

The Eye and the Heart Doctrine

from a student

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Saith the pupil: O Teacher, what shall I do to reach Wisdom?

O Wise one, what, to gain perfection?

Search for the Paths. But, O Lanoo, be of clean heart before thou startest on thy journey.

Before thou takest thy first step, learn to discern the real from the false, the ever-fleeting from the everlasting.

Learn above all to separate Head-learning from Soul-wisdom, the "Eye" from the "Heart" doctrine

- from the Voice of the Silence

To a pupil seeking knowledge of the path to wisdom and perfection, the teacher responds with a distinction between Head-learning and Soul-wisdom and emphasizes the importance of cleansing or purifying the "heart". This distinction, central to the teaching in the sacred text, *The Voice of the Silence*, is expressed in the metaphorical terms of "the eye doctrine" and "the heart doctrine". Explanations of the two terms can be made at several levels of human development ranging from the highest choices of an enlightened being to the ordinary approaches to learning and the duties of human life.

For those seeking understanding of the material world, Head-learning is what we call worldly knowledge gained via the senses, the brain and the intellect. This knowledge of factual information and material reality is organized initially by what Theosophy calls the lower mind or lower *manas*. The predilections and emotions buried in the lower mind may distort the