

Quotable Quotes from Jacob Boehme

(most taken from *The Way to Christ*, The Classics of Western Spirituality, Paulist Press 1978)

1. "God has not created us for self-dominion, but as instruments of his wonder."
2. "As you leave the world, you will come into that out of which the world was made."
3. "Where God's will wills in a thing, there God is revealed."
4. "What now seems hard to you, you will later learn to love the most."
5. "Christ's Kingdom is not of this world, but in Heaven. Therefore you must be in continual ascension if you wish to imitate Christ properly."
6. "God's spirit acts only in resigned humility which neither seeks nor desires itself."
7. "Christ lives essentially in the faith of those who have given themselves completely to him."
8. "I am a string in the concert of God's joy."
9. "If you could be silent from all willing and thinking for one hour, you would hear God's inexpressible words."
10. "With you own seeing, you see only in your own will."
11. "Here, now, is the right place for you to wrestle before the Divine face. If you remain firm, if you do not bend, you will see and perceive great wonders. You will discover how Christ will storm the hell in you and will break your beasts."
12. "Heaven is nothing other than a revelation of the Eternal One, where everything works and wills in silent love."
13. "When God's love completely dwells in a soul, it is in heaven and is itself God's heaven in which He dwells."
14. "No life can express, nor mouth describe, the fire of the inflaming love of God."
15. "Where you according to your own self and will do not dwell, there the angels dwell over and in you."

16. "The anguished work of the creature is an opening and generation of divine power, by which God's power becomes moving and working."
17. "The soul must remain in resigned humility just as the fountain relies on its source."
18. "You must grow again into the image of God both from above and from below, as a young tree is moved by the wind and must stand in heat and cold, and in such turmoil draws its power to itself above and below and must endure many windstorms and stand in great danger before it becomes a tree that bears fruit."
19. "If you have left the way of images and rule in the silence out of which all creatures were created, then nothing can harm you for you are like all things and nothing is unlike you."
20. "When you move silently, then you are that which God was before nature and creature, out of which He created your nature and creature."
21. "When you remain silent from the thinking and willing of self, the Eternal hearing and seeing and speaking will be revealed in you, and God will see and hear through you."
22. "If your will could break away from all creatures for one hour and sweep up to where no creature is, it would be dressed over with the highest brightness of God's glory and would taste in itself the sweetest love of our Lord Jesus Christ."
23. "God's love lives in the resigned will, by which the soul is made holy and comes to divine rest. When the body breaks up, the soul is pressed through with divine love and illuminated with God's light, as fire glows through iron."
24. "No work outside of God's will can reach God's Kingdom. It is all only a useless carving in the great laboriousness of man."
25. "All that the self does outside of God's will occurs in fantasy."
26. "All that occurs through the conclusions if the human self is only a mirror of the contending wheel of nature. What good builds up, evil breaks down; and what evil builds up, good breaks down. This is the great sorrow of useless laboriousness."
27. "I, God, press through your branches into the sap and bear fruit on your boughs."
28. "For it is the young tree grown out of the old root which shall illuminate what the old tree has been in its wonders."

29. "All things long after the heart, so that they may be freed from the vanity."

30. "We have in Lucifer, and also in Adam, the first man, true examples of what the self does when it receives eternal light as its own property so that it is able to enter into its own dominion in reason. One also sees this in learned men; when they get the light of eternal nature as their own possession, nothing results but pride." (Fourth Treatise, 1)

31. "This resulted in both of them ([Lucifer and Adam] because they allowed the light of understanding to shine in the self in which they could mirror themselves and view themselves into being, through which the self went into the *imagination*." (Fourth treatise, 4)

32. *The Cosmological Teaching, in a nutshell:*

"Pain must be a ground and cause of motion."

"If there were no sharpness and no motion, there would be no sensibility."
(Clavis, #74)

"And so the eternal delight became perceivable, and the perceiving of the Unity is called love." (Clavis, #95)

THE EXCEEDING PRECIOUS GATE OF THE AURORA

(From *The Forty Questions of the Soul*, question 12)

15. Behold, thou beloved soul, if thou wilt attain the light of God and see with the eye of God, and wilt also enjoy the light of this world, and sustain thy body, and seek the wonders of God, then do as God himself doth it.

16. Thou hast in thy soul two eyes, which are set together back to back; the one looketh into eternity, the other looketh backward into nature and proceedeth forth always and seeketh in the desire, and maketh one glass [image] after another. Let it be so; it should be so, God will have it so.

17. But turn not the other eye [the left eye] back into the longing, but with the right eye always draw the left backwards to thee, and let not this eye with the will of the wonders go from thee (i.e., from that eye which is turned into the Liberty. But draw to thee its wonders which it hath manifested and wrought.

18. Let this eye seek food for the earthly body, but let it not enter into the food, that is, into the covetousness, but draw it close to the seeing eye and let it not go.

19. But let the hands labor and get food, and let the eye draw the wonders to it but not denser matter [i.e., covetousness, envy, pride, or anger]; else that which is drawn in will be darkness to thee.

20. Let the devil roar at thee, making a noise before thy left eye; he cannot get in unless thou sufferest thine eye to receive in dense matter.

21. Thus, when thy earthly body perishes, thou shalt see with thy right eye all the wonders in the left eye which thou hast wrought and found out here; and when the earthly life is gone, then thy left eye is free from the nature of wrath.

22. And although it hath nature (for it is nature itself which awakens and retains the wonders), yet then it is with the wonders in the eternal liberty: seeing it hath taken in nothing of matter, therefore it is free.

23. And nature with its wonders is a fiery sharpness, and takes hold of the eternal liberty, and so makes Majesty in the liberty in the wonders; whence the right eye (which is as it were dead here in this life) becomes enlightened and rejoices with the left eye forever in the exceedingly joyful Majesty, and [the soul] sees God with both eyes eternally.

24. This is the gate. He that sees and knows this rightly in the spirit sees all that God is and can do.