

The Path - VIII

T102 The Inner Teachings 31st January 1940 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

Great White Spirit of power, wisdom and love, great Parent from whom we derive life, we pray to Thee that Thy blessing may find response in us. We pray that the lower self may be set aside, and that we may respond to the light and the truth of Thy spirit within our breast. Then we shall know Thy great love and our eyes behold the beauty of Thy handiwork...yea, even in that which appears to the unenlightened to be sordid and repulsive may we see the beauty of Thy work. And for all these gifts of God, beloved Father–Mother of our spirit, we humbly thank Thee.

Amen.

Beloved dear ones assembled here, those in the physical body and those of my invisible friends, let us with one accord raise our consciousness to the presence, to the companionship and the brotherhood of the great Master and saviour of all human life, without whom there is no light in anyone. May we this night feel the touch of his* garment, his aura, so that we, absorbing some of his light and truth, may see into the dark places of this earth life, and see revealed some beauty, even in the worst.

*[*While the Master is referred to with masculine pronouns here, White Eagle would state that a master is 'beyond gender'.]*

Let this be the keynote of tonight's lesson: There was once a wise and gentle man. Many pupils loved to sit at his feet listening to his words of gentle wisdom. He would teach these pupils how to find God in the simplest, common things of daily life. You will remember the story of how he was walking along the road and came to the body of a dead dog. His pupils were horrified at the decayed body, but the Master said: 'How white are his teeth!' Even in death and decay he could see some beauty. It is well for us to ponder on this and endeavour to make a daily habit of thus seeing beauty in everything. It is to be found if we look for it, but if there be no beauty in our minds, if our souls are shuttered and darkened so that no lightness shines forth, then we cannot see, for it is the light which reveals beauty to us. How much beauty there is around us—the purity and the perfect shape of these lilies and rosebuds by the altar here! How beautiful are the grey skies, arched above the earth with a quiet beauty of their own! The bare trees, how delicate is the tracery of their branches against the sky! How warm and beautiful the lights which twinkle in the darkness of the night!

These are days of darkness for you, but have you noticed how friendly are the little lights against the blackness; how pleased are you to see the light unexpectedly shining forth, helping you a little maybe on your homeward journey? If you look up to the sky on many a night of darkness you are able to see the beauty of the stars, and how delightful is the moon when that friendly planet shines down upon you. You may have realised before the friendliness of the moon. Many illustrations could be used to bring the beautiful things which grace your life to your notice, but the self, the little desire self, blinds you to the beauty because it wants, wants, wants what it cannot get; always wanting, the result of an urge in man* for something better than himself. When interpreted on the lower planes of consciousness it comes through in an unbecoming manner, an unbecoming garment of greed

The Path - VIII

T102 The Inner Teachings 31st January 1940 Pembroke Hall, London

and desire worn by the lower self. When we see a display of selfishness let us be tolerant, and see not only selfishness in our brethren, but a striving of the higher self for expression, that higher self which will one day shine forth as a powerful, radiant soul. All the faults in mankind can be seen from a different angle, which is perhaps why our beloved elder brethren and masters are always compassionate, never judging, and in a lesser degree so are the spirit communicators. Some spirit communicators are only simple human beings, but have a measure of illumination, a measure of brotherhood in their hearts, and see beyond the dark veil of materialism, the veil which hides man from his companion brother on earth.

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

We spoke at our last meeting about the preparation we all pass through before we are led to the portal of initiation. There is a great desire for haste in the young eager heart. We like the name of 'Eagerheart'. Many beloved souls on earth, particularly those who have seen the light, are eager hearts, full of enthusiasm, so anxious to make progress, but the over-hasty come up against a sharp instrument, invisible, but very sharp all the same. This instrument causes the eager heart to pause, at least until his wounds are healed. Do you know what we mean? There is no rushing forward on this path of spiritual enlightenment. The lessons which affect the body, the soul and the spirit must be thoroughly learnt. These can be interpreted in astrological terminology as those of earth, air, fire and water. You cannot hope to conquer, to become master of any one of these great forces in creation in one brief incarnation, but the soul returns or puts forth a fresh feeler in each incarnation, and according to its need it plunges into the earth, the fire, the air, the watery aspect of life to gain strength and experience.

When initiation comes it means not only a great expansion of consciousness, but also it brings increased power, and power can be destructive, often *is* destructive. Power can throw a soul right back on the path if wrongly used. There is one told of in the Bible known as Lucifer, who having gained great power became a light in heaven, but was cast forth because of this use or mis-use of power. Whilst we recognise more than one interpretation of Lucifer's fall, we use this illustration to demonstrate the possibilities of the soul which, attaining power without the corresponding wisdom and love, becomes liable to a great fall. Thus we see the wisdom of God. If a soul does rush forward it is bound to come up against that sharp instrument and be driven back. It is far better to go simply and slowly and naturally forward. Never try to hurry or force spiritual advancement.

You may have heard the story of the cobbler, a very simple service, but how significant—a mender of shoes—because the feet are the members which carry the man forward, they are the means of their progression are they not? The old cobbler made a very good work of his mending of shoes; he did them thoroughly well, thinking of the service which he was rendering to their wearers, and when he died and awakened in the heaven world he found a very beautiful angel in his room and was startled, amazed that such a great being should visit him. He was handed a golden book with his name inscribed upon it. Bewildered, he said, 'But this cannot be for me?' and the angel answered, 'You may find instructions in that book for your future work. You are called to be a leader of men; you have served a worthy

The Path - VIII

T102 The Inner Teachings 31st January 1940 Pembroke Hall, London

apprenticeship on earth. Now take your true place, and be a leader in spirit life.' This is not unlike a fairy story, this transformation of the poor man into the handsome prince, but your fairy stories nearly all contain spiritual truth. The lesson of humility is of great importance; the lesson of faith, of trusting in God, is another very important lesson, and these lessons the old man had learnt.

But to return to initiation, what do we mean? We refer to a great spiritual expansion of consciousness which enables the spirit to see into the mystery of life. Each initiation brings increased power, which power can be used by the initiate under his own will. Therefore you will see the necessity for the initiate to be very well trained. The initiations applying to humanity come under four headings—earth, air, fire and water. Here is one of the explanations of the cross within the circle—not the only explanation of a very ancient symbol—which the lost continents held in very great reverence, for they respected and worshipped the gods of those four elements. In taking these initiations the soul of man must pass every test on the fire ray, the earth, the air and the water. The soul must be in communion, in brotherhood with all life forms on these rays, all the elementals and nature spirits, and the angels and gods controlling the forces of these four elements. Man on earth commences in a very humble way to learn to control these elements within his own character, within his own life, and has to gain mastery. Study the miracles and parables of Jesus and you will see his mastery demonstrated over the spirits of these elements. The elder soul not only gains mastery, but also wins through co-operation, through learning to work in harmony with the elements. He does not defy their power, but seeks co-operation through love and wisdom, through brotherhood. At the same time he has learnt, has developed, the mental and spiritual power within himself to control them.

If you look about you, you can see many learning their lessons in the earth signs—control through the mind of the physical body, or that of perfecting the details of some organisation in material life. Many advanced souls are learning the lesson of service by organising and controlling their own private lives, learning to be exact and precise. All such lessons are to be found in the earth signs. Many an older soul is at the head of some big material organisation and appears to be materialistic; nevertheless he has incarnated for a special purpose, to learn wise control over masses of humanity and to learn to control the smallest detail in material life. Under the earthy signs come also the lowest elementals of the rock, which form of life evolves and lives through many a form until we come to the great beings which are the spirits of the mountains, the rulers of earthquakes, volcanoes and all natural phenomena. These also have to become friends of the initiate, for he must have power over all these elementals of the earth.

With the air signs the lesson to be learnt, as you know, is that of brotherhood, a very difficult lesson. Of course it is not easy for those who come under the airy influence to feel brotherly and to be a brother to all men. They have to learn to come out of a mental shell. The air people can be very hard-crust, very opinionated shall we say? The air people have difficult times breaking the shell, but possess nice, soft kernels inside. They have to learn that it is not enough to live unto themselves, but that they must expand and touch all men and become a great brother to all. This is in ordinary human life, but beyond the realms of the earth

The Path - VIII

T102 The Inner Teachings 31st January 1940 Pembroke Hall, London

consciousness we reach up to the spirits of the air, to the sylphs and to the great air devas who control the air currents, the storms and the winds, and who work sometimes in collaboration with the spirits of the water, the undines and the greater spirits of the water. The lesson the souls incarnated under the air signs have to learn is brotherhood, expansion, kindness, and also to control that powerful mind, teaching it to be docile, breaking down its arrogance, bringing to it control and humility. The advanced souls on the air vibration give indications that they are learning rapidly the lesson of humility and tolerance, because it is well known that a great mind is tolerant, simple and humble.

Fire: those are 'fiery' subjects who have many planets in fiery signs, and their lesson is the lesson of love. You see love is the fire, a great life force. On this vibration we find magic. We will not differentiate between black and white because all is the same, the difference being the use which is made of magical power. Love is magical, even in its simplest human form. Those souls who know nothing at all about magical force will radiate a certain magnetism through their love. They become magnets. You will say, 'There is something about so-and-so, I am drawn to him'. That magical force in them is really the fire and the love element. The lesson of these fiery people is to control and bring under their mastery all forms of magic. I wonder if that is clear? You see, love is a magical principle, a worker of wonders. Use love rightly [and] it has a remarkable effect. It can coax an irritable person back into a docile frame of mind, it can pour oil on troubled waters! Those under this fiery influence in this present incarnation must endeavour to use their magic to give light and comfort and joy to their brothers and sisters on earth. They will also have a little 'green finger', and fire will respond to them quickly.

Love is a creative force. Such power it has that it can also be destructive. A soul can advance or retrogress on the path of power and of love, for love can be as destructive as power. Indeed love *is* power and must be used with wisdom. This is why love and wisdom become one ray. Love and wisdom must go hand in hand. The ungoverned emotions of love can be harmful and destructive. The soul with a strong element of fire must remember that from the salamander to the great spirits of the fire of the sun, all come within their orbit. The salamanders, the little fire people, will work for you and help you to make a fire quite quickly, but if you offend them they will cause you to burn your fingers and if you offend gravely they may burn something more valuable than fingers!

Water: those who come bearing the water pot upon their shoulder, those born in the watery signs, come to learn the lesson of peace—a beautiful sign, a beautiful influence! Let us take note however, that it does not mean that because you are under these signs you are yourself earthy, fiery, airy or watery, but that you have come to learn the lessons of these elements. You have this element strongly in your make-up to cause you to learn control and mastery. Because you are fiery, watery, airy or earthy, you are not necessarily these in temperament, neither is your neighbour. Do not think that any one element is better than another. All elements are equal. Remember the cross within the circle; all elements have an exact equal place in the great scheme of man's evolution, as well as in the great scheme of creation. What we come into incarnation for is to learn mastery over one of these elements. The watery influence affects the soul, the astral plane, the psyche and psychic things, and the candidate

The Path - VIII

T102 The Inner Teachings 31st January 1940 Pembroke Hall, London

who perhaps advances along the watery line has to learn to control astral forms, astral elements, the emotions and desires of the astral body. The desires of the astral body can be troublesome indeed. The astral body will make many claims upon you who listen, and you must learn to control this astral body before you can advance on the next step and control astral forces and astral life.

Now I think I have talked quite long enough, but I believe there was a question from last time?

Q. When you were talking about the lessons that had to be learnt, I wondered if the lessons must be shown by the sign in which the planet is exalted?

A. The exaltation, yes you are quite right, and if you work that out amongst the different people you know you will see how perfectly it answers.

With each incarnation let us remember that only a part of the soul comes back and not the greater self. What incarnates is only a feeler, an arm put forth to gather more experiences into the greater self. So if you lack opportunity for certain lessons it does not mean that you do not need those lessons, but that you have come back with a set purpose, and that the other lessons are not for this particular incarnation on your horizon. You are set to gain experience on one particular line. Whether you are developed on other lines or whether your neighbour is developed or not on these lines, you cannot tell. How impossible it is for you to judge your brother! You do not know his soul; you may be entertaining in your home a great being. You do not know. Some people have peculiar ways of showing their greatness, I admit, but only one 'feeler' of the real self is coming through; you do not know what the higher consciousness has stored within it.

When the soul has acquired all the lessons necessary; when it has attained a degree of completeness, it puts forth a more complete presentation of itself and then you are able to see and recognise a master, an adept, an initiate. That soul is putting forth, not its entire self even then, but the greater proportion, because it is ready to serve humanity in its own particular way. But do not think that the younger soul, the little soul, is giving its true nature: that remains in the higher consciousness.

Someone has said there seems so much to learn. I myself come back month after month and year after year and never can I say all I want to say, so I understand, but I shall say all I want to in due course, and you will learn all your lessons; you are learning them beautifully now. You have not the full consciousness so you have to work blindfold; that is one of the mysteries, part of the great scheme, and where faith and trust come in. You must go on quietly, in complete trust and faith in God's love, for you know not the hour when the son of man cometh. This means you know not from hour to hour what glorious spiritual experience will be yours. Tonight you may be in the darkness, but tomorrow you may have received more illumination. You cannot count time. That is why faith and trust are the crowns of the humble.

The Path - VIII

T102 The Inner Teachings 31st January 1940 Pembroke Hall, London

You know my dears, I do not think it matters very much who is a great soul and who is a young soul. I do not think it matters at all. Do not worship one whom you think is great, but endeavour to love all, both great and small, young and old. Love them all; all are the same in God's sight.

Benediction:

Gracious Spirit of love, we are thanking Thee for the beauty which we find in life, in the spirit world and on this earth plane, and in the hearts of humanity. We thank Thee for the companionship of animals, flowers and birds, of the great open spaces and of the sky, and of the running water and the roaring sea, for the quiet wonder of the stars and the moon and for the warmth of the sun, for the truth and loyalty of friends on earth, for the food which sustains our bodies and the sweet essences of the spirit which sustain our souls. We thank Thee for the harmony of music and for the creation of colour and form, and for the power and love of Thy Son, Christ the Light of humanity, we thank Thee. And for Thy blessing, O God, we thank Thee.

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:

Zodiac, positivity, thought, patience