

The Descent of Man

T004 The Inner Teachings 1st April 1936 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

O Infinite Spirit Who art all Wisdom, Love and Power, we pray that Thy love may find greater expression in lives both incarnate and discarnate. Thou knowest, O Creator, the yearning of these Thy children for knowledge. We pray that each one may be quickened with understanding. May the angels of light draw so close that not one soul shall leave this place without receiving the blessing of Thy Light. May courage sustain each one, and with clear vision and peaceful mind may they go forth in joy and love according to Thy will.

Amen.

We are participators in the great work with humanity at the present stage of evolution. So many are struggling along the road of life in the darkness, helplessly, seeing not where the path is leading. But the time is coming, my beloved ones, when the light of the ages shall shed more radiance upon human life.

We trust that in this talk we may be able to help you to a more comprehensive grasp of the Plan. Although there are many aspects of truth, many rays, there are times when you can only look along one ray—when the light which should be shining over the whole picture is obscured. Of the many problems which confront you, we think that the most difficult to understand is that of the Fall of Man, and so tonight we endeavour to give you a clearer understanding of this subject. The Bible tells of the Garden of Eden, but in the past century scientific thought and teaching has compelled the thinking man to throw aside the old story. Yet as you pursue the Ancient Wisdom, you will find the same legend imprinted upon the records of many a civilisation which has risen and passed away. At the present time there comes again a revival of this story. I hear you ask ‘But how can we reconcile the story of Eden and the Fall with the theory of the physical evolution of man?’ For there certainly is a case for the evolution of the physical vehicle of man. Therefore if man evolves through the many stages of physical growth, how can you account for the story of the Fall? Again, if man fell from high estate, from the godliness which was his, how do we account for the omnipotence of God? The two aspects of thought do not seem to blend. I would impress this one thought upon you: *God is omnipotent*; He holds the Plan; He is the great Architect of the Universe, and about that there can be no compromise. Therefore, God being the great Architect holding the Plan, we must admit that all creation is in His mind, and He cannot make a mistake. And who are we that we dare criticise and think that there can be a fault in the great Plan?

We want you to change the word ‘Fall’ to ‘Descent’ of man. Man did not actually fall through error but, according to the Divine Plan of growth, had to pass through a process of descending gradually into a physical vehicle, the latter having evolved from a lower state of life stage by stage until the brain and mind developed to a degree that it could commence to comprehend the glory and the power of the God within. The story of the Garden of Eden is so crude, and yet so pregnant with truth.

Conceive of man in that state of life before he had full power of action and thought. At that time the human ego was in possession of a physical body, but unlike the physical body to

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which you are now accustomed. The spirit or consciousness was more outside than within the body, and existing still in some higher state of life—if we describe this as being more like a dream state it will perhaps express what we mean. For remember there had to be not only the process of creating a physical vehicle, but the developing of those subtler bodies of which you are beginning to learn. Now the time came when man reached the point where he was ready to be set upon his own responsibility, when the spirit existing in a higher condition was brought into closer contact with the physical earth. Whereas before this period creation had lain in the hands of angels, the time came for man to be given the knowledge of creation from his own body. In certain species of animal life, procreation seems to be directed or controlled by a law—by what is called natural instinct. But creation was in the hands of the angels, or the higher hierarchies until the period of the Fall or the Descent of man, and then came the dividing of the way.

Your Bible tells the story of Lucifer, or Satan, the serpent who came and tempted the woman—do you not see symbolised in this the awakened consciousness of procreation? And here (if I am not giving you too much meat at once) try to link up the idea of the angels, the Light Bringers, with that of the Son, or the Christ, who was destined to gather again the fallen children who had passed through that experience of conflict with the very lowest as well as the highest—that Son which was destined to gather them unto Himself—to raise them to comprehension and vision of God the Father. The process of evolution means the bringing to the human soul of consciousness of the higher and the lower, of good and evil.

Do not regard the process of evolution as bad, as evil. We beg you to see rather in the picture a beautiful process of soul-development. Regard the picture as you would that of a child who has been given material by its teacher. The child in a clumsy way proceeds to make a little model of that which it has been shown—a poor reproduction indeed! So it is with man, but daily the model is becoming more perfect. The Son of God came to earth again to reveal the picture which the children had tried vainly to reproduce.

There is in man the spiritual or divine urge, and there is also that part called the mind, which seems ever at war with the spirit. Good and evil are like two wheels (which are not yet one) at work, the higher and the lower—the higher brought into being through the lower path of suffering, suffering destined to produce finally the perfect picture, the perfect Christ-man. Did we not tell you that all men shall be raised up to the Son, shall be one with the radiance of the Sun?

This being the purpose of life, never grumble at any experience which comes to you; regard that experience dispassionately and realise that you have something to learn from it; look ever for the lesson lying behind. Thus we would have you regard the Fall of man as a process of evolution, and not a violation of the Divine Plan of progress. Witness the coming of the serpent—indicative of wisdom—which came to enlighten man and not to tempt him. Imagine the first Light Bearer saying to man ‘You have the power within yourself to create life’. Before, man had no power, he was entirely dependent upon the angelic ones. Now he has to be responsible. ‘You have bodies, you can create—what does it matter if you die?—more

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bodies can be created from yours'. And cannot you see subtly the idea of sin entered in with this, bringing to mankind suffering, sickness, pain and death?

On the upward path, these physical bodies which you know now will change. Your bodies today are different from those of the last root race, for there has been a process of purification and rarefication of the physical until at last man will not know death, but only a transmutation, even as was demonstrated by Jesus the Christ. It is all so logical.

Q.Does the process of evolution which you have described apply to other planets as well as to the earth?

A.I want you to understand, my child, that White Eagle is not omniscient.* The only truth worth holding is that which comes to you yourself in quiet meditation. But according to White Eagle's observation, while there may be a different process of evolution on other planets, all is in accordance with a similar law. All flowers are not the same ... but there is the same process of creation and growth.

*[*The original version read 'omnipotent', but we feel that this is the word White Eagle meant to use. There may be a transcription error.]*

Q.Did man descend from animals?

A.White Eagle cannot subscribe wholly to the Darwinian theory. I do not think the human body has followed the particular line of evolution which Darwinism indicates, but I think that there will be evidence for another theory of evolution before long.

You do not perhaps feel happy about the theory of reincarnation, but nevertheless, you will find it difficult to get a comprehensive picture unless you believe in reincarnation.

Q.Will the Second Coming be in a physical form?

A.Christ cannot come again in the 'dead' form of the unregenerate man, but only in the body of light. But until humanity can comprehend the body of light, how can it see? But much power is pouring upon man, quickening and helping him in his growth. When the Second Coming is here, it will be in the body of light, which man through his own body of light will be able to see and comprehend.

Q.Is not the eagle the symbol of wisdom, as well as the serpent?

A.Yes beloved, that is so. We have already told you that the eagle is the bird of vision, and in the old days, some of the Indian brethren regarded the name of the eagle as meaning vision. If there is vision, there must be wisdom.

QIs the path of progress always through suffering?

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A. It must be by suffering until man himself refuses to suffer. It is possible to progress on the path of joy, but how many souls are great enough for this? If you put your hand in the flame, you learn that it burns. Suffering is the protection by which man is saved. If you did not feel the pain when you put your hand in the fire, you might lose your hand altogether.

Q. Can you explain the reason for the descent into matter?

A. It is to bring the full consciousness of the power of God in man. You get the seed from your flower, but unless you plant the seed in the earth and give it the right conditions, it will not grow into the beautiful flower. The soul of man is the seed of the divine, brought into incarnation in matter so that the seed may break and grow and bring into the outer consciousness the idea of God—man being a God in seed form.

Beloved, take this thought with you. It is not only in the words spoken but in the power which is concentrated around us at these groups that you may learn. Your teachers are here, giving greater things to you than White Eagle's words can bring.

Benediction:

And now, as one heart, we await the blessing and the benediction of the great Spirit of Love. With humble hearts and complete and full trust, we go our way to thank God and to praise Him for life.

Amen.

The search matches with either words and phrases, which appear in the text, or the following 'key' words and phrases, which are similar in meaning to those in the document:

Hell, Devil, sin