

Beelzebub Syllabus Bookmark

Greg Loy

On the *Gurdjieff International Review* website under the section on *Beelzebub's Tales* there is a link to a page called *Beelzebub Syllabus Bookmark*. In the early 1990's, I had the good fortune to exchange a series of letters with Mrs. Staveley of Two Rivers Farm. She suggested once that I set up a *Beelzebub* study group and here is a letter from her offering some advice:

October 27, 1992

Dear Greg,

Starting a Beelzebub study group—splendid. But one or two points. One is that hearing the Book read aloud is very important. Gurdjieff always had people reading it and there was never any discussion. You see, Gurdjieff wrote from one level and we listen from another much lower. If we begin to talk about his ideas from our level too soon, it turns into wisecracking. Your opinion, my opinion; I agree, you disagree; I speculate; I talk by association—whatever it is, there is no space for the very real, very great ideas that Gurdjieff is conveying to us. We are so full of ourselves there is no room for anything else.

Here we read 9–12 pages before each group meeting. Someone reads aloud. The group should read those pages to themselves at home in preparation for the meeting of course. Then there is a short silence in case anyone has a burning question. People are not encouraged to start guessing what is meant by the reading. If no questions, then the group meeting proceeds. Over the years real questions and insights will appear, but we need time to digest the book. As I have probably said before, Gurdjieff wrote direct to essence and bypasses our head brain which is the center of gravity for the personality. People do have insights from time to time from the beginning, but it's a rare occurrence. Hearing the Book, which is a Scripture, read aloud is a very different experience from reading it to oneself. One needs both. What I'm trying to say is that it is better to listen than to talk about the reading most of the time. Now, if you have seasoned veterans of readings, it is a different story and one can study one chapter, such as Purgatory for a long time trying to understand the Law of Seven, really understand it. But wait until you've gotten past thinking by association and understand what Gurdjieff means by active mentation.

Anything I write to you is just a suggestion. No obligation to try it if it doesn't seem right in your situation. Ask me to explain what is not clear.

All good wishes,

Sincerely,
Mrs. A. L. Staveley

So at the beginning of the reading group, we took Mrs. Staveley's advice and started reading nine to twelve pages at the beginning of each meeting. We would pass the book around and read out loud the designated pages. This would then be followed by a discussion because everyone in the reading group had already read the book at least three times. We would then each read the next section sometime before the next meeting, just as Mrs. Staveley suggested.

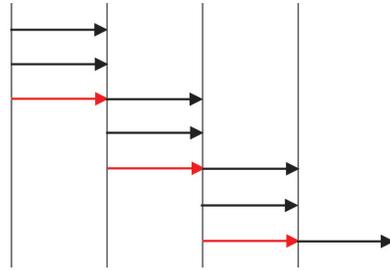
But by the time the reading group had completed the book, something changed that I want to share with you. A slightly different approach to the readings evolved which has proven to be very powerful. This can best be explained by studying the bookmark syllabus below. The syllabus breaks the book into 81 weekly readings:

Beelzebub Syllabus		
Week	Pages	Chapter
1	3-19	1. The arousing of thought
2	19-36	The arousing of thought
3	36-50	The arousing of thought
4	51-55	2. Why in solar system
	56-65	3. Cause of delay in falling
5	66-69	4. The law of falling
	70-72	5. System of Archangel Hariton
	73-75	6. Perpetual motion
6	76-78	7. Genuine being-duty
	79-80	8. Hasein dares call men "slugs"
	81-86	9. Cause of genesis of the moon
7	87-93	10. Why "men" are not men
	94-97	11. A piquant trait
	98-102	12. The first "growl"
8	103-105	13. Fantasy perceived as reality
	106-108	14. Beginning of perspectives
	109-120	15. First descent upon Earth
9	121-133	16. Relative understanding time
10	134-148	17. The Arch-absurd
11	149-162	18. The Arch-preposterous
12	162-176	The Arch-preposterous
13	177-191	19. Beelzebub's second descent
14	191-206	Beelzebub's second descent
15	207-226	20. Beelzebub's third flight
16	227-239	21. First visit to India
17	239-251	First visit to India
18	252-267	22. Beelzebub's first time Tibet
19	268-282	23. Beelzebub's fourth sojourn
20	282-298	Beelzebub's fourth sojourn
21	298-314	Beelzebub's fourth sojourn
22	315-331	24. Beelzebub's fifth flight
23	331-346	Beelzebub's fifth flight
24	347-352	25. Ashiata Shiemash
	353-365	26. "The terror-of-the-situation"
25	366-376	27. Organization by Ashiata
26	376-389	Organization by Ashiata
27	390-410	28. Destruction Ashiata's labors
28	413-432	29. Fruits of former civilizations
29	432-448	Fruits of former civilizations
30	449-462	30. Art
31	462-478	Art
32	478-493	Art
33	493-508	Art
34	508-523	Art
35	524-540	31. Last sojourn on Earth
36	540-557	Last sojourn on Earth
37	558-578	32. Hypnotism
38	579-590	33. Beelzebub as hypnotist
39	591-608	34. Russia
40	608-625	Russia
41	625-641	Russia
42	642-656	Russia
43	657-659	35. Change in course Karnak
	660-662	36. Bit more about Germans
44	663-678	37. France
45	678-693	France
46	694-706	38. Religion
47	706-718	Religion
48	718-732	Religion
49	732-743	Religion
50	744-761	39. Holy planet "Purgatory"
51	762-777	Holy planet "Purgatory"
52	777-796	Holy planet "Purgatory"
53	796-810	Holy planet "Purgatory"
54	813-828	40. Heptaparaparshinokh
55	828-841	Heptaparaparshinokh
56	842-856	Heptaparaparshinokh
57	856-870	Heptaparaparshinokh
58	871-885	41. The bokharian dervish
59	886-902	The bokharian dervish
60	903-917	The bokharian dervish
61	918-931	42. Beelzebub in America
62	931-945	Beelzebub in America
63	945-961	Beelzebub in America
64	961-974	Beelzebub in America
65	974-992	Beelzebub in America
66	992-1009	Beelzebub in America
67	1009-1023	Beelzebub in America
68	1023-1041	Beelzebub in America
69	1041-1054	Beelzebub in America
70	1055-1071	43. Beelzebub's opinion war
71	1071-1087	Beelzebub's opinion war
72	1087-1103	Beelzebub's opinion war
73	1103-1118	Beelzebub's opinion war
74	1119-1132	44. Understanding of justice
75	1132-1144	Understanding of justice
76	1145-1160	45. Extraction of electricity
77	1161-1172	46. Form and sequence
78	1173-1183	47. Result impartial mentation
79	1184-1202	48. From the Author
80	1202-1219	From the Author
81	1219-1238	From the Author

<http://www.gurdjieff.org/syllabus.html>

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<i>Week</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Chapter</i>
1	3-19	1. The arousing of thought
2	19-36	The arousing of thought
3	36-50	The arousing of thought
4	51-55	2. Why in solar system
	56-65	3. Cause of delay in falling



To use the new approach, the weekly readings would proceed like this:

- Read the first reading (pp. 3–19) to yourself.
- Attend Meeting (Week 1) where first reading is read aloud.
- During the following week, **read the first reading again** to yourself, followed by the second reading (pp. 19–36).
- Attend Meeting (Week 2) where second reading is read aloud.
- During the following week, **read the second reading again** to yourself, followed by the third reading (pp. 36–50).
- Attend Meeting (Week 3) where third reading is read aloud.
- During the following week, **read the third reading again** to yourself, followed by the fourth reading (pp. 51–65).
- And so on for all 81 weeks.

The readings overlap one another from week to week. The result is that the third reading penetrates deeply because one's mentation has been activated by the previous two readings of the same material—all within a seven day period. This is slightly different interpretation of Gurdjieff's advice when he says:

And only thirdly – try and fathom the gist of my writings.

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