

Chapter 16

The King and the Crown Prince

I would like to conclude with a story that will add some flesh to the theological bones contained in this book.

The king's reign was nearing an end. During his reign, poverty and corruption were rampant throughout the kingdom, making life miserable for all but the ruling elite and their favored minions. Both the rich and the poor were equally corrupt. The rich cared only about themselves and exploited the poor, and the poor not only hated the rich but they also did not care very much for one another, and they fought bitterly over the meager rations that were left to them.

The king was fully aware of the current state of the kingdom. In the past, it was thought by all that a truly egalitarian society could be achieved by means of strict legislation and a system of enforcement from the top down. Rulers were put in place and given the task of enforcing the rules and maintaining order. The system the king had put in place did not work because the rulers abused their power and completely disregarded the king's mandates. Instead of using their power and influence for the good of the people who were placed in their charge, they exploited them and treated them harshly and cruelly.

They ignored the king's edicts and believed they could do whatever they wanted with impunity, for two very good reasons. First, they had the king outnumbered, they believed. If they stuck together, it would always be the many against the one, and they would always have the upper hand. Secondly, they were confident that even if the king had the power to stop them, he would not do so. Experience had taught them that the king rarely intervened to correct their behavior. They logically assumed that the free-hand that had been granted them by the king would continue indefinitely.

Actually, the king was much wiser than they realized. The current miserable state of affairs was part of a great and noble plan. The people were kept in ignorance of this plan for two very good reasons. First, the plan would not work if the people were aware of it. Secondly, the next part of the plan would not be possible without the failures associated with the first part. Failure is an important part of any learning process.

With the end of his reign in sight, the king was finally ready to turn over his kingdom to the crown prince, the sole heir to the throne. It would be the task of the crown prince to restore order to the kingdom by completely doing away with the present kingdom and creating an entirely new one in a completely different location. The transition from the old to the new kingdom would not be sudden. Time would be required to prepare everyone for life in the newly rebuilt kingdom.

The crown prince would begin the process by going undercover and mingling with the populace, disguised as one of them. There are two reasons for this. First, he wanted to demonstrate under

real-life circumstances exactly the type of attitudes and behaviors that would be required for life in the new kingdom. Secondly, he wanted everyone to know exactly how much he loved and cared for them. He began by carefully selecting a few initiates, all of whom were from the lower classes, who would become the initiators of the great transition from one kingdom to another. He strictly admonished them not to tell anyone who he was, not until the time was right. He provided them with many proofs of who he really was, and very patiently and painstakingly taught and demonstrated to them the attitudes and lifestyle that would be required for entrance into the new kingdom.

In the new kingdom, the rules of law and the enforcement penalties would be replaced by a completely different system. The new system would be based on only one rule, the rule of love. There would be no need for the enforcement of this rule, because a strong desire for obedience to this rule would be built into all of the subjects. In other words, it would be impossible for anyone to break the rule, because it would be against their very nature. In the beginning, the initiates had great difficulty understanding and accepting this. Their biggest question was this. How is it possible that anyone could achieve this level of perfection? How is it possible that anyone could qualify for entrance into this new kingdom? The crown prince, without telling them exactly how the process would work, just told them to trust him and that all things are possible.

After a few years, when he felt the initiates were ready to carry on without him, the crown prince initiated the most important part of his plan. He would demonstrate his love for them in a way they would never forget. He wanted them to fully understand and believe the power of love is more than able to overcome and completely do away with the powers of hatred, greed and selfishness. He voluntarily allowed himself to be tortured, humiliated and killed as an ultimate demonstration of not only his self-sacrificing love for them, but also of his commitment to non-violence. In the future kingdom, the rule of love will not be enforced by force or violence, but instead by the power of example. At any time during this process the crown prince could have revealed his identity and invoked the power of the king to set himself free. But, this would have completely nullified the lesson that he was teaching.

Another very important lesson the crown prince taught them came after he died. He rose up from the grave and proved to them that there is life after death. It turns out that in order to gain entrance into the new kingdom one first must pass through the veil of death.

After this, the crown prince returned to his father and together they implemented the next phase of the transition from the present kingdom to the next. Together, they would watch over each of their subjects individually. No longer would their care be entrusted to surrogates who might abuse their powers. They would personally accompany and guide each individual as they gradually transform themselves and ready themselves for life in the new kingdom. Because each individual is in a different stage of progress, provision must be made for stops, or dwelling places, along the way. As each person crosses the veil of death and arrives on the other side, they will be met by other guides and helpers and helped along their way. Because no one arrives on the other side with a fully-reformed character, they are directed to temporary dwelling places where they will continue to grow and develop. In the new kingdom, there will be many different dwelling places, each one perfectly suited for the level of advancement achieved by the dwellers.

Many who cross over will not be ready for life in the perfected new kingdom. They, instead, will be forcibly detained in dwelling places separate from the others, until they can be trusted to voluntarily abide by the rule of love. The important thing to keep in mind is that no one is abandoned forever by the king in these places. They are continually being watched over by the king and his son, and many guides and helpers are sent by the king to these places to act as angels of mercy to teach them and ultimately rescue them and help them transition to better environments.

So where is all this headed? The entire transition process takes place over many ages, or eons of time, until every single one of the king's subjects has entered the kingdom, fully perfected.