

John the Baptist

T217 The Inner Teachings 15th July 1952 St Mary Abbots Place, London

Invocation:

Almighty Spirit, Father–Mother God, Son of God, Light of Life, we meet in one spirit to worship and to give Thee thanks for our creation. We pray that each one of us may be cleansed of all selfishness and arrogance that we may be in due time pure channels for the manifestation of Thy spirit upon earth. We would be attuned to the heavenly music and to the presence of the company of angels and archangels and the brotherhood of the White Light. Thus may we be blessed and thank Thee for this blessing.

Amen.

Greetings, dear brethren on earth. We propose in the course of this talk to answer a question in the mind of one of the members of the Lodge, but we must as a preliminary explain to you all that in the new age there is coming a change of religion. This may be a surprise to some people to hear us say this, but it is nevertheless true that there will come from the spirit centre a new revelation of life and of the path of spiritual evolution. The time has come for not exactly a restatement of ancient truths but a further unfoldment of the same profound inner truths of life.

In the new age man will be stimulated both mentally and spiritually. There is a certain danger in the former because the reason of man* demands exact truth which only the infinite mind can comprehend. It is impossible for any language on earth to satisfy the earthly mind on spiritual questions because such questions can only be answered with the gradual evolution of the soul and the unfolding vision which comes in the course of spiritual progress to every soul. But man on earth today demands satisfaction for his reason and this demand will continue into the new age. In fact, it will become ever stronger. The reason is growing and desires satisfaction, but along comes a spiritual dispensation, a spiritual blessing which is to stimulate the intuition and to encourage the inner voice and the inner hearing of man. Until man has acquired a certain degree of intuition and inner vision he cannot satisfy his reason. The questions that he will be asking will be unanswerable.

*[*For editorial policy on gender issues see the introduction.]*

This is why there comes to the earth at the present time a pioneering ray of wisdom and love from afar. There are on earth at the present time those souls who can respond to this pioneering ray of spiritual knowledge and power, and they are destined to be the vanguards of the new religion.

Now what will this new religion consist of? It is known that there is no new truth. All truth is contained within God and God is within man, but at present in man only as a seed, a seed-atom, but with the advance of man this seed will commence to grow and man will find a dawning heavenly life, not in some far-off place but within his own temple, within his heart. Now in bringing through to the earth plane this advanced knowledge or revelation to help humanity to make a state on his own spiritual self, we find it very difficult to clothe in earthly language and pictures these inner truths. We contact the halls of wisdom and there is a line of communication down, down through the spheres to an earth channel or instrument, but when

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this message comes it has to come through this earthly vessel to an audience that is very limited—with apologies to you—but of necessity limited in its power to comprehend these inner secrets or mysteries of heaven. We are indeed handicapped. We can convey a certain amount to you without words. The power of heaven comes with us and those of you who are sensitive are able to catch a little of the light here and there. Your own vision opens and although you yourself cannot put truth into words, you feel an inner knowing as you grasp these truths, these mysteries of God. This of course has always been the case, and in the Bible or in any of the scriptures you will gradually read into them these age-old secrets. But until you can read into them these secrets you will be left without an answer to many of our questions.

The Bible is a book wrapped in mystery and crude words—we will use that expression because we feel that describes what we wish to explain to you. The ordinary rude, rough, crude words in the Bible cover up so much that is related to the path of the soul, the gradual unfoldment of the soul and the spiritual experiences which the soul passes through. They are clothed in the words of earth, bringing them right down to a very earthly state of life because, at the time these words were spoken, mankind was not even as mentally evolved and trained as he is at the present day. Therefore the language used in the Bible seems to be crude and is quite unintelligible to many people, but as soon as these people catch a glimpse of the inner light and when that inner light lights up their mind and intelligence, then they are able to comprehend the glorious allegories in the Bible.

Now what we have to say tonight will undoubtedly be very difficult, if not impossible for you to comprehend at present, but not so in some years hence. Now as you travel along the path and you listen and you meditate and you think for yourselves about life and your own reaction to life, you will begin gradually to understand what we mean by certain statements. So we ask you not to dismiss anything which we say to you because your present state of development does not permit the mind or the reason to accept it. Just be humble and say, ‘I do not understand, but I wait for a greater degree of light to throw up the picture for me and I know that I shall comprehend truth.’

Yes, as we have said, there comes to this earth plane a new revelation, a new religion. Those of you who are very disturbed about the religious state of the world just now take comfort from what we tell you, because sometimes before there is a reconstruction there must be a deeper ploughing and breaking up of the hard crust of the earth. Humanity up to date has created for itself a hard crust. It may appear to you to be dead as far as God and religion is concerned, but we would point out to you most earnestly that this is not so. It can never be so. Even in those countries abroad that appear to you to [be] becoming atheistic it is not so. It is the breaking up of an outworn coat, an outer shell and the human spirit is struggling for expression. The human spirit has a feeling for God.

It is searching for God and it is searching for it in the very lowest place at present which is in material life. It is searching for God through materialism. It is as well for you to understand this. When it has tasted the bitterness of materialism, the material life will lose its grip on the people and the spirit within humanity will reach out for something better, something more

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satisfying to the life and the spirit. Materialism has its own result. It becomes as dust and ashes to the taste of man. Man has to pass through these testings. Man has to wander in the wilderness before he can appreciate or comprehend or see that beautiful land, the Promised Land. It is no use leading people out of the wilderness into the Promised Land until they are ready to know that it *is* the Promised Land and are able to enjoy the beauties and the blessings of that land.

Now that Promised Land is not far off. It is an enclosed secret place in the human heart, and only man can reach that place by his own efforts and by the stripping of all self and pride and arrogance. In the words of the Master Jesus, he must become as a little child before he can even enter the gates of heaven. So you see that it is a question of slow but steady growth and unfoldment of the human spirit and to aid this unfoldment of the spirit age after age brings its particular revelation of a living God, according to the mental growth, the mental state of the race.

In the past you must remember that there have been advanced souls—not many perhaps, but there have been advanced souls. We will not call them great souls; we will call them sons and daughters of God as you and we are today, but they had made themselves pure because of their devotion to their Father–Mother God, because of their devotion to goodness and love, because of their purity of life, selflessness of life. And these souls who had arrived at that state of vision of the truth were on earth as pioneers, advanced sons and daughters of the human race. They were able to receive pictures from the halls of wisdom in the heavens and put them into words suitable for the particular time and day of life.

Now reading back into the Old Testament with this knowledge and with a certain degree of soul development, you will be able to see in the scriptures the wonderful truth, the inner meaning of these crude stories which, as we say, we repeat, were given to the people to suit their particular way of life and mentality, the particular geography of the earth where they were living. They were given to satisfy the earthly mind and the reason of that time. Now in this new age, whether you believe it or not, we tell you that man has developed a finer and sharper mental body. That mental body has been growing and it appears to be greedy and arrogant. It knows everything or it thinks it knows everything, but the mental body must grow and develop with the spirit—dual growth—otherwise how can the human comprehend the mysteries and the wonders of the universe, let alone the spiritual universe and the spiritual part of life? The spiritual part of life is there, but until the mind has developed it cannot comprehend it. Spiritual truth is just a nebulous something which awaits man after death. This is the case at the present time, but in the future that spiritual life will be comprehended by man and it will be brought through and lived on earth.

It is a mistake to think in terms of the future, to say, ‘What will happen in the future?’ So many people live their lives like that thinking of the future. They say, ‘If only so-and-so would happen, the world would be lovely and I should be perfectly happy’, but this is wrong. It is now, the eternal now, that you have to live in. You have to bring the macrocosm right down into the microcosm and realise your at-one-ment with God, realise the glorious life of the Son of the Spirit. The presentation of human life through the Master Jesus was the

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presentation of the life of man as it was then and as it has been for the past thousands of years. Do not think that the presentation of the life of Jesus with all its pain and suffering is the life of the Son of God. It was the presentation to the earth of the suffering and pain of man's life until he had learned through the crucifixion of the self to free himself from that pain and suffering.

Now we have been talking about the difficulties of finding words which would convey to you spiritual truth. We wish to answer if possible a question put to us mentally about a certain chapter in the Bible, and we think that it is correct to say it is about John the Baptist, a mysterious character. John the Baptist has been a mystery to many theologians, that is the thinking theologians. It is the same with you today. Now we have to be very careful what we say not because we are afraid of you but because we are afraid of giving a wrong impression. But you know—this is just a little by the way—we are sometimes aghast at the interpretation which is put upon our words even by your good selves. You are true, kind, dear brethren, but you get the impression of our words incorrect so often and we can do nothing about it. We just have quietly to let it pass and know that you will in due time get this flash of light which will enable you to comprehend more clearly our meaning. We come to this instrument,* we say things, we try to put through the instrument a certain idea. If the conditions on the earth are not as easy and harmonious as they should be we are surprised to find that there is a wrong interpretation of the thought that we have endeavoured to put through. It is not necessarily to do with the instrument we are using. It is sometimes affected by atmospherics, by the thought waves, by the forcefulness of particular minds who are pushing it that way, who jump to conclusions and think they will mould the thought.

*[*That is, Minesta (Grace Cooke), his medium.]*

It is a very subtle thing, this communication that is being established between our world and yours. It is not nearly so cut-and-dried as you dear people on the earth plane think. We want you to remember this and that is why there has always been the emphasis made upon the harmony of a meeting, the harmony of thought particularly as well as the harmony and the general earthly conditions. If it were possible, or it will be possible—it has been possible in the past—to get a group of trained receivers who can provide the conditions for the message to come through unsullied from the heart of truth then the world will receive great revelation. The Master Jesus illustrated this by drawing around him twelve disciples. We know that twelve disciples have another interpretation—the twelve signs of the zodiac and so on, the twelve aspects of human life, but all these things have a material and a physical outworking.

Now then we must come back to our question—there is so much we are trying to give you tonight—the question about John the Baptist. What we want to say to you is this, that he was a very great soul—far, far greater than the earth people understand today. If we said that he was a master, an initiate, it would not be enough to convey the truth to you, but you will remember that Jesus said of him, or he implied in answering a question, that John the Baptist was Elias, Elijah, who had come [back]. Now you will remember that Elijah did not die in the ordinary way. According to the scriptures he was caught up to heaven in a chariot of fire. Those who have a little knowledge, a little more than earthly knowledge, know that this was a

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significant thing. The body, the whole of this great man, was enveloped in divine fire, in a chariot of fire. He was caught up and disappeared. Now Jesus did the same thing. He took his disciples out to the top of the hills and he was enveloped in what is described as a cloud of heavenly light and he ascended to his Father. The people will say, the theologians will say, 'But he was the Son of God. What is the explanation of Elijah being caught up in a chariot of fire and taken into heaven?' We say that this is an illustration of the mastery of the soul and the spirit over the flesh. It is an illustration of the transmutation of physical atoms to a higher degree of life so that the body, instead of decaying and being put in a grave, was able to ascend to a higher ether, to a higher world. This is very significant. We do not wish to make a definite statement because it will be misunderstood by you, but we want you to think it out for yourselves. Who was this John the Baptist and what is his relationship to Jesus the Christ? A very close relationship is as far as we are prepared to go—a very close relationship. John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth worked closely together for the, shall we say, salvation—an old-fashioned word—or the initiation of earth's humanity for the Piscean Age.

The question is: what did the Master mean by referring to John the Baptist as no greater soul had ever been born of woman? Will you read the passage from the Bible very clearly, Brother Faithful, and then the dear friends will understand what we are working towards?

[Reading: Matthew 11 verses 10 - 15]

'For this is he, of whom it is written, behold I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.'

Now John the Baptist was the forerunner. He prepared the way for Jesus. We suggest first of all to you that it is the stronger element, shall we say the masculine element, which usually prepares the way for the feminine. That is as far as we are prepared to go. Linking up this idea with our talk a little while ago in the Lodge on baptism, you will see the mission of this great being who was known as Jesus and who appeared to be an ordinary man on earth. That is the way of the great ones. They are amongst you as ordinary beings and are unrecognised so often. That is the way. But John came to prepare the way, that is by the cleansing, the baptism of the individual. His soul was raised in consciousness. It was enabled to take a certain initiation. Its vision was stimulated. Now this can happen to the individual; it can happen to the whole human race, but there is this certain power which is brought to the earth at certain times in the earth's history to baptise humanity, to stimulate it, cause it to rise. After this comes the spirit of the Christ. First the awakening, then the closeness of the Christ spirit, and then the earth crashing again on to the soul and the testing of the soul by the things of the earth. And the soul feels that it is wandering in the wilderness shut away from that heavenly state in which it has participated in the past.

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There is no greater born of women. We want you to see that this soul who came to earth in different personalities was a free soul, a soul who was not bound by physical laws of birth and death, but it allowed itself to take on these limitations. It came again and was born of a woman. Now understand this: that it is not the way on all occasions for a great soul to be born of women and in the future, when humanity has arrived at a certain degree of spiritual life, birth as it is known today will not continue. You see our difficulty in trying to convey inner truth which is in advance of your time. What we say must be regarded as sacred and not spoken of irreverently, because we speak of deep inner truths.

Now I think we have said enough for one night.

Benediction:

The power of the Holy Spirit bless you. May you be blessed with sweet, gentle sleep and return to your bodies refreshed for your work on earth. Remember, do not try to fit in spiritual truths into earth minds or earthly interpretations until you see quite clearly the way. But leave them as treasures, jewels, waiting the time for their setting in the right way and the right place. Patience and faith and love you must have.

Goodnight. Goodnight.

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:

Future, discrimination, discernment, mediumship, limitation