

## Reincarnation – II

T167 The Inner Teachings 9th October 1946 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

### Invocation:

In humility we enter the innermost sanctuary to invoke the blessing of the Most High, the source of life. May we be purified in heart and mind, simple and humble in our approach to truth. We pray at this moment that we may behold the shining ones, our silent companions from spiritual realms. May our understanding be quickened as our vision unfolds. May the blessing of the Lord Christ rest gently upon each waiting heart.

Amen.

We remind you at this meeting that we are a company of brethren who are all seeking the light of the spirit, and that we are aided by those illumined brethren who come back to help us all in our search. Your physical sight reveals a small bare room. Your spiritual sight will reveal to you a temple of shining substance, beautiful in architecture, filled with a company of shining ones who enfold you. These are they who have walked the same path as you are now walking in the flesh. These are still the companions of your journey. They know you although you may not know them in your physical consciousness. They are the companions whom you meet when you enter into a state of meditation, when you are withdrawn from the world, or when you leave your physical body at sleep. Later on at death you will meet these beloved ones for these are your true companions and the spiritual life is your real life. You have stepped down from a land of light into darkness. You have donned a diver's suit for this purpose, descending into the depths to search for treasure, for the pearl of great price. It is wise to get a truer perspective of life, unwise to think of mortal life as all-important, although it has its significance of course.

When we were speaking to you last we referred to the need for incarnation. We saw the life of man\* as a seed of great promise. We saw the soul as beautiful, with Godlike potentialities. Before we proceed with this theme let us make clear our meaning. Man is created in God's image. Man is the thought of God. Man is a perfect son of God. The thought of man's perfection is a good thought to hold to as you journey through the world, when the soul is building a temple for the habitation of the perfect son-daughter of God all-good, all-wisdom, all-love, all-truth. The evolution of the soul means the building of this temple. Spirit itself is the perfect jewel. The soul is its setting or the casket which contains the jewel. The work of the soul is to allow that perfect jewel of divine spirit to manifest in glory both through the soul and eventually through physical matter. May we emphasise again that spirit is the jewel; the soul is its setting, temple or casket, through which the jewel shines and manifests perfection through the personality or physical nature of man. The sole purpose of reincarnation is for this manifestation.

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

There are many paths of life on earth and in other spheres. It is impossible for the physical mind to comprehend the infinite plan of life. All you can do is to endeavour to keep your vision upon the one grand truth that God is light, that you—the divine spirit—you also are light. The star is a symbol of the perfect manifestation of spirit in matter.

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Why should it be necessary for men to reincarnate? Through nearly all religions you will learn that the Son of God is born as a babe miraculously, through an immaculate conception. This is a mystical truth, because all babes grow to manhood. All the qualities of God are inherent in the babe, but they too have to grow and during growth have to be tested. This testing causes failures. Why should the spirit fail, you will ask? Because there are two aspects of the Deity, positive and negative, good and evil—so-called. Within every son of God there is the pull of the darkness or the negative as well as the pull of the positive and the light. Oftimes the spirit is overwhelmed by the conditions in which it finds itself and it creates for itself karma. This karma causes reincarnation.

The purpose of creation is for man to manifest perfection and happiness. God created man for happiness. God created beauty. God gave to every son-daughter of His an inner light to guide him or her on the journey. What we have to understand is that through earthly experience the soul is being continually built of material which has been earned on earth. All men are builders. All will someday be master masons.

Joy and happiness come through understanding. God did not create His son to suffer but to enjoy the gifts of love, and this is the purpose of life and reincarnation. From your limited experience you know that you have to earn knowledge, to earn the exquisite sensations of joy and love. Those of you who have passed through great tribulations can look back upon the episode with thankfulness, realising that you have extracted therefrom a sweetness and beauty of the spirit. This alone gives you happiness. It is sometimes difficult to look forward with anticipation. It is easier to look back with thankfulness. To use your words to convey spiritual truth is difficult because they are so clumsy. Maybe that is why silence is the rule in the lodge above. Truth is an inward knowing, an awareness of God and His plan.

You will remember at the last meeting we spoke of two attributes of the Godhead—love and power. These two grand tests come before the spirit of man repeatedly through all his incarnations. Either the man desires power with which to dominate his fellows or else he responds to the light of love. When the soul chooses power it is sinking into the depths. When it follows the path of love it is rising into the heights. These are the two great urges. When the path of love is chosen, love attains not the power of domination but of blessing. The initiate, who may be called a White Brother\*, is he who has attained power through love. On the other hand the souls who have attained only power for power's sake are clothed in dark raiment. Many there are who through incarnations—through many incarnations sometimes—have sought power and have used that power to gain domination over others in a magical way. This is called black magic. It carries with it heavy karma. Some are today working out karma created by them in past lives and on continents which are now extinct physically but which still remain in the ether. It was the power-complex which caused the destruction of countless numbers of physical lives when cataclysm overtook the earth and its very surface was changed. The souls who pass out of the physical reincarnate again, again and again to work out the karma which they have made. Thereby the spirit learns through experience the right way to power, the meaning of power, even as it learns the beauty and wisdom of love.

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*[\*White refers to spiritual light, not to colour of skin.]*

This is the reason for reincarnation. Time is impossible to measure. You are confused when we say that time does not exist. You measure time perhaps by the sun or some instrument but when you have escaped from this finite life you will realise that there is no measuring of time in spirit.

The soul is in search of experience. When it reincarnates it may be drawn many times to the same country, to the vicinity of its former life if its karma lies there, if it is there its opportunity waits to gain the knowledge it seeks. For ages past the soul incarnating in the East has had an opportunity of absorbing wisdom. For centuries the soul incarnating in the West has its opportunity for putting into action the wisdom it had absorbed in the East.

You asked at our last meeting if a soul always incarnated in one sex. We do not know sex in the same way as you know it. The soul chooses to incarnate in the kind of body that will enable it to gain the particular experience it is seeking. A wide margin of choice is given. The soul has freewill within the law of God. It usually reincarnates with companions of its former lives because it has to come into contact with those to whom it owes debts. Every debt which is contracted in physical life has some day to be paid. At this very moment of time you in the physical body are contracting karmic debts—a thought which is well worth retaining. This will reveal the opportunity which lies immediately before you. You can so order your lives that you do not contract bad debts, because as surely as night follows day every bad debt must be faced in the future. This sounds like a threat. We do not mean it in this way but it is the law. The wise man will respect the law and obey it in full. Life offers (when you recognise it) a grand opportunity. It is unwise to bemoan your fate or the particular conditions in which you find yourself in this incarnation. Rejoice because difficulties are opportunities—opportunities for the development of the light within, for the strengthening of the building which is your soul. A wise teacher has said, 'Accept, accept life as it is.' Be deeply thankful for all experience because it offers opportunities for service to others and to yourself.

Many of you have said that reincarnation is so satisfying because it levels all people. You learn through reincarnation that all men are brethren of the spirit, that he who was a king yesterday (or in some previous life) may be a beggar today and he who was materially poor yesterday may be rich today. It teaches the true values of life as opposed to the false values of the world. It gives repeated opportunity to the soul for happiness, enjoyment, learning and all those things dear to the heart of man. It reveals to you a God of love and justice.

Q. Must all incarnations be on the earth?

A. There are other states of life to which the soul can go. The earth is not the only world upon which life exists. When the soul is attached to the earth it is usually until it has achieved the object of its creation on the earth.

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- Q. When a man has reached a certain stage he recognises his mortal self and his Christ self. He himself plays, in a sense, the part of a spectator and yet he is also a participant because he finds himself drawn sometimes to the one and sometimes to the other. What is that essential part which is the spectator and yet the participant—the innermost 'I' which knows these things?
- A. The essential self which looks upon the drama is the jewel, the pure spirit. It looks upon the work which is building the soul. Into the building of the temple goes the material, the substance of both aspects of life. You have actually asked a question which teaches a very profound truth. Not usually are we able to deal with that truth because most of you would find it difficult to comprehend the blending of black and white, good and evil. Some say evil is very real; others say evil does not exist except in good. Evil and good are one and the same thing. These two aspects of the man which you have described—the sorrowful one and the happy one—are one and the same. You think they are separate, but they are not. This is a truth difficult to understand. These two aspects are the material which the jewel or the divine one is using to build the perfect temple or soul.
- Q. Is it possible to shorten one's karma by doing one's best in whatever circumstances one is placed?
- A. Assuredly. This is part of the divine secret which the soul learns. Do your best. Be tranquil and calm. As we said only a few nights ago in this Lodge, 'To thine own self be true.' That is the answer. Be true to that inner light.

Accept the circumstances of your life knowing that they are placed there by a God of wisdom and love. Even if the circumstances are difficult and painful, meet them calmly. Do your best. Then you will, as you call it, shorten your karma. You will not be creating fresh karma and you will be paying off karmic debts of the past. You move forward to a state of liberation from all karma, when the need for rebirth is removed. The soul progresses into more glorious states of life when it has passed through conditions in this world and has attained a degree of mastership over matter. That is the purpose of mastership—becoming master of all emotions and mental limitations and so forth. When the soul has attained complete mastery it passes onwards, upwards into more glorious states of existence. Until it has learned mastership it cannot comprehend nor see nor enter into those higher states of being. Before you all is the path of attainment which will lead you to happiness and beauty such as you have not yet glimpsed.

Do you all feel the company of White Brothers who are here with you? We hope you do.

Benediction:

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We pray, O God; we pray that our brethren here on earth may receive the blessing of Thy glory. Peace be with each one and hope guide you and faith give you courage to go forward on your path which leads to eternal light and happiness.

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:*

*Afterlife, spiritual unfoldment*

