

“Selecting Perception’s Witnesses” (T-11.VI)

1. The ego breaks totality into small, disconnected parts.

The attempt to understand totality by breaking it up is clearly the characteristically contradictory approach of the ego to everything....The ego attacks everything it perceives by breaking it up into small and disconnected parts, without meaningful relationships and thus without meaning. (Paragraph 1)

2. It then selectively focuses on the errors these parts make.

The ego focuses on error and overlooks truth. It makes real every mistake it perceives. (Paragraph 2)

3. It then sees a world in which there is only error; there is no truth.

Holding error clearly in mind, and protecting what it has made real, the ego proceeds to the next step in its thought system: that error is real and truth is error. (Paragraph 2)

This then becomes the universe it perceives, and it is this universe which, in turn, becomes its demonstration of its own reality. (Paragraph 3)

This view is powerfully captured in Matthew Arnold’s poem “Dover Beach”:

Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

4. The Holy Spirit’s way of seeing is to accept the Son, whole and complete.

The ego analyzes; the Holy Spirit *accepts*. (Paragraph 1)

Accept His Son and you *will* remember Him. (Paragraph 5)

5. With each brother we encounter, we choose whether he will be a witness for the ego’s world or the Holy Spirit’s world.

Every brother you meet becomes a witness for Christ or for the ego, depending on what you perceive in him. Everyone convinces you of what you want to perceive, and of the reality of the kingdom you have chosen for your vigilance. (Paragraph 6)

Exercise

Realize you can see a world of disconnected, struggling bodies, full of error, with no real truth, no real light.

Or you can see a world in which behind all the forms is the unified, radiant Son of God.

One world will convince you that your ego is real.

The other world will awaken you to God.

Now bring to mind someone you know very well.

Realize it's up to you to make her a witness to the first world or to the second.

See how much of the time you see this person as a witness to that world of disconnected, warring bodies, in which there is not light or truth, that world in which ignorant armies clash by night.

Now choose to see this person as a witness to the other world.

Say to her:

I accept you completely.

I accept you as the Son.

I choose that you be a witness for the reality of Christ.

For if I accept you as the Son, I will remember the Father.