

# Life Forms

T040 The Inner Teachings 10th March 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

## Invocation:

Great White Spirit of the open prairies and the windswept sky, Great Spirit—our life, in whom all creatures abide, we open our hearts to wisdom, and as little children may we come into Thy fold. We call upon the angels of love, wisdom and power; by Thy will, O God, may they come, and may we be responsive. May we not learn the wonders of nature merely to gratify ourselves, but that we may give that which has come to us, and so help forward Thy grand and glorious plan of evolution.

Amen.

Beloved brethren, our subject has been termed 'Life Forms'. We have already briefly outlined the work of nature spirits and of angels in a previous lecture, and as we explained then, it is impossible to more than outline so vast a subject, but perhaps at the same time, sow seeds for fresh thought.

As on the last occasion, we would emphasise the stupendous life force which streams upon the earth plane. Normally man\* is conscious of the physical aspect of life from the lowest creation to man; you study nature in the insect, the animal, the bird life, and the flowers, the bushes and trees; you enjoy the countryside, breathe the air, watch the beautiful sunset, and are enthralled by the forms of the clouds, but you give no thought to that which animates these glories of creation. The normal man sees but the physical manifestation of life and thinks of creation as subject to certain laws—which of course it is. But he ignores the intelligence behind the form, the beauty of which form brings to him so much joy. Behind every manifestation in physical matter exists, both on the etheric and on the higher planes—astral, mental, and spiritual—a corresponding vibration of life.

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

Conceive this magnificent outpouring upon the earth plane as streams of life force, streams of vital force, outpourings of the God life. That is the beginning. When it descends into the lowest strata of form life, it heralds the beginning of a new life round. Such lower forms of life enter and exist in the mineral kingdom, both in the earth and in the bed of the ocean. Such forms of etheric life follow their own descending path of evolution and then turn to climb again, branching off here and there (to which we will refer later) until finding ultimate expression (or manifestation) in the adept, the perfect man, or in the angel being. Such an angel being has the direction and the helping of the lower forms of life along the path upon which he himself has travelled. At the apex of life there comes a blending, or co-operation, a completion of the scheme of creation, in the solar universe. We can even go farther and visualise that beyond this life round the beings of perfected life pass onwards through other planets, until they bear their part in the completion of yet another system of worlds, a solar system. To put it simply: Genesis tells of the creation of the earth; that God created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh\*—seven great days; not of twenty four hours, but periods of countless years, each 'day' serving to create or bring into form one of the seven life streams.

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[\*Genesis 1]

We shall then divide life into two main lines of development—the sea and all that therein is, and the earth, commencing with the mineral. Some of you marvel at the rock formation of the earth and are impressed by the beauty of precious stones found therein, but very few realise that behind all physical formation is the etheric facsimile. In the etheric are forms of life (no, not fairies, or even nature spirits), etheric forms of life which exist in the mineral substance of the earth, etheric forms which live inside the rock. This we suggest is the lowest form of etheric life to which we can refer, and it can be seen by clairvoyants. Such forms bear a slight resemblance to the human form, but they are grotesque.

We pass from that low mineral form of life to the fungoid growth. From this, which again has behind it its own etheric form as with the mineral, we pass to the insect and onwards to reptile and bird life. When the life form reaches a certain stage it merges into the form life which results from some other life stream. For instance, having reached the bird stage, the life essence takes form as the fairy, or the nature spirit. Life at this stage sheds the material life form and takes an astral formation as well as an etheric. Now such forms of life manifest in etheric and astral matter, not physical. The astral body is one of feeling, emotion, so that at this stage we find affection; these nature spirits feel affection and respond to love—or the reverse.

Can I trace the water life path for you? We commence with the forms of life in the bed of the ocean. In the ocean itself there are such etheric forms—not seen, not known, but living in the water. You might group them together and call them water spirits, or water sprites. A life form dwells in the coral, a form of life which little etheric creatures work through, and, shall I say, inhabit. The next stage upwards is into the fish. The higher aspects of this water life manifest in the etheric forms of the clouds. Witness the extraordinary formation of the clouds caused by the wind you say, by certain conditions of the air, and so forth; not wholly; all such manifestations have behind them the little people who are very busy and having grand games too, loving to enjoy the air, playing about and having their splendid fun. This may seem childish, but when you are grown-up you won't think so, but will enjoy and participate with these little creatures.

This is a vast subject to attempt to bring through this instrument tonight.

Now let us consider another life stream—we are but giving you a few out of the many. Consider the grass, my brethren, the myriad little lives of grass. Someone once thought that honey had an animal vibration, and I tried to explain that honey was linked primarily to the life stream of the flowers. I will explain. From the grass, the next step is the corn, from which comes the bread of life; onwards, and the next step is ant life, and the life of the bees, both a continual marvel to the student. So we trace the evolution of the form of the bee from the grasses and cereals, and that is why, from the inner plane, we exclude the bee from the other animal and insect life forms.

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One more path of evolution: from the vegetable kingdom of the flowers, the shrubs, the trees; then, what happens? From the trees, the life stream passes into the mammals, the animal form, from the lower types into the domestic animal, from the domestic animal into the lowest human stratum, and upward, as you know, from the primitive to the ordinary, to the developed man, the disciple, the adept. Do not mistake me; a beautiful and beloved tree does not come back as, say, a disagreeable animal; this is not quite the idea. Think of strata of life in terms of *life streams*, ever pouring down, ever shaping into certain grades of life forms. Does this help? A child at school is sometimes so quick and intelligent that it can jump a class, can pass from a lower class into a high, and avoid the intermediate class. In the life streams there are points at which life may change over—a rare occurrence but it does happen. Therefore do not get the idea that a tree passes on to (what shall I say?) a swarm of mosquitoes! You may laugh, but I am going to say that the life stream which has produced a beloved and beautiful tree can in the next manifestation take form as a loved animal—a dog perhaps. Those of you who have as a friend a dog and see the intelligence and love in his eyes, can well feel this may be true.

Behind all physical forms are corresponding etheric forms, until we get to the stage where the astral form comes into being. We find this, as I have already said, at the level of the bird life, and we get the nature spirits—the fairies, and from the fairies the next life form (all fairies in reality), the salamanders, the fire spirits, and then the air spirits. From the air spirits comes evolution to the lower angelic plane. The lower angels have many, many air spirits (I think your name is ‘sylphs’) in their service. The angels help the air spirits, or sylphs, in their evolution, even as man, on his path, helps the domestic animals onward in their evolution. The higher strata of life can be separated into two, the angelic and the human. The lower angels watch over the lower life forms on earth, and the tiny spirits ever at work on the flowers have not exactly a separate life from the angels—the little forms that work so hard to carry the vital force to the flower, root and plant, are animated by the thought power of the lower angels, and so are more or less thought forms—some people call them elementals. When their work is finished, they quietly fade away. Not all fairies are like this; some are creations, on their own line of evolution, and work upwards and merge eventually into the angelic kingdom.

Some human beings are quite unlike ordinary humans and more like a nature spirit. Rarely, but occasionally, we get that crossing over from the nature line of evolution into the human. When man has arrived at that point where he becomes an adept, the perfect man, he has the choice. He may follow the angelic line of growth and service and become one of the solar angels. There are in the higher strata of the invisible, great solar beings, who visit such a globe as the earth and others at times when they need help, and bring their light and their power to help on and upward the great earth stream of life.

How long does all this take? Do not think that the life evolving in the mineral, in the seed, in the vegetable is for manifestation on this earth. Rather that life is being prepared for a globe too far distant for us even to contemplate, even as the life today results from a globe of countless millions of years ago. The whole process is so slow and so grand it is impossible at this stage to get a comprehensive view. All we can do is to appreciate that behind all physical

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form is this wonderful and beautiful invisible etheric life. When we thus open our vision to see the little people at work and view the glorious panorama of God's love, God's beauty manifest everywhere, we shall help the whole scheme by intelligent recognition of, and intelligent co-operation with, the fairies and nature spirits.

Q.Re a group soul?

A.I have rather described the group soul as a stream of life. When a dog dies it passes into what some call a group soul, but is better termed a 'life stream'. From this latter, the dog, if loved, should have absorbed from contact with its master or mistress that which raises it to where it receives what I will describe as the divine spark. At that stage the dog passes from one life stream to the next, and is able to receive sufficient of divine intelligence to give it a measure of free-will. Whereas before it acted purely by direction of the group master or controller under the one mind, when it passes to the human it is free to choose whether it will respond to the God, or to the self-will. We must remember however that evolution first desires the self-will in order to develop the ego or the individual. The group soul of the animal is controlled by the mind of a nature spirit, or master mind.

Q.It is of course only an advanced dog that so evolves?

A.Most certainly; that is the ultimate path.

Do not for one moment think that the spirit world is not a very real world. It is very real indeed, and the etheric substance as solid as your rocks. To those in the spirit world, it is you who appear as ghosts.

Q.Do they feel as afraid of us as we do of them?

A.O yes. Particularly when you are angry, or your vibrations are coarse. On the other hand there are elementals who love it when you get into a bad temper, they enjoy it so much!

Q.Are these the fire spirits?

A.They are not actually spirits, not those on the line of evolution, but creations of violent emotions and vibrations. They live for a time on the etheric plane and are drawn to people who give vent to the violent emotions they enjoy. The more bad-tempered you are, the more they feast, and would work you into a frenzy.

Q.Does the suffering of animals help them in their evolution?

A.Do your sufferings teach you something? The same law applies.

Q.When does karma enter in?

A.When the power of decision or choice is given to the individualised spirit, karma starts. Of course, there are certain forms of life which are not subject to karma.

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### Benediction:

God bless you, dear ones. It is a great joy to have the companionship and fellowship of you all. We cannot tell you how you help, but it is so. There is always mutual service in the communion and fellowship of the spirit. We thank you. Will you feel with me now, dear ones, the fellowship, the brotherhood of spirit, the love which binds us all together? And we are caught up in the fire of the love of the angel ministers, and feel the blessing of the ray from the grand Master, and through him bow before the almighty Father, our Father God.

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:*

*Elements, mammal*

