

# The Teaching

by mark matousek

True communication and healing are possible only through attunement with the Self, with others, and with God, says Christian mystic Stylianos Atteshli, known as Daskalos.....

He is one of the greatest living Christian mystics, yet Stylianos Atteshli -commonly known as the Magus of Strovolos, the Master, or simply Daskalos ("teacher")--is not well known in this country (America). Although he has been teaching since the age of seven on his native island of Cyprus, the 84-year-old has never before spoken publicly in the United States or granted an interview to an American journalist. As described by Kyriacos Markides in his three-part biography. Daskalos's practices are legendary and, to my knowledge, unique among contemporary Christian teachers. They are the sorts of metaphysical practices we have come to associate more with Hinduism, Tibetan Buddhism, and shamanism than with the Western mystic tradition. For example, Daskalos is frequently engaged in the practice of "exomatosis," in which he is able to leave his body, fully conscious, and travel to faraway places and dimensions in the company of "invisible helpers" in order to be of service to others. He claims to be aware of his past lives (in one, he says, he tended the rooms where Jesus Christ slept during his visits to the Essenes) and to be able to revisit these incarnations at will. Daskalos has been reported to be instrumental in hundreds of public healings, such as the following incident described by an Italian journalist in the Markides biography: In front of several witnesses, Stylianos Atteshli healed a three-year-old English boy of polio. I stared with curiosity at the English-woman holding her child. Only when she placed the boy in Stylianos Atteshli's arms did I notice that [the boy's] left leg was covered with a heavy plastic brace. It was atrophied and clearly shorter than the other leg.... Stylianos Atteshli sat on a chair with the child in his arms and began to speak to him with a very sweet tone in his voice. As he was doing that, he began to gently stroke the sickly leg. He pulled it a few times as if to make it longer. . . . Ten, twenty minutes must have passed; I don't remember. I had my eyes glued sometimes on the child and sometimes on Stylianos Atteshli. Suddenly, the child made a pained grimace. At that point he raised the boy up, gave him a light slap on his buttocks, and said, "Now, run, my boy. "And the child began running around the room. Was it a miracle! Was it suggestion! One can make whatever conclusions one wishes. I just describe what I saw.

Despite these reputed powers, Daskalos rejects the mantle of miracle worker. "They are phenomena, nothing more," he insists. "If we knew how nature works, we would not call them miracles." Like most genuine mystics, Stylianos Atteshlis has led an outwardly unremarkable life. He was born in 1910 in the Greek part of Cyprus, near the town of Strovolos, and spent his years as a civil servant, family man, and Christian. Behind the worldly facade, however, Daskalos was an altogether different being. Gathering a circle of students ( "Researchers of Truth") around him in the Stoa — a shrine at the back of his modest home — Daskalos set about instructing the group in esoteric Christian wisdom, contemplation, exomatosi, and the development of healing powers. Although such a great soul would have been venerated in most cultures as a mahatma, shaman, or curandero, Daskalos was rejected by the orthodox clergy of Cyprus, who made efforts to have him excommunicated from the Church as a "magus of Mephistophelean proportions," to quote Markides. In time, as Daskalos' fame grew and the harmlessness of his work became apparent, these misguided charges were dropped by the Church. Harmless though the work may be, the Gnostic system that Daskalos teaches is nearly impenetrable for those who have not been initiated into its terminology and imagery, as thousands of us found out during two sold-out lectures by Daskalos at Town Hall in New York City. Stepping onto a stage littered with hundreds of letters and photographs from devotees requesting healing, Daskalos led us in the Lord's Prayer and then spoke for an hour about the origins of the universe, the psycho noetic planes, the "mind super-substance," the holy archangels, the "infinite absolute beingness" (God), and the mission of Joshua Emmanuel the Christ. As the tall man in a gray suit ranged mysteriously from topic to topic, many of us--well versed in meta-physics--tried without much success to follow the sweep of his mind. I left both talks intrigued, confused, and convinced that Daskalos was operating at a level achieved by few. Interviewing such a mystic is far from simple, as I discovered the next day at a hotel in midtown Manhattan. Already apprehensive, I was further surprised when this extraordinary man took my hand and informed me, without ceremony, that he could read my thoughts and knew exactly what I wanted to ask. Having established this advantage, he ignored many of my questions and allowed his discourse to follow its own self-dictated rhythm.

Common Boundary:

I'm interested in what you said about picking up the thoughts of other people. Is this a constant experience for you!

Daskalos: It's happened since childhood; for me it was something natural. I didn't know the others were different.

CB: How did you first know you were a teacher!

D: Wait a moment.

Let us settle this word "teacher." The teacher is Joshua Emmanuel the Christ. No human being has the right to call himself a teacher. I have rejected the so-called titles given to me in various books. We call the members of our system "brother guides," equal to all other brother and sister guides. Many Hindus call me swami, yogi, but it is unnecessary. And definitely not the word "magus," for God's sake.

CB: If not Daskalos or magus, what do you want to be called?

D: Nothing. I have completely annihilated the so-called personality of a time and-place man. What matters is the teaching, which can help people come out of their confusion! reshape their lives, and alleviate their suffering. There is much pain and suffering in the world today due to the ignorance of not knowing the truth. Now, how did I know who I was! Who can say! I simply did, from the time I was very small. It was very difficult for me because even my parents could not understand me. My father said, "This son of mine, manifesting these things without learning them, talking in languages from previous incarnations." He was wondering, Who is my son! This happened according to my nature and not through any pre-calculated intention to be a Daskalos. Maybe it was predestination.

CB: You have said you were a boy at the time Joshua?

D: Yes, I was taken to the Essene school at the age of 10, destined for the rabbinate. Joshua was in a period of teaching many disciples — he had many followers. Being an Essene novice, I was lucky enough to look after these rooms where he lived four days a month, and to be near him, adoring him, worshipping him. Can people understand each other through human language? No--it is the poorest hind of communication. In few hundred years, human beings will be able to communicate in a better way.

CB: Until you were what age?

D: When I was 17, he was crucified. Those 7 years were the best incarnation I ever had. I have had past incarnations as an Egyptian hierophant three or four times, and I remember, as if it were my language, hieroglyphics and what they mean. I have given this information to Egyptologists. Yet, though I have had very serious incarnations, I was aware even as a boy of 10 years that I was near something very high in Joshua. I already had my powers of exomatosia [out-of-body travel] at that time, and Joshua knew it. He was teaching these things, but the greatest thing he taught me was humility. [We are interrupted by an aide, instructing me not to ask any more "personal" questions.]

CB: Let's talk about suffering. We seem to live in a very dark age--the Hindus call it the Kali Yuga. There are rumors every day about apocalypse and Armageddon. Is it only our perception that we are in a dark age, or are we actually at the end of a cycle of history.

D: [Disregarding question] This is no excuse! God has given us everything in abundance--fresh air for everyone to breathe, the super-substance of mind so that we may reach God. Christ has taught us how to use it! What is prohibiting man from using reason and love to free himself from his current state of suffering! These habits of personality are being presented as an excuse.

CB: I agree, but many find it easier to blame the state of the world on a divine plan.

D: You see [leaning forward and looking deep into my eyes], I get much from your thoughts [laughing. You came here to talk to me about psychology. But what is psychology! What are psychometry, psychotherapy, psychiatry! Persons use the word "soul"--psyche--and distorts its great meaning. By "soul" do you mean the behavior of the personality! This is not quite accurate. The relationship between soul and personality is complex. The personality may be sinful, but the soul is not sinful. It is God. The soul cannot be harmed. You don't have a soul; you are a soul. In our system, we speak of something else that we call the permanent personality. This is the state between time-and-place incarnations, which has no name except the I-am-I. This permanent personality actually passes into the soul. That I-am-I passing away from the gross material body remembers everything.

CB: Yet I don't remember my past lives?

D: This is part of the mercy of God to give human beings the opportunity to advance without feeling remorse for the sins they have committed. People misunderstand the mercy of God.

CB: Are you saying that ignorance is a form of mercy!

D: Yes. Of course, ignorance has many meanings. However, when you attune yourself to your permanent personality, you will remember. Then you're out of Ignorance. Let us talk about healing. Psychotherapy and all forms of healing use the mind super-substance, the underlying principle of existence. The mind, as energy, moves through you and is given to the other fellow to be cured. But who is doing the work! Some so-called psychotherapists say they have successes. They definitely have. but unfortunately they have not healed their own ego personality and go on saying "I, I, I have done that," meaning their personality They do nothing! It is He who is doing the healing, not me. This is the great truth. You must make your conscience light so that this vitality I am passing to you will help you recover One cannot be healed unless he is worthy to be.

CB: Worthy?

D: Yes. No psychotherapist has the right to call himself a healer, because the healer is God. Agent! Yes On many occasions, have known how to get that etheric vitality and pass it to the other. But these healings do not depend on my will as a personality but on the will of God There have been cases where this etheric vitality is sent through me and sent back. When this happens three times. I stop. It is not the will of God that this healing occurs.

CB: So you cannot predict what will happen

D: Before I meet a person, I do not know if it will happen, but when my aura touches his aura, I feel immediately whether he will be healed or not. Then I pass the etheric vitality Atrophied legs become longer-all kinds of things happen that you would call miracles But I repeat, they are not miracles. They are phenomena. This is the whole truth. Nothing is dependent on me; it is all God.

CB: In other words, all of these phenomena are within the circle of possibilities of every human being.

D: If they were not possible, how would it be done!

CB: For gifted people like you, this seems evident. But not everyone is aware of having these faculties?

D: It's true that I've had these things since childhood--my mother knew it, and everybody knew it. But I always thought it was something everybody could do. Perhaps in my case it is the work of many incarnations, the merging of my permanent and soul personalities. Who can say! What I do know is that they are not favors from God. You have to earn and win what you have.

CB: Speaking of God, how can skeptics and atheists work with their doubts about the existence of the divine.

D: I do not believe there are atheists; there are only people deceiving themselves. Often they have a lot of God in them without knowing it. I was talking to the ambassador of Russia once. A very famous man and a good thinker Suddenly he said, "My God, my God" I said, "Oh, do you believe in God!" This question confused him, and he asked me to explain what God was. I said he could call it love, understanding, a feeling in the soul. I gave him the example of a rich man who calls himself a Christian but steals and is greedy, and on the other hand, a poor fellow who never speaks of God but who has a piece of bread and shares it with a hungry child. Though neither the man nor the child will satisfy his hunger, this man will have the feeling of satisfaction in his soul and have much of God in him The ambassador still didn't seem to understand. I said, "If I ask you what electricity is, you may not know. But you know what it can do. He said, "I still don't understand, though I want to!" I said, "By introspection, you will understand, Your Excellency.

CB: In your system, you emphasize that the brain and the mind are not the same thing

D: A battery is not electricity! When I have difficult things to meditate on, I come out of my body and use the mind directly, not the brain. One of my students was in America when

a fight broke out in a coffee shop. Somebody took a rifle and shot, and the bullet destroyed a large part of his brain. They took out the bullet, and the doctors in America said that if he lived he would not be able to walk, talk, or go to the toilet. The boy was about 26. Two medical doctors brought him back to us in Cyprus. I began trying to invoke his soul to take control. I can't say it was not very difficult; it was. You know what happened! This boy, who could not speak when he arrived, told the doctors, "I want to get up and walk." They wouldn't let him try, but I told them to leave him alone. Today this man is working now in Cyprus, and nobody knows that he had such an accident. Orthodox science today knows very little about life. You call such incidents miracles. No! They are phenomena occurring within the mercy of the absolute super-intelligence we call God.

CB: It is reported that you are able to move across time and space at will, with full consciousness.

D: Yes, I can do it, but not with my human brain [laughing]. You've just mentioned something that people do not understand--motion. What is motion! You said "moving in time," implying that there is motion in time and space. But when you attune yourself to the cosmic memory, on the higher levels of the noetic plane, and you want to see something in what people call the Akashic Records, this does not apply. When I want to, I can know everything through the attunement of my mind in a few minutes. It is difficult to speak openly of these things, but there are the divine powers in human nature, when you know how it feels to be God. Through exomatosi, you are able to access experiences from other places and periods of time. You are able to remember all of your previous incarnations and everything- in your incarnations. Before that, you cannot remember anything

CB: Does that increase your pain?

D: Yes. But it is also a divine blessing. I often attune myself to previous incarnations. Each one is like a book I have written. It is on my shelf.

CB: How many have there been?

D: Hundreds. It doesn't matter. I can get up and read them again, live them again nothing is lost. I enter a life and see things, Christianity is not founded on dogmas. Christianity

is based on only two instructions: Love God with all your heart, soul, and intelligence; and love every other being as you love your own self: not as on a television screen but three dimensionally. You find yourself moving about in a three-dimensional world, but you can change nothing, just as a singer can change nothing on a record. However, the divine mercy is such that you can understand the lessons of what you are seeing.

CB: An incarnate Tibetan lama told me that it's the wisdom mind, not the mundane, biographical mind, that continues from life to life.

D: He is speaking of the soul nature. Many powerful Tibetan lamas have come to me. Some years ago, I met the Panchen Lama, who was in Athens on his way to London. This was quite interesting. First, how did he know me! Definitely not from the gross material body. I "happened" to be at a friend's house a kilometer from where the Panchin Lama was staying, without my knowing that he was in Athens. Someone called and said that he would be greatly pleased if I visited him. I went and found him in a great room with a yellow carpet. He was in an orange robe, sitting on a cushion. I took off my shoes according to their habit and sat next to him. He was holding his rosary in his hand and gave it to me. I took my rosary from my pocket and gave it to him. We sat looking at each other for five minutes. Not a word in any language of this world was spoken. He went to give me my rosary back, and I indicated that he should keep it because the beads were costly. I got up, put on my shoes. The man of the house said to me, "Why are you leaving without even hearing his voice". I told him that we had said more than human beings can say in five years of daily contact. "I have given him so much love, and received so much love from him, that I am happy." Now, what is this! Can people understand each other through human language! No--it is the poorest kind of communication. In a few hundred years, human beings will be able to communicate in a better way. For example, if you say to me "my house, I can know, through attunement with you, exactly what your house looks like. But the one who cannot attune himself will not know what you mean. He will think that your house is like his house. Therefore, saying the word "house" in spoken language means nothing. When people reach the level of our teaching, they will be able to communicate far more clearly. But at that level there are no secrets or hypocrisy, because you can know the other fellow's thoughts.

CB: You can read people's minds?

D: It is not reading. When you are able to attune yourself, you simply know everything. These teachings have been known to mystics of past centuries and will be known to the science to

come.

CB: This brings us to the question of contemporary Christian mysticism. Many Westerners who are hungry for mystical training go to the Buddhists or to the Hindus or the Sufis for instruction and inspiration. Where are the enlightened Christian mystics today?

D: You have the New Testament. Read it. Study it. You don't need anything else I had a student, a schoolteacher in Cyprus who was in our circles for five years. He was saving and saving to go to India. He finally got a year's leave and came to me and said, "Daskale [the familiar form], I am going to India." I never stop people from doing what they want to do. Anyway, he went to a guru and sat near him. The guru was very powerful and taught him many things. Toward the end of the stay, the guru asked him, "Why did you come here!" He said, "I'm wondering that, too. I haven't learned anything my teacher didn't teach me in Cyprus" The guru said, "Go to him and try to understand what he is saying, not what you want to understand." This is the point: Do not focus on what you want the teaching to mean but on the teaching itself. Even if you have the greatest teacher, if you are not ready to understand what he is saying, there will be no benefit.

CB: Are you critical of the Christian Church today, in which women may not be ordained priests, homosexuals cannot marry, and so on?

D: Everything has been distorted nowadays. Christianity is not founded on dogmas ; these are human weaknesses, and all dogmas contain within them the weaknesses of those who rule. True Christianity is based on only two instructions: Love God with all your heart, soul, and intelligence; and love every other being as your own self. What is not that is not Christianity for me.

CB: When you work with someone who is dying, are you able to help that person through the transition?

D: By death you mean change. St. Paul said, "I am dying every day." You came to this life as spermatozoa. Where is that now! Dead. The sperm became pregnancy, a boy or a girl playing on the ground. Where are those children now! Dead. What does "dead" mean! No longer existent in the gross material world. What will you be in 30 years if

you're still alive on this level! Not a single cell of your body will still be "you." You are constantly dying: matter in, matter out. As orthodox science has found now, matter is not destroyed but transformed to something else and something else. As a personality, too, you are changing all the time. But your I-ness, your Atma, is the same. Over time, that I-ness is simply expressing itself at the various levels of consciousness. According to the law of duality, you have two personalities: your changing personality and your permanent personality, your I-ness. The aim of our system is to help people know the difference, to find the thing that is you and that is life. So death does not exist. There is a transition, passing from the gross material body to the psychical world.

CB: Are you able to know when you will leave this body?

D: Of course

CB: One last question. Will Jesus come again!

D: Remember that Joshua said, "I am," not "I was." He is here today, and anybody can attune himself to the Christhood. Sooner or later all human beings will recognize that reality in themselves.

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