

On Thinking versus Knowing

To my teacher; my light; my opening.

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I. Veil/Gamble

Thinking is an event. Knowing is an afterthought.

Thinking is unknowing, stepping away from the familiar.

Thinking needs knowing; acts on it; deforms it; transforms it.

Thinking forms knowing, new knowing.

Knowing is a veil; its biggest victim, thinking.

Knowing is to have. Thinking is to be.

Being gives birth to haves; haves incarcerate being.

Thinking is openness immediate. Knowing is openness bygone.

Knowing is possession. Thinking is gambling.

“Blessed be that Gambler who lost all that he had; None was saved for him save a wish for another Gamble.” –Rumi

To have or to be?

II. Truths/Insanity

Knowing is to do. Thinking is to be.

When you do, things don't get done.

Thinking is love; it gets things done.

“Void is this city of any lovers; may it be that from a quarter,

Out from himself, a man cometh and a work maketh?” – Hafez of Shiraz

Thinking is stepping outside.

Or you bounce within your constitution. Nothing arises. Nothing gets done.

Knowing is the will to yourself disguised as a will to the truth.

Our logos are formed by our mythos.

Our mythos are us; they constrain us.

Only the thinker steps outside the mythos. She is insane.

Plato and Aristotle gave us dialectic, shamed rhetoric.

They gave us 'truth' in place of 'beauty'.
Now, 'truths' define us, form us, control us, refine us, subjugate us.

Thinking is sunrise.
Thinking is showing up to your own horizon, awaiting sunrise.
You age according to every sunrise.

Thinking is to step forth; present; let bare; renounce; nonresist; nonexist.

Thinking is an event. It arises from a problem.
Knowing also arose from a problem; the knower is now the problem.
Thinking is defiance. Knowing is status quo.

Thinking arises from a problem.
Where the thinker ends up is not at all knowable.

Knowing sustains thinking. It's holy.

Knowing is mother; thinking is daughter.
Thinking is mother; knowing is daughter.
Mother is no more when there's no daughter.
Mother is no more when daughter settles; she no longer mothers.

One who thinks finds parents.
"Being an illegitimate child is not a quality that cannot end." –Shams of Tabriz

Knowledge is what secretes out from, emanates from the thinker. Look for him, not it.

Thinking is unscholarship.
Thinking is insanity.

III. Birth/Light

One who knows, follows knowledge.
One who thinks, knowledge follows him.
It appears where he does.

The knower understands the world we live in; sinks into it.
The thinker infiltrates it; vaporizes it.
"And you see the mountains, supposing them firmly fixed;
while they drift like passing clouds." (Quran 27:88)
The knower sees the world. The thinker sees the illusion.
The knower looks to the world. The thinker looks into the world.

Knowing is science. Thinking is also art.
Science alone is discourse that forms.

Art is revealing; invocation that liberates; transforms.
One who knows, is unaware of games of truth, regimes of truth; is entangled.
One who thinks, steps out; dissolves; creates anew.
To others: one who knows is right.
To them: one who thinks is not even wrong.
In her horizon: right and wrong are play; she gives birth to truths.

One who knows recycles; regurgitates.

One who knows, follows paradigms.
One who thinks, paradigms follow him.

Knowing builds; systematizes.
Thinking dethrones; rediscovers; breathes life.
Thinking has “recklessness, beginning ever anew” –Heidegger
Thinking is circular.

One who knows moves in lines within himself.
One who thinks moves in circles outside.
He visits all the time.

Knowing to thinking things are as vastly spaced as are thoughts to things.

One who knows, learns.
One who thinks, receives; penetrates.

Knowing is thinking about things.
Thinking is thinking things.
The Eastern thinks heavenly and mystically.
The Western thinks earthly and factually.
The thinker is “neither Eastern nor Western.
... lights up even if untouched by fire.
Light upon light.” (Quran 24:35)

The thinker awaits.
He has “brought his intellect to life and his self to death,”
He has become “thin” and “subtle”. All of a sudden,
“emits for him a lightening of massive luminance.” –Imam Ali

The thinker is on his own.
“Why would I, who in my beggary possess the monarch’s treasury,
Covet the low-breeding world?
Though I am dressed in rags, may my ambition lie in shame:
If ever I unchaste myself with the water of life.” –Hafez

The thinker is “glad of another death.” –T. S. Eliot

IV. Here/Free

Thinking is “entirely unreflective”.
One who thinks “penetrates to the depths, but not to discover”
He does not aim.
He does not build “secure foundations”.
He “persistently remains there, underground,
in order to lay down pathways.” –Arendt

One who thinks is aroused but has no goal.
He stands up; stands out; then receives.
“Say, ‘I give you just a single advice:
that you rise up for God, in pairs or singly,
then think’.” (Quran 34:46)

The thinker does not expect results.
He is not disappointed.

The knower knows things. The thinker gains access.
“There is no being in the world that knowledge cannot penetrate,
but what can be penetrated by knowledge is not being.” –Horkheimer & Adorno

The knower takes up arms against myths, to liberates mankind.
He “equates the living with the nonliving
as myth had equated the nonliving with the living.” –Horkheimer & Adorno
The knower knows the dead. The thinker thinks the living.
The thinker does not create myths. He gains access.

The knower imposes subject vs. object; denies that he creates illusion.
He gains mastery over nature and emotions.
Reality stays unconcealed for him; he misses out.
The thinker is under no illusion.

The knower reduces; he breaks up.

The knower does not know that he does not know.

The knower walks.
The thinker makes walkways.

The knower knows.
The thinker unknowns; pulls the rug out from under.

The knower is thrown ‘here’.
He is confined as he wishes to escape.

The thinker discerns. He finds an opening.
He is free as he stays.
He knows it's all 'here'. He is everywhere:
"There is no secret talk between three, except he is their fourth" (Quran 58:7)

The knower transcends.
The thinker transcends transcendence.
He is not above other things. He is everywhere:
"low in being high, and high in being low." –Imam Sajjad

The knower is eager, anxious for attunement to time.
The thinker knows time is created.
"If our days are gone, let them go!—It is no matter.
Do You remain, for none is pure as You are." –Rumi

The knower is child of time. He is careful.
The thinker is father of time. He procreates.

The knower is free from some things.
The thinker is free from *all* things.
The thinker is free *for* all things.
He is available.
He has all the time in the world.

V. One/Near

The knower knows many things.
The thinker tastes a single thing; opening gates upon gates upon gates ...

The knower solves the complicated.
The thinker meets the trivial.
He bridges into the transient.
He everlasts.

The thinker suffers.
He dissolves everything.

Thinking is "Dynamic Quality". –Pirsig

What the knower knows is quantified; packaged; traded.
No one knows what the thinker knows.
No one knows what's in store for him.
"Everyone ... asks him. Every moment he is in a (new) state." (Quran 55:29)

Everything owned can be taken; is unowned.
One does not 'own' thinking.

It is as fleeting as a moment; yet infinite vastness neighbored.
It occasions being-owned; owning.
One who thinks has a gift to give: nothingness; she is owned; owns.

One who knows has thoughts for all.
One who thinks has thoughts only for himself; he expands and touches all.

One who knows divides; he misses.
One who thinks surrenders; she wins things over.
He loves numbers; is reified to works, to having, classifying.
She resembles, represents, is.
He operates, calculates, recruits. He looks in them "for him".
She faces, looks "to the things themselves"; "in themselves".

One who knows quotes.
One who thinks is quoted.
He takes joy in truths that reflect his truth.
"The divine bards are the friends of my virtue, of my intellect, of my strength.
They admonish me that the gleams which flash across my mind are not mine, but
God's; they had the like, and were not disobedient to the heavenly vision" –Emerson

VI. Shield/Virtue

One who knows, professes: "I think", but 'it' thinks!
For him, "thought comes when 'it' wants, and not when 'I' want." –Nietzsche
He has been thought, by his constitution; he takes shield against Being.
One who thinks can claim: "I think."
She has been thought, from deep within; she is no shield to Being.

The statement "I have O" has value if O exceeds me, is alive, and desires me.
One who thinks has Being.

The knower takes knowledge as shield to Being.
The thinker takes Being as shield to knowledge.

The thinker is nothing; no Being;
ascribes nothing to Being;
shields Being.

The thinker is oriented to Being;
is shielded, from all but Being.
There is only one thing she knows: she is not. Thus, she is.

"Being lost and utterly lost is my religion
Nothingness in being is my tradition." –Rumi
One who thinks pierces beings; enters nothingness; Being is there.

One who knows advances.
One who thinks is seized.

The knower says, "I am in possession."
The thinker says, "I am possessed."

The knower has options (he thinks).
The thinker has urgency.

One who thinks transcends himself.
He is the only one he finds.
He is the only one that finds himself.

One who knows, places his vice under his feet.
One who thinks, so places his virtue under his vice.
Nothing is placed against his horizon. He is naked.

One who knows, sees effects.
One who thinks, is the effects.
He is the most vulnerable; meek; receptive; present; mighty; magnificent.
He affects and is the effect of his effects.
He is moved by everything he encounters.
He moves everything he encounters.

One who thinks is moved by a speck of dust.
So he moves mountains.

One who thinks is thought by Being.
One who thinks is Being in this world.

VII. Bare/Boil

The thinker is a savage.
He lies ever bare and untamed.
He has no limits.
He is frightening; frail.
He pleads with mama.

The thinker says, "I wish to not wish." –Bayazid Bastami
His thinking "peels off [all coverings] and is disinterested
and runs naked to God,
until it touches him and grasps him." –Eckhart

Rationality is instrumentalized thinking; it's not thinking.
Its narrowness blinds.

The thinker is not rational. He is insane.
His thoughts are horrifying; ridiculous; blinding.
His thoughts are worshiped by future generations;
not his thinking.

One who knows creates branch after branch after branch ...
One who thinks plants a tree.

The knower has knowledge all the time.
The thinker runs out of knowledge all the time.
The knower owns knowledge; static; it has run out.
The thinker disowns knowledge; bursts; never runs out.

The knower has thoughts.
The thinker has vast nets, collects thoughts.

The knower and thinker act similarly.
The space between their acts is the space between heavens and earth.

One who knows, ascends for others.
One who thinks, ascends.

One who thinks is bewildered and bewilders.
Others ascend only if he descends; so, lovingly he does:
"... relieving them of their burden and the shackles that were upon them." (Quran 7:157)
"... and the truth shall set you free ..." (John 8:32)
his truth.
The light that blinds, he reflects to unblind.

He descends for others,
knowing he will be turned into a prison guard,
his knowledge into leashes.
He implores, "Follow me" not it.
Greatest glory happens in the footsteps of a thinker, not in the recitation of his words.

One who thinks, in his descent, ascends furthest.
He sees things never seen.

One who thinks, unlike others, is not.
One who thinks, unlike others, is.

One who knows, teaches.
One who thinks, glows; boils; overflows.
One hears from his chest the sound of a cauldron.
"When his heart would lose itself in the ocean of secrets,
Its boiling traveled a mile in prayer." –Attar of Nishapur

VIII. Praise

One who thinks is not a noun; or a verb; or an adjective.

He cannot be praised.

Even by himself.

"If the ocean were ink for words ... sooner would the ocean be exhausted than would the words..." (Quran 18:109)

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