

The Beginning of Religion

T271 The Inner Teachings 25th April 1962 New Lands, Liss

Invocation:

O Gracious Spirit, Who art all-enfolding Love, we humbly and in simplicity open our souls to Thy blessing of love.

We thank Thee for this group of earthly brethren who have learnt lessons of love and brotherhood, and for the help that they bring to your servants in the spirit. May the sweet presence of Thy Son, the Lord, the Christos, bless this gathering.

Amen.

We pray that you may all respond to the influence of the White Brethren* who are with us, and above all respond to the pure and sweet presence of the Lord Christ, who radiates his love through his inner Brethren of the unseen who are working more closely with the earth humanity.

[‘White’ refers to light, not race or colour.]*

Previously, we concluded by describing the Grail Temple and the assembly of shining Knights of the Holy Grail*. At the centre of the group was the altar, and upon it there appeared a large grail cup from which the light shone and upon which a heavenly light descended. Within that light upon the grail cup was the symbol of the white dove, or of the Holy Spirit.

*[*See teaching no. T 261.]*

We bring before you tonight this same picture, asking you to see this scene with your inner vision, and to realise that when we come to talk to you like this, your earthly vibrations are raised; the earthly mind should sink into abeyance and you should feel stimulated in spirit. Your heart centre should open like a rose to receive the influences, the wisdom, the beauty of higher spheres of life. This is our purpose when speaking to you from spirit. You may hear a repetition of certain spiritual truths. You have listened many, many times to our words, and you may feel that we repeat ourselves, but it is ever thus with truth. Truth is always repetitive—like a wheel, revolving, always bringing to you the same basic law of life.

Yet our purpose is not to harp on the same words, but through these words to stimulate your own spiritual receptivity, not so much to what we say but to unspoken truth which only *you* can receive in your own way in your own heart. Not in words alone does the Lord come, but in the silence, in a pure spiritual atmosphere, in cosmic rays which come to you more easily in the pure atmosphere which by your love and service you can create. We would have all our friends or brethren realise this important truth.

We have spoken about religion and the various religions which have come during the past ages. Unfortunately, human nature being what it is at present, many find reasons for combating forcibly the religions of other people, other times, other races. This is when man* is operating intellectually, on an earthly level. But will you remember that every religion has

The Beginning of Religion

T271 The Inner Teachings 25th April 1962 New Lands, Liss

been introduced to humanity by a master or a great initiate, and [that] when that particular truth was first revealed it was simple and pure? But when, after a time, it was used by the mind of its adherents, it became distorted. We are speaking of course of pure religion. This pure religion came from the Creator, from the Great White Spirit; and the same principles which were given to the early Christian brethren have come down through the ages from much farther back than you can realise.

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

We are trying to help you to realise in the silence of your own heart this pure truth from God, your Creator. We are trying to help you to realise the divine presence – God – in you, God in all creation. God is and ever has been. From the heart of God all creatures have been born. The Great White Spirit animates all matter and causes it first to become, then to grow and to evolve. In the words of your Christian Bible: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.’ The Word was sound, vibration, and the vibration created by the Word commenced life in form.

If you read the stories of creation in the scriptures of the world you will find they all contain this same truth. They all tell of the Word, the sound, the vibration, the activity of the atom which finally created form, and of how the life, which is God, moulded matter into form, and this was life on the earth. This is the beginning of life in the universe. When mortal life has run its course, there comes a turning inward, a withdrawal from that outer manifestation.

When man has become cognisant of this divine law, this essence, coming forth from the heart and centre both of his own being and of the whole universe, then he realises that he is not separate but part of the whole, and part of God, and God is in him. Thus, slowly he merges into this greater consciousness, into the *all-ness* of life. At this stage, brotherhood of the spirit, brotherhood of all life, is realised by man. When in the deep silence man knows God, he knows all. *Man, know thyself*; know God within the silence, and thou shalt know ... all; thou shalt know the universe in which thou livest.

This is the basic and simple truth inherent in all true religions, in all good, true men and women and religious groups. Only when the earthly mind with its critical and analytical faculty gets to work, does that sweet, pure truth become covered up, and so the brain of man, instead of being his servant, becomes his counsellor, his dictator. The earthly mind has a capacity for concealing the real; therefore man has to become very strong in his conviction and in his devotion to God. It is the narrowing of the vision of truth which eventually covers it up. It can never be destroyed but it can be so deeply buried that it is lost for a time to the sight of those active only on the physical level of consciousness.

Yet the Age of Aquarius, when the new world teacher will become active, is now with us. His influence will manifest not so much in organised and established religions and churches (which will gradually change, and their present form will disappear), but in the spirit, in the truth which, working like leaven in the bread, will lighten the whole world. It will manifest in the urge towards freedom, towards a better way of life, to which mankind is now

The Beginning of Religion

T271 The Inner Teachings 25th April 1962 New Lands, Liss

responding—the urge for a more harmoniously organised life which will afford men the opportunity to develop spiritually. You see it is very difficult for man to reach up and respond to that Divine Spirit when he is imprisoned in the hard rock of earthly materialism.

Until the spirit in man understands the law of God and puts this law into operation, his whole being is unbalanced; he lacks ease and peace of mind; he is in the thralldom of emotional and mental conflict; he has not attained a degree of self-discipline. How do you think the adepts, the initiates, retain a physical body long, long after the recognised human life span? How do they retain their youthful appearance? How can they wield that power which demonstrates their complete control over the physical atom? Only because, through a long life of many incarnations, and by practising the divine laws of life, they have achieved mastery. They are able to manipulate and control matter on all planes. When a soul understands spiritual science (which is wholly superior to physical science) then he is able to perform what to the ignorant is a miracle.

You will wonder what all this has to do with you personally. You will say: ‘But we are very far from adeptship, very far from understanding the divine law which controls matter.’ Yes, but the reason we say these things is to open your minds to your infinite possibilities and the infinite power which is within you; the God in you will only be developed and brought through to full capacity by your own effort. Jesus was the most wonderful channel for the demonstration of divine love and the perfecting of the truth of God-in-man; he was the perfect channel for the light of God. But we want you to realise the difference between the simple, pure teaching which flowed through Jesus of Nazareth from his Father-Mother God and the later religion organised and dictated by brilliant scholars of the time. We try, in a simple way, to bring you the simple basic truths which came to you through Jesus—that God is in man; that the love of God works through man; that God in man gives him power to heal, the power to overcome death.

Why do you think Jesus raised the dead to life? It was to teach those who came after that man himself can attain mastery over matter, and that death has no real existence, only in men’s minds. We know quite well your arguments; you say: ‘But death is round us all the time!’ May we suggest to you that man himself is the cause of his own death? It is not God’s will that man should die. Man brings about his own death by breaking the divine law. When ignorance is replaced by knowledge, the body will be retained as long as it is needed; there will come a change of vibrations of the physical atoms, which will lead to the transition of the body to a higher plane.

Think of Jesus: a simple, good man, sitting with a group of his disciples or followers, teaching them the simple ways of God, the way that God wishes His earthly children to live, so that they may overcome evil and death. Think of him on a hilltop, with his disciples about him, speaking not of himself, but of the Father which dwelt in him. The divine Spirit, pure spirit – the spirit came down from heaven into the heart of Jesus, speaking simple and pure truth to his disciples, as pure religion has always come through into the mind and soul of the teacher—not from the mental level but from the spirit.

The Beginning of Religion

T271 The Inner Teachings 25th April 1962 New Lands, Liss

We have spoken of man overcoming death, and we must answer a question which has risen in the mind of one of you: 'Then what about the crucifixion of Jesus? Why was Jesus crucified to death?' First let us make quite clear to you that Jesus was a willing co-operator with his Father '...nevertheless, not my will but thine be done.' He surrendered to his Father's great purposes, and by his crucifixion a spiritual power baptised the earth with Christ light, the radiation of which has already lasted for nearly two thousand years. The crucifixion illustrates that before man can overcome death he must be crucified in himself. Through self-sacrifice, through sacrificing his desires, his hopes, his wishes, his whole being to the will of his Creator, he attains to that supreme degree of mastership which enables him to overcome physical death. First of all the surrender, sinking the lower self (that is the crucifixion) and then the resurrection into that glorious freedom and spiritual life. When man has overcome his mortal self he receives the power to command matter, which is what Jesus demonstrated. He raised his body from death and came forth from the tomb. 'But I am not dead, I live!' And in that same body he withdrew in the invisible; he changed the atoms again so that he could not be seen by the disciples and those round him because they were functioning on a lower level, and he at that time was able to function at will on a higher level. The Christian faith is built upon this demonstration, but do not forget that other men have also achieved this mastery over the body, over physical atoms, and transmuted physical atoms into that higher and more beautiful state of life.

We must leave you now, and we thank you for being so still and quiet and so loving. Dear ones, dear ones of earth, we do not expect miracles from you but we say, obey the highest urge in your thoughts and in your life. Armageddon does not take place in a great earthly battle, but within man's own heart, in the battle between his spirit and his lower self.

Benediction:

The Great White Spirit bless you. Hold fast to the truth which is struggling for life in your dear human heart. Never lose your vision of the Star, the emblem of the perfect life, balanced, true, always loving. Goodnight, dear ones, 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:

Intuition, inspiration, perspective, mastery, transformation, illumination