think I shall see your holy temple? (Ps 26:4).

I do not think that can take place for sure until the word is fulfilled: "You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength" (Mk 12:30), until the heart does not have to think of the body and the soul no longer has to give it life and feeling as in this life. Freed from this bother, its strength is established in the power of God. For it is impossible to assemble all these and turn them toward God's face as long as the care of this weak and wretched body keeps one busy to the point of distraction. Hence it is in a spiritual and immortal body, calm and pleasant, subject to the spirit in everything, that the soul hopes to attain the fourth degree of love, or rather to be possessed by it; for it is in God's hands to give it to whom he wishes; it is not obtained by human efforts. I mean he will easily reach the highest degree of love when he will no longer be held back by any desire of the flesh or upset by troubles as he hastens with the greatest speed and desire toward the joy of the Lord (Mt 25:21, 23). All the same, do we not think the holy martyrs received this grace, at least partially, while they were still in their victorious bodies? The strength of this love

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seized their souls so entirely that, despising the pain, they were able to expose their bodies to exterior torments. No doubt, the feeling of intense pain could only upset their calm; it could not overcome them.

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THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM

Edited and with an Introduction by Bernard McGinn



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