

# Initiation

T080 The Inner Teachings 13th July 1938 Pembroke Hall, London

## Invocation:

The blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost is being poured upon the waiting hearts of men\*. May all here be attuned to the heavenly sounds, sensitive to the presence of the guardian angels, the unseen messengers from the realms of light and love. We pray that those beloved brethren in special need of guidance and spiritual assistance may be given that food which they need. We resign ourselves to the love of God, and His Son, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*[\*See the introduction for an explanation of gender issues in editing these teachings.]*

We bring love to you all, and desire tonight to speak of initiation. We have already dealt with this subject before, but there still remain questions, the answers to which may be of general interest and help. So many in this present period are finding problems on all hands. Life appears to be hard, full of perplexity and difficulty, and some beloved ones are at a loss to understand why they meet so many difficulties on the road.

In all the inner schools of spiritual teaching, it has been known that by initiation was meant a stage upon the path to which the student, the neophytes of the spiritual mysteries, aspired. It had been revealed by the masters of wisdom that the path of initiation hastens the evolution of the soul. Without this great plan of initiation, spiritual evolution would be a long, long process. It is therefore necessary, at certain periods, for man to be given an opportunity for, shall I call it, intensive training. One hesitates to use the word 'forced', but in one sense it is rather a forcing of the flower, an acceleration in the expansion of consciousness. Thus it was found necessary for man to be so taught as to make, by his own desire and effort, a special step forward, a raising up. This teaching can be found, not only in [the] masonry\* of today; all the schools of the inner wisdom offer opportunities for the candidate to make a special effort, and reach in a shorter space of time an expansion of consciousness. This is initiation: a more or less sudden opening, a sudden realisation, of a greater spiritual life than was before understood, an expansion of the spiritual consciousness by which humanity is helped forward by their guides and teachers.

*[\*White Eagle frequently mentions masonry as a form of higher universal truth or teaching, without referring specifically to the freemasonry of today.]*

In the Egyptian mysteries, there were ceremonies through which the candidate passed, which were symbolical of certain soul-experiences. In the temples were subterranean passages through which the candidates had to walk. This is symbolical of the journey of the soul through the sadness and darkness of physical life. Many, many of us are now walking this probationary path, and we find it hard, do we not? So many dark corners, so many unexpected turns, and we know not where we go! Sometimes even our guides seem to confuse us in what they tell us. There remains but one thing to do—and I want you to apply this to your present material and spiritual life: keep on, with your whole heart in God's keeping, even as you walk through 'the valley of the shadow'. You say 'If only I could see

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the spirit people, they would help me'. You cannot see; you cannot hear; you walk, apparently alone. The test of old is still the test today, for as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be!

Such tests for initiation gauge the candidate's confidence in God's love, nothing else. You walk the path, confused on every hand, others suspecting or misjudging you; sad yourself, perhaps, for failures which you recognise, and troubled by many problems and sorrows. If you would pass the portals of the first initiation (though it may not be your first), if you would walk the path of initiation, you are being tested in your absolute confidence in God's love. You must feel that God is good, and [that] whatever comes leads you to a greater understanding of His love. When that thought is so firmly established that nothing shakes it, nothing clouds your vision, then you will pass, with shining eyes, into the land of light: you will pass through that particular initiation, and expansion of consciousness, or a greater understanding of God, will come to you. This is the whole purpose of life: that man shall surrender to God's love, acknowledging the Father as the supreme Spirit, Father-Mother, giver of all good.

If you are troubled about material problems and would have speech with us, and it is impossible to find time for that, we say to you: enter the Silence, and pray that God's love shall be in your heart; not that God shall lead you, because He will lead you; if you know He will and trust in Him, He cannot fail you. He is already leading you.

There is another point which some find difficult to grasp. When a soul has given its heart, itself, to the Master; when it has seen the path of initiation and is therefore a disciple of the Master, nothing happens to that disciple which is not in the plan—a very difficult point for many to accept. They feel they may go wrong and through stupidity make some false step. 'Where is freewill in this' they ask, 'if all that a disciple passes through falls into the plan?' Because a disciple at that stage does not know self-will. Do you not see? He has surrendered his will utterly and completely to God. He knows, or learns, that all is the working out of the law. By stepping on to the path the disciple is saying: 'I am ready for anything; I have one object, and that is to progress as speedily as possible, to gain and absorb wisdom, love and power from God, not for myself alone but that in so doing I may help my brethren'. The disciple thinks not in terms of self alone, but views life as a whole. It is no longer 'I'; it is 'my brethren'. The disciple knows only one purpose in life for all men, and this is that they shall, eventually, enter into the Kingdom of God. Nothing happens, except it is in the plan, for the disciple.

The disciple learns to accept things, knowing he is meeting his karmic debts. You cannot make progress without paying your way. It is a simple law: as below, so above; as below, on the earth plane, so also on the higher planes of consciousness, on the spiritual plane. The spiritual plane interpenetrates the material, and all debts must be paid on both planes; when responsibilities below are avoided, there results a certain chaos above which has to be met at some time; if not in the present, in some future incarnation the debt must be paid.

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When we tread the path towards initiation, many bills come flowing in. Sometimes they become almost overwhelming. Yes, we know! But if you are unfortunate enough—or fortunate enough, I do not know which—to have an accumulation of bills waiting to be paid, you sit down and go through them, one by one, and clear them off as best you can. True, you may shut them into a drawer and say you cannot be bothered. That is all right for the moment, but the time comes when you have to face those debts. You may do the same with life; you may postpone responsibilities and shut them away, but they are still there waiting, and sooner or later have to be paid, one by one. Therefore when you find yourself rather overwhelmed by difficulty, realise that you are actually being given an opportunity to clear the books. When we gain a little more wisdom, we discharge debts willingly and smilingly, for we then understand that they mean that the way is being cleared for our progress along the path towards initiation.

You would not be here tonight if in some previous life you had not responded to some karmic lesson and received a minor, or perhaps a major, initiation. At all events, in a previous life an expansion of consciousness came to you, an experience clearly shown when you had passed out of the earth body and journeyed to the spheres above. You were then given an opportunity: you were shown by your teacher, or by one of the elder wise ones, possible channels, or possible lives on earth. ‘You may choose this one or this one or this one: any one of these lives will enable you, if you are diligent, to attain that degree of consciousness which you now desire.’ The soul, in those high places, was shown the prize, and that only through certain experiences on earth could it gain that knowledge so sorely needed, and for which it was athirst. A choice of lives was revealed to you, and you were shown what each life offered. You, the ego,\* that God-consciousness within, decided into which life, which family, you would be born.

*[\*That is, the individual being.]*

Do get this clear. There is no forcing of reincarnation. The soul comes back to the earth (although people will not believe this) of its own free will, to gain certain lessons, or to give certain service. When clothed in the lower sheaths, and lastly in the physical body, the higher or God-consciousness is so covered that you cannot believe that you chose your life. You say: ‘Nonsense! I certainly did not choose *this*.’ No! Your lower self did not choose, not the rebellious self—that certainly did not. But the pure God-consciousness, the higher part of your being, chose it, because it knew that only by travelling through that particular scenery of life would you gain the quality of consciousness which you sought. So, beloved, you are here tonight because at some time you have seen the vision of what lay before you. Your consciousness has expanded. In this day of life, in this incarnation, you have been guided and urged by that higher self to seek contact with spiritual truth, with the inner and occult truths. You are therefore drawn to places like this, or seek certain books and contacts. Sometimes the contacts are brought to you, opportunities come; sometimes you absorb the truth, and sometimes not. But even trifles, everything in your life, has its place, has its purpose, and is destined to bring to you, consciously or unconsciously, further evolution and light.

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Before we close, we would explain that the initiations of water, fire and air all took place in the ancient days, and actually in those conditions. For instance, the soul would appear to be immersed in water—sometimes slimy and unpleasant. The object of undergoing these experiences was to bring an increased consciousness of God's love, so that in whatever difficulty the soul found itself on the astral or even on the earth plane, it would learn that no element had real power to bind or to hold. The soul had one refuge, one great Master and Father: God, who would always carry it through every danger, every difficulty. In the initiation of fire, the soul had to pass through the anguish of burning, a sensation of being consumed and burning away, until at last the soul realises that no fire can destroy that which is of God. So with the air initiation. (I will deal more fully with these initiations later.) The sensation of flying or falling from a great height to a terrible crash is that of fear, fear which has to be overcome. The soul must learn that it can pass through the air and be not hurt if it falls. The natural instinct for self-preservation is of the lower self, not of the higher. The higher self has to learn to command and to impress upon the lower self that all is well. All fear must be overcome.

This is one of the greatest tests: the overcoming of fear. Often we tell you there is nothing to fear in life except fear, and if you examine yourself, I am sure you will realise fear as one of the greatest foes: fear of hurt, fear of what is going to happen in material life, fear of death, fear of all kinds. Fear must be transmuted to love and trust. The beloved Master passed through all tests, all tortures and sufferings. I see that patient, noble figure, unafraid: 'If it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.'\* In a minor degree, these same tests are yours, and as you travel the path of initiation, again and again will these problems arise, until you have learned to say: 'Thy will be done, for it is all-love, all-wisdom.' And then you break through the curtain, and the vision glorious will flash before you—the initiation into the great and beautiful mysteries of heaven.

*[\*Matthew 26 : 39]*

I would stress the point that nothing happens outside the plan. I mean, there is no question; the disciple knows that the things which come are all for the good. See good always; know that good is working out of the difficulties in which you find yourself. I stress this point, because I know there are some here suffering through a karmic condition which they have decided to wade through. You will get through, you will get through. Do not lose your vision that God is good: 'Not what I want, but what Thou wantest, O God!'

Q.You spoke just now of three paths open to the soul before incarnation—would these paths be offered in gradation? One might not be so difficult, so that a little karma would be paid off, and the next a little more difficult, and the third perhaps so difficult that practically all remaining karma would be paid off?

A.You have put that well. They would be given the opportunities, as you say, of the lesser or the greater degree. The soul would choose to hurry, or to take things leisurely. Therefore if a big piece of karma comes, say: 'I choose that; I am going to get on with it!' There is really no forcing, because the soul has its choice. It is not forced into reincarnation. Some say,

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‘Nothing will induce me to come back!’ Well, you won’t come back, but when you see something very lovely, and learn that it will not be yours until you go back to earth, eventually you will say ‘Yes; I must have that beautiful thing’. The higher self sees; the lower self kicks very hard and rebels, but the higher self is inspiring and urging it forward all the time. It may be that the soul does not gain what it longs for in one incarnation, but will eventually. It is better not to rebel!

Q.Do souls at all stages of development have the choice of how they will reincarnate? One wonders how it is that so many of the poor and destitute can have chosen such a lot.

A.In the case of young souls, the choice is not so much given to the individual, in the beginning, as to the group soul. The group soul will direct the good of the group. The younger souls incarnate more in the sense of groups; they find themselves in certain conditions, which in the beginning are difficult. That is not saying that all who live in deprivation, for example, are young souls; there may be those who have chosen that condition.

Q.You said that souls are drawn to the teachings they need. Why is it that some souls are so antagonistic to these and similar teachings?

A.In some cases the soul knows the truth, but the lower self rebels and tries to gain supremacy. When strongly antipathetic, probably in the past it has used magical powers for its own ends and drawn around itself conditions which rise up in successive incarnations—elementals of its own creation—through practising evil in the past, and those elementals will be a stumbling block until the soul has learnt to take a stand definitely.

## Benediction.

Beloved ones, may we be in consciousness raised on to the hillside, with the canopy of the blue skies above us, and may we feel the beauty, the peace, and the eternal love of our Father God. May we be inspired with courage, with faith, to travel the path towards the Eternal Peace. May each one present go from this building conscious of the companionship of guardian angel, guide, and teacher; and may each one know that all is well, all is love. The blessing of Christ, our Lord, be upon all present.

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:*

*Ancient religions, ancient wisdom, challenges, elements*