

Wise Use of Destructive Energy

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Abstract

An important component of our ability to be of service is our appropriate use of the destructive component of divine Will energy, yet it is often misunderstood or viewed as only an expression of Ray One energy. In actuality, evolution presupposes an ability to eliminate old, dysfunctional forms and forces so that there is room for new growth. We see that cycle of destruction and renewal played out in the seasons of nature each year. We also see the negative results of the fear of such change in the tenacity of old political and economic systems that outlive their relevance and ultimately become “evil.” This paper explores the positive nature of the destructive dynamic and proposes a typology for understanding how to use it wisely.

Introduction

For many, the term “destructive” has a strictly negative connotation. We become attached to Love as the predominant energy in our universe, equating it with compassion, caring, magnetic attraction, and unification. However, the destructive process is a critical part of the evolutionary or growth process¹ as it allows us to eliminate old forms or patterns and remove hindrances to clear energy flow. We can see an example of this positive destructive process in operation in the working out of goodwill since its initial stage is the identification of cleavages that need to be eliminated – i.e., those stereotypes, prejudices, and hatreds that result in the heresy of separateness.²

Destructiveness and the Ray Energies

Those esotericists used to thinking in terms of the typology of ray energies³ typically equate destruction with Ray One, often called

the Ray of the Destroyer. This potent energy brings about “...the death of negation and the inauguration of true activity. It is the energy which can be called ‘divine incentive’; it is the life in the seed which destroys successively all forms in order that realized fruition may eventuate.”⁴

The dynamic of setting limits or eliminating barriers to growth, however, is not limited to Ray One. Each of the other rays also expresses a component of the destructive dynamic:

- a) Ray 2 expresses as the withdrawal of magnetic bonds, resulting in...“the destroying aspect of this pure will...[as] one of the major manifestations of the Love nature of the One in Whom we live and move and have our being...”⁵
- b) Ray 3 expresses as the repulsion of non-truths – i.e., the rejection of energy that doesn’t have the needed quality – or the stilling of vibration.
- c) Ray 4 expresses as “...the will to destroy limitation. This is not the same thing as the will to destroy negation as in the case of Ray I, but is an allied aspect...”⁶
- d) Ray 5 expresses as purification with fire.
- e) Ray 6 expresses as the killing of desire and is often “...far more destructive than

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the first ray, for there is not so much wisdom to be found, and, as it works through desire of some kind, it is following the line of least resistance for the masses, and can therefore the more easily produce physical plane effects.”⁷

- (f) Ray 7 expresses as the prerequisite to realignment and reorganization.

Understanding the Destructive Dynamic

The destructive dynamic takes a number of forms, expressed through four primary methods: (a) visualization of the desired effect; (b) channelling of streams of light (the “advancing light”); (c) the use of sound vibrations, or Words of Power; and (d) the use of fire or Fohat. In order to use this dynamic effectively in service, it is critical that we be clear about the goal that we wish to achieve and the level of Will expression from which we are working (which will in turn determine the primary cosmic law that we need to utilize). Table 1 summarizes the methods available by the nature of the goal to be achieved, the level of will expression available, and the law to be utilized:

Please bear in mind that methods available at the Personality Will level may also be used at other levels; however, the reverse is not true. Also, each of the laws may operate at other levels of Will expression but are shown at the level where they are most clearly in operation with regard to the use of destructive energy.

The Personality Will. At the level of the Personality Will, we generally focus positive destructive activity either on avoiding the consequences of others’ violent behavior or on purification of our own three-fold personality. At the most basic level, we protect ourselves through visualization techniques such as reflecting back to others (e.g., through shielding with silver) the destructive energy they direct towards us or by the use of specific words (e.g., “begone,” “I will not...”) to banish the effects of others’ negative energy. If we wish to avoid perpetuating “evil,” we typically focus on the practice of harmlessness⁸ in our own

behavior. We also use the Personality Will for purification⁹, especially as we become aware of the need to control our emotional activity and its energetic consequences. Through the purification process, we eliminate the ongoing negative effects of our astral life and begin shifting our focus into the mental body.

It is at the level of the personality, prior to the third initiation, that a great deal of caution needs to be exercised with regard to the intention with which we use the will for destructive purposes. All too often we use self-will to assert our own needs and desires in a selfish and self-absorbed manner, heedless of the impact of our behavior on others. We believe we know better than others what is best and so we use will energy to force our views on others, violating their right to make their own decision. We indulge desire in feeling entitled to privileges not available to others and thus perpetuate the great heresy of separateness. One of our responsibilities as aspirants and disciples is to eliminate desire through a process of attrition¹⁰ – i.e., to stop giving it any recognition or attention. This process sets the stage for our being able to re-focus our energies in service. After the third initiation, the Personality Will is in the process of becoming fused with the Monadic Will and so positive intentionality (i.e., the will-to-good) gradually becomes a given.

The Soul Will. Once we are operating at the level of the Soul Will, we become able to use light as a destructive medium under the Law of Attraction. One of the roles of the soul is to assist in the purification process through the power of focused light energy, eliminating all that hinders divine manifestation by gradually substituting good for evil. In part the soul does this through “occult obliteration,” wherein the personality (and the three bodies integrated within it) becomes fused with the soul.¹¹ Light can also be used to dissolve “deadened” astral sediment. This approach of the Soul Will is appropriate for removing something that has outgrown its usefulness, particularly if there is no longer an energy source to refuel its growth, and is part of the rhythm of growth, birth and death.

Table 1. Goals and Methods

Goal to Be Achieved	Level of Will Expression			
	Personality	Soul	Triad	Monad
Protection	Reflective shielding Incantations			
Removal of hindrances & toxicity	Purification	Substitution Occult obliteration	Neutralization Transmutation	Burning up
Removal of energy source	Attrition	Restitution Elimination Absorption	Dampening	Abstraction Cauterization
Stimulation of inbuilt defenses			Inoculation	Pruning back
Annihilation				Cleansing Breaking up crystallization
Primary Cosmic Law*	Law of Economy	Law of Attraction	Law of Repulse	Law of Synthesis
Primary Method	Visualization	Light	Sound	Fire

* Supplemented by the systemic laws of Disintegration and of Sacrifice and Death.

Operating under the Law of Attraction, the Soul Will also manifests its destructive aspect through the removal of attention or focussed energy so that magnetic bonds dissipate and the form can no longer coalesce. “Divine indifference” is a variation on this form of destructive use of the will as it deprives glamor or astral substance of attention and thus of energy.¹² The Law of Attraction, which provides coherence in manifestation, also brings about the imbalance that results in the dissolution of the physical body (“restitution”), the dissipation of the emotional and mental bodies (“elimination”), and the integration of the soul back into the universal soul (“absorption”).¹³ Lest we fear death, “...we need to remember

that the worst death of all (as far as humanity is concerned) would be if a form of civilization or a body form became static and eternal; if the old order never altered and the old values were never transmuted into higher and better ones, that would indeed be a disaster.”¹⁴

The Triadal Will. The Triadal Will manifests its destructive aspect not only through the withdrawal of energy but also through its active ability to neutralize toxic or negative energy. While the Triadal Will can make use of the creative imagination (visualization) and of light, it operates primarily through the Law of Repulse. It can also utilize the power of sound and the Words of Power, which function by

causing an expansion of the targeted form until it breaks up or explodes.¹⁵

At this level of the Will, we have both the ability and the responsibility to destroy the astral phenomena for which we are creatively responsible, as well as destroying some proportion of astral substance that, although we did not create it, was created by groups with which we are affiliated.¹⁶ Simply withdrawing attention or loosening the bonds of magnetic attraction under the Law of Attraction is not enough.¹⁷ Here we are engaged in the active destruction of energized thoughtforms that have substance. Through the Triadal Will, we use both streams of light and Words of Power, united in expression through the three triadal levels, to combat the vibrant astral world.¹⁸

Using the Triadal Will, we are able to absorb, dissolve, and transmute destructive energies and dampen or neutralize evil emanations or vibrations.¹⁹ They may also be rendered harmless through additional techniques such as helping others to resist evil through “inoculation” with alternate mental ideas or attitudes. The hallmark of the destructive work of the Triadal Will is that the component parts of a substance remain basically intact though harmless.

The Monadic Will. The most dramatic destructive aspect of the will with which we interact (while we operate within the cosmic physical plane) is the fiery power of the Monadic Will, which is used to cleanse in the sense of utterly destroy. The Monadic Will operates under the Law of Synthesis.²⁰ Through the appropriate channelling of fiery energy, we become able to “burn up” all that hinders the work of the divine will.²¹ This process results in a much more thorough destruction of that which is old and hindering than does the transmuting func-

tion of the Triadal Will. If we wish to break up and dissipate once and for all the ancient thoughtform (composed of all the selfishness and fuelled by our worst desires and actions) that hovers over the human race, the work must be done at the level of the Monadic Will.²²

One of the specific acts of destruction for which the Monadic Will is responsible is the burning up of the causal body at the fourth initiation when the soul is recognized as a hindrance to direct communication and energy flow between the monad and the personality.²³

As It focuses directly on the personality via the antahkarana, the Monadic Will also burns up any remaining elements of self-will.²⁴

Working with energy from Shamballa, the Monadic Will is also capable of abstracting the sources of evil within this planetary system – i.e., calling them forth so that they no longer simply fester under the surface of human awareness and then sealing them off in a kind of “cauterization” process so that they are blocked from creating further dam-

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age.²⁵

Another function of the Monadic Will is the cyclic destruction of older forms, thereby stimulating new growth and diversity.²⁶ This function is much like the pruning back that gardeners do in order to encourage more healthy or productive or resilient structures. Care is needed to conceptualize this process as dynamic and not get caught up in a belief that the goal of our evolution is “perfection” – which is a static state that ultimately becomes “evil.”

The Monadic Will is the closest energy that we have in this solar system to the ability to annihilate or reduce to virtual nothingness. This

use of fire is based on the Law of Sacrifice, related to the will-to-good, and lays the foundation for a new round of creative building based on sounder values.²⁷ This energy can be used to destroy planetary evil, though the destruction of cosmic evil must be left to a level of will energy that operates from outside of the cosmic physical plane (i.e., from the cosmic mental level). Remembering the strengthening effect of “pruning back,” it is important that any annihilation is thorough, as partial annihilation could ultimately strengthen those thoughtforms being targeted.

Use of Destructive Energy in Service

When we describe the initiatory process as the traversing of the “burning ground,” we are in essence describing our engagement with the destructive aspect of the Will. Our service work, to be effective, must contain elements of this destructive process as the cycle of change begins with the breaking down of the old forms and ideas. “When the true nature of Service is comprehended, it will be found that it is an aspect of that divine energy which works always under the destroyer aspect, for it destroys the forms in order to release. Service is a manifestation of the Principle of Liberation, and of this principle, death and service, constitute two aspects.”²⁸

There are five basic stages in the successful destructive use of the will:²⁹

- a) Determining the nature of the goal to be achieved

This is a critical and often overlooked stage without which we can potentially exacerbate the problem or, at a minimum, be less than effective. For example, by simply “sending light” to a situation where there are inimical forces at work, we can actually provide those forces with more energy to do harm. Or, by not recognizing that there is toxic energy to be abstracted first, we can “seal in” that toxic energy that then continues to fester under the surface.

- b) Identifying the resources available to achieve the goal

The resources available will depend on whether we are looking in general for a solution to be implemented by a group or whether we are focused more specifically on what we ourselves can do. If the former, we need to determine whether or not there are resources beyond our direct control that we could evoke as a group. If the latter, we need to take into account our own level of spiritual development (i.e., the level of Will expression available to us) and our ray structure (in terms of how we are likely to express the will-to-be energy).

- c) Selecting the method to be used

We also need to identify which of the four basic methods would be most appropriate, and then review the related laws and their operations.

- d) Implementing the appropriate strategy

Once we are clear on what is needed and the best role we can play, we need to act accordingly – whether it is to withdraw attention from the source of difficulty or to neutralize astral debris or to burn out negative thought forms.

- e) Stabilizing the results

To be effective over time, there needs to be a period of stabilization to make sure that the change has taken hold and that we have a firm foundation for the next cycle of spiritual growth.

The critical element in all of this is our intentionality. It is easy to see that cruelty or domination or selfish wilfulness need to be removed. More generally, though, “evil” is based in the heresy of separateness – the viewing of others as different from ourselves, as persons to be managed or protected or manipulated. If we impose ideas or concepts on others, even with the “best of intentions,” we are also infringing on free will and perpetuating the very evil that we set out to destroy. In dealing with others who have no such scruples, it can be very tempting to believe that the end will justify the means, forgetting that how we are in the world in fact shapes our world. Instead, we need to be careful to use destructive

energy always in a context of compassion and harmlessness.

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- ¹ Alice A. Bailey. *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*. Lucis, 1957, p. 518.
 - ² Alice A. Bailey. *The Rays and the Initiations*. Lucis, 1960, pp. 750-752.
 - ³ Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Astrology*. Lucis, 1951, pp. 605-606.
 - ⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 597.
 - ⁵ Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 311.
 - ⁶ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 598.
 - ⁷ Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Psychology, Vol. II*. Lucis, 1942, p. 144.
 - ⁸ Alice A. Bailey. *A Treatise on White Magic*. Lucis, 1934, pp. 318-319.
 - ⁹ Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, pp. 30-31.
 - ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 210.
 - ¹¹ Alice A. Bailey. *Glamour: A World Problem*. Lucis, 1950, pp. 270-271.
 - ¹² Alice A. Bailey. *Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. I*. Lucis, 1944, p. 88.
 - ¹³ Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Healing*. Lucis, 1953, pp. 433-434.
 - ¹⁴ Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 115.
 - ¹⁵ Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, pp. 318-319.
 - ¹⁶ Alice A. Bailey. *Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II*. Lucis, 1955, pp. 378-379. Also: Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 306.
 - ¹⁷ Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 307.
 - ¹⁸ Bailey, *Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II*, pp. 378-379.
 - ¹⁹ Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, pp. 318-319.
 - ²⁰ Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 310.
 - ²¹ Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 536.
 - ²² Alice A. Bailey. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*. Lucis, 1925, p. 948.
 - ²³ Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, pp. 223, 316-317.
 - ²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 30.
 - ²⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 86-87. Also: Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 701.
 - ²⁶ Bailey, *Esoteric Healing*, pp. 670-671.
 - ²⁷ Bailey, *Discipleship in the New Age: Vol. II*, p. 402.
 - ²⁸ Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 537.
 - ²⁹ Adapted from Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 692.