

More About Heaven

T246 The Inner Teachings 10th April 1956 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

We would approach the Throne of God; we would humbly lift our faces to the Great White Light, praying that our vision may be cleared and our understanding deepened. O, beloved Father-Mother-Son, we Thy children pray to Thee. Thou knowest the silent prayer of our hearts; Thou knowest the longings of the human soul. We thank Thee for Thy gracious and beautiful blessing which we feel descending upon us now. May Thy light go forth through all humanity that all may be comforted, healed and inspired by eternal truth. Into Thy hands we commit our souls and spirits.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Beloved children of earth, we know that in most hearts there is grave fear about the other side of death, and our desire in giving this message is to bring to you consolation and comfort. Most people know only the physical side of death. They watch a friend in what appears to be the agony of death, but which is far more often a quiet, peaceful passing away of the consciousness—that is all, a passing away of the consciousness from the physical body. But it leaves desolation in the heart of the looker-on, a great fear. 'Oh, if only we had faith to believe that all is well!—that those who pass onward will not suffer, or be unhappy when separated from us. Surely because of their devotion to us as well as our devotion to them there may be sorrow and loneliness on their part as well as our part at the breaking of the physical link.' It is to bring you consolation and perhaps a deeper understanding that we speak first tonight on this subject.

You may imagine the soul who passes on will feel lonely. We remind you, however, that there are guardian angels and friends of former lives, of whom you may not know, waiting to meet the soul. So there is no question of lack of companionship. There is very happy companionship waiting for most souls in the spirit world.

But more than this, what we say tonight will, we hope, make you understand that there is no separation at death. By this we mean that when a soul passes on to the next state, which is usually the astral world, it finds itself in exactly the same state of life as that to which it goes every night. When you are what is called 'asleep' you are living for a time in the astral world, and there you are meeting former companions of your earthly life. It is all a matter of harmony, and you are drawn to those with whom you are in harmony. So for the one who passes, there is not the separation you imagine, because at sleep all meet on that sphere of reunion. Your sleeping here is like the waking over there on the astral plane, so you must dismiss all thought of separation when the change of death comes: there is no separation, there is no death; it is just a continuation of conscious life.

While you are living on the earth remember that you are building a temple; you are building your subtler bodies. This is child's talk to some of you, but be patient. You are building your astral body by your desires and emotions. You first of all are building your physical body by your daily habits, by the kind of food you eat and the air you breathe. Much the same rule applies to the next body. The desires, the emotions, the tastes of the earthly life, are building your astral body, and the thoughts, the imaginations and the creative instincts of the creative

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self are building the higher mental body. All these bodies that you are building are visible in the aura. The astral body which surrounds the physical is seen by a clairvoyant as an emanation of colour either beautiful, refined and delicate, or coarse, crude and ugly. The more highly evolved and delicate and sensitive the individual, the more beautiful are the colours in the aura. First of all the etheric surround is seen, then the astral body; then outside is the vibration or the radiation of the mental body, and there are several higher auras which are rarely seen by the ordinary clairvoyant. In order to contact these higher realms of life you must develop senses with which to do it; you must develop pure and subtle bodies to penetrate these pure and subtle planes of life. But if you neither think about these things nor aspire to them, if you are content to grovel with crude material things, you cannot hope to get there. When you perfect the physical body by right living, right aspiration, true prayer and an ever-surging upward; when you purify the astral body by heavenly desires, by spiritual aspiration, by refined tastes, by loving beautiful music, beautiful colour, beautiful paintings, beautiful thoughts, good work is being done. Much the same applies to the mental body; by meditation, imagination, a reaching up all the time, you are building your subtler bodies. Until you have these bodies, you are living in a kind of prison house.

When you pass out of the physical body, you enter a state which corresponds with what the Roman Catholic friends describe as 'purgatory' and what we describe as just a waiting place. We have referred to this in other talks as the 'waiting halls'. It is a state which the soul has prepared for itself during its earth sojourn by the quality of its life. We would like you to get a very true picture of this state. With the savage* man** it can be coarse and crude because he knows no better; with the ordinary man it can be a very pleasant life with gardens, landscapes, pleasant homes. All the material has been gathered for the building of these homes during the person's life on earth. Unconsciously man prepares for himself the kind of place he will be in when he leaves his physical body. At a certain level, above the mental plane, there is built what we call the 'Temple of Light'. Other schools of thought may have another name for it. It is at a high level of life. From that level the soul returns to incarnation, but it can dwell there in a state of supreme happiness and bliss, enjoying all the beauties of a lovely world and a lovely life for a long, long, time after its strenuous life of service on earth. There is no hard and fast rule. There is no forcing of reincarnation, although it is the law of life. At a certain state of its spiritual evolution the soul quickens, awakens, as it were, quickens in consciousness and desires to come back to retrace its steps and reincarnate, not only to gain more knowledge but often to give wider and greater service.

*[*The term 'savage' was common in the 1930s but is unlikely to be used today.]*

*[**For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

All that the soul ever does and experiences on the earth is built into its temple of light. It is like a house; you have to gather the materials; you have to make the plans; you have to engage your workmen; when all is ready, you begin building. It is very similar in the spirit world. There is this slow gathering together of the material to build that temple or that home of light. That home of light in reality is a beautiful spiritual body called the celestial body. This celestial body remains in the celestial world. It is always there. We sometimes call it the higher self. Through spiritual training and development you can become conscious of your

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celestial body while still on earth. In your meditation you know that you rise into higher planes and you find yourselves in a temple which is made of light, and you find yourselves before an altar where you bow in prayer. You are caught up, you are engulfed in this pure and glorious state of consciousness—this is really your celestial embodiment. All people, unless they are very undeveloped, very unconscious of God, are little by little contributing to that wonderful celestial body.

Man's soul is comprised of the astral, the mental and the celestial body; that is all the soul. But there is something else: there is the spirit. We are coming into still higher realms. You must try to follow us and understand what we will say to you about this pure spirit. You are all familiar with the Holy and Blessed Three, the Holy Trinity, the Father-Mother-Christ, the Father-Mother and the Son, Christ. Now, when the soul has perfected itself—that is, has garnered all the experience it can from the physical life so that it is ready to pass on into the Christ initiation, there is a wonderful 'resurrection,' or enlightenment, or awakening waiting for it. The Christ in man becomes conscious, stirs, awakens. It was Christ himself who paved the way for humanity; he took this first wonderful Christ initiation, and Jesus was the great initiate for the manifestation of this Christ spirit. Jesus became the Christed one. He trod the path and demonstrated to humanity the way. He said: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.'* Jesus demonstrated to the rest of humanity the way to life eternal. Jesus Christ was not the only Christed one but he did demonstrate the way of purification of the vehicles, of all the vehicles, including the physical, for every soul. (This is why we say it is better not to eat your brother: not to eat the animals. It is better not to eat life that has been conscious. The vegetable kingdom has not the same consciousness that the animal kingdom has, and the fruits of the earth have their special purpose and that is to feed the body of man.)

[*John 14 : 6]

Some people think that humanity depends upon the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and without Jesus Christ crucified on the cross humanity cannot save itself. This is not so. It is not the outer Christ that man is seeking, except as an example and demonstration. Man has to find the inner Christ, and this comes with his second birth—some people say the second death; because where there is death there must be birth; death from this life means birth into the spirit life. So, when the temple of light is completed (or the celestial body is completed) there comes re-birth into heavenly conditions far more beautiful than the celestial level, the birth into a life of pure bliss.

There is nothing before you that you need fear. Look at your life on the physical plane. You have had difficult times. You have had anxious times. You have passed through sorrow. All these experiences pass. God is all love and God is merciful and kind. If you come up against a law, you must obey that law. You have to obey physical law. If you refuse to obey spiritual law, you suffer. When you come to the spirit world, you have only to be carried forward, obeying God's law, loving God, loving your neighbour, loving your surroundings. Love is the key into the glorious, heavenly bliss to which every soul is destined to pass. We have tried to give you a very simple picture of the passing of your body into our state of life and

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the gradual building of the bodies which you will need before you can enter that state of heavenly bliss which is known as the Christ consciousness.

Now before we close we will speak to you about the Elder Brethren for a few minutes, because we promised to do so. You must realise that the descriptions we have given you of the life out of the body also apply to life in the body; it is not necessary to shed the physical body in order to enter into those higher states of consciousness. You can pass through what are called initiations. These initiations were enacted on the outer plane in the ancient temples; today they are not so enacted on the outer planes because man has reached a stage where he can fully understand the taking of an initiation on the inner planes. You are accustomed to participating in a communion service, and now some may say: 'All this talk, what does it mean? There is no bread and there is no wine. We cannot take communion without anything to take it with.' This lack of understanding is because they have not developed their higher senses and higher mental body. When the higher mental body is developed, you can use your imagination and see in your mind the bread and the wine, and your soul is blessed and conscious of the spiritual power flowing into you as you take that sacrament. The same applies to the higher initiations. Your body may be asleep and resting but you are fully conscious of what is being enacted, and in that state you pass through the initiation which raises you in consciousness from one level of life into another. It is just like the heavens opening and ever becoming more beautiful, not only to your vision but to your feelings, to your spirit. We do assure you that the beauty of the heavenly life is beyond all earthly imagination. With the mind of the spirit you can see and understand that world.

All initiates have touched that plane of life, and all those whom you call the masters, and in passing from the physical or the soul state of life into that free world of spirit, of bliss, having passed through death, re-birth, into the Christ consciousness, they have attained power over all their bodies. There are many who can move about freely, with or without a physical body, but they do not easily come into very harsh and coarse vibrations; they can only appear to, or visit, physical people when the conditions are very, very pure, very harmonious. The bodies that they use are very pure and ephemeral. They can be seen and they are real and they are solid, but they are pure. They do appear in physical conditions at times, when it is necessary, but mostly they use either their perfected astral body or their mental body, which is ever finer. Usually it is the astral body which is used by the masters as they move about amongst their pupils and as they work amongst men for the upliftment and the spiritualisation and the glorification of the human race.

We hope we have said enough tonight to give you comfort and consolation and take away all bogey thoughts, for sometimes words and language will create the wrong picture. We have endeavoured to give you a very simple and clear picture of the passage of man's spirit from the physical life until he attains the degree of Christhood.

Jesus said with his own lips: 'What I do ye shall do also.' Remember also, in the process of your development you must inevitably help others. As you develop this Christliness, you are healing the sick, you are comforting the mourner, you are all the time helping humanity, you are raising it up. 'I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.' What a wonderful future for you, and a glorious destiny! It is quite enough for you to know this and

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to get on to the best of your ability with your work, being patient and loving and ever seeking the ways of wisdom. Peace be with you all.

Benediction:

Our Father and Mother and Son, Christ, we pray that these Thy beloved children may be receptive to the outpouring of Thy love. May their eyes be opened to the glorious truth which is all around them. May they see their guardian angels, their guides and teachers and their many friends, and may they learn to have complete faith in Thee, in Thy love and Thy wisdom. May this Thy blessing be in every heart in this meeting tonight and may our thanks be in lives of service, kindness and love.

Amen.

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Afterlife, spiritual evolution, mastery

