

THE GREATEST GIFT

It is not a code of ethics that will free mankind from his self-imposed condition. It is only through understanding the Law of Life that this freedom will come. Only in unconditioned Life can there be perfect freedom.

As our thought world changes so must all outward conditions change accordingly. For in fact the external world is the exact replica of our inside world—the world in which we create. Most people, including our leaders, are ignorant of this great truth. Yet it is the Supreme Law of the Universe and acts with uniformity in every plane from the highest to the lowest.

Do not think that I am bringing you any form of new religion or philosophy or mode of life, this is not the intention of these lessons. But if you flounder in these relative things, that is your own responsibility. Conformity to any pattern means limitation and limitation means frustration and frustration leads to unhappiness.

The greatest gift I can give you is to train you to think for yourselves, not to do your thinking for you, for within yourselves alone lies your freedom. When you understand this you will no longer be deceived by those who are narrow and constricted in their outlook, or others without the capacity of true understanding and others lacking sincerity.

The world today is fed on propaganda, the multitude is deceived and repeat the rote with the result that the things they believe in they reproduce. Thus man is caught up in the whirlpool of his own making. He fights like a wild beast for his existence while he allows others to do his thinking for him, spiritually and materially. He gives up his own authority and loses his individuality in a mass of confused thinking.

DEVELOPING YOUR FAITH

The objective self is always attaching itself to what it can see on the external and tries to build to the pattern it sees in the objective, not realizing that that which it sees is but the effect of causes unseen. This is not the true source from which we should build as long as we discern this fact we can free ourselves from it.

Now let me explain to you the most important fact that will lead you out of this confusion into the true Light which the prophets of old revealed and in modern language I will put it this way to you.

Our subjective self—that self that is “**creator**,” judge and executioner is none other than the Universal Self that is behind all Creation. There is only “One” and there cannot be another, and that “One” must be in the many and the many must be in that “One,” the only difference being in the degree of expression of that “One” the difference being as a drop of water differs from the ocean. When the drop is in the ocean it is the ocean, they are of the same kind and quality.

The Universal Self must produce the Individual Self in the Universal Self, because It cannot produce anything outside Itself, for It fills all space with Its own substance. Therefore the Individual Self must function in the same substance for there can be no other, and by the same mode of action, for we are made in His image and likeness with dominion over all things. Yet this truth is of no value to you unless you become aware of it through action and experience.

The only power there is is the subjective “I” and this is your starting point. Everything must originate from this starting point, and this starting point is within each one. Yet there is no separation anywhere because there is but “One” Spirit and One Spirit Substance.

You will remember in our last Course it was revealed that “I am” is the name of God which Moses was shown in the phenomenon of the burning bush and when Jesus says “I am’ the Life,” “the Father and I are one.”

Therefore “I am” is the starting point, the creative factor in everyone. When this is understood you will not readily accept

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what anyone tells you, for whatever you believe so it is unto you. How many people have suffered in health alone from this we will never be able to know, but it must run into hundreds of millions. Under these circumstances the revealing of the real Truth should be the paramount thing in your lives.

Modern science reveals that the knowledge of the prophets is in exact accordance with modern experience. The wisdom of these great teachers is not fully realized yet. The teaching of Jesus has revealed the apex of human existence and his message was also that of the "I am." "I do nothing of my own accord but as my Father has shown me so I speak just like Him."

Jesus continued the same work the prophets carried through the ages to further expand the Truth as man evolves. While Moses established a people founded upon the recognition of the unity and oneness of God, Jesus showed in natural sequence the foundation of a people founded upon the unity of man as the expression of the "Oneness" and Unity of God. This is the nucleus of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man.

Moses no doubt had this conception in his mind otherwise he would not have spoken of the prophet like unto himself that would come after him, and it is definitely seen in the Scriptures that Moses was a Spiritual guide to Jesus for he came with Elijah to speak with Jesus on Mount Sinai.

So the prophet that was to come after Moses had lead humanity further along the path towards its great goal of unity. As Moses looked down the ages he foresaw the necessity for another prophet like unto himself to carry the work forward through another cycle, and Jesus recognized clearly that he was the prophet of whom Moses spoke.

While Moses elaborated the Universality of God, Jesus elaborated the Universality of God as individualised in man, and unless man could see this he could not be free. This was the Truth that would set him free. Moses showed the "I am" in Its Universal state, Jesus showed the same "I am" in Its individual state,—the impersonal became the personal. This is the Truth that all must see so that all may become free and unlimited by thinking truly for themselves.

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Thus the Creative Power of God is established in the individual when the individual realizes this fact. I am sure that you have not yet fully realized this truth. But when the seed is sown, it will grow in the consciousness and blossom forth as the Law of Life.

You practice and experience this Law day by day often not knowing what you are doing. Only when the great revealing power of the Law becomes a reality do you wake out of your, dream state and truly live. When this tremendous power is revealed you find the omnipotent and omniscient qualities of the Universal Self within yourselves, and the mind that is filled with this Truth can have no limits placed upon its activities.

Prayer is the exact operation of this law and there is nothing religious or mysterious about it. True prayer is creating in the inner world that which you want to see produced in the outer. But before your prayer can be fully answered you must understand the operation of the Law, and it is this great Law I am endeavouring to show to you.

To Jesus prayer was expressing God through communion and he knew the method. He advised us to go into our closet and close the door for only in the inner realms does the Father dwell and only there do we find our true relationship with Him, Who is Creator of all things. "And whatsoever you ask in my name so shall it be done unto you." "I am the Life he that believeth in me shall never see death."

The work of the prophets is by no means finished, not until the full realization of the great international nationality sweeps the world shall all separation disappear with Christ manifesting in every soul, for this is the culmination of human existence.

"Unless you are born again, ye cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven," born of the Spirit realizing the fact that you are now Spirit and no power external to the self has any say in the matter. The imbecility of excommunication is as stupid as trying to separate the ocean from itself. If it was not for the belief in the power of sin bigoted religious creeds which breed separation and fear would have been dead long ago. They thrive on the belief in the power of sin.

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Sin exists in the mind of man not in the mind of God. Then let all enter into the Kingdom of Heaven where there is no belief in the power of darkness. For when there is Light the darkness disappears. Where there is wisdom ignorance disappears. Sin and ignorance only exist because of the absence of love and wisdom, the Light of the World. "I am the Light of the World, and he that believeth in me shall never know darkness."

When the word of the "I am" is known all things are possible to those who use it aright. This is the meaning of the saying "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things shall be added unto you."

The power of this Truth is not gained in one day, It grows through experience and repetition, and "by dwelling upon the Lord" for we are "made in His image and likeness."

Thought is the Lord's one mode of action, all things are the result of thought, unless you know the Lord you shall never know the power of Him Who dwells within. Dwell in the deeper meaning of this so that you will express "that which is good and acceptable to Him." And what is good and acceptable to Him you will find the same is to you.

The great Truth is that everything exists now, all is complete. We partake of this completeness day by day. But some can only partake of a crumb at a time. If we could only realize the completeness in which we live and move and have our being, our consciousness would become so expansive we would raise the atomic rate of our minds and bodies and be present with the Lord in reality now. It is only our limited state of consciousness that prevents this **Now**.

Consciousness reaches out far beyond the limits of the brain to influence people and things causing them to be inclined towards the desire of that consciousness.

This has been thought to be a mental power that acts even at a distance. This power acts as surely as the sun's rays affect plants and flowers. It is the consciousness of the Creator behind all life's manifestation in all kingdoms in Heaven and on earth. Herein lies the secret power of the "I am."

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First learn the Law of Life by understanding it, then you will do greater things as stated by the Master himself. But if you live in a world of limitation then this is not for you. If you truly desire freedom then this you can have by thinking for yourselves to **make this Truth your own.**

BENEDICTION

Blessed are those who share Thy gifts which Thou hast given.

Some are wailing by the wayside for a crumb, and die in the poverty of an unenlightened soul.

Yet those who think more of Thy gifts than Thee separate themselves from Thee.

O Blessed One, I have offered Thy great gift that Thou hast given to me and have found myself in all.

I love to be guided by Thee for now I know that Thou art my greatest Well-Wisher.

Lecture 2 (18th October 1949)

“THE TRUTH SHALL SET FREE”

Jesus showed what was Universal in God was individual in man and as soon as we realize this the veil is lifted and the power shines from his instructions.

His words, “But anyone who drinks the water I shall give him will never thirst anymore, the water I shall give him will turn into a spring of living water welling up to Eternal Life.”

Yet he did not separate himself from mankind but came to reveal man as the expression of the Father and to show himself as the great example reaching the full individual expression.

You can never know Truth through an idea of Truth for Truth is not an idea. An idea of Truth is but a standardization of thought which is limitation and prevents the unfolding of the Self in Truth.

You must not try to imagine what Truth is. If you say it is one flame in many lamps and so forth these are but words and you are no nearer the Truth.

You cannot imagine the inconceivable, so you must free your mind from the ideas of what Truth is, for this only binds you, limits you, crippling your thought and wasting your energy.

If you try to mould your life to an idea, a belief, this is not Truth, it is but a dead thing and all your achievement turns to ashes.

If your whole structure of thought is based upon an idea of what truth is you are only imitating and your imitation is emptiness but few see the misery of it.

It is only when you are conscious of your own bondages will you become aware of Truth. But then do not try to find out **what** It is only know **that** It is, this will lead to freedom and the realization of the ecstasy of Life.

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In this way you will become a supreme individual losing all sense of the particular. Then you are like the wind that moves no one knoweth where it cometh or where it goeth. You are like the water that fits into every jar, you are free to fit any situation. But if your mind is burdened with the past or the future you will only find stagnation and frustration.

The “I am” must lose itself in the Whole, then the “I am” becomes the most powerful affirmation.

“The Word was in the beginning and that very Word was with God and God was that Word. Everything came to be by His hand and without Him not even one thing came to be of what was created. The Life was in Him and the Life is the Light of Man, and the same Light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. He was the true Light which lighteth every man who came into the world. He was in the world and the world was under his hand, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own and his own did not receive him. But those who received him to them he gave power to become sons of God, especially those who believed in His name. Those who are not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but born of God.”

“No one has ever seen God but the first-born of God who is in the bosom of his Father he has declared Him.”

When we consider this we enter into the realm of fact in knowing that all there is is Infinite. Therefore all must be of the Infinite and in the Infinite, there is no other Substance, Life, Consciousness or Power but that which is Infinite. Therefore all is Infinite and therefore indestructible.

Not one particle of substance we know of can be destroyed. It may change its form yet nothing is lost. Some call this change in form, decay or death, but when we examine this further we see that there can be no death anywhere, it is but an idea in the mind of man.

These ideas then bind you and help to create sorrow and limitation by your belief in loss so you become afraid.

When the Law of Change is not understood you create ideas which you think are true. Don't you see how you become limited

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and fearful, thus you no longer can be free, but have conditioned yourselves in your beliefs.

Modern Science has proved to us that there is only one substance underlying all formation whether it be mineral, vegetable, animal or man. Science has also gone on to show that all solids, fluids and vapours are but a modification of this one Substance which is invisible and of which Science says no one knows what it is, yet the fact that we can investigate it proves that it is relative.

All is acting according to definite laws which are stable and eternal, showing that there is an Infinite Intelligence underlying everything and we only know that it is not what it is.

Therefore you cannot say that Truth is this or that, yet we can become aware of It through discerning the relative.

“And the Word was with God and the Word was God and the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.” This Word is “I am” but if it remains only “I am” we are lost in separation. Therefore the prophet says, “I am that I am,” this is the Eternal secret, that has been heralded through the ages and only those who can realize the fullness of Life in the present can translate it into daily living.

This is the awareness of Being having no limitation expanding into Infinity.

“But anyone who drinks of the water I have given him will never thirst anymore.” The fact that drinking is symbolical of taking into oneself that it must flood our whole being, conveying that there is neither a beginning nor an ending in that which is ever renewing, which is ever pliable, **this is Life Itself.**

I am not trying to describe the indescribable and you would never understand even if you tried to copy it.

There is no end, so if you try to achieve an end and hold it, then you can never free yourself.

I have already stated to you if you talk of that which is within you make it relative and if you try to imagine what it is you are lost in your own imagination, for that which you thought was within becomes an image of your own making, something apart from yourselves which is worthless.

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If you examine your minds you will see now that all you had of the Truth was but an image, the whole thing is very simple yet it is extremely difficult for those who still cling to the image or idea they think is truth.

But if you can discern all the images and ideas you hold, then you will see that they are only ideas, your own, or others whom you imitate, then you will free yourselves from them and truth will begin to express Itself without effort, for Life Itself is free and unconditioned. You will become aware of yourself as Life, free from all ideas of what It is, or beliefs in which you have wrapped it up, thereby stifling it. You will realize that you are not separate from Life. Jesus performed all his miracles by this “awareness.” “I and the Father are one.”

“Living water” which the Master spoke of was the free gift of God to all who would drink it, the water that fills all jars. This is the true understanding that dissolves all doubt and fear from the consciousness.

We can further debate the matter relatively by understanding that the Infinite being all there is, there can be no other but His Creation. Therefore He must become what He creates as He cannot create anything outside Himself, so there is the meaning of the “Word.” “The Word was in was in the beginning and that very Word was with God and God was that Word and this same Word was made flesh. All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made.”

“This Word was the Light, that Light that shineth in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. This Light is the freedom of Life to all who can comprehend it. Therefore if we discern the darkness, that which hinders the Light, we shall free the Light that is in us, we will then know that we **are** the Light—which the darkness cannot overcome.

This Light therefore must be realized as the fundamental Principle inherent in All. The Light lies patiently waiting recognition, but this recognition is not possible if we wrap it up in ideas, images and beliefs.

The world is ignorant of true facts so the mind of man is filled with mental concepts of what he sees or hears but when

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we examine these concepts we find that there is no evidence to substantiate the truth of them. Therefore the majority of people live in a world of illusion which is the cause of their feeble inefficient and ineffectual existence.

When true understanding comes there is no uncertainty, but direct expression of Reality Itself freed from all illusion and limitation. But if you do not know the difference between the real and the relative you are lost in your own error.

We are connected to the world without by our objective consciousness, the brain is the organ of the objective world, our senses are acted upon by vibrations of light, sound, taste, smell, hearing and feeling. If we are lost in the outer world we fear, the consequences are of our own making.

But if we are aware of the Truth our nervous system conveys constructive impulses which react upon our body and circumstances creating harmony instead of chaos, with the result that we build health and establish harmony in our surroundings which brings happiness through the expression of the Light that overcometh all things.

The Infinite has given us free will to choose, the choice is left with us to choose freedom or limitation.

BENEDICTION

O Eternal One, Thou hast blest me with Thy light that I may put to flight the gathering gloom of ages, matured in the dark corner of the human mind.

Through the grace of Thy light and wisdom I will dispel the accumulated error of a million years.

The vision of Thy Creation floats in my dream, and I awake to find that I and Thee are “One,” O Omnipotent One.

THE GREAT DISCOVERY

Most people become complicated in their superficial beliefs, beliefs in this and that, beliefs in dogma, belief in systems. All these are superficial and lead only to chaos.

Before one can grasp what I am speaking to you about you must unburden your minds of all these things, there is no other way. To make the great discovery, you must do this yourselves, I cannot do it for you although I may show you the way.

You must not twist what I say to you to suit your beliefs, your fears, your creeds. You cannot distort the Truth to suit your own ends. Truth is so immense It cannot be abased.

The Truth is the Self that is in all other selves, and on It all things depend, and from which all transformation arises.

That Self is in everyone and you must look to that Self and put everything else aside, then you will find the core of all things.

If that Self is perverted, fearful, burdened, anxious, all your creations will bear the stamp of your fears. The care and realization of this Self is more important than anything else, because the Self creates everything else.

It creates either beauty or ugliness. It creates either sorrow or everlasting happiness. It is also the creator of illusions thereby creating pain, suffering or rejoicing. If the Self is without true understanding then there is self-expression without meaning.

If you are concerned only with things which are but the expression of the Self, if your happiness is dependent upon things, you are bound to have sorrow and conflict. Then you are lost in chaos.

To lead you into a better understanding of the Self I will repeat to you this saying of the Master, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord thy God is one Lord. You must love the Lord thy God with your whole heart with your whole soul, with your whole mind and

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with your whole strength. The second one is, you must love your neighbour as yourself. There are no other commandments greater than these.”

Here he tells us how to translate the Truth into our daily living. He also shows that the Truth is above Law because It is the seed of everything and from it all transformation arises.

The fulfilling of this commandment brings about perfect poise of the “Self” which is true creation, and that you must care for that “Self” that abides in everyone. This is the great individuality of the “Universal Self.” The same is individualized in you and me. This is the realm which is limitless, boundless. There is no one path, no one guide for It Itself is all guides and all paths.

You can only approach It when your eyes are not blinded by tradition, by law, by convention, imposed by society, by religion or by fear.

The Universal is impersonal in nature, all abides in the Universal and the Universal abides in all and by this power we all think, “as a man thinketh in his heart so is he.” It is the vehicle for expression as well as the cause of expression. The Universal is behind every created thing, every movement seen and unseen, above and below.

The most unsuspected happens because man does not realize that the Universal will create for the individual just as he thinks. It will create a negative condition as well as a positive. Our attitude then must be one of understanding, not fear nor limitation.

The next point I want to make clear to you is that the Universal is harmony and when this is really seen by the individual all fear dissolves away. The individual no longer struggles to create harmony when this is understood.

It will be seen that our various mental states, emotions and fears have their effect upon our mind and body and circumstances producing their own peculiar kind of trouble. We are connected through the Self with every other self and the only way to obtain true harmony is to obey the commandment of the Master, “To love God and love your neighbour.”

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Everyone knows how hate, anger, and jealousy cause inharmonious changes in the body through chemicalization, and everyone knows that harmony of thought and mind excites the healthy flow of all the secretions in the body and opens the channels so that the Life Force surges through the organism to replenish and renew the whole body.

When the recognition of the true meaning of “Life” is in the mind, the body responds because the body is also mental substance that responds to vibrations.

Your thoughts are in the inner world and the effects are in the outer. The reason for this is that the physical organism is the mechanism especially adapted for the transmission of the inner or mental action into modes of external activity.

Whatever activity is created within so it must come to the outer, this is a truth that all have experienced, but few have sense enough to discern it.

With further reference to the body which many are so much concerned with, we see that it is traversed by a network of nerves that serve as channels of communication between the Indwelling “Self” and the functions of the external organism. This is the temple of the Living God that is built without hands. When we care for the “Self” which is in all, through understanding, harmony is established.

Thought is the one mode of action throughout the Universe. All forms are the result of thought. We must realize day by day that we live, move and have our being in Him the “Universal Self” Who created us in His own image and likeness.

We must know that we create by thought from a Source that is unlimited and that only we ourselves create the limitation. The great Self in us all is constantly seeking to make Itself perfect in us and thereby eternal and free.

But if you are ignorantly concerned with the outer then you will never understand the Self. If you are constantly taken up with the shadows cast by the Self you will never realize what creates the shadows for this alone can transform all shadows.

Once you discern that the shadows are of your own making you will begin to realize that which can retransform them. You

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will see that this is the only thing that matters. You must seek the heart of all things, then you will not burden yourselves with the effects. It is this that everyone of you must concern yourselves with.

The creator is the thinker, the thought is the invisible nature of the form that manifests.

These three are one, therefore all transformation lies in the understanding of the Self. Jesus gave us the key when he said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you," Heaven was the state of harmony, the innermost Spiritual, and the outer world will appear as the inner when we realize the source of our thinking. His words again, "The inner shall become the outer and the outer shall become the inner," showing that both eternally subsist in the one in perfect unity.

In the language of symbolism the circle represents the whole. A line drawn across the circle divides the circle into two, active and passive, as above so below. The perpendicular line divides the circle into four, this is individual creation, showing that God is acting through the individual, the individual also having the same active and passive, as above so below showing, that there is no separation between God and man.*

We also see this same analogy in the nervous system with the interaction of the cerebro-spinal nervous system, the consciousness, and the sympathetic nervous system, the subconscious; the consciousness expressing itself through the medium created for that purpose.

The nervous system out-pictures our thoughts. We produce in the body the exact replica of the dominating thought we hold.

Therefore we see that the "Self" alone gives power to any idea in the mind that may arise in reaction to the external. The "Self" alone has the power to transform all things.

The outer "self" is but the reflection of the inner "self," just as the inner "self" is the reflection of the "Universal Self."

If this understanding is lacking, the vicious circle is set in motion and we live in secondary causes not understanding their origin.

* See diagram page 94

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The practice of suggestion proves that we produce exactly what we believe. If we suggest weakness to ourselves we will reproduce it and vice versa. When we deeply discern that the cause of our condition is within ourselves, and the dissolving action is also within ourselves we are no longer affected by suggestion one way or another.

We shall free ourselves by “the Truth” that we are made in His image and likeness that all power has been given unto us in Heaven and on earth.

“Whatsoever you believe ye have received ye shall have.” These words are plain enough yet most people do not realize the truth behind them. They are fooled by their own ignorance.

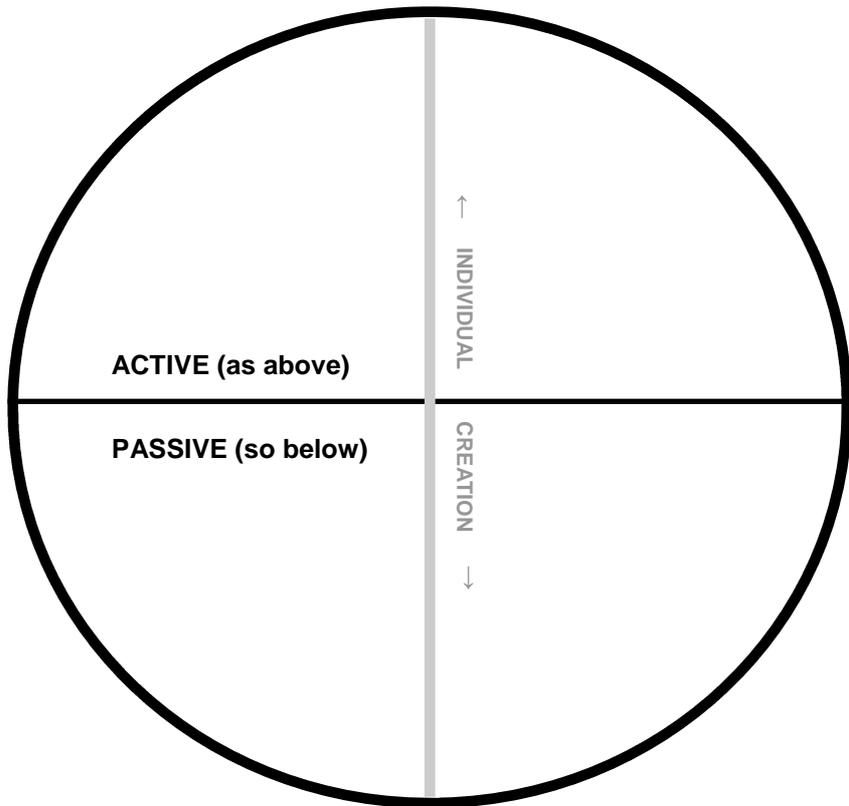
Cause and effect are united and this cannot be altered to suit man. We must discern the cause of the effect, and become aware of the “Self.” This is not a form of negativeness of the mind but an awareness of our thought-action. Mental analysis is death, awareness is Life, mental analysis deals with the past and the future, awareness deals with the present always. This is the **great discovery**, the Truth that sets you free.

BENEDICTION

O Eternal and only “One,” I was lost in the wilderness of wrong beliefs and could not find my home in Thee.

I always kept the door of my Soul open expecting Thee to come from some external world.

At last I have found Thee arising out of the darkness of my soul to become the Star of my groping mind, calling me to recognise my home in Thee and there I found that we are one, O adorable and perfect “Love.”



THE WHOLE

Lecture 4 (1st November 1949)

“I HAVE SEEN A VISION OF THY GLORY”

The fog must be cleared from the mind before the clear vision can be seen.

If you seek the psychic alone you get lost in phenomena and images. If you live in your mind alone you become intellectual and clear vision is impossible.

Intellectuals are mostly steeped in idolatry, they can never get away from their own ideas and beliefs.

You must recognise the difference between head-learning and soul-wisdom and the difference between what the eye sees and the heart knows.

What most people believe to be true is often entirely false, this is the cause of much conflict and complex minds. Few can discern the false from the Truth for the simple reason that the intellect can never give you the knowing of the Spirit.

To change your belief from one belief to another does not free you, but makes you still a prisoner in your illusion.

From one illusion you are enticed into another illusion. It is the spider's web again. But when you discern the illusion you free yourself of it.

If I say to you that God is Love, God is healing, God is Life, you readily accept this, yet if your mind is clogged with beliefs you will never understand the wholeness of Life, the completeness of Life and the true meaning of what I say is lost.

You will see now what I am trying to show you. If you accept God is Love, God is healing etc. those are but half truths, because you make this a belief only in your mind and that is not truth. It may be “a truth” but it is not “the Truth” that sets you free. When you become aware of the Self the mind may be under your

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control, but even this control is contraction and not expansion. To be aware of the self is but a half truth.

If you no longer limit the “I am” to the narrow boundaries of conditions in which you are involved you will begin to realize Truth. This will lead you to the true nature of the Self unfettered and free. This must not be an idea of freedom but a knowing of freedom, realizing the wholeness of Life, the “One” in which all have the liberty of Life.

This transgression of which Jesus speaks, is the transgression of the “I am” in ourselves; not recognizing the fact that the “I am” is the image and likeness of God.

The old original sin of “Eve”—the soul, is the belief in evil as having a substantial originating power and the soul believes that it is under the control of this “evil,” having its climax in death. This was the climax which Jesus spoke of as dying in your sin, so the soul craves for immortality but all this craving only leads the soul into bondage.

Only with understanding does this craving cease, then there is a knowing of immortality. For to live proves the “Presence,” God’s presence, the only Life there is and which is eternal.

No destruction of Life can come from the Fountain of Life, therefore death does not exist in Life but in man’s mind. Thus fear of death has been played upon to man’s detriment throughout the centuries, and because of man’s belief in death many are led to believe that they can buy their passport into eternal Life, and the more they can pay the better it will be for them.

Darkness is but the absence of Light. The Truth is the Light that lighteth everyone who comes into the world.

Ignorance is the absence of wisdom, thus most people mistake the law of transition for death, so you see death is a belief created in the mind and becomes the illusion, a prison of your own making.

God is “One” the only “one Life,” indivisible in nature, therefore not one part of Life can be destroyed, in fact not one particle of substance can be destroyed it only changes its form through the law of transition.

“I HAVE SEEN A VISION OF THY GLORY”

Life, “the Presence” is never in opposition to Itself in any human being, therefore we must recognise the Self in all other selves. If we fail to do this, we lose ourselves in separation which also becomes a prison of our own making. When we feel in any way separate from others we live in the illusion of death and this means sorrow and conflict.

I must lead you through discernment of the false so that the Truth will rise in you. Another person’s truth is not your truth. Truth rises in you, because It is there awaiting recognition. Therefore the “I am” is the foundation of Eternal Life and liberty.

Our transgression is the illusion that there can be any living originating power outside the “I am.” When we see that this is impossible we realize that evil and death have no power over us. Therefore we cease to react to it, hence we are free from it.

As long as we limit the “I am” to the narrow boundaries of the relative and conditioned, we do not realize that, personified in ourselves, It must by Its very nature still be unfettered and free as acting with the “One” Creator of the Universe. Beware lest you make Him relative and lose the Reality of your own Being.

As long as we limit the “I am” we shall never get out of the fear of death which we impose upon ourselves, and this fear of death makes all our ailments gigantic in proportion to what they really are.

The Omnipresence of the Omniscient Omnipotence is a truth that cannot be denied otherwise there could be no Infinite or Absolute. When this is understood all tension falls away from the mind of the individual who realizes it.

Another Truth which must be understood is that the omnipotent Omnipresence organises our tissue structure from Its own substance, some call it mind, in which we live and move and have our being. The omnipotent Omnipresence created us for Its own self-expression, and when we realize this cannot be otherwise, we acquire a faith that moves mountains, for we realize what is back of our creativeness.

Our Creative Power must be God’s Creative Power because there can be no other, the only difference is in the degree of recognition of this Power.

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The world is praying to a God outside. It asks but receives not because it asks amiss. God is Spirit and we must worship Him in Spirit and Reality and this Reality is within us not apart from us. Our living proves the "Presence."

To get best results all tension must be taken off the mind. Before we can transform our condition all tension must be taken off mind and body and this can only be done when we truly realize what Jesus meant when he said, "I and the Father are one." "It is the Father who ever remains within me He doeth the work."

When all strain is taken away nature begins to do her own work expressing Her own perfection. One should not become anxious about one's condition, nor try too hard to get well. Remember, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." For it is not what you want you get but what you think deeply, then realize that Divine Life fills you.

The soul is the inner vehicle of the deathless immortal creative Spirit, this is your immortality. It neither knows death nor sickness. With this realization you go from glory to glory in an eternal progression.

Every atom in your body has come from its own solution in boundless space and will return to that solution because it is part of it, not one atom can be destroyed.

Science has proved that which we term "matter" but know very little about, is composed of atoms, and atoms are composed of electrically charged particles which derive their existence from the nucleus of the atom, and science now says that this nucleus has a nucleus within itself, pointing to the fact that all must rise from that sea of intelligent energy that fills boundless space, the Absolute expressing Himself in Himself and by Himself. Thus we are made in His image and likeness.

I know that it is difficult for some to discern impersonally their own thoughts, but this must be done before harmony can be established and the "I am" must be freed from the illusion of limitation and fear.

You should under no circumstances try to banish a thought from your mind nor fear it, but quietly discern it carefully. Do not disturb

“I HAVE SEEN A VISION OF THY GLORY”

your thinking but become aware of your thoughts, by practice you will be able to dissolve any idea or thought, and above all you will know what you are thinking about.

Your beliefs you will see are but an external creation of your own, or what you have conformed to through the belief of another who is also in prison. You will know that they are not “Truth,” you will readily see that the mind is steeped in illusion. You will become aware of the hindrances by confronting them, by discerning them, by penetrating them, and with your pure thinking you will free yourself from them, and by doing so you will realize that harmony, that poise, that understanding of the Indescribable.

That which you can discern that which you can describe is not the Indescribable Truth.

One thing is sure, you will cease to have divisions. No longer will you have differing creeds and cults. You will no longer think in accordance with a belief that separates you from others. You will see these falsehoods for what they are, for the Presence cannot be divided against Itself.

I have realized this immortality. I have realized this one great mighty Omnipresence. This realization you must make for yourselves.

I am not speaking in terms of ideas and images, relative as these words may be. If so I would be leading you into another trap out of the one you were already in, and you would think it was freedom. But this so-called freedom would soon become just another illusion, another prison.

What you must do is to discern these hindrances, but do not fight them, nor pacifically endure them but become conscious of their falseness.

You can become free only by examining them with your mind utterly free from all attachment, free from prejudice, free from beliefs.

There can be no comparisons because you cannot compare the Truth with the relative, for this is just further delusion.

If your mind is suffocated with demands for conformity you will be incapable of true understanding.

DEVELOPING YOUR FAITH

The Presence requires no effort neither has It to discipline Itself into action. It Itself is pure action. In this then is freedom for the individual who realizes it. **“I have seen a vision of Thy glory.”**

BENEDICTION

Divine Presence, Thou art the Fragrance that streams from our hearts ennobling our souls.

The stream of Thy Love Fragrance washes away all separation which has been the cause of our sorrow and conflict.

Divine Love, fill our consciousness with Thy presence so that our hearts will beat with Thine, to rest in Thy omnipresence forever and forever.

THE DEVIL

It is impossible to read the Bible and ignore the part assigned to the Devil.

Most people are afraid of the Devil, this some unknown one that is always trying to do them harm. This Devil is depicted to exist in hell, a place having no locality, but very vivid in the imagination, waiting to pitchfork you into red flames belching forth from Hell known as the bottomless pit.

What we are going to do in this lecture is not to imagine the Devil but deal with him by pure reason.

There was once a little lad well advanced for his age. He was forced by his parents to go to Sunday School which he detested. He had already told his parents many times that he did not believe one word that the minister said, that he just made it up from his imagination. So one Sunday the minister was depicting that where the Devil lived was a bottomless pit, and this bottomless pit was filled with brimstone and fire. After the address was over the minister asked if anyone wanted to ask a question. So the little lad put up his hand, the minister, quite elated that at least one question would be asked, said, "Well, my little man, what is your question?" and the little lad replied, "Will you tell us how a bottomless pit can be filled with anything?"

This floored the minister and afterwards this "little man" was not welcome at the Sunday School much to his delight.

The question in your minds now is, "What is meant by the 'Devil'?" and I will begin with what is self-evident, that God and the Devil must be the exact opposite to each other; whatever God is, the Devil is not.

Now since God alone "is" then the Devil "is not." Since God is "Being" the Devil is "not being." So we are met with the

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paradox that, though the Bible says so much about the Devil, the Devil does not exist, and it is precisely this fact of non-existence that makes up the Devil.

It is that power which in appearance is, and in reality is not, in a word it is the power of the “non-existent.”

All our growth towards perfect humanity must be the recognition of that which exists and not that which is non-existent. But because man’s thought conceives the non-existent and gives it a substantive power of its own, this becomes a real power to the person that believes in it.

This is the same old serpent that beguiled Eve in the Garden of Eden, the individual Life, ignorant of its true nature, “the serpent not raised up,” “the son of man not raised up.”

So we see that the Devil is all a product of the mind that is ignorant of the “all-existing Life” that underlies all and is ever expressing Itself through form. It is the individual Life in form, not seeing this is the cause of all confusion.

There is only one power, even that which organises the atoms into form, and that which maintains them in form in the distinct organism which seems separate, must be the mode of action of the same power. The building-up power and the disintegrating power and the holding-together power are all of the same origin, as well as the consciousness in man, which is man’s own creative faculty.

The question is often asked, why need the individual die? Those who believe in the blind forces of Nature say that this is the Law of Nature, those who believe in Divine Wisdom say that it is the appointment of God. But strange as it seems both answers are wrong.

That death is the will of God is emphatically denied in the Bible, in Hebrews we are told that the Devil is the Father of death. Death is the opposite of Life, therefore does not exist. It is the individual, ignorant of the principle of Life, that believes in death, so this is the non-existent that exists in the mind.

The disintegrating power at work in the form is the evolving process, the direction of the Infinite Cosmic Creation whereby

THE DEVIL

all particles revert back to their own solution to be further evolved in ever-progressing forms. This is the eternal Law of Progression of the never-ceasing and perpetually expanding individual Life.

Both the Bible and our pure reason tells us that there can only be “One” Power in the Universe which must be the building-up and this work is ceaselessly in action, therefore when the mind is not aware of the Truth of the only “One” it assumes the transition of that form to be death, “That which is not,” and this is the “Devil.” So the Devil is the cause of fear and death.

In all Nature we see positive and negative in action but these two are of the same source, this is the cause of all manifestation and disintegration, both forces are at work directed by the “One Intelligence.” The individual, not realizing this fact, affirms the non-existing to be true and for this reason the Scriptures calls it the Father of lies.

The word “Devil” means “false accuser” or “false affirmer.” When the Creative Principle individualized is unaware of wholeness and affirms the non-existent, we see how this can become an impersonal power in the mind of man, still at the same time having no real existence. This is the denial of the Spirit, the Reality, but few see the misery of it. This is the ignorant inverted thought of the “Spirit” that denies its Lord.

This is the exact opposite to the Son of God in whom all things are “yes and amen,” that is the Spirit of the affirmative and therefore the Spirit of Life. This is he who would destroy the power of death “the Devil” and deliver all who, through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage. In Hebrews 2: 14.15. we read thus:

(14) “For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood he also himself likewise partook of the same and by his death he has destroyed him that hath the power of death, that is the Devil.

(15) “And has released them who through fear of death all their lives were subject to slavery (bondage).”

Satan, otherwise the Devil, is the name given to the old Serpent that deceived Eve. This is the wrong belief and it is

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this that also sets in motion secondary causes which appear as conditions. When this is seen in the true light we realize the cause is ourselves.

We readily see that there can be no Universal Devil in the same sense as there is a Universal God, therefore there can be no individual devils, only ignorant “Spirits,” for we are all of the same Spirit and no harm can come nigh to one who realizes this Truth.

There are many more aspects, of which I can speak to you, on the subject but I want to bring home to you the importance of the removal of this limitation which is self-imposed.

This must be done and can only be done by the removal of the barriers imposed upon the Self by the self. There must be a constant breaking down of all limitation made by the Devil and death till the Self arrives at the point where there are no more barriers between it and the Eternal, the “Self” made immortal, deathless, imperishable, everlasting, indestructible and all-abiding through understanding. The self is perfected because of its immortality.

Wherever there is limitation, ignorance of this Truth, there is sorrow and man is always seeking a “way,” this only leads to struggle and exploitation. It is only when you recognize your struggle you will recognize your exploiters.

You are seeking that freedom of that “existence” that cannot be touched by the non-existent, this can only be done when you recognize the “non-existent” for what it is, the Satan that blinds you to that which is real and eternal, this is the immortality of the individual.

It is the “I”-ness in the Self which causes all these barriers which separate, which create false realities. This “I” must be made immortal, imperishable, made pure through “Wholeness.”

Now this is not brought about by abandoning your fellows, nor is it obtained by applying oneself to a work which you think will lead your soul to a place of security. This process of achieving is only creating further barriers by eagerness, by struggle, through fear and other innumerable complications.

THE DEVIL

You must remove these barriers between the self and the Eternal in which we are all united and which is immortal and indestructible for that which is Eternal must be perfection. Yet you cannot imagine that perfection for it is beyond your imagination, yet it IS Perfection Itself—Infinitude in finitude and finitude in Infinitude.

It is not “imagination” that is required but constant watchfulness lest limitation enters into the Self to hide the Eternal. This can only be done by yourself and not by another. But if you discipline yourself consciously or unconsciously, not knowing where you are going then discipline only becomes another barrier.

You have to discern for yourself, by thought by reason by intuition by constant awareness, that fearless freedom which is the fulfilment of Life.

Life fulfils Itself in freedom which is eternity. This is the ocean into which all must enter knowing that the true beginning of the Self-discipline is understanding.

True discipline is much more intense than this for it cuts into the very roots of the “I” myself which creates the barriers and this discipline by understanding must be born from the Love of that which is Eternal

Then you will know the difference between that which does exist and that which does not exist.

The Devil is dethroned never again to rise up in your mind to confuse you. “Get thee behind me Satan.” The head of the “serpent” the deceiving element is forever crushed never to rise up again.

For if the Devil was a reality man could not destroy him, nor could he say “Get thee behind me, Satan.”

BENEDICTION

O Mother of All Creation, All that I know is Thine.

My innermost thoughts are known to Thee because we are “One.”

All the barriers between us have vanished for Thou alone dost exist and ever will.

Thou art the Christ, the Buddha,¹ the Krishna,² born in the flesh visible and invisible, personal and impersonal.

Thy Cosmic Infinitude appears in Cosmic finitude. So do Thou appear visible and living, eternal and free, O Blessed One.

O Thou Ocean of Life, Thou hast absorbed the ripples I created in my ignorance and now I know. I am in Thee and Thou art in Me.

1. Siddartha Gautama (c.560-c.480 B.C.), Buddha ('Enlightened one'), also known as *Sakyamuni* ('Sage of the Sakyas'). The son of the rajah of the Sakya tribe, as a young man he left home in Nepal and renounced the world. Practised an extreme form of asceticism and became the founder of one of the great Asian religions.
2. Krishna. (Hindu Mythology). Great deity or deified hero, worshipped as incarnation of Vishnu.

YOUR PERSONAL EFFORT MUST BE FREE FROM STRUGGLE

Struggle always results from reaction to conditions, unfulfilled desires and circumstances that surround the individual who feels the burden. The individual who is aware of lack, bound by ill health, full of fears, is always struggling against the relative world and this is the cause of frustration because this struggle is filled with negativeness.

This is the error in the mind that is always reproducing itself. But when Truth is established the error disappears. When the mind is filled with negativeness greater burdens are created.

Personal effort must first be experienced until one sees the uselessness of struggle, then the personal effort becomes free from struggle, this is action which does not result from reaction to the relative but from creative thought through understanding. It is action from within oneself.

Man has split the atom, measured the distance between the planets, can travel faster than sound and has more wonderful achievements to his credit, but yet the greatest knowledge has not yet been tapped, how to overcome his own inverted self-created conditions.

Everything that is seen or felt is mind materialized. The question is how is mind materialized? And the answer is, by the power of thought. But again where does thought originate? Thought originates in the consciousness. What the consciousness is aware of is automatically materialized.

The next question is the most important one. Where does man's consciousness or creative power originate? It originates in Divine Mind. It is the moving factor in Divine Mind and must be the moving factor in human mind, the two being interlocked

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in the manifestation, for it cannot be otherwise when Divine Mind fills all space and is all power there is, all Knowledge there is.

These are profound and important statements and are the foundation of all original thinking. But thinking alone is not sufficient there must be feeling, for this is the motive power behind thought.

For instance you may reason intellectually and come to the conclusion in a cold matter of fact way, yet all great people are people who have a great depth of feeling.

Therefore those statements require deep contemplation before the great import of their meaning takes root in your mind and as this becomes more clear in your mind your adverse conditions will begin to disappear, because the Truth is being established and error is being eliminated and dissolved. The self is beginning to realize itself not in a separate way but as the integral interlocked—the Divine and the human.

When the great fundamental Truth is grasped the consciousness—our Spiritual creative power attracts conditions which correspond to its own recognition of itself, and its recognition of itself must always be the exact reflection of its own dominant thought and feeling.

We can see clearly here why Jesus announced forgiveness of sin as the accompaniment of physical healing.

By sin, in the sense we have now seen, death and all lesser evils enter into the world, and our belief in this sin, is the cause, and all sickness and death is the effect.

It follows that if the cause is removed so will the effect cease. The root of the tree of the belief in the non-existent is cut away so the fruit must wither. This is the simple working of cause and effect.

Therefore the belief in evil, the Devil and death have their destruction in the realization of Life. For sickness and death of the body result from the imperfect realization of Life by the soul and its non-realisation of its eternal unity with its Divine Source.

So the logical conclusion we must come to is that the removal of lack, ill health, fear and death is the removal of

YOUR PERSONAL EFFORT MUST BE FREE FROM STRUGGLE

separation. Thus it will be seen that the ignorance of our eternal unity is our greatest sin.

“Thy sin is forgiven thee, arise and walk.” This I hope will convey to your mind the difference between reaction and pure action. Thus we cast off the burden which separation brings upon us, and we find freedom in our eternal unity.

This was revealed to me not very long ago. A man came to see me, he was crippled and could only get along with crutches. I looked at him and said, “It is not blood pressure that gave you this trouble, for I can read your mind, and the atmosphere that surrounds you.”

So I told him the story of the Prodigal Son, how he was afraid at first to return to the Father, but in the end he was forced to do so.

On his return he did not expect forgiveness but that he could be at least a servant in his Father’s house, and was willing to take what the Father would offer him.

But the Father saw him a long way off and came to meet him, put his arm around him and kissed him, and not one word of condemnation was uttered. He became the son that was lost and now found, the son that was dead and now alive again, the son of God born of the Spirit and not subject unto flesh and blood.

I said, “You are likewise, the Father holds nothing against you, your sins are forgiven, arise and walk. You are born of the Spirit and not of the will of the flesh or of man.” That man stood up and walked out, carrying his crutches with him.

The limbs that were incapable of movement began to strengthen and as if a miracle came to pass again, the fullness of Life surged through his soul and body. But this was no miracle, it was the Divine expression of the realization of Life free from all conditions.

The greatest antidote to any negation in your mind and body is to become aware of the Divine Presence always, so that not even for a moment can you at any time hate instead of love, or cease to look upon everything with the eye of the all-embracing Truth.

DEVELOPING YOUR FAITH

Love and pure reason are never in opposition to each other, the result is wisdom or pure action always going out from itself never relying on or reacting to the external.

To arrive at that perfect balanced and poised Love, without fear or reaction or struggle, you must go through the attachment of Love before you can understand Love and through your experience your growth is attained.

To say that you “love” and have never experienced the surge of this blessed thing, love to you is but an illusion. For if you do not know what individual love is and recognize its limitation you will never know even a fraction of what the Love of God is.

When this Love is then turned towards the Eternal then there is the beginning of freedom and the gate to happiness is opened.

The most practical person in the world is the one who has found true values, that person is poised ready for action without struggle.

If you live in your own separate centre you will sooner or later find that the struggle is too great and you then try to find a way of escape. Only by true discernment of the cause of your struggle will your struggle cease. Then you will begin to realize the presence of wholeness, the Eternal.

I have told you before that you cannot make an image of the Eternal for the Eternal is Infinite in nature. But this Eternal can be realized for It Itself is Love, Wisdom and Healing.

I have repeatedly told you that mental theories are of no fundamental importance. You only accept these because you want to support your beliefs, and I am not dealing in beliefs or theories but in the practical and actual working of the Presence of the Omnipotent Omnipresence.

By applying yourselves in this way you will find that there is a Supreme Existence which is not a mere theory. Neither is it a static or a featureless Absolute but a dynamic complete and all-embracing Presence that is ever expressing Itself, and will do so in you when you remove the barriers that hinder Its true expression.

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This must be realized as now existing and not at some future time or beyond. The acceptance of this Divine Presence is the foundation of your great work in the world today, for is it not you who have been called to do this work?

Your development is taking place here and now. I know that some of you are struggling with your burdens but through your experience you will find that freedom, for you will discern why you are struggling.

If you look into your minds you will see that you have filled it with the “non-existence” instead of the “Existence,” with the result that you are creating more of the non-existing and less of the true “Existence,” thereby creating greater burdens.

The source of our being is the Eternal and as we become to know our Father in Heaven we become aware of the great inner Light for there is no darkness when the inner Light begins to shine. The Christ Consciousness becomes the outer as well as the inner, knowing that in this, all power and dominion is given. All that is dark disappears because it has no power of its own.

By making an image of the Divine you create separation. It is not **what** It is, but **that** It is.

By putting the Divine outside yourself you will be always looking for the Divine in the distance, Reality is here and now. In this realization your work will never cease but will expand to a more radiant form of beauty of the Eternal which becomes your personal effort in pure action.

This glorious Truth is not speculative or imaginary It is actually and eternally true. “Try me,” says the Eternal, “and I will open the door of heaven and pour upon you all good things.” “For all that I have is thine.”

Jesus says, “Cast the net on the right side of the ship and ye shall find.” St. John 21: 6.

Then cast your net on the right side and you shall also find.

BENEDICTION

O Divine “One,” I lost everything while I was roaming in the darkness.

At last I saw a glimmer of the Light that lights the world and darkness began to fade away.

O Mother of Love, Thou didst stir in my heart my remembrance of Thee and as I saw in myself Thy likeness I was freed from all my illusions.

O Eternal One, when I gave up my life I found Thee and no longer buried in separation and death, but in Thy perfect eternal bliss.

I craved for all things but found that I loved Thee more, now I shall abide with Thee always for Thou art “all there is.”

QUALITY

You all know about creative thought power and many talk about thoughts of Love and Healing that can be sent out to those in sorrow and sickness. These thoughts have helped and even healed, yet in some cases the upliftment does not last long and the sickness appears again. This causes many to doubt the power of thought and healing.

The weakness lies in both the recipient and the healer not thoroughly understanding the fundamentals upon which the healing works.

It is not a question of sending thoughts to someone who is suffering or not suffering. It is a question of thought itself. Can anyone help another if they themselves are uncertain of their own achievements?

If you are strong, certain, purposeful, then you automatically help everyone around you. But this strength, this certainty, this purposefulness, only comes when the presence of the Presence is realized. In this lies your strength and in nothing else.

If this realization is missing then what does your thought amount to? Your thought must be charged with the essence of the Presence from within.

Bees go to the flowers but their objective is pure honey, and this is the finished product. So it must be with you. If you are all the time concerned only with those whom you are going to help, and not concerned with the finished product, then you do not have the finished product.

Spontaneous action is always beautiful but if it is not sustained with the real quality of the Presence, the aid is not complete, and you can feel this to be so.

Time and space for the one who is truly living does not exist, neither is there any fear of death or sickness for the one who is aware of Eternity in the present. If you are all the time

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living in hope and fear and not in concentration in the Present which is Eternal then your thought is weakened by your attitude towards sickness, fear and death.

Now the quality of thought you require must be effortless. If you are concerned, worried and entangled in the idea of whether you are helping or not helping you are caught up in the mental struggle, which is not filled with the Presence.

The Presence is healing and this Presence is in everyone, and it is the Presence that you must realize in the individual and not only the projection of thought to the individual. You will readily see that if you just send thoughts of Love, Health and Strength you are only producing half results.

Jesus was aware of the Presence at all times in every person. His words, "Your sins are forgiven arise and walk" proved this truth. This was the effortless projection of the Healing Forces charged with the Presence which contained the cure for all conditions. Then what is necessary to know is that the Presence is present and this in itself fulfils the Law of thought projection.

I cannot do better than relate some of the work done by the Master to emphasise the importance of what I say.

Jesus travelled up and down the country healing and teaching, and news of his wonderful healing power spread far and near. As he reached Capernaum a man named Jairus, an eminent member of the church and the community, came to him and beseeched him to heal his little daughter aged 12 years, who had been taken seriously ill and had been given up by the physician as incurable.

What I am going to say to you will reveal the secret of the meaning of the Presence.

Now Jesus was healing at the time when Jairus approached him and because of the father's grief Jesus paused in his teaching and turned towards the house where the little girl lay. One could imagine the throng of people that followed him to see this, another miracle. So everyone was jostling each other and pressing hard around the Master.

His mind was made up, he was sure, purposeful, the realization of the Presence was at its height. His whole being was charged with the Presence to be released at any moment.

QUALITY

When he felt someone touch his garment in search of healing he immediately perceived what had happened, for he felt the stream of living force flow from him, and he knew that someone had received it. For he immediately turned round and said, "Power has been drawn from me, who touched my garment?"

Now it was obvious that many had touched his garment but only one had claimed that power of healing. So his garment was touched in a certain way and the power flowed from him towards the one who sought it so fervently. At that moment the woman was healed and his words were to her a benediction, "Thy faith hath made thee whole," for he knew her mental attitude towards him.

It is this Presence that you must realize and feel within, so that at any moment those who are eagerly seeking it can have it, then their faith will make them whole, this faith is their capacity to receive.

Many are content with their little gods, with their little lives, with their little ceremonies, with their methods and authorities. They are afraid to step out of the beaten path and seek. They are steeped in their illusions claiming these to be knowledge. It is because they do not know the Real, the Presence, that these illusions are realities to them.

But let me complete the story about the healing of the little girl. As Jesus came near the house the servants and relatives came running out to exclaim in their sorrow, mingled with a certain amount of resentment because the healer had not arrived sooner, that the little girl had died.

The father broke down at this terrible news coming at the greatest moment of his hope. Jesus turned to him and said, "Jairus, have faith believe with all your heart and the **Presence of God** will be revealed to you."

Here was the instruction from the Master of Masters (believe with all your heart in the presence of God.)

Then Jesus called on three of his disciples, Peter, James and John and went inside the house, His first act was to send all the weeping family and wailing neighbours outside for they were of little help, for they believed in death.

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He then touched the child's cold hand with his own. Then a strange happening began, the little chest began to swell with Life's breath, the child's cheeks began to flush with life's bloom and she opened her eyes and with a wondering look she gazed into the eyes of Jesus, the Presence had met the Presence.

His disciples were also amazed as well as the throng that followed him and his words to his disciples were, "If you will only believe in me and what I tell you these things you see me do you will do even greater things and anything you ask in my name, the Father will give you."

His name was "the Presence," the same Life in the Father was being expressed in the Son. This is the Presence that is ever-present everywhere, not only in the visible but in the invisible, and those who have passed from the body are still present with us, for the Presence does not die nor fade away.

Your own lives have automatically changed since you have taken these instructions. The assurance of the mighty power and the understanding with all your heart that this Presence is everywhere is the proof of healing. Healing then becomes the dissolving of the illusion but how few can see this, they cling to the recognition of the trouble and think that they are doing the healing, this is separation. In Reality there is nothing to heal, for Reality is perfect.

I hope you are beginning to know the true meaning of what I say to you. Words are quite inadequate to describe the Indescribable. It is only when you realize and feel the Presence can It work through you to do the things the Master said It would.

When the mind can grasp this glory that is indefinable, this grandeur that words cannot express, this Love that remains when all other things have passed away, where reaction has faded into oblivion, then the quality I want you to have will be yours.

Wherever you are and whomsoever you meet you will automatically help. For the Presence is always active in those who have the quality and through them the Presence does Its work. "It is the Father who ever remains within me is performing His own deeds."

QUALITY

It is not a one-sided affair, both must be receivers, the healer and the patient, for the Presence only gives, and is eternally giving.

This is the completeness of man's understanding of himself, to become aware of the unity of God in man, also to become aware of our relation to things and people, to discern deeply our thought action, whether it is concerned with that which is relative or that which is Eternal.

This is the question I want you to ask yourselves so that you can discern where your thoughts are moving, are they moving in the direction of the illusion or are they moving in the direction of Reality. We are free when we know what the illusion is, that it is false having no power of its own except your belief in it. If you are caught up in the net of the relative then the quality of your thought is impaired.

True spirituality is to be all-inclusive without any distinctions, you cannot be caught up in the net of beliefs or in the tinselled garment or belief in the exclusiveness of any particular person. If this is so then you have not realized the Presence everywhere.

When you begin to understand, the distinction between the material and the Spiritual disappears, and you no longer think yourself as a superior person because you think you know more or feel you are more Spiritual. You will see that this is not the quality required to express the Presence for this is but separation, the great illusion.

There are so many subtle forms of illusion that you have to be always on the watch lest you be caught up in them, lest you become a hindrance to the Divine Nature of the Presence that automatically helps everyone, good, bad or indifferent, the Presence is no respecter of persons.

Then just "BE." "**TO BE**" is to be real. Understanding and Love are the biggest achievements, the world is ourselves and the world changes with a change in us.

You automatically produce an effect, but you must not be concerned with the effect lest you lose the substance, for if you are concerned with the effect you are caught up in the effect. To be aware of the Presence is the essential thing and not caught up in the result of your action.

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Let your personal Love become more impersonal for this will make it stronger not weaker. Weakness comes when the individual Love is questioned, then the quality of Love is not there.

If you love many you are often considered not to be a Spiritual person, but you cannot be a loving person if you love one and hate another, nor can you be a kind person if you are kind to one and unkind to another.

The cause of cruelty, pain, sorrow and conflict is separation. In this separation there is exploitation. To bring a change about, you must see what part you have played in these contributing causes. But if you are caught up in the net of separation you will never discern your own motives, and the true quality becomes impossible.

Do not struggle or battle with ethics, virtue and their opposites. If you battle against error longing for virtue you are caught up in both. What you are seeking is quality through understanding and this cannot be attained through the illusion of virtue.

The wise know how to lay the emphasis on the essential, the Presence is the only essential, It itself is "Quality."

BENEDICTION

O Divine Presence, Who ever remains behind invisible space and expressing Thyself in visible form, every day I gaze at Thee, Thy Presence, to grasp infinity. I see only "One" Who became many yet remained "One."

It is Thy Presence alone that will loosen the entanglements of my self-woven net of illusion.

Thy Presence is spread over the earth in the flower of humanity. May each one awaken to Thy Presence, and Thy Love will lead them to Thee, our eternal Home is Thine, O Beloved.

FAITH

Faith is an awareness of the Presence, this faith is not the faith that is generally understood by the majority of people. It is not a faith in some outside God or faith in any individual or in any external agency, nor anything relative to the self, but awareness by the self of the indwelling Creative Being, not as a separate Being but united as one Being.

Now this faith is not acquired in a day nor is the full realization obtained all at once. It is a gradual growth of the awareness of the Presence by the individual through the understanding of that which hinders the manifestation of the Presence.

The great power of faith is in the realization of the Presence as the real Self and the only Self. Lack of faith is when the Self is affected by fear and doubt not knowing that there is only one Substance, one Mind, one Consciousness operating, therefore faith and doubt always oppose each other in the mind that is not aware.

As you become more aware of the one Mind behind all Creation expressing Itself through the individual so is the power of faith increased in the individual. This is the faith that I want you to understand, any other faith has the opponent doubt, where both faith and doubt are in a continual battle for supremacy.

There are two facts that deserve your special attention. The first is, that the perfect liberty of the individual must be in accordance with the Will of the Creator who is manifesting Himself in the individual, and any religious system that advocates blind submission to adverse circumstances as submission to the Will of God has failed utterly to understand the teaching of the Master who revealed our Divine authority over all things; and the second fact of great importance is, that it is our ingrained belief to the contrary that keeps us tied, in bondage to all sorts of limitation.

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Now the Master shows us that when we know the Truth we shall find that we were not tied up at all, we are utterly free. It is our ignorance of our Divine Nature that causes all our limitation and bondage.

In Genesis we are told, in other words, that the Divine Principle makes things by Itself becoming them and this includes the individual. Therefore It cannot have any other than Its own natural movement in the individual, pushing forward into fuller and fuller expression of Itself, which therefore becomes the fuller and fuller life in the individual, and that which tends to limit the full expression of the individual life must be an abomination to the Universal Mind expressing Itself in that individual.

I could not do better than relate the incident when Peter saw the Master walking upon the water on the Sea of Galilee. It was near Bethsaida, seven miles from Capernaum, where the Master restored the little girl to life of which I spoke to you in the last lecture.

It was on the side leading down to the lake that Jesus fed the multitude of five thousand from the few loaves and fishes which were at hand. After all had been served the scraps and fragments gathered up filled many wicker baskets and were again distributed to the poor people of Capernaum for the morrow's meal.

Naturally enthusiasm amongst the people was at its height for they were proclaiming him Messiah, the King of the Jews, Provider of the people, Ruler of Israel. The crowd was swept with intense excitement.

Jesus recognising the peril to his mission ordered his twelve disciples to cross the lake to the other side in the darkness, while he returned to the hills near by where he spent a few hours in Divine Meditation.

The people of course looked upon Jesus as the one to sweep the Roman civil authorities out of the country and he saw clearly the danger to his mission.

Early in the morning he saw a storm rising over the lake and he knew the fear that would take hold of his disciples in their

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tiny craft, for a storm on the Sea of Galilee was no mere picnic, and he wished to assure his disciples that all was well. So he stepped upon the water towards the direction in which he knew the small boat would be.

With his complete awareness of the Presence he did not have to use occult power necessary for levitation in accomplishing such a feat. Knowing this, he walked upon the water and it was to him as solid as the floor beneath your feet.

It was in the early morning dusk when he came upon his disciples. When they saw a figure swiftly moving on the waves towards them they were greatly afraid, when they heard a voice calling to them out of the dimness, "It is I, be not afraid." You can imagine what was in their minds after the miracle of the feeding of the multitude, the healing of the little girl and now to see the Master walking upon the water was just as much as they could take.

Then Peter in all his excitement and in the depths of his own thought, free from all limitation, as the Master had taught them, cried out, "Master, master, direct me to walk to thee on the waves."

The Master, understanding the feelings of his disciple, directed him to walk towards him. Now Peter's great inner forces were aroused by his faith in the Master, and he sprang over the side of the boat and began to walk towards the Master. But when Peter saw himself on the water he lost faith in himself, he could hardly believe that such a thing was possible. So the power left him, the Presence was no longer established in his consciousness so he began to sink beneath the waves.

The Master, realising what had happened to his disciple, stepped forward quickly and caught him by the hand and ordered him to walk saying, "The water is solid beneath your feet." And Peter found it to be so and they both entered the boat together and proceeded to the shore near Capernaum.

It is this lesson about Peter that I want you to see and you will take more from it than hundreds of books or lectures you may ever get on faith.

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When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water his whole self was alive with faith in the Master for he had told them so often that what he could do they also could do if they properly understood what he was showing them. So without hesitation Peter walked on the waves. But when he saw himself doing something that was unfamiliar to his belief, he allowed limitation to enter into his consciousness. He lost his awareness, the spell was broken by his own accustomed beliefs. His mortal consciousness succumbed to its habitual belief in limitation. This is what you are all doing but you do not discern it, that is the tragedy of it all.

Now you can see what I mean by “faith” not the common faith that has as its partner the “fool” called **doubt**. But if you do not recognise this limitation you will never be able to deal with it properly. Unless you see that this “fool” does not really exist except in your own mind then you will never understand the “faith” of the Master.

When you succumb to the belief of the mortal senses you fail to realize the Presence of the Presence.

This faith I am speaking of is slow in growth, but like the mustard seed, no matter how small, it will grow into the greatest of bushes for all the birds to rest upon.

It is by the awareness of the Presence that the so-called miracles are performed. The individual must know that it is the Presence that is doing it. “The Father who ever remains in me is performing His own deeds.” I hope that this will be clear to your mind. The individual is the means through which it is done.

As long as Peter was aware he controlled the Law of Gravity but, when he doubted, that control automatically disappeared, for it is a truth that the son of man is above law. The Father being above and below the water is able to make the water solid if the son wants to walk upon it, but the son must become aware of this otherwise he is lost in his limitation, yet when he discerns that his limitation is but his own inverted belief, he is free.

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What I have told you now is a pearl of great price and will give you more understanding than if you had volumes of instruction in the occult sciences to accomplish the miraculous feats that occult students perform after years of practice.

The world is benefited by your awareness of the Truth and those whom you come in contact with are automatically uplifted like Peter, but they also will fail if they put faith in an outside agent. That true faith the Master speaks of is that the Kingdom is within us and, unless we realize it, we submit to the mortal senses which judge from the outside.

Pure action is necessary, that is that you must act from within and not react from without. Some people try to justify their reaction under a feeling of emotion of fear, anger, jealousy, failing to note that the law of cause and effect does not justify any action, it only produces the effect of the cause. So they seek to console themselves with excuses. But if you would understand the law you must be more impersonal towards the external and transient, and more personal towards the Eternal. If you can do this you have entered into the power of the Universal Mind.

We must express Life fully and freely without fear or limitation, then all is ours by natural sequence, success, honour, love, friendship, health, happiness.

To those who understand, possessions are only a veneer in the sense of this power, they are because of the law of attraction set in motion by the individual who operates the law.

With the majority of you, when you concentrate upon the particular object of your desire, the fear of not obtaining the object of your desire reverses the law of cause and effect with the result that the desire is frustrated, and seldom matures. Many Truth students try to demonstrate things, with the result being negative the sense of confidence begins to wane and a sense of fear takes its place. The first is often called faith and now, what is the latter called?

When the Presence is realized our thought is the connecting link between the Universal and the individual. The thought of an individual who realizes the Presence takes root in the Universal

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Mind and comes to fruition through the Law of Growth. And we see clearly, that in the Creative Principle the Law of Growth is operating continually. I would refer you to the first Chapter of James, read this carefully in the light of what I have told you and you will understand "Faith."

BENEDICTION

O Beloved, Thou art my Father-Mother-Friend. I will realize Thy Presence more and more.

I will "reason," I will "will" and my action will be Thine.

Then who can deny Thee, only myself. Thou art the Captain of my ship, Thy trade-winds will bring my actions to the shore of fulfilment.

Thou art the magnet pole of my thoughts, guide them to Eternal Bliss.

Thou art the joy I seek, the lasting joy of my soul fulfilled.

Thy Presence is my faith and my limitation has vanished because I found it was not in Thee, O Beloved Friend.

TRUTH

No one can hate the Reality in man for God comes to us in the likeness of man, we are taught to see and love God in man. What we hate is something that surrounds and hides the real man.

What is behind the true nature of man we always love. This is the reason why we love those who have passed on with a love that holds in itself forgiveness. For we know in ourselves that we also need this forgiveness, not only forgiveness but forgetfulness of all that was unworthy of our true nature.

We find that Love is more unselfish when it embraces those who are risen. The disciples loved the Master more when he had risen than they did while he was with them in the flesh.

While he was present in the flesh Peter denied him, but when he returned to the Father Peter would die for him.

This is all so true, but one must first go through the experience to understand it. When the realization comes that death has no power over the one that is risen there is a feeling that is blessed with the Love of God. This can only be understood when one has come to the realization that everyone must pass the same way.

The great "Truth" changes the nature of our feelings towards others, but this "Truth" is here now, and when we begin to realize it we find that our feeling towards others changes here and now. This means our own freedom from the results of our own actions towards others.

Wisdom and Love are our only true guides and when we realize this truth we see that there is no room in our lives for that which hinders our true expression. For when we discern that which hinders our true expression "we are washed by the word" which is spoken of in Ephesians 5: 26, this means the Spirit.

The Divine Spirit Itself does the cleansing. Thus we receive our daily washing as we put away from us that sense of separation

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from the Divine. For it is only by the retention of this separation does guilt remain in the heart.

This is why Jesus bathed the feet of his disciples. You will remember the story when Peter refused to allow the Master to bathe his feet saying that he was unworthy of such an act, that the Master should lower himself to bathe his disciple's feet, but Jesus made it plain that later they would understand the true meaning.

A wonderful light is thrown on this dramatic incident of the Master in Luke 12: 35-37; "Keep your loins girt and your lamps lit, and be like men who are expecting their lord and master on his return from a marriage-banquet, so as to open the door for him at once, when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the lord and master finds awake when he Comes! I tell you truly, he will gird himself, make them recline at table, and come forward to wait on them." (Moffatt)

When we are found prepared the Lord will gird himself and serve us. This means that God grants our requests immediately we realize our relationship to Him. In other words, that Nature obeys us in proportion that we first realize Her and obey Her so shall She give to us all Her goods and serve us completely.

The Lord becomes our humble Servant immediately we obey Him. This can be clearly seen in all walks of Life, because the Life Principle is not something separate from ourselves but is the supporter of our individuality. The more we understand and obey the fundamental law of "Love thy neighbour as thyself," the more fully shall we be able to make specific application upon it.

"If I wash thee not thou hast no part with me." These were the words of the Master. He spoke as the conscious mouthpiece of the Divine Spirit Itself and when seen in this light the meaning becomes clear. We are cleansed by the Spirit as we find ourselves one with the "One" in all.

Energy and matter are inseparable just as man and God are inseparable. When the most advanced Science becomes the starting point for our religious philosophy the world will come

TRUTH

to understand that Spirit is the one and ultimate Substance underlying all things.

Truth is the search for First Cause and when we find Truth we find the Cause behind all things, thus we will have dominion over all things.

Our consciousness is the out-picturing of the Divine Consciousness. By this consciousness we think, but the majority are not aware of it and often man is unaware of the fact that he is thinking.

The asylums are full of people who have failed to discern their own thinking and have allowed their thoughts to control them.

We can dissolve all conditions in our minds and bodies by the power of the Spirit. Through Divine chemicalization all adverse conditions are dissolved away. This is the Truth that sets us free.

Truth casts out fear and all that is contrary to our true nature. If we will take time to discern our fears we will see that it is this self-created force generated by our ignorance that paralyzes our nerves, reduces the circulation of the Life's blood, affecting the entire mind and body.

In our search for Truth we find the key to the elimination of our troubles.

Ignorance in man is his ignorance of the Truth. When Truth is realized people act naturally, this shows that ignorance has no principle in itself therefore we learn that it has no power of its own, only Truth has power.

In Proverbs 24: 3-5, 13-14: "What builds a house is skill, it is erected by intelligence; and knowledge furnishes the rooms with all that is rare and pleasant. Wise men are better than warriors, brain is better than brawn;. . . . My son, eat honey—it is good, and honeycombs are sweet: so wisdom tastes." (Moffatt)

Truth must not only be established in the mind, but a knowing in the heart must be established so that it becomes habitual in your everyday life.

Evil is thought to be a very real thing but when we know the Truth we find that evil has no principle of its own. The Church

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is struggling with evil giving it a power it does not possess, with the result the world is in fear of it. The Master said, “Resist not evil,” showing that it had no power of its own.

Evil cannot exist in the Divine for there is no outside; so where does it exist? The only conclusion we can come to is that it exists only in man’s mind. But when examined in the light of Truth it disappears so we must worship Truth if we would attain a consciousness of our Divine Nature.

Idols and images are but concepts in the mind, but Truth is not a concept. Moses tells us that we must not carve any idols in the shape of anything in heaven above or on the earth below or in the sea, “Ye shall not bow down to them or worship them.”

Exodus 20: verse 1, states, “God spoke these words ‘I am the Eternal your God. You shall have no Gods but me.’ ” Moses knew that there was the only “One” which was the Creator of all and that any other God was a false God created in the mind of ignorant man. And any image or idol was a forgery.

Truth is all-inclusive. If there is not an all-inclusiveness then there is no Truth. When you find out that anything less is unintelligent, thoughtless and stupid you will realize for yourself the Truth.

It is for you to discern that your beliefs have been based upon illusion. This is not so easy for the one who is influenced by beliefs based upon separation. But it is essentially simple for the one who has put aside ideas of attachment to any belief. In this way only can you come to the core of the Truth of that which is immortal in yourself and others.

I am not attacking any form of religion for the one who knows the freedom of Truth realizes that organised religion is entirely false because it is not all-inclusive.

You must first become a human being recognising the all-inclusiveness of all human beings, knowing that Truth is not divided in humanity but is expressing Itself as a whole in humanity and is never in opposition to Itself. Unless you realize this you will never be able to give to the world the best that is in you.

TRUTH

In one of my recent lectures I spoke to you on thought, the strength of your thought lies in the realization of the “Presence” Truth. If you think in separation, your thought is weakened by your attitude of mind. In the all-inclusiveness of the Presence lies the power of your thought.

To repeat my words will not give you the realization of Truth. Truth is your own affair not mine. You must come to It by your own realization.

It is not what I say or what any other person says. You must arrive at the Truth through your own discernment of what is utterly false. Neither can you compare what I have said with that which someone else has said or what you think you know, nor must you accept what I say because it coincides with your beliefs. If you do this you are not thinking intelligently. It is the core of Truth you must find and this can only be done by yourself through your own discernment and realization so that you may become “aware.”

You must have no prejudices for this blinds you and leads you away from Truth. Opinions are of no value either, for you will note that this is not truth. Truth is “knowing,” awareness, freedom.

If you are afraid to discard what you believed to be true in the past, then you stand in your own light. This is one of the obvious hindrances to Truth. Fear often takes hold of the devotee with the result that he or she falls back into their old limited beliefs for safety. This safety is but an illusion born of weakness.

Truth means the actual realization of the Presence, “The Truth” an “awareness,” that comes through discerning that which is not “Truth” and which is a hindrance to the expression of the Truth in the individual.

You must be sure that you are not deluding yourselves, for it is not merely skimming the surface that leads you to your final conclusion which is “awareness.”

If you listen to me with a background of what you have accepted without deep discernment of its true value, that background may be one of theosophy, Christianity, Judaism or any other belief, you will be stuffed with these ideas which in

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themselves are but contradictions. You can readily see that if you are stuffed with these contradictions the conflict in your mind will impede your realization of Truth.

The challenge must be bold and impartial, free from any conformity. Some of you will think that this is a drastic step but this is the only step and the final step in your realization of the Truth.

A belief is not the Presence, a belief is but an idea in your mind and the Truth is not an idea nor an image, Truth is Life, Reality, is complete in Itself. It does not need an idea for Its expression. It Itself is true expression.

The Truth is already established and every human being can be helped through It. Therefore the more you clarify your own minds the more the Truth can make Itself known through you.

It is only when your mind is utterly free from division, distinction and attachment can there be true understanding. Then the core of Truth can be reached. But this must not be a relative Truth otherwise you are lost again. Truth is not something outside yourself, there is no outside "yourself." When you realize this and become aware of it, then the all-inclusiveness of the Truth will be yours, Love, Wisdom and Power will express Itself and you can say, "All power has been given unto me in heaven and on earth."

BENEDICTION

O Everlasting Truth, bless me that I may behold Thy wholeness. May the Morning Star of Thy glory appear before me so that my eyes are opened to Thy abiding Presence in All.

At first I saw not the Spirit within their bosom, but as I discerned the falseness of my beliefs the veil fell from my eyes. I became aware of Thy Infinite Presence everywhere and I met Thee face to face, for Thou art the Everlasting Truth.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM¹

All over the world at this time, millions of people are preparing to meet and rejoice. There is a feeling of goodwill, a desire to give, a desire to make others happy. There is a fever of delight, inspiration and goodwill welling up on the approach of Christmas.

Absent friends are being remembered, antagonism and embitterment is being dissolved away. How could it be otherwise when at this time everyone is captivated by the beautiful story of the first Christmas nearly 2,000 years ago, when the world was presented with the key to Love, Faith and Hope.

The shepherds heard the heavenly host sing, "Glory to God in high Heaven and on earth peace and goodwill to all men." These shepherds were men of deep understanding and had practised all their lives communion with the Spiritual realms, for their calling had developed gifts that are latent in most people.

This phenomena is not unfamiliar to us for we have also heard heavenly hosts sing here in our midst. Therefore we know that the same applies to our present time, as applied in ancient times. The trouble is that most people put these things into the past or the future with the result that they never experience them in the present which is the only time. "The Presence" is always present and is the same "Presence" two thousand years ago and today.

The shepherds, on their knees, with their flocks peacefully grazing around them, the wise men with their gifts stand before Mary with her child in her arms. Motherhood is lifted to the highest pinnacle of human thought. The Christ is born through woman and the great truth is revealed through woman, that in every child born there the Christ dwells.

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This is the highest form of human thought and enables all to reach their godhead, through the power of Love, Faith and Hope, the greatest of these being Love. Paul says in 1. Cor. 13: 13-14, “Faith and hope and Love last on, these three, but the greatest of all is Love. Make Love your aim and then set your heart on Spiritual gifts” (Moffatt translation). Yet the highest form of human thought is gained through Love.

Those who believe and those who do not believe agree on one thing that on this Christmas night long ago in Bethlehem the vision of goodwill towards all men shone out over the world.

Although the world is far from the perfect vision of a world ruled by “Love” where man loves God with all his heart and his neighbour as himself, yet this everflowing Fount of Living Water is offered to mankind as a free gift leading to Eternal Life and liberty now, just as it was on that Christmas night in Bethlehem.

This babe, destined to become the leader of all men, entered into a world torn with strife, separation, greed and dishonesty and although man has not thrown off these self-imposed shackles that bind him, he can still raise his eyes to see the Star of Bethlehem still shining as gloriously as it did on that first Christmas night. Not only is it still here but is brought nearer to us by the Love and Faith of the Man of Galilee who showed the way. His faith was his realization of his oneness with the Father of Love, and as the Father always did the work, that work was always done in a way that would benefit the individual most.

This knowing of the Master proved that his faith was not put upon any individual agency but entirely in the Father who resided within him, not as something apart from him or relative to him, but that the very nature of God was in himself, so that whatever he asked believing that he would receive, so he should have. And the same message he gives to us, when we also believe as he did, “Whatever ye ask, believing ye have received so shall ye have.”

Lack of understanding is the cause of our lack of Love and Faith. When we love we are on the crest of the wave that carries us on to fame and fortune. Faith is absent where there is fear of

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not having, this sense of not having is the seed of doubt and fear. But when we know that it is our thought that reproduces itself we see how necessary it is to follow in the Master's footsteps.

In the Life of Jesus this truth was lived out completely. He showed in terms of simple beauty that all may follow, so that all may reach the pinnacle of perfection that he reached. Yet today we look over a world that is suffering from the scars of war and strife and still the world is quarrelling over the way it should live.

It is evident that the world has failed to understand and practise the teaching of the Master. Instead of realizing the oneness of all Life, so simply expressed in the Master's own words, "I and the Father are one," those who follow him have set up an image of Jesus as a form of worship instead of applying his teachings in their lives. By doing so they have put Jesus and all he stood for far away, quite beyond their reach.

Mankind must clear away the fog of this illusion before he can claim his true birthright, shown again in the Master's words, "Call no man your father on earth for one is your Father who is in heaven." In the light of this truth the miracles of two thousand years ago are possible today.

We must all realize that great truth the Master gave in simple language for all to understand, that this Truth would set us free. Through ignorance and craving man has turned away from that ever-flowing Font of Living Water offered to him as a wonderful free gift from God leading us to eternal bliss.

Have we not all the world over erroneously exercised our Divine Gift of free will by disregarding the gift of Eternal Life and Love, and we are now nearing the point where we touch the darkest depths of our own self-created misery. But this is the point where we perceive a gleam of light as we raise our eyes and see the Star of Bethlehem still shining as gloriously as it ever did. That Vision of Perfection is still with us and becomes nearer to us and clearer to us as the effect of our own folly is discerned with understanding.

This Divine Wisdom is always with us if we will but use It, "For in Him we move and have our being." Made in His image and likeness we have also been given His free will to choose.

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Thus we learn through experience, and as long as we do not allow experience to deprive us of our true birthright we will know the meaning of his words, "All is possible to him that believeth," for the Divine Creative Power is inherent in us all, "What you gaze upon you bring forth."

The Divine Light shineth in the darkness and the darkness can not overcome it. This Divine Light of Love and Faith does not leave man alone but surrounds him even in his darkest hour. It was this that Jesus showed us so clearly in his last moments on the Cross, "O Father forgive them for they do not know what they do."

The world has reached the stage in mental and scientific development where Spiritual understanding must serve the greater purpose, so that mankind will go from glory to glory. Failing this, mankind could destroy itself on earth through separation and ill-will. Yet by unity and goodwill, as demonstrated by the Master, mankind can reach a pinnacle unheard of in the ages past.

We have reached the stage also where we become our own evolution and it is up to us all in the world to reach out to the Star of Bethlehem and make it a reality in our lives by translating the Christ that is born in us into our everyday life here and now.

Here are some of the Master's words that I have selected for our enlightenment. "Let not your hearts be disquieted, you believe, believe in God and also in me." "If you knew me, you would know my Father too. You know Him now and you have seen Him." "These words I speak to you all I do not speak of my own accord it is the Father who remains in me who is performing His own deeds." "Believe me I am in the Father and the Father is in me." "Truly, truly I tell you he who believes in me will do the very deeds I do and still greater deeds than these."

The effects we suffer from today are but the causes of yesterday and no matter how we treat these effects, it will not cure our troubles. Nor can we separate ourselves or close our eyes to the conflict that is going on in and around us, for we are ourselves the cause. What the individual is so is the world. The trouble of the world will pass when the individual ceases to add to it.

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The light of the world is essentially individual in character because the individual must see the light before it can be established in the world, for the individual is the world. Therefore we must live by example and not by preaching.

Take the world today, divided into two armed camps, both are seeking advantage, antagonism is at its height, any moment a spark could set alight the powder magazine. We cannot have that lasting peace by threats of atomic bombs nor can we obtain it by looking down the barrel of a gun or at the point of a bayonet. Only by the free systematic unselfish co-operative tackling of the causes of war, strife and misery can these be eradicated.

It is only when we can love each other and have faith in each other instead of hating and fearing one another can we hope to banish our self-created misery.

Our needs are dual in nature, individual and collective. We must tackle our own problems in the light of Truth. We must also develop a spirit of comradeship and love for our fellows before we can hope to have that peace and quiet of heart we individually desire, before we can have a lasting peace and security from conflict, sorrow and limitation, individually and collectively.

I think it was St. Cyprian² who said these words, "He who seeks to save his soul alone may find the path, but will not reach the goal, but he who loves may wonder far yet God will bring him where the blessed are."

Let us then not waste time trying to patch up our old mistakes in thought and action but see the Light that shines in the darkness and which the darkness cannot overcome. Then nothing will stand in our way. True happiness only comes when this is found in ourselves, and the only instrument we can use in the process is true Love and Faith.

Action is needed, nothing can be done by just thinking about it. We must each be fired with that Divine dynamic purpose devoting our energies to constructive work, individually and collectively, to make our brotherhood complete. We must first begin with ourselves in our immediate surroundings, our homes, our associates, our business and in our everyday life. Above all let us be practical about it and not merely theoretical or visionary.

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Now is the time, there can never be a tomorrow for tomorrow never comes. Now is the time for constructive work to be done in the individual and the nation. Only Love for our neighbour and Faith in God and ourselves can bring that peace and happiness that all are seeking.

We must train ourselves Spiritually, mentally and physically in the Science of Living, so that each one can make a real contribution to the establishment of this lasting peace and happiness, individually and collectively.

We must first of all serve others and not enslave them, that love for others more than for ourselves shall dominate our action. **For Love is that strong vigorous manly expression of the Christ Character.**

Time does not change man, willpower does not change man, only the Christ Character can do that. "If you love only those who love you what credit is that to you."

Jesus lived to make men free, then let us follow the star of Bethlehem, that Light that shines in the darkness and in our hearts we will utter these words of the immortal poet Robert Burns:³

"It's coming yet for a' that
That man to man the world o'er
Shall brothers be for a' that."

Yes! LOVE is the greatest thing in the world and the Star of Bethlehem still points the way.

BENEDICTION

O Thou rarest of Flowers, that grow in the Garden of Humanity, thy freshness and thy aroma spreads all over the earth.

Prejudiced minds would slander thee, yet thou didst shed thy Love upon them and thy forgiveness helped them to be purified by remorse.

Thou art the Lover of all who have strayed from the fold, for didst thou not say “Leave the ninety-nine and go and find the one that is lost,” so that the fold may be complete.

Thou hast healed the deep wound of hatred by saying, “Love thine enemies,” for they are our brothers who are sick through ignorance.

Yet thy sweetest words of all are those when thou suffered most, “O Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

O help me to be like thee, O rarest of all Flowers.

1. This Christmas lecture was delivered both in Pretoria and Johannesburg (15th December 1949).
2. Saint Cyprian (Thascius Caecilius Cyprianus). He was born sometime at the beginning of the 3rd century in North Africa. Died a martyr in Carthage Sept. 258. He came from a wealthy and distinguished pagan background. After converting to Christianity, he became bishop of Carthage (249) and was an important early Christian writer.
3. Robert Burns (1759-96). Scottish poet. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland. Also known as *Robbie Burns*, or simply as *The Bard*. ‘Burns Night,’ the evening of 25th January (his birthday), celebrated by many Scots with feasting and drinking.