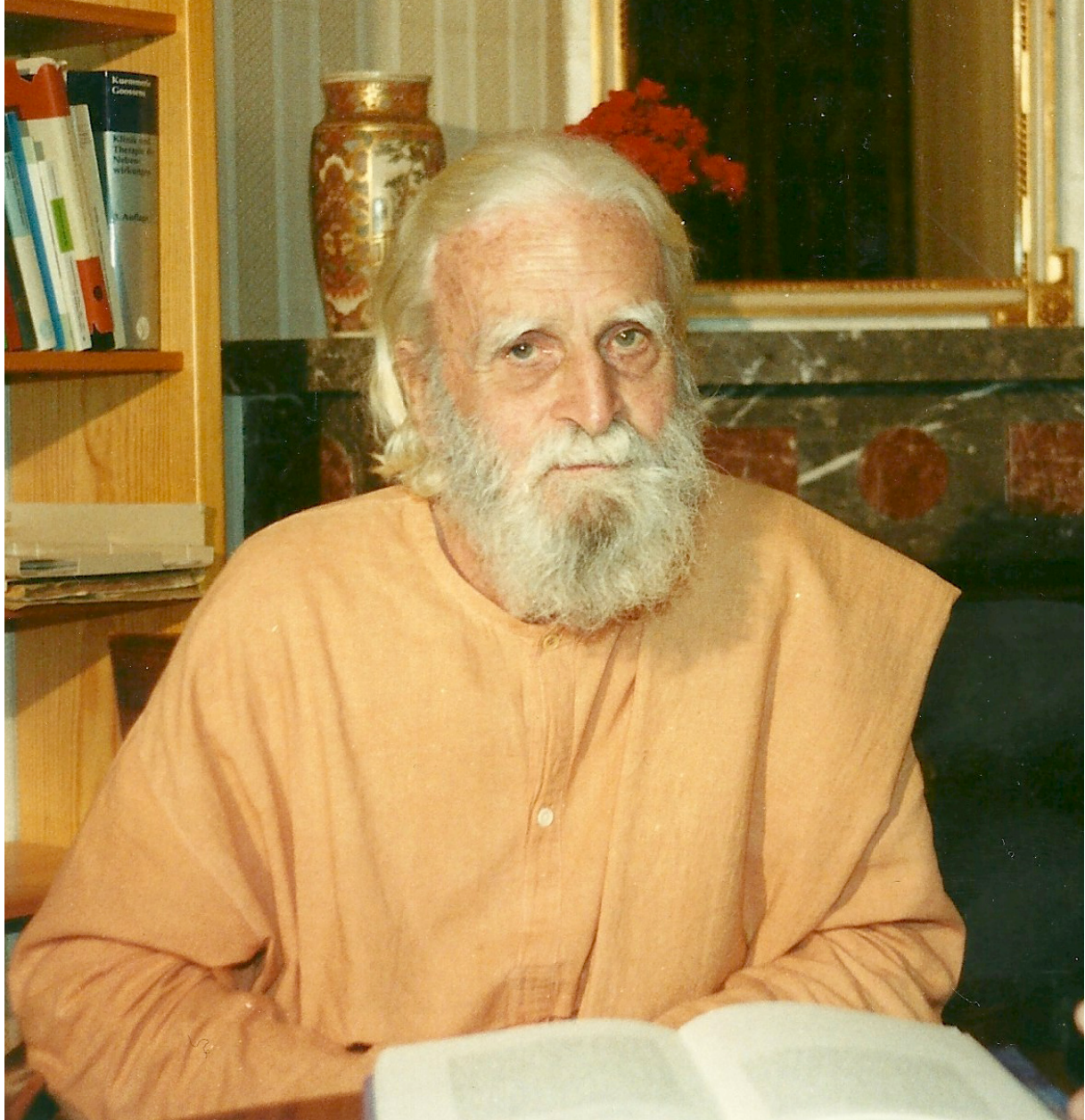


ROLAND R. ROPERS

KULTUR- & SPRACHPHILOSOPH



***"Body and soul are mortal,  
the spirit is immortal".***

(Dom Bede Griffiths, 1906 - 1993)

HADRES 114

A 2061 HADRES/AUSTRIA

MOBILE: +49 (0) 176 455 36139

[WWW.KARDIOSOPHIE-NETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.KARDIOSOPHIE-NETWORK.ORG)

*“The body experiences the physical world, the soul (psyche), the psycho-logical world.*

*The spirit alone has the capacity to contemplate GOD, the very Ground of Being.*

*The spirit is present in every human being. It may be totally concealed but it is always there and without we cannot be fully human.*

*As the spirit learns to contemplate GOD, the categories of the rational mind – subject and object, mind and matter, time and space – necessary as they are for completeness of being, are transcended.*

*When we consciously uncover this dimension of our full humanity we become fully integrated human beings.*

*Inner stillness is necessary if we are to be in perfect control of our faculties and if we are to hear the voice of the Spirit speaking to us. The inner tranquillity is at the heart of authentic religious experience.*

*Western man has been turning outwards to the world of senses for centuries and losing himself in outer space. The time has now come to turn inwards, to learn to explore the inner space within the heart, and to make that long and exciting journey to the Centre”. (Bede Griffiths)*

The *mystery of bliss* (Latin: *beatitudo*, German: *Glückseligkeit*, French: *ravissement*, Sanskrit: *ananda*) is not a mental experience, but slumbers in the resting state of the emotional forces when the *immortal spirit* shines forth radiantly from the deepest source of our *Eternal Being*.

No spiritual master speaks of the *immortality of the soul* (not even the *Holy Scriptures of the Christians!*), but they all talk of the *eternally living spirit*. The immortality of the soul is based on the view of the Greek philosopher **Plato**. The original Christian mystery was reduced by *Hellenism* to the *duality of body and soul*. The pre-Socratic philosopher **Parmenides** still had the

connection to the nature of truth and reality, which later withered a little with the strained thinking of Plato.

We live in a resource-dependent world and always refer to this in terms of energy resources, monetary resources, etc.

The French word *la source* (English: *source*, German: *Quelle*) originates from the Latin verb *surgere* = *to rise*, to come into being. A fountain (Medieval German: *quella* = *origin*) is a continuous stream of water bubbling up from the earth. Spring water comes from within, rainwater from above. Spring water is basically pure, rainwater hardly any more given today's environmental pollution.

The place of greatest purity is the deepest interior.

Digging deep to get to the bottom usually requires hard work. Those who dig remove layers of rubble until they reach the original source. Resource is the return to the source, to the origin. Our fountain of life, our fountain always moves from the inside to the outside, but not the other way round.

In our therapy-intensive phase of world history, the word "*soul*" takes on an ever-increasing significance. Until now, little thought has been given to the origin of this word, which initially refers to "*sea*".

In Latin, the word *soul* has two genders, *animus* (male) and *anima* (female). The Germans use the word *Seele*, the French *l'âme*, the Greek *psyche*. The latter term is very familiar to us through the words psychiatrist, psychiatry, psychology, psychotherapy.

The psychiatrist treats mental illnesses – spiritual illnesses and disorders do not exist at all. The everlasting spirit is not affected by the ailments of body & soul.

**Plato** regarded the psyche as the power of self-movement in the world and in man.

The psyche forms the emotional part of the human being, not the spiritual.

The word **soul** is thought to derive from the Germanic "**saiwalo**", the one who comes from the lake, who belongs to the lake. The word "**saiwolo**" is probably associated with Greek **aiólos** (easily movable) because of the phonetic correspondence. The Western Christian Church (Jesus Christ himself came from the Orient), which was influenced by Greek philosophy, adopted the immortality of the soul from **Plato**. Plato assumed the pre-existence of the soul and coined the term "**anamnesis**" for it, which we use popularly today as a **history of illness**. The Greek word "**anámnēsis**" means **memory**; for Plato, the memory of the soul of the ideas it knew in a previous existence before its connection with the body. The Greeks did know the term "**pneuma**" in the sense of **breath, spirit, ethereal substance**; **St. Paul** placed the **spirit** (Greek: **pneuma**, Latin: **spiritus**) above the soul (psyche). This consciousness has largely been lost and is being brought back to life by the spiritual masters.

What rises from the primordial ground of water becomes lake; lake (of smaller proportions) or sea (of larger proportions). Movement usually takes place on the surface of the water: Waves, billows, which are emotions from the original source. When the sea is as smooth as glass, you can look down to the bottom. When the emotional soul forces have come to rest, the spiritual core of the being lights up inside. This core has always been present and

unchanged and more or less emerges through letting go and penetrating the layers of consciousness.

The bodily (physical) and soul (animalistic) powers are guided by the everlasting spirit (spiritus), depending on the attention and access to the source of inspiration.

This lies hidden in the innermost part of every human being and is constantly waiting to be able to break through the dam of the layers of rubble in the subconscious. Each individual creates the conditions for this. And for this, many need spiritual instruction.

In English and American, **soul** is often confused with **mind**. The word mind does not belong in the triple relationship of body, soul & spirit. **Mind** comes from the Latin: **mens** = mind. Many know the parlour game **Master Mind**.

When the balance of the moving soul forces is established, we speak in English of **equanimity**, German: **Gleichmut**.

**Thomas Aquinas** speaks of **anima animalis** and **anima spiritualis**.

**Bliss** (Sanskrit: **ananda**), is the highest form of inner happiness. The **Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount** are pure bliss, from Latin: **beatus: blissful**. The one who is blissful is blessed.

We always speak of the "**Spirit of Goethe**", the "**Spirit of Mozart**", the "**Spirit of Beethoven**" and others. The spirit of important people has remained with us for all time, but not their souls. The distinction between soul and spirit seems necessary to me.