

Evolution of the Spirit

T204 The Inner Teachings 17th October 1950 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

Eternal, ever-present Spirit, we humbly ask Thy blessing upon this gathering; and in Thy holy name, the name of the blessed Trinity of power, love and wisdom, we call upon the angels of light, praying that each soul present in the body may receive the love of the angelic brotherhood. In the light which brightens in each human heart we pray that the vision of the Lord, the Grand Master, the Cosmic Christ may be given. O may everyone present consciously receive the baptism of the light of Thy Son!

Amen.

We greet each one with love. At our last group meeting we spoke briefly about good and evil. We are not going to recapitulate, but would continue with this subject because most people are antagonistic towards what they consider evil. We would try to dispel that antagonism by throwing more light on this profound truth.

You have heard us say before that evil is due to unevolved spiritual consciousness. When you look back through past history you feel almost overwhelmed with the apparent evil which then existed. We would therefore build our talk tonight upon a basic truth—the evolution of the spirit in man. To do this we must recognise that over all humanity and the great scheme of evolution are Wise Beings who have planned for human growth, for the unfolding of the God-consciousness within man. For while man is limited by his physical consciousness he has no true conception of what you call time. You think always within this limitation of so-called time from which you cannot escape. You cannot break the bonds of time with your thought. When you are able however to get beyond this bondage and so reach the realms of timelessness, which is another state of consciousness, *then* and not before you are able to understand the meaning of time.

We may review some of the records of past ages and see the apparent evil which took place, more particularly in ritualistic practices which are now described as 'black'. We want to uncover your vision and so help you to understand that these rituals of the past originated in a wise and pure plan for the development of vehicles such as man's* desire body, his emotional body, and later development of his mental body, and still later when higher ritual was introduced for the development of his Christ body.

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

This sets forth in simple words the plan for the development of God-consciousness in man. This is so vast a subject that we must content ourselves by touching only upon the main points. In the past certain temple practices were introduced, as we have said, for the specific purpose of stimulating the God-consciousness within man. Then, later on, man in his ignorance used the new power which he had found for his own ends, in spite of the fact that he always had to suffer afterward as a result of his ignorance and lack of wisdom. The law of karma in operation of course caused the man who fell into those malpractices to suffer. Through pain man learns, man moves forward into God-consciousness. Man has to suffer much pain as a result of mistakes that he makes in his spiritual youth.

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So, by recognising ritual as essential for the development not only of the individual man but for the whole of human life, we can conceive three main sources of knowledge and inspiration coming to humanity—one from God the Father, one from God the Son, one from God the Mother. The Father is sometimes referred to as the mysteries of Saturn, the Son as the second aspect of the Logos, and the third aspect of the Logos being the Mother or the Holy Ghost.

As far back as the days of Atlantis, the Mother was known as Isis, the Great Mother; the Son as Osiris; the Father as God the Supreme Being, Source of all life, the One to be contacted only in the deep silence, the Father who was behind all. The Mother was the expression or the manifestation of growth, of life to be worshipped through the natural world as great Isis, as Diana or as Mary the Mother, and so on. Throughout the mysteries you will find this worship of the divine Mother, but the ritual at times became debased in that the lower centres, the lower chakras in the etheric body were stimulated instead of the higher, and this new force (what you call sex) overcame the true spiritual power. It is the same today as in days gone by, and this is why we always emphasise that we are concentrating in all our work upon the higher triangle—the heart, the throat and the head. We do not work upon the lower centres.

Incidentally, this is why the apron was introduced into the Egyptian ritual. The apron cut the etheric body at the waist, so that all the lower centres were subdued while at worship and when going through the dances and temple ritual—which in its original form had one object and only one object—which was to awaken man's divine consciousness, awareness of something higher than himself, something pure, beautiful and holy. As we said, the neophyte was sometimes overcome with the power which became his and succumbed to temptation to use the power not for the good of the whole, nor for the good of the race but to draw to himself domination over his fellows. This practice caused destruction in himself or a fall (in himself) from the higher spiritual state to which he was being elevated by the invisible forces.

We have told you on former occasions that there came to the earth God-men, teachers of the wisdom, and they instructed the early men to a certain degree in the wise use of the invisible powers. However the men and women concerned had been given freewill by God, and because they chose—or were too weak in most cases to be true to the one path of light—they brought confusion into their temple. When that happened then the angels of light withdrew, as did the teachers. Then the group slowly disintegrated and just ceased to exist. A large scale illustration of this can be found in the destruction of Atlantis, which we cite as being a fairly recent happening. Through this overbalance of the power of the forces of darkness, the whole continent became destroyed. The principle is that when man uses spiritual powers for selfish and base ends, then the redeeming light is withdrawn. Then the people concerned have to travel along the path that they have chosen, and must learn through the pain and suffering they incur by their sin. Then the purified soul starts the upward climb again on to the next rung or circle or cycle of the spiral. Yet from the very beginning, although we have cited darkness and destruction and apparently evil practices, we see a gradual uprising of souls upon this spiral. From cycle to cycle ignorance is being eliminated and growth of God-consciousness and betterment of the human race is coming about.

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We told you in our last talk how important is thought-power. It is what you habitually *think* that you become—spiritually, astrally, emotionally and of course mentally. You become exactly what you make yourself. Man becomes what he himself creates by reason of the effects of his own thought and desire. This you can see demonstrated all around you if you use your eyes and your power of thought. You can see perfectly well that each man and woman externalises himself or herself in form, in surroundings and in speech and in every aspect of life. There he is, for all to see! If a man be deformed in spirit, it can be felt in the aura by any sensitive person; that is, one who has developed his psychic body. Of course the sages of the world and of the spirit do not condemn or speak of these things. They know them; they see them, but they learn too from experience that God is merciful as well as just.

If we are not deviating too far from our theme we would like to emphasise that point—the mercy of God. All is very well. There are exact laws of spiritual evolution. It may seem sometimes that the Powers that be can be very stern and unrelenting. The truth is that God is always merciful and kind. Even though suffering has been brought on by the sufferer's own wilfulness, nevertheless God in his mercy sends help and gives him opportunity (as we have told you before) to transmute his karma or else to lift himself up out of it. When this happens, it is very wonderful. You remember Jesus saying there is greater rejoicing in heaven over one that was lost and is now found than perhaps over the ninety and nine who continue safe in the fold? Remember the great mercy that is shown to delinquents by divine love that sends aid to the erring one and helps that soul when it truly repents. This may sound rather savouring of the old orthodoxy, but you see there is profound truth in all religions, whatever they are and however far they may seem to have strayed from their original path. God does not turn a deaf ear to the soul who is truly, not just superficially but deeply, humbly, repentant, who is aware of the sin committed and cries to Father God, 'Help me; God forgive me.'

We are speaking about spiritual law and of those powerful forces or intelligences which govern the whole of the spiritual life and evolution of mankind. As we have said, the power of God is merciful and helpers are directed to each lost soul—when it is ready. For a vast organisation, just, perfect and true, exists in the higher world—call it what you will—call it the Great White Brotherhood if you like, which consists not only of souls who have evolved along the path of humanity, but also beings who have evolved along the angelic path. Those latter, like angels of light, watch over the simplest and the humblest soul. So when the earnest cry is sent forth, 'Forgive me, God!' (who has not heard that spontaneous cry from the lips of suffering souls?) God does not turn a deaf ear. You remember that Jesus the Christ went down among the tortured souls to alleviate their suffering, to raise them. This means that the second aspect of the Logos, the Son, sends to those poor souls in distress the opportunity to rise. What an example and demonstration to mankind, for man is not merciful to his brother man as God is merciful! Here we would remind you of the words of the Master Jesus in a parable which told of a master forgiving his servant many times until he found that his servant, his steward, would not forgive the man who was in *his* debt. You remember? Well, there it is told in parable form. This is deep occult truth. You must forgive ere you can obtain mercy.

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Let us go back again to our ritual, which we said was in Atlantis. Later on it was brought over to Egypt, after Atlantis became no more, this same cult of Osiris. Osiris is the symbol of the sun. Osiris was the light, and men worshipped Osiris as the second aspect of the Logos. Later the ritual of Egypt and of Greece became depraved, and then we get again this wonderful coming of the Son in the form of the Christ Jesus, who again established on this earth first the Christian brotherhood and then later the Christian church.

We are here to construct, not to destroy. All must recognise the failure of man to be perfect as the Father in heaven is perfect, but at the same time we see that wherever the true Christian ritual had been practised, even though the masses remained ignorant of what was taking place on the etheric plane, as a result of this ritual great centres of light were established. You people do not know, you do not yet understand, how much spiritual light was generated and sent forth by the original Christian ritual, the centre of which was the Holy Communion. Some doubt the efficacy of Holy Communion as practised in the Christian church of today. The intellect, being by its nature destructive, says, 'What is the use of unnecessary form and ceremony?' It is true. The power must lessen when the officiant is not fully, shall we say, sincere, does not enter in, does not give himself as a channel for the great inpouring of the Christ light. Therefore the ceremony lessens in value, but in other cases where the officiant is a pure, sincere and holy channel, great light pours through. On the higher planes that officiant may be elevated, advanced, and by his vibration able to contact a tremendous outpouring of light and creative power from the Son. This is transmitted through him as a channel to those partaking in such true and holy communion, the receiving of the bread—meaning the white ether, the bread that cometh down from heaven, symbolised by the bread of earth. Yet remember, children, that the bread you eat daily is also a symbol of the life-force that God sends to man to enable him to live. Man does not live by bread alone but by every word of God. Do you understand the inner meaning of this? Man lives by the creative Word, the Word of power. Even your food from field or garden comes to you from the divine Intelligence. Here is where we find the Mother aspect, that which is worshipped as the Holy Ghost in the Christian church, the Divine Mother aspect, She who gives life, She who gives wisdom.

In ages past woman was raised up and was worshipped. This was the result of the guidance and the direction of the great beings behind humanity. The Mother was worshipped as a symbol of plenty, purity and beauty. Hence you will find all over your earth images in stone of the Mother and the Child. We have already referred to the Mother found in ritual down the ages, the Woman who must be revered and worshipped. This aspect was introduced to guide men away from that low, lustful impulse that had been stimulated by the wrong use of early ritual and to counterbalance that powerful sex force that had been aroused, by worship of the pure and the holy Woman—the Mother. You will find this veneration of the Divine Mother evident throughout the ancient worship.

Later you come to the worship of the Sun itself, the symbol of which is the circle with the dot in the centre, well known to freemasons. We do not wish to weary you so we shall have to talk about freemasonry on another occasion. We return then to the worship of the Sun, the central point within his own being from which man receives all truth. This solar worship was

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brought to a head with the coming of Jesus the Christ to this present life cycle. Through this coming of the Son of God again in this cycle man recognises that heart expansion, that love within the heart. It has grown in man as human love, the love for family and the worship of God. It is the great human manifestation of the Son who is the light and the truth and who has taught men to love one another. So man is learning now in this cycle of life the meaning of love, for love is the redeemer of man. Without love man would be destroyed, but God sends His Son. Your Bible says 'His only Son'. There is the Son of life for all mankind and that Son is the second aspect of the Logos and is Love. This is why Jesus the Christ is called the Redeemer. Love is the redeemer or the redeeming feature in man, and until man has recognised this and is demonstrating love to his brother man and to life, he must inevitably suffer. This is why Christ is both redeemer and transmuter of karma. If you study carefully all the sayings of the master Jesus you will see in them all the teachings of the ancient wisdom. This wisdom has always been with the advanced entities in the human race. Always there have been initiates, masters as you call them, living among, trying to help the children of earth towards God and goodness; and in time to realise the light as a saving power within themselves.

Now Jesus said, 'I am the way; I am the truth; I am the life,' but it was not Jesus the man who was speaking. It was the Christ, the second aspect of the Trinity, saying, '*I am. I am within. I am the truth within you. I am the love within you. I am the life within you for I am come to give you eternal life.*' Cannot you see the implication of this coming of the Christ life and the manifestation of the Christ through Jesus of Nazareth as never before in this cycle of life? Of course, as we have already told you, that second aspect of the Son was recognised and worshipped by the priests of Osiris, and the beauty and the holiness and the purity of the Mother was worshipped by the priestesses of Isis. Some of you may have been told that in a past incarnation you were once such a priestess, which is likely, because being what you are today, you have opened yourself once again to the brotherhood of the light. This does not happen without long preparation and training. Undoubtedly some of you were once priestesses of the temple of Isis; the ritual of the temple was designed to help the priestesses to stimulate through the nervous system fine vibrations of purity and divine Motherhood and divine love. You can find a similar ritual in Greece, performed by the vestal virgins whose work it was to keep the light burning in the temple, which meant also the light in their own souls and the purification of their vibrations as a preparation for the coming of the Christ-child.

You see through all these ancient rituals beauty and goodness can be found. Unfortunately many rituals became debased, and when they outwore their usefulness the power of the divine was withdrawn from them and they were no more. But you see something of the plan of evolution, its gradual development through the ages and especially through the temple practices, until man is gradually built up into the fully self-conscious individual and later into the God-conscious individual—and far later still into the Christ individual, the perfect son of God. Is it not grand and glorious that the slow but certain evolution of the spirit of man towards something infinitely beautiful, noble and perfect is planned? God is God—omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent—and throughout life is to be heard this grand

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Word of Power—which is life, and hearing which (if man hears it) he must withdraw from outer sound and enter into the deep silence to listen to the Voice of the Silence.

The Voice of the Silence is 'OM' ... 'OM' ... resounding, resounding through the universe. 'OM....' – and the 'OM' is the 'I AM' for 'AM' is a word which is derived from 'OM,' the great vibration of Omnipotence, Omnipresent Love, Omniscient Wisdom, of the holy and blessed Three, the Golden Triangle, the Source of everything. We bow in worship, in adoration, in praise, in thanksgiving.

Amen.

Benediction:

Let us thank God and ask forgiveness for weakness and doubt that is seen in us. O Great White Spirit, we pray for Thy love to be realised by us, and we humbly thank Thee for the continual blessing from Thee. May the glory of Thy light be upon each one of us now.

Amen.

