

Ways of Service in the World Today

T061 The Inner Teachings 13th October 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

We wait in the stillness of the spirit within to receive the spiritual outpouring from the centres of Love, Wisdom and Power. We resign ourselves to the light of the Christ love and power. We resign ourselves to the light of Christ.

Amen.

May we be united in love, recognising that our neighbour, whatever his path of approach to God may be, in common with ourselves desires to find God and to serve his brother man*. In this fellowship we include not only the human but the humbler brethren of earth, of the animal and nature kingdoms—all living things. And we raise our hearts to the discarnate, recognising the service which they render to humanity.

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

Following upon our talk last week, may we remind you that there are those ever present in the earth conditions, seeking a channel through which they can serve the great Plan of evolution. If we talk of brotherhood, we must of necessity recognise the brotherhood of men and of angels; as man aspires to the higher realms and opens the centre within his heart, as well as within his brain, he will be used increasingly in service, he will become a channel through which the wiser powers, so gentle and yet so perfect in their work, will come into contact with man. But so long as man in his arrogance rejects the wisdom of the more advanced brethren—the elder brethren—so long will he stumble, falling into dark pits of illusion, even into that bottomless pit which St John referred to in Revelation—the bottomless pit of intellect, which, while questioning and denying most things, refuses to consider the wisdom of the ages, the secret doctrine of life. Thus man descends, and in the pit of mental arrogance, materialism and so-called science, gnashes his teeth in the darkness of his ignorance.

This is no new truth. Throughout the ages have the brethren of the White Light appeared, in differing forms, clothed in different personalities, to draw aside the veil, to reveal to the waiting heart and the humble searcher the secret ways of God, the powers which lie in the universal life, tapped only by man when he has opened the secret chamber in his own heart—the Temple, the Holy of Holies. This present age is bringing man increased facilities, greater opportunities to discriminate between that which is true and that which is false, and only through such diligent and humble search for Christ within will man find that which he seeks.

‘Ways of Service in the World Today’ is the subject chosen. Let us look out upon the world conditions about us, see rife the cruelty, unkindliness, disease, on every hand. Such conditions result from impurity within the soul of humanity. It is customary to look upon the outside of the cup, omitting to observe the filth of the interior. All suffering on earth today originates from a divine Law broken by man in his greedy search for self-expression. All may not find this statement acceptable, but we discriminate between self-expression and selfless, God-expression or Christ-expression through man. We agree that in the process of evolution man has chosen this path as he journeys upward to find the one reality—God. The God

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influence has three main modes of expression—power, wisdom and love, and the power aspect is that which forces man forward and onward to growth of the soul. But we see so often this growth of power, this self-expression, run to seed, overgrown, overpowering and choking the flowers of the soul with weeds. Evil, so-called self-expression, results from this aspect of unbridled power, necessary at certain stages of evolution to force growth of the individual, but after a certain point there must awaken another aspect in man to bridle power—the love, the wisdom aspect, the love aspect being Christ. War, pestilence, greed—all are due to breaking the law of love, and man by suffering must learn to listen to the elder brethren, who from time to time restate, restate, restate the simple truth.

Ways of service to relieve suffering, to help the younger brethren towards harmony and happiness, towards Christ, the ultimate goal of every soul—the path is very difficult to find, and being found, very difficult to walk steadfastly because there is so much to befog the vision. The only way to maintain [a] foothold and to progress is by following not this or that, but by entering the chamber within, by praying with all one's strength to the wisdom of God. When light comes, it will be not of intellect alone, but that which urges man to love all nature.

How is one, immersed in the entanglements of mind and body, to find this inner light? How can one be sure that one has found the light? One thing is essential: purity of life; here we have many problems to solve. What do we mean by purity of life? Asceticism?—a withdrawal from contact with all worldliness? Not so, for we have reached the next spiral on the path of evolution, and the aspirant today is not concerned with the monastic or ascetic life as of old. He is called to mingle with humanity, mingling with and bringing through into the minds of those he meets, the light of the ages. This same light must burn brightly in the man, that its influence may send healing amongst humanity.

Purity of the vehicles the spirit is using is one of the necessities if you would serve humanity. We are not advising drastic changes in the life habits, but think about these things. Think about the brotherhood of man with the animal kingdom. If you love the creatures given life by God, it is impossible to be cruel, to slay wantonly, indeed to shed their blood except in cases of sheer necessity. Then they are serving you in the only way they can serve, by giving up life itself, but with so many healthful and pure foods as an alternative, is it necessary to eat your brother? One way of service is to spread the light of love towards the animal kingdom, not aggressively, but gently, by thought and by example. It is not enough to say 'I cannot bear to witness cruelty!' You must set about doing your part in some simple way, influenced from within, to contribute harmony and love. Refuse to accept with complacency the habits and customs with which men exploit the weak and helpless.

Look out upon the worldwide sufferings. Aye, no country is inviolate. See the infliction of needless cruelty and oppression. Can you complacently endorse the antagonism too common between the brother with the white and the brown or red skin? You should spontaneously love and accept from your heart, all as being your brothers—possibly your teachers. If not your teachers, then yours is the obligation to help them upward towards the light.

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We have referred to the purification of the vehicles of which the spirit makes use. Purity does not rest only with food, nor is this the only method of purification. More important still is to aspire continually in thought, to refuse to look critically or despairingly upon a suffering world, ever to know that God is omnipotent, His laws absolute, His love infinite, and that all things must work together for good for the one who loves God.

Our thoughts are powerful instruments for good or evil. As daily thoughts go forth, vibrating light and love, they construct; they draw close those beings on the higher planes ever searching for thoughts of love and kindness sent forth. Your purer thoughts will attract the pure, and purer, stronger beings will companion you; lighter, brighter thoughts will ever be around you. So let your path be that of purity of thought and purity of body—internally, through the purer food you choose, and externally because continual washing and ablutions will become your daily habit. The question of ablutions is one of the most important: the physical body must be kept free from all contamination; if unclean, neglected or over-driven, it becomes useless for the work of the elder brethren. It is thus your duty, if you would serve humanity, to live harmoniously, moderately, purely. If we ask too much, then aspire to overcome gradually the lower instincts, so that in time you attain these great ends.

A closing thought—the power to heal: in the new age which approaches, man will recognise and utilise rays of healing, certain coloured healing rays, which work upon the etheric body, upon the centres of power. These things have been kept secret in the past, but as a result of man's dawning aspiration for knowledge, this wisdom of the inner schools of mystery teaching is now being revealed to him who will sacrifice the lower self in service. Purity of the vehicle of the healer is essential for the reception of these finer healing vibrations. They cannot penetrate the dense fog which habitually clings around the average individual. Only through certain channels will the rays penetrate and work. The Master Jesus demonstrated these powers, and his works were called miracles because the method employed was unknown to the uncultured. Jesus insisted always upon God being the One who 'doeth the works'*, stressing the necessity for the reception of these rays, the complete subjection of the self: 'I am nothing; God is the only power which doeth these works'. May it be your constant aspiration to sink the little self, to recognise increasingly the wisdom, the power and the love of the universal life ever waiting to use and make of you the perfect instrument, even as the masters (whom you unfortunately sometimes worship, forgetting they also are but instruments) of themselves are nothing.

*[*John 14 : 10]*

The great White Light of God shining behind and through all is the only reality. All else is illusion. Serve your brother man by calling forth the tiny light implanted within his breast; do what you can to relieve the sufferings of the oppressed everywhere; work for the obliteration of cruelty to all animals. Live yourself a pure and simple and humble life, judging no man but loving all.

Q.Re: the destruction of pests.

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A.If it is necessary to destroy pests, at least choose a way that is not cruel. Pests, as you call them, often have their use in the universal scheme. Certain insects are without question pests to the human being, but in so far as they are scavengers they have use in the maintenance of cleanliness. It is right that man should be protected and pests must be kept in their place, but if, under certain circumstances, it should prove necessary to destroy, remember to do so with love. There are two ways of doing these things—roughly and cruelly, or with compassion and the right thought without causing needless suffering.

Q.Re: the eating of a fleshless diet when it may cause antagonism and inharmony.

A.Jesus is reputed to have said that what goes into the mouth does not matter so much as that which comes out. Whilst living alone, or where you can keep to a pure fleshless diet, all is well, but if you are up against different conditions where to insist on fleshless food may cause discord, it is always wise to pour oil on troubled waters. But in eating the flesh, do not feel a sense of horror and inharmony; take that which is all that there is for you and thank God for the provision. Do without meat for choice, but if you have no choice, then accept graciously and gratefully what is provided for you. Any harm which might come if you, yourself, had vicious thoughts—any harm due to vicious emanations from the flesh diet will thus be counteracted. Another point—it may seem far-fetched: your thoughts, your love towards the animal concerned can be used for good even in these circumstances. This does not apply to wantonly slaying and eating the flesh of brother animals—that definitely must coarsen the vibrations of the body and the other vehicles.

Q.Does not one become super-sensitive as a result of purification of the vehicles, and thus find the material life more difficult?

A.Pure food purifies the vehicles and enables them to receive the higher vibrations; if the candidate aspires to higher service, he has to learn to overcome the material body. A meatless diet creates a sensitive body, so there arises the necessity for control of that sensitiveness. If truly aspiring, the candidate will get beyond that condition to where material vibrations cannot affect him. You must choose—do you desire to become of finer substance so that you may the better serve humanity, or is it necessary for you to remain coarsened? We are only showing the way to true service. You must choose for yourself the way.

Benediction:

The quiet places... We stand in the presence of the great powers of the spiritual realms. May we absorb the love which is pouring upon us. May we not keep this to ourselves, may it not die in us, but may we go forth to give unto suffering humanity the love and the healing power which we receive.

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:

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Vegetarianism, vegetarian, Bible, natural world, sensitivity, nervous system

