

More about the Harmonies of the Spheres

T267 The Inner Teachings 20th June 1961 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

We pray to the Great White Spirit for His blessing of peace, wisdom, love and power; and as a little company of brothers* of the spirit we approach the temple of the heavenly mysteries. We pray, O Lord God, that all troubles and earthly thoughts will lie in abeyance during this period of prayer, aspiration and communion between the physical life and the heavenly world which is Thy Kingdom. We pray that Thy Kingdom may come into the hearts of these, our beloved younger brethren. May they learn to surrender to Thy light, to Thy will; so that they may progress along the path which will lead us all ultimately to Thee.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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

When we come to speak to you we would have you understand that we in spirit work as a group. Do not therefore think of us as any one person. Although in a sense you would be right, we want you to understand that in the world of spirit we work in groups, and each personality in the group has his own special contribution to make. You may notice at times therefore that a change comes in what you call the 'control'—a change in the language, the manner of presentation, in the influence which you feel. This may be something that you cannot understand, but presently you will comprehend its true meaning.

Sometimes you speak lightly about 'the brothers'. This is a group of white brethren* who are all as one in spirit because they are *en rapport*, completely in harmony one with another for this reason. In communications from the world of spirit there is much which may be incomprehensible to you because you are so closed in; you are in a finite state of life and can only think in terms of three dimensions. The brothers would help you to expand your consciousness and your understanding of the harmony of the spheres. You already have a little knowledge which has trickled through from the higher planes of life, but we assure you that when you have learnt to put into operation and obey the divine laws of life, you will be freed from all limitations, when you will be liberated from earth, and this not by the death of the body. It is time for you to be completely convinced that there is no obliteration such as death, that man's life goes on. But more than this, you have to get firmly into your mind that you have within you *now* capacity to expand your vision, your being, your activity, on to higher and wider planes of life.

[*The word refers to light, not colour or race.]

When the soul has reached a level of complete mastery over matter, over the lower mind and the lower spheres of life—as soon as this is accomplished, the soul is free. Then it does not matter whether that soul has a physical body or not; it is free to function on any one of those higher planes.

We do not think it advisable to be too precise when giving information about the invisible world, because we do not want to confuse you. You cannot be given too much before you are ready. In the plans of the Great Architect of the Universe, the temple has to be built from the

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foundation slowly and steadily, with every stone perfectly shaped before it is laid. If one faulty stone were laid, it could wreck the whole building.

We were talking to the group at New Lands about the harmony of the spheres. We touched upon the many rays, the many vibrations which go to create the harmony of life. We were speaking about music and its place in the plan to assist the spiritual preparation, awakening of the children of the New Age. Music, as you know, creates colour, sends out rays of colour. The master Pythagoras (now known to you by another name) used music very extensively in his temple of healing. Music, he discovered, not only created beautiful conditions, but it also created colour. Thus the musical notes, creating colour, were used to heal the sick.

There is a good deal of criticism in your world today about modern art. Many people shake their heads and exclaim: 'Oh, what horrible pictures! What is there in them? They look crude in colour and have little form. What can they do to help man's development? What can they contribute to his culture, these modern works of art?' Well, they have a place in this evolutionary plan. The type of music which seemed to shake the very foundations of society because it was so noisy and crude, is slowly changing to something a little more euphonious and harmonious, if you listen carefully. 'Jazz' and kindred music came to break down a wall which was inhibiting the development of the soul of man. An earlier age had built up a society so proper and respectable that nothing could get into it, let alone anything come out of it. That had to be nicely and tidily broken up and disposed of! All kinds of things came along at that time to hasten this dissolvment (*sic*), this breaking up of rigidity in society, in human life, which was becoming a stumbling block to the opening up of the mind and soul of man.

What is the meaning, then, of those peculiar pictures that some very nice people are producing? Let us pause for a moment. It is said that these pictures are forms of self-expression, serving to rid the painter of his inhibitions, undesirable instincts and passions. But there is something else. These artists do not themselves understand what they are painting, or that in reality they are endeavouring to put on canvas a vision, or a spiritual idea which has not taken proper form. They are trying to communicate the message of the spheres. They are trying to express this on canvas. Nobody understands them, but all these modern expressions of music, art, writing, represent an effort of the soul to bring through a message from invisible spheres.

Now, in the invisible universe are the most wonderful, beautiful things. We cannot tell you, or describe them, simply because you haven't yet a capacity to even imagine these things. Imagination or the power of imagery is really the power of the creator working in you. You visualise, or you create an image. That image can only be representative of the degree of development of the God within you. Then of course you must remember that there are so many aspects of beauty. Only a very infinitesimal part of the glory of God's creation is visible until you have unfolded and developed the spiritual powers to see, which means to create. Within every one of you, however young or old, lies this life, this power, this God within.

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You all have much to hope for, to bring forth from your innermost self. You have power within you to develop vision and understanding of all these glories. These spheres, these planes, these levels of life from the physical to the dense etheric, the astral, the mental, the higher mental and the celestial, and even beyond—access to all these planes of life is already within man; but he has to find the key and earn knowledge of how to unlock the particular gate leading to them.

‘What happens after death?’ you will ask. This, my children! You pass out of the physical body after either a short or long life (which entirely depends upon your karma) to a condition of what some people call a ‘state of purgatory’ – but it is not really so, you know. It is rather a state of self-examination, of going up for judgment by oneself, when self looks into self-history and sees the errors and mistakes which have been made. Then after that period of self-examination, which is tender and gentle, during which the soul is comforted and encouraged, there comes a period of exquisite rest, peace and beauty, wherein the soul really finds God. We cannot give a better description than to say that every part of man’s soul is satisfied for the time being. He is happy, perfectly happy, seeing God everywhere and in everything. This in turn stimulates the God within the soul. Then when the soul has sufficiently rested, having seen the glory of God, it wants to participate again in activity, wants to get back to work. You yourselves, after a long holiday, want to be up and doing. This also happens to the soul in the next life.

Perhaps it is sufficient for tonight for us to hint that when the soul comes back to earth it carries with it—sometimes—a very big parcel. Now that parcel contains its own karma. Every soul comes back with a large or a small parcel. Its further spiritual unfoldment is limited by the size of that parcel, or the karma of the soul, when it comes back into incarnation. We all say, loosely, that karma means a ‘paying-off’ of debts incurred in a past life, but it is much more, for karma brings opportunity with it. The very act of paying off some karmic debt gives the soul an opportunity to make progress, to step forward. This is why we say, again and again: accept, accept your karma gratefully, even cheerfully. It will seem hard; *it is* hard because man’s lower bodies, which include the astral body of desire and the lower mental body, are clamouring to get their own way. Therefore karma appears very hard; but if you can accept not only what you dislike but realise the opportunity being given to you in your acceptance and right working out of that piece of karma, you will grow in consciousness.

We were speaking about the harmony of the spheres. With clearer vision you would see how all human life works for harmony, is working all the time to develop in the soul a state of harmony and freedom from bondage by the earthly self, by the mind of earth. You see, karma is nothing to shrink from, dear brethren, but something to rejoice in, even if it is uncomfortable. All growth is apt to seem an uncomfortable process, and birth also can be uncomfortable, but see what it leads to in the end!

Now, what takes place in the individual in the form of karma, opportunity and spiritual evolution, is taking place throughout the life of nations, in planets, in whole solar systems, all in obedience to a law of unfoldment and growth. We could almost describe it as a

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breathing-in and breathing-out, a rhythmic breathing. Normally the physical process of breathing is so harmonious and gentle that man does not feel himself breathe. This is what God is doing. All the time the God-life is moving into man and withdrawing from him, coming into incarnation, passing out of incarnation. Ages come and then they sink away. They come up again. Life is one continual rhythm, and the whole of life is striving towards perfection and still more perfection. Can perfection ever end? No, it is a continual beautification. If you can think of a panoramic scene which is continually, gradually unfolding and unfolding so that you never come to its end, you might get the idea. Man is not alone in this, this evolutionary path. He travels in company.

We will speak now of the brotherhood, or the brothers, the brothers of the Star, the brothers of the light—call them what you will. There are many, many physical manifestations of the presence of the brothers. Where there is a group of men and women who are strictly obeying the law of brotherhood, putting love into operation in life, where the solid spirit of true brotherhood is once established and forms a nucleus, it attracts the attention of the Brethren invisible who will work behind the scenes to help that group. The only thing which will cause them to withdraw their aid is when the spiritual power is dissipated by the group's own wilfulness. The brothers come to earth again and yet again wearing physical form. They move amongst their disciples, but usually the disciples know them not. Only when the disciples have been put to the test and learned obedience to the law are they able to receive in full consciousness the visitation of an elder brother or sister. Sex makes no difference at all in spiritual unfoldment.

So, the disciple has to learn to accept his karma, do his best not to create more difficult karma, and by a life of obedience to the brotherhood, beautify himself until he becomes gentle and loving, true and wise with all the virtues enumerated by the elder brethren. This earnest progressive keeping-on-keeping-on—so dull, but oh! so worthwhile!—gets him there in the end. Remember the tortoise. Oh, we could give you a wonderful discourse on the hare and the tortoise as he finds spiritual unfoldment! The little hare runs fast, true, but then he falls down exhausted, while the old tortoise, plodding on, keeping on keeping on, passes by brother Hare—and behold! brother Tortoise arrives at the goal first!

Lastly, by the practice of meditation, discernment and doing your best, will come a sure development of power which will enable you to receive a visit from an elder brother on the astral plane. People long to see a master, to feel his physical touch and to hear his voice. What the aspirant has to do is to qualify spiritually so that he can easily recognise a visit by his elder brethren on the astral plane, which is a very real plane of consciousness, and indeed more substantial than your physical plane.

Do you think that if some master or elder brother spoke to you in a public place, or sat beside you in a public vehicle, even in this Lodge, you would recognise him? In all probability, no. Think what you are missing! Do you remember the story of the master Jesus, who met the disciples on the road to Emmaus? Here is an example, an illustration of what we are saying. The disciples walked and talked with this perfectly ordinary person and said: 'Oh, but you are a stranger here. Have you heard about the crucifixion of the man Jesus?' You see the

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desirability and the need to develop a quality which will enable you to recognise a master; to look above the crowds in the market place and see his form and hear his voice. Listen, my children. Open your eyes and seek, and you will find the one you long to see and to hear. All prejudice in yourself must be broken down first. How is this done? One way—one way only: *fill the heart with love*. And what does love mean? Love means thinking of the good of the loved one. Let us bring it down to a very ordinary level of two young people in love. A lot of other things are called love and are mistaken for love, but love is simply this—the longing of the lover to make the loved one supremely happy. At the human level of true love, any thought for self is overruled by thoughtfulness for the object of true love. In a broader and wider sense, love in the soul of anyone means that that soul is longing to give out love and happiness. Any soul which has developed love can never inflict pain or suffering on another. This raises the many vexed questions concerning cruelty and war, capital punishment, vegetarianism, and so on. All are reforms which are slowly and surely on their way like the rising tide. Nothing will stop them. No stuffy mental nonsense will stop the inflow of God's tide of love in the human race.

Now when a man lives and works, as we hope you are all striving to do, to help your fellow creatures, to do the very best you can in every scrap of work that comes into your own hands; when you are living so that you are truly giving out on every level love to life, then you are drawing very, very close to liberation, to mastership. All the reforms that you long for and you think should be established will come *through you*. Now you won't believe that. Think it over. It is what *you* do, what *you* think, what *you* say, that matters, for you are a tiny drop in that great ocean of spirit life which is gradually, gradually rolling in, and bringing all these reforms.

Let us now before we part, dear brethren, feel communion with our Elder Brethren. They want you to continually remind yourself that you are divine, you are spirit. Cultivate your inner life, your spiritual life, your life of love, thoughtfulness, and any kind action on behalf of your companions that will save them pain and trial, suffering and unhappiness.

Benediction:

Now, as one Brotherhood held in the love of our Divine Father–Mother and Elder Brother and Master, the Lord Christ, may we receive the consciousness of Thy strength of love, of love. Dear Father, we pray for love, to be ourselves loving.

Amen. Amen. 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:

Creative, creativity, psychic development, spiritual unfoldment