

Some Esoteric Aspects Of Reincarnation

T021 The Inner Teachings 23rd September 1936 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

We pray that the power of God and His love may help us to raise our consciousness on to that higher, to that inner plane, where we may contact the mysteries of life. May the light illumine our minds.

Amen.

The subject chosen for consideration is important for the student of the inner mysteries to understand. Much we have to convey will appear obscure, but we can only offer you the bones, since it is impossible to convey in earth language the inner mysteries of life. You must work, as all pupils must, for yourselves, and frame your own conception of truth.

The difficulty with all mystical truth is that it has to be veiled. You like to have all your 't's crossed and your 'i's dotted, much as your food is well cooked and practically digested before you can take it.

The outer representation of reincarnation is confusing to some who think along certain lines. The idea may be conveyed by a spirit guide that you are some personality that has lived before, perhaps in the days of Christ, perhaps in Egypt, and so forth. You think of yourself as that personality. Immediately you cling to a personality, to a particular person, you lose the real meaning of what you are. Is that clear? Supposing someone was told that he had once been called Peter. The human mind insists on jumping to conclusions!—the human mind works upon the thought and clothes it, and creates a personality around it. Peter ... yes.... Perhaps *the* Peter?

Yes, perhaps. And yet not 'the' Peter who denied the Master, but the qualities of that soul consciousness of the Peter may actually manifest in the present incarnation of the one named Peter.

The outer presentation of reincarnation is an illusion, and yet true. Another paradox. You will have to get to work and find out what I mean beneath that. You must interpret the outer life as representing the inner or soul qualities. In meditating upon reincarnation you will discover that reincarnation as generally understood is far removed from the truth. Therefore, when a teacher says 'reincarnation is true and reincarnation is not true' you don't know quite where you are. Reincarnation in essence, in the mystical and esoteric sense, is a mystical truth. Reincarnation as usually understood is an illusion.

I will explain again. You must depart from the idea of separateness. On the physical plane all is working for separation. The mind likes everything cut and dried, everything beautifully labelled and so the mind likes to think that it was once perhaps Mary Queen of Scots, or Joan of Arc, or some other great name. The mind desires to know *who* it was, to put itself in a little parcel and label it, and say with precision 'That is what I was. Now isn't this definite and satisfactory.' Or if perhaps the past life was that of a villain, the mind delights to think 'I was a bad lot!' It loves to look at its own picture.

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The mind works for separateness. But remember this, the mind is doing its work by guiding humanity towards individualisation. Individualisation up to a point appears to be separation, isolation. The mind works for the separateness and the individualisation of the soul, the ego. That is its rightful function. But as man* evolves and attains a finer individualisation, the soul desires identification or unification with the whole and will lose that sense of separateness—not lose himself, but actually identify himself with the whole, so instead of being an individual, small, compact, isolated, he becomes the universal, non-separate from the greatness of the mind of God.

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

Let us consider the twelve who were the disciples of Jesus, each one representing a certain soul quality. And so we find [in the] reincarnation of man a John and James, Simon and Matthew—each possessing, each radiating soul qualities, rays, if you like, of the one Sun. Who then are you? Do you know? You are John Smith or Mary Brown, you answer, but what does your answer mean? What is *within*? Not solely are you John Smith or Mary Brown, but a great soul impulse, which is being individualised and grows into the fullness of a perfect God life. Behind all this there is something so grand and beautiful that all the little pettinesses and smallnesses of personality fade into insignificance.

I heard inwardly a question asked on heredity. Why do you find the qualities of the parents so clearly portrayed in the children? Obviously these children are merely reproductions of parent John Smith or Mary Brown. If the children are born of parents and inherit the characteristics of the parents, how do you harmonise this with your theories of reincarnation and astrology? If every soul comes to the earth under a directing influence and is influenced by the planets, why do we seem to fall into bondage through heredity?

The quality, or the ray, if you like, which the individualised soul of the child desires to express and develop is there in the particular parents chosen, in the quality of the soul of the parents, in their physical make-up and in the environment. So what appears to be heredity is actually the conditions made ready for the planting of that soul in the exact vibrations that it needs.

Q. Why is it that we have so many Cleopatras and so few cases of reincarnation of, say, charwomen*?

*[*Archaic term meaning female domestic worker - this expression, normal parlance in the 1930s, is unlikely to be what White Eagle would use today]*

A. In certain great people a quality of consciousness shines through. The light of the Sun will use a channel with the particular harmonious quality of consciousness that it needs to bring through on to the physical plane a certain truth, or to express beauty.

I will try to illustrate this again. I have in mind a Master of a certain ray, the Ray of Ceremonial—those who understand will know to whom I refer—a Master who is reputed to

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have incarnated as certain well-known characters in history. I would show you that it is the *soul quality*, the *ray* which has incarnated in certain characters. And therefore to say that one individual was so and so and so and so, and link up all the incarnations back, is both truth and untrue. The individual soul responds or corresponds to certain cosmic rays and vibrations, and therefore the soul will take the name which that vibration once had during its former life.

Q.Then you can truly say that 'I am a reincarnation of Cleopatra'—true, and yet false?

A.Exactly. And so you are brought to the recognition of this non-separateness, and recognise that it is necessary to develop towards individualisation and growth, but also towards unification and identification with the whole.

Q.If humanity can be grouped as falling under a certain number of rays, each ray possessing many sub-divisions, and each ray corresponding to its particular sign of the zodiac, can humanity be grouped roughly under twelve groups? And those members of this generation who fall under, say, ray number four, are reincarnations of previous generations who have also fallen under that ray?

A.Yes, that would well express it.

Q.It has been said that the sign Sagittarius represents Peter. Does it mean that those with the Sun in Sagittarius have the qualities of Peter?

A.Yes and no. Immediately I say 'yes' then we have Peter done up in a parcel again. I can answer yes, with reserve. But there are different aspects of the soul qualities of Peter.

Q.I thought it was those who fail who come back to learn more lessons?

A.Yes. But also service can be rendered by the developed Peters. We must never overlook the service as well as remembering the necessity for additional earth experience.

Q.Do we understand that each soul must go through each of those states of consciousness (twelve rays or signs of the zodiac) before the soul can really become a son (Sun)?

A.True. It is your idea that each quality, each sign must be worked through in a separate incarnation. I want you to get away from the idea of separation, and think more of interblending, interpenetration of all these soul qualities.

Q.Then the different states of consciousness can be worked through in one incarnation, not separately, but all at once?

A.Exactly. If you are going to reach the heart of the truth of life you have to get a comprehensive view of the whole. When folk declare they are Mary, or Peter, they forget there may be many incarnate on the earth expressing the same soul quality, having that particular quality strongly emphasised.

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Q.These things are difficult to understand with our three-dimensional consciousness, but can we not try to reach up to that fourth dimension and work from that? Is it possible to express?

A.You can touch the fourth dimension and know it, but when you try to convey your knowledge it is like trying to bring down those higher notes or tones in the universe into your ordinary octave.

Q.Is it not wise to aspire?

A.Most certainly, it is wise to aspire and turn inward, because it is all there, within. But when you think you are going to grasp a most profound truth, it evades you. But in time it will become reality, and you will become part of it and it part of you.

Q.Is there an intellectual search for truth and a spiritual?

A.The intellectual is the outer. The inner mysteries can be interpreted by the mind on the intellectual plane. The mind can penetrate and dissect, and when the mind has finished with truth, well, it is a poor little thing, with not much left of it; the real beauty is all gone. The mind dissects, analyses, prunes, destroys. But it has its purpose.

People who are working purely on the intellectual plane think that everything is so logical and exact that there is no loophole for escape—they have the whole universe in their mind, all perfectly arrayed—but they have left 95% out of the picture. The cosmic mysteries are all contained within the body of man. But man has not yet learnt how to use his gifts.

Now to return to your question about mental gymnastics and the understanding of the fourth-dimensional world. You won't get there only through your mind. You have been told that the spiritual world is a mental world and spiritual things are mental things. But I would point out to you that the essence of life is contained in every organ of the physical body. It is not with mind alone but with eyes and nose and mouth and ears and hands that you will discover the inner mysteries. To illustrate: music has to pass through hearing in order to release in you certain vibrations. You cannot appreciate music with your mind alone. You have to *hear* it. Your sense of hearing is the organ which releases the vibrations for the mind to interpret.

Q.There are two aspects of truth, White Eagle, the outer and the inner mystical?

A.Exactly. There is the outer aspect of life and the inner aspect. Both are true. But then everything in the outer is illusion, your life here on earth is illusion, but very real and very true illusion. But it passes. One can say the same of the theory of reincarnation. You certainly do reincarnate, you certainly have been in the various civilisations. When it comes down to identification with some individual, then you must seek the inner mysteries.

Q.But White Eagle, when you say that one was with Christ on earth, or one was a priest, shall we say—what exactly *does* it mean?

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A. Perhaps you yourself incarnated at the time of Christ. If I tell you that your name was Mary, you must not jump to the conclusion that you were Mary the mother. I mean that you were then in incarnation, that that was the period of your output into the world. When I speak of your 'quality' of soul, I am linking that quality with names which have been used to identify certain qualities in history. When I say you were incarnated in Palestine, I mean that something that I know as *yourself* was incarnated.

Benediction:

And now, to the all wise, all-loving and beloved Father God, we pray, we aspire. In our weakness be Thou our strength, in our sorrow be Thou our comfort, and lead us ever onward into the light and glory of Thy life.

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:

Karma, opportunity, past lives, afterlife, oneness

