

The Divine Spirit in Man*

T256 The Inner Teachings 1st July 1958 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

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

Invocation:

Almighty Spirit, in Whom we live and have our being, we pray to draw closer to understanding of Thy laws and Thy love. May we, Thy children, receive the stimulus that our spirits need to rise nearer to Thee to become instruments of Thy love, according to Thy will. May each one present (and those who read our own words) be linked by the power of the heavenly hosts to the heart of love; and may we all be receptive to the inspiration of the wise and holy teachers. May He Who is the manifestation of all Love be here.... We thank Thee, our Creator, Father–Mother God.

Amen.

We are happy that we can speak to you again. All around us are the spirits of illumined souls. Each one of you can be a receiving instrument for light and power from these illumined souls. You may, if you will, open your heart and mind to the influence of your spirit companions in order to receive more knowledge on your path, knowledge which will come to you not only by words but by unfoldment of your soul powers. Do not forget that every day, wherever you are, you are a receiving instrument; remember too that God has also given you an inner sense which will enable you to tune your receiver to the good and the true and the beautiful.

We can see, as doubtless you can also see, the fine razor edge upon which man has to walk when he enters upon the spiritual path. He can get confused by contact with the emotional astral plane, which largely is a plane of illusion. We do not mean that all astral form is false, or that it is merely a figment of man's imagination. The astral plane is real, even as the physical plane is thought to be real. Some people believe the latter to be as solid as a rock. Unfortunately the majority of people get so immersed in its rockiness, solidity and hardness, that they become encased by solid matter and, to them, this solid matter is all they know.

The physical plane in its present form is transient. Its matter disintegrates and then reforms. Nothing is really destroyed; but the basic physical substance is not as solid as you think, but is moulded and formed by the power of the Great White Spirit. Life in all its forms is always under the control and command of a Divine Intelligence, of Will, Wisdom and Love—of the threefold Creative Power, the Trinity.

Yes, there is indeed a divine plan of evolution for all creatures. Indwelling in all matter is a supreme creative power which you call Spirit, or God; matter lies, shall we say, unconscious of the divine power which brought it into being. The purpose of the descent of the divine spark into matter is that it may develop a separate consciousness which slowly evolves through all forms of matter until at last when the man reaches a certain level of self-consciousness, he becomes aware of a divine life buried deep within him. This life is like a most beautiful jewel, a transcendently lovely gift secreted in man.

The Divine Spirit in Man*

T256 The Inner Teachings 1st July 1958 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Now this God-consciousness is not found in the lower forms of life. Men argue but cannot decide as to whether the animal has any consciousness of the divine. Yes, the domestic animal, by its devotion to man, is developing a higher consciousness, but we, who can observe all the steps of its evolution in physical matter, have yet to discern any divine consciousness in animals. Man must remember, however, that all animals, even in the wild, can be influenced by the Divine Spirit through man. Because of this man has a grave and great responsibility towards the animal kingdom. The domestic animal, and even wild animals, do indeed recognise that divine quality of love in man. But not all men have this divine quality. Many men are cruel to animals because they do not comprehend the meaning of divine love. Consequently the wild animal must defend itself because its animal instinct tells it to. The domestic animal is devoted to and trusts the man from whom it receives food, its comfortable home, warmth and protection. Nevertheless we cannot say that the animal has as yet any consciousness of divinity or of eternal life, but man can still help the animal on its evolutionary path.

What is the difference, then, between man and the animal? In the former's consciousness, in his soul-qualities. Undoubtedly our little friend the animal has also certain soul-qualities and develops a character. That is why many people will meet their animal friends again after death, and sad to relate, they will also have to face up to any cruelty they have inflicted upon any other animals during their earth life. For at some time, either on the astral or again on the physical plane, all cruelty committed by man has to be faced and eradicated. The difference, therefore, between animal life and the consciousness of man is this: that at a certain stage man awakens to awareness of the divine within him. You will say that many humans seem to be little better, and in some instances far below a highly sensitised and developed animal. In those lower, in the unevolved, the unawakened man, there is no God-consciousness. Now that state is not necessarily confined to the 'savage', the poor and the downtrodden; it can and does exist in the apparently clever, highly developed intellectual type of man.

What awakens and quickens the divine spirit in man? The answer is simple. It is human experience—largely that of pain and suffering. In the past man has responded to what is called evil—evil being a form of unevolved life, with an appointed purpose. It is used in the great plan of evolution in order to stimulate and bring to life the God-consciousness in mortal man.

As man evolves from his self-conscious state towards a God-conscious state, he opens himself to influences and forces coming from other spheres of life. In past ages, races and civilisations, as you have learnt, employed magical powers for selfish purposes, a sin which eventually brought about their destruction. These people, not being so advanced mentally as subsequent races, were easily swayed by what you call magical power, because they had yet to develop the powerful mental bodies of this present age. They discovered that by employment of crude magical forms and ceremonies they could gain power over their fellow creatures. They used this 'black magic' and it eventually brought about destruction, but not to all of them. Some souls had all along resisted these easily gained magical powers because they were responding to the voice of conscience to which we have already referred. Then a

The Divine Spirit in Man*

T256 The Inner Teachings 1st July 1958 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

still small voice within told them that certain things were very wrong, for every soul is endowed with a conscience and power of choice between right and wrong.

Those who gave way to negative and selfish forces drew punishment to themselves, a punishment which came very quickly to many, in the form of natural disaster and catastrophe. But others carried forward their karma to their next incarnation. This law of karma governs the whole of human life, and is by no means always bad, for while you are paying off your former debts which you incurred in the past, you are also offered opportunities of transmuting your karma. So when you look out upon suffering humanity, particularly upon acute emotional suffering—perhaps a home where husband and wife disagree, or where parents lose their loved children, or when you see apparently an innocent and beautiful soul suffering from a terrible disease—then will you pause and try to remember, particularly if it is yourself who suffers, that in some former life you may have inflicted considerable suffering on some of your fellow creatures.* Do you not see now that the only way for any soul to awaken to the divine or Christ consciousness is through its own experiences, its own feelings, even through its emotional, mental and spiritual suffering? These episodes are called tests and trials or minor initiations which lead to a greater initiation which brings a burst of light or a great illumination of the human spirit.

*[*White Eagle would have said this without any sense of judgement, but to illustrate the divine law in operation.]*

Salvation comes to the soul only through love, through illumination of the heart centre. In the heart centre is the jewel, the Christ Light. People may study comparative religion for years, may have an accumulation of knowledge intellectually; but we say again that there is only one way for the soul's salvation and redemption, and that is simply through the love of the Christ. It is so like human nature to want to dress simplicity up in a lot of highfalutin language! The bedrock and basis of all truth can be found in the teachings of the Master Jesus. Through the ages other teachers have come, selected and illumined souls who had become masters of matter and masters of themselves, and brought to mankind the ancient wisdom. You will find their truths through all the ancient scriptures.

But we would again emphasise the beauty and simplicity expressed in the work and life of Jesus. He told you plainly the two commandments upon which hangs all the Law. Man must first love God. Now immediately man's spirit goes forth in adoration to God, his heart subtly contacts the rest of all creation, particularly the human creation. He realises in a flash his at-one-ment with God. He knows that if God is in himself, God is also in his brother man. If man finds God in the holy of holies within his own soul, he knows without being preached at that his fellow man has been created in the same way as himself, and shares in the same holy light. If it is unawakened, it is still there, waiting. He knows that his Master once said: 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself' and that by giving out love to his neighbour he is helping him not only to deal with practical problems of daily life, but also to awaken to the eternal God-consciousness within his neighbour. Jesus said: 'Love one another.' Just this! Love is the key. Love is the way. How simple is that love! Yet some will say: 'This is only sentiment; you want to get beyond sentiment!' But you cannot comprehend spiritual glory without love,

The Divine Spirit in Man*

T256 The Inner Teachings 1st July 1958 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

because there is no glory for the soul who is loveless. However humble the soul that loves, it can enter into God.

That is what happens to souls that pass over to the next life who have been loving to their fellows. They may not be highly educated or know a great deal; their hearts have found the key to heaven, because they had fraternised with and not exploited or patronised their fellow man, and have accordingly entered into his joys and sorrows. To illuminate this I have in mind a young man who may not have been very religious. Indeed, his only religion was his kindness. When he awakened over here in the spirit life, he was astounded, for his soul at once realised light, happiness, serenity. There was no death for him. There can be no death for anyone who has learnt to love his fellow creatures, and also to love and protect the animal kingdom. All nature shall be ruled, and indeed will someday be governed by the divine law of harmony and love.

God bless your efforts, every one of you; and if you have problems and you want to know how to solve them, we know of no finer method than for you to go on your knees in the silence, and in the presence of your divine Master pray that you may be shown, and love will enter in and will reveal the right and the true way to act towards your brother.

Benediction:

Great Spirit of Love, pour down upon Thy children Thy glorious light, that we may be filled with love and compassion, gentleness and kindness to all our companions on life's journey, human, animal and of the nature world. We thank Thee for the wondrous blessing that we have received.

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:

Answers, unfoldment, etheric, history, nature