

Vital Reason

Note: Vital reason is reason with life or reality as its foundation.

The Self against Being

By Philippe Bénéton

To see and to enable others to see is everything.

Vital reason does not begin by constructing, calculating, aligning propositions, lining up reasons; what is first and foremost in vital reason is the ability to see things clearly. And to see clearly, one must look, and look in the right way; in other words, one must employ one's vital reason.

How then is this defined?

What is called *vital reason*, in its highest form, is of the realm of higher reason as described in different forms by Saint Thomas (the *intellectus*), Pascal (the *heart*), Bergson (*intuition*); it is reason that apprehends its object directly.

In other words, what is proper to higher reason comes down to this: as far as it is able, it grasps truth in the form of *self-evidence*. It sees, and the truth is so compelling that it leaves no room for doubt; it remains to reason only to bow before it.

Only self-evidence, as we have seen, makes it possible to know that two is not one, that two and two are four, or that the external world exists. Self-evidence is at the origin of all knowledge and it belongs to the realm of the highest form of knowledge. If our higher reason could be applied universally, we would need neither concepts nor chains of reasoning. It was Saint Thomas, himself a master of the art of reasoning, who said that "reasoning is a defect of intelligence (*intellectus*)."

In its realm, vital reason thus operates first by grasping what is evident. The truths it apprehends do not lend themselves to proof: they are immediately recognized as truths. Here, higher reason does not limit itself to primary evidences or to the evidence of the validity of the conclusions of reasoning reason; it explores, it digs deeper, it expands its faculty of vision, it broadens and deepens the field of evidence.

The great visionaries (artists, philosophers, spiritual leaders) are those who see farther than we do and who invite us to follow them. The truths they bring to light cannot be shared in the way that a scientific discovery is shared. Each person must make his own way, he must rediscover for himself. The great visionaries are witnesses; they enable us to see truths, they invite us to share the same inner experience, to find for ourselves the truths to which they testify.

These are truths that are compelling not because they give rise to a fleeting emotion but because they are recognized as being consubstantial with who we are. It is no accident if one of the criteria of good discernment is the heart's profound peace.

To see this, one must want and give oneself the means to see it.

The exercise of vital reason presupposes an attitude toward the world that is opposite to the one implied by scientific reason. The latter results from a dissociation of human faculties that works to the detriment of being and the benefit of the Self. For scientific reason, to think is to think with just a part of oneself, with that part that allows one, with the help of method, to dominate an object. To think is to look down from on high, and thus to affirm oneself; at the limit it means to apply one's pride to the debasement of one's object.

By contrast, vital reason presupposes a unifying of faculties to the detriment of the Self. To think is to commit one's whole being and to efface oneself before the object. To think is to be available, receptive, to let oneself be taken up by the truth. Vital reason is inseparable from the virtues of understanding and in the first instance from humility before what is real.

Philippe Bénéton

--

From:

Equality by default: an essay on modernity as confinement

https://books.google.com/books/about/Equality_by_default.html?id=EDqDAAAAMA AJ

<https://www.amazon.com/Equality-Default-Modernity-Confinement-Crosscurrents/dp/1932236333/>

--

Observations

Vital reason is based upon what is obviously real and true. It's not philosophy, speculation, or opinion. It's truth.

The *intellectus*, the *heart*, and *intuition* are functions or products of the human psyche or the human soul.

Vital reason is signified by the psyche or the soul. Vital reason is self-evident, which means that it's obviously true. It's obviously true that non-physical light or non-physical energy exists. It's obviously true that non-physical gravity, time, radio waves, quantum fields, and space exist. It's obviously true that human

beings are conscious, sentient, self-aware, and alive. It's obviously true that the non-physical, or the immaterial, or the intangible, or the non-local, or the quantum, or the transdimensional, or the spiritual exists.

To see or not to see, that is the real question.

The Materialists, Naturalists, Darwinists, Nihilists, Behaviorists, Determinists, Physical Reductionists, Scientistic Scientists, and Atheists function first and foremost by denying what is obviously true. These people deny the existence of anything and everything that has to do with vital reason. These people refuse to see and accept what is obviously true and real.

For these people, their intellect or their intelligence gets in the way and prevents them from finding and knowing the truth – the obvious or the self-evident. These people refuse to allow all of the evidence into evidence. Atheism of any kind is identified by a refusal to look at evidence. These people refuse to look and see. The Atheists are not at peace, and they were unable to give me the peace that I sought. All I wanted was to have my peace of mind. I couldn't get it from My Materialism, My Naturalism, My Nihilism, My Scientism, and My Atheism. These things had no peace to give me. I had to find another way, a better way.

Mark My Words