

Religion is a Way of Life

T258 The Inner Teachings 18th November 1958 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

Let us raise our hearts to the Lord God, our Creator, the Great White Spirit, who doth enfold the world and its solar system, and Whose love penetrates the smallest particle of matter. O Thou Who art Almighty God, we worship Thee and pray that Thy light in us will inspire a deeper, fuller service to Thee and all Thy creatures. May every brother and sister in this assembly absorb Thy blessing and be raised in consciousness into the heavenly state. May they be aware of the assembled company of eternal spirits who at Thy command descend to the physical life to serve Thee and the plan of life.

Amen.

During this short hour of communion we would endeavour to help you all to become aware of the Elder Brethren, saints and messengers who come to the earth to guide and inspire humanity. In your mind's eye you may see that we are in a white temple, vast and yet enclosing us in such a way that although we are able to realise the vastness and the sense of the universal in this temple, we are at the same time united as a company of brothers and sisters. Such harmony exists between us that we do not feel at a loss in a strange and vast place, but as one; we are a group of brothers of the light. So see with your mind's eye the grandeur and the beauty of this arched temple. See the groups of elder brethren encircling us. We would like you all to become more conscious of these elder brethren and of their help in forwarding the plan created in the heavens for the evolution of mankind*.

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

You may feel that religious teaching on your earth has become chaotic, with much contradiction, because different religions present very different ideas concerning man's spiritual life. We would like to deal with this point tonight and so help you in your task of discernment and discrimination; help you to select the true path of religious service. Religion, of course, is not only a matter of belief, and certainly not a matter of creed and dogma. It is a way of life. Now many of you listening here are young students, or enquirers seeking knowledge and understanding. Wisdom you will gain as you tread the path. But in the beginning of your search it is essential for you to understand how you may discern truth, how you may discriminate between the false and the true. Learn how to do this first and you will later discern deeper and deeper truth and so gain wisdom. Discrimination should be your first acquisition. Now, how does a soul discriminate between a false or chaotic presentation of religion and a true presentation? We would draw your attention to the fact that there is only one basic truth or teaching available to men, and this is the Ancient Wisdom. What do we mean by the Ancient Wisdom? We will try and tell you.

Behind all religions through all the ages there has been and still is only one basic truth; this is the Ancient Wisdom. When you study this basic truth, you will recognise how its influence pervades all religions. It comes to light again and yet again in many a re-presentation, taking different form, or different symbols may be used to set forth truth, but when you get back to the foundation you will find there the ancient belief, the ancient wisdom. 'As it was in the

Religion is a Way of Life

T258 The Inner Teachings 18th November 1958 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

beginning; is now, and ever shall be.' This wisdom sets forth the plan of life. It exists in the solar system, in the heavens, and as above in the heavens, so it manifests below on the earth.

Now this basic religion is, shall we say, built round the Sun. There are thinkers today who say that Sun worship is idolatrous, or pagan. But worship of the Sun was the original religion; so you may select any form of religion you like—the Christian, the Egyptian, that of the American Indians*, any religion of the past, and you will find that the basis of them all was worship of the One who gives life, the Sun—or else the Son whom you have learnt to love and to worship in a human form as the Lord. You will all have your conception of this King of Kings.

*[*When these teachings were given in the 1930s, the term 'Indian' was common parlance used to refer to Native Americans.]*

Religion in the past has been taught by symbols. Symbols, really, are the language of the spirit, and are used in the heavens to convey ideas, to convey thoughts, to convey truth. In your meditations you are beginning to see some of these symbols but you do not know how to interpret them. This power to interpret will gradually come to you. You will gradually gather this knowledge as you unfold from within yourself spiritual perception, spiritual vision, clear vision, clairvoyance. True clairvoyance is the perception of the true meaning of symbols, or the truth behind form.

The ancients worshipped the Sun—not, as many people think, the apparent or physical Sun—but the spirit which the Sun represented, the Golden Light, the Giver of Life. That life took the highest form conceivable by man, which was his own form. So this form of man, lit by the spirit behind, became for the ancients their god. People have also had truth carried down to them over the ages by myths, which many people think are only fairy or imaginary tales for children. The mythology of all time is in reality the spiritual language which has been handed down to man through all the ages and contains the symbols of heavenly truth.

When you learn to unfold within your own spirit greater light, greater love, you will be able to read the language of the spirit in the ancient mythology, handed down to man from the gods. A company of gods in the heavens watch over the earth planet and other planets in the solar system. Earth is not isolated, but one of a vast company of worlds upon which there is life, very much more advanced and more beautiful than man has yet achieved on the earth. The evolution of mankind is planned and led by the Creator and His angels in the heavens.

The truth of religion has been given to man again and again many times. In the beginning truth comes through pure and unsullied, but eventually, when handled by man, it becomes soiled, distorted and eventually dies. The simpler your religion, the purer the truth. Religion is born in a cave, which is man's heart. True religion was clearly given in the story of the birth of Jesus. You are drawing close to Christmas. The festival of Christmas does not belong exclusively to the Christian, but is a festival which has been known and has been celebrated throughout all time. It is the festival of the birth of a Sun god. You will find these Sun myths throughout your world, and in the farthest distances of time. You will find ancient stones

Religion is a Way of Life

T258 The Inner Teachings 18th November 1958 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

depicting the mother cradling the babe in her arms, just as in your Christian religion, Mary, the mother, cradles in her arms the newly born Jesus. The mother of the Sun god has always been a virgin, the reason being that the Sun god is born at the time of rising of Virgo above the horizon; Virgo, the mother, the virgin, gives birth to the Son. This is not only in the Christian religion but in many others.

We would not for one instant rob you of your belief in Christmas. It is true that Jesus was born exactly as stated. Yet these myths are an established truth for all time. And when you hear the bells of your churches pealing forth the joyous message at Christmas, will you remember that this is not only a Christian but a universal message which has always been rung out over the world, proclaiming joy that the Son of God is born again? This is the Ancient Wisdom, the foundation of all religion. The Sun gods are great ones born on to the Earth with a special mission. Their mission has ever been to be a channel for the Lord Christ, the Golden One, the Perfect One. Jesus, born in humble surroundings, is also a picture, a symbol of humility, teaching that man must learn to be humble, selfless and pure before he can hope to be a channel for that other One, the Golden Sun, the Christos. The birth, the life, the crucifixion, the resurrection of the beloved Jesus presents an example to mankind and contains in symbolic form the story of the life of every man. For in every incarnation, man will pass through similar experiences. Sometimes they are called initiations, and the path of initiation can be traced in the teachings of the four Gospels. The teachings which the beloved Jesus gave to the world are the teachings of the great initiate to the pupil. Study their essence, study the words of Jesus, his life, the experiences through which he went, and you will recognise that they portray the training, the step by step unfoldment and progress of the soul through matter.

Yes, Christmas is a far, far greater event than anyone can at present recognise; a cosmic event which has great meaning for man. If you will pause and attune your soul at Christmas you will be rewarded by an inflow of light, beauty and peace. Remember how the angels came to the Earth. It is no fairy story. They do indeed come at Christmas; they always have come.

You will see that the twelve disciples, whom Jesus called round him, represent the twelve types of men: the twelve, we might say, types of the zodiac. They were all different. There were also the three Wise Men who possessed great intellectual knowledge, but were wise enough to recognise the holy child, and to bow down and worship the simple and childlike. Great men are simple at heart, and worship simple things. These wise men brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; gold for the Sun and the material health; frankincense, or incense, meaning wisdom; and myrrh, the gift of bitterness and sorrow. All these were necessary for the child. They are sent to every child whether born to wealth or poverty; the babe has to handle materiality, which is the same thing. He has to learn to handle and control and use the material gifts, whether they be grand or otherwise; every child has to learn to handle material life. Every child has to learn to handle the sorrow and bitterness which come into every life. Every child also receives wisdom and sweetness, the frankincense which burns within him and aspires to the heavens through prayer; for as true prayer is expressed in the human heart, it rises like incense into the heavens and calls from the heavens the response that the soul cries for.

Religion is a Way of Life

T258 The Inner Teachings 18th November 1958 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

We could go on talking to you for a long time about these esoteric truths, and would suggest that you study ancient mythology. In your meditations try to interpret what you learn, because these symbols, or truths, as we have already said, are the language of the gods, who through all time have descended to help mankind not only from the spirit side of life but from other planets much more advanced than earth.

Benediction:

Now we shall leave you with all love, all love, from the great company of shining ones who are now with us. Together we rise to give thanks to the Lord God, to Christ, our creator, redeemer, saviour and friend, for as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Thy blessing, dear Lord, be upon Thy children here assembled.

Amen.

O dear ones, the sweet saints, worshippers and followers of the true spirit draw close to you now, and the symbol shining above us is the Star, the perfectly balanced double triangle filled in as the six-pointed Star, the symbol of Christ, the perfectly balanced man. 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:

Myths, Xmas, astrology, astrological signs, zodiac signs