

“Fear as a Call for Love”

(T-12.II)

This section follows the extremely important section that introduces the idea that attack is really a call for help. The phrase “call for help” appears four times, “appeal for help” appears four times, and “plea for help” appears once.

This section expands on that. It adds the term “call for love.” It says that not only is attack a call for love, but since “attack produces fear” (2:7), then fear too is a call for love. Later, it says that sickness is a call for love.

It then teaches that if we supply the love that the person is calling for, we will prove to ourselves that love is in us:

Fear is a symptom of your deep sense of loss. If when you perceive it in others you learn to supply the loss, the basic cause of the fear is removed. Thereby you teach yourself that fear does not exist in you, for you have in yourself the means for removing it, and have demonstrated this by *giving* it. (3:1-3)

But how do we understand the idea of attack (or fear) as a call for help/love?

#1: We attack because we are trying to find love

We commonly understand this to mean that when we attack, we are really just trying to find love. We feel lacking in love, and out of that, we attack as a way of gaining love.

#2: Our attack puts us in a state of lack—lack of love, lack of health

That first option, however, is not what this section and the previous one are saying. Instead, they are saying that attack puts us in a state of lack:

- a lack of health (attack is an appeal for healing)
- a lack of love (attack is a call for love)
- a problematic state in which we need help (attack as a call for help)

This makes sense of all three examples—attack, fear, and sickness:

- Attack is a state of suffering that means we need help
- Fear is a state of lack of love that means we need love
- Sickness is a state of lack of health that means we need healing