

The Inner Symbolism of Parenthood

T032 The Inner Teachings 5th January 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

We bow in worship before Thy majesty, divine Love, Who art all wisdom, and pray that Thy Light may permeate our minds and our hearts. May we become increasingly aware of the glory and the beauty of the all-pervading Spirit.

Amen.

That which we have to communicate this night is such that we must ask you to lay aside the intellectual or earthly portion of your mind. We would speak of spiritual life, refer to the life of the innermost, of truth, the life which you will reach in greater awareness when you are freed from the physical body. It is said 'God is a spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit' and 'no man has seen God at any time'. But man* has within the power to become aware of God. Man cannot contact God with the five physical senses; he cannot see God; he cannot touch God; he cannot smell nor taste God, but he can be aware of God—you can become aware of spirit.

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

In spiritualistic circles it is claimed that proof of spirit life is obtained, but those who consider that to touch a materialised form means they are in touch with spirit make an error. A materialised form is, to all intents and purposes, physical—at least, as we understand it; it does not prove spiritual life but only demonstrates the reality of phenomena. To contact the spirit of one whom you love you must become aware of the spiritual life and thus hold communication spirit to spirit, heart to heart. You may have an interpreter; we may interpret on your behalf a message from your loved one, but until you can respond, unless your heart or spirit feels the truth of the contact with the loved one, the message may mean nothing.

We thus lead you to the foundation of our talk tonight on the 'Inner Meaning of Parenthood'. We direct your mind to the spiritual life; we desire you to become more aware of a life greater, grander, more beautiful than anything you know as yet. Physical life is largely illusion, and what you *think* you possess, you lose, and that which you do not realise you have within you find you possess, when you function in the realm of spirit. Thus there are two distinct aspects of life: that which is the mere physical manifestation of a power behind on the one hand, and on the other the true or spiritual life which cannot be handled or proved by any physical method.

We will proceed now to discuss parenthood. Arising from our last talk on marriage, you will remember we described the affinity of the two aspects of spirit—the will and the wisdom, or the male and female aspects of the ego. We described the perfect marriage, or union, between these two; we referred to the creative power which endowed the union of the two aspects, resulting in the birth of the Son, or child, the third aspect—or love. Meditate upon the Light, the Eternal, that which you worship as Father–Mother God, and visualise the fruition of that perfect union in the Son, or the children of the perfect Father–Mother God. Remember that man is created in God's own image, and that which you see manifested from the Creator is manifested also in His child.

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Here we glimpse a deep mystery: the birth of a soul in the heavens, through the perfect union of the two—you and your beloved. Oh, but how far removed from this height of spiritual bliss is the understanding of mortal man! We find that on earth the birth, or the reproduction of a physical body, is mistaken for parenthood. We will deal with the physical aspect of parenthood later, but try now to turn your mind away from the earthly plane of birth; aspire to those planes of spiritual consciousness where life is perfect and is controlled, ordered, by infinite love and wisdom.

This, beloved brethren, is your real home, not the earth plane, and the time comes when you may enter in full consciousness; you will become aware, needing no proof. No man can take heaven from you, no man can take you thither. The path is shown, for the light within you shines upon it; you tread it slowly, through your daily toil, through bitter experience and sorrow, but with a heart that is full of faith, guided by an eternal hope. You follow that path through incarnation after incarnation, maybe, but at all events, through a lifetime of experience. No man can turn you aside; you may go straight forward until you enter the Celestial City. What proof can I give of these things? None. But your own heart will give the proof, for it speaks truth, for the soul within you was born in that City of Light.

And so we find many brethren of this earth plane are parents, but know it not. On occasion we have indicated to certain sitters in private conversation that they possessed a child in the spheres and they have replied, asking how, being unmarried, this can be? Children are born in heaven, and many lonely hearts will find they have a child waiting in heaven. Sometimes these children descend as far as the earth plane for incarnation, and they may not necessarily have the physical body provided for them by their own parents. Do not make the error of thinking that the sex union creates a child; it creates a physical vehicle for a soul to inhabit.

Parenthood, in the physical sense, may be involved in karma; that is to say, two people act as instruments to provide a physical vehicle for a soul waiting to reincarnate; they may be paying a debt to that soul in thus doing, but not always. Sometimes a child comes to earth, and one of the physical parents is the true parent of the soul; the other physical parent may be an instrument only, helping to provide the physical vehicle for the incarnation. The union of two people, the *spiritual* union, causes the birth of a soul.

This will give rise to many questions; we will do our best to answer them. But keep clear in your minds the distinct relationship between physical parents and their offspring, the responsibility which parents have to those children—does not this indicate a karmic debt? There truly is the joy of parenthood; there is also the joy of service from parent to child. but the karmic link is very strong, very powerful. This is a delicate subject, and we find it difficult to clothe in earth language the beauty of spiritual truth, but we would say to you again that those who have vainly longed for children should not suffer disappointment. It may be your joy to meet your child when you enter the City of Light. True parenthood is of the spirit. Physical parenthood is a service to the evolution of the race.

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Q.You spoke of parents paying a karmic debt by providing a body for the incoming ego. Would not the child also be paying a karmic debt by reincarnating to those parents?

A.The incoming soul *may* be paying a karmic debt; generally it is the parents who give the greater service to the child than the child to the parents. Not always, but in most cases.

Q.You said that the marriage of affinities was usually an opportunity for the incarnation of an advanced ego. In such cases that union does not give birth to a new soul?

A.No. It provides a higher or rarefied vehicle for the advanced soul, who is the child of the two, to incarnate.

Q.Does the spiritual union of these two parents provide the birth of a soul in the spiritual realms, apart from the earthly incarnation, so that those parents, having a child in the physical, may also have one in the spiritual?

A.Quite.

Q.Are these children born in the spiritual spheres what some writers call ray children*?

A.No. Without being bound, I would indicate that the ray children were born purely from the Father–Mother God, while others are born from the union of two. Man, created in God's own image, has the power to create, even as God.

*[*See Inner Teaching T 012 for a definition of this term.]*

Q.The outpouring of young souls from God—does that always take place from God, does that always take place from spiritual union of affinities?

A.Always. Young souls come from the perfect spiritual union of two. Many think a happy union is a perfect one, not fully recognising what true spiritual union is. Consider the symbol of the Trinity. That is a clear revelation of the truth of the creation of souls.

Q.Has every young soul a different potentiality?

A.Each has the same potentiality, but each a different individuality.

Q.Is the responsibility of parents to their children after they have passed childhood less than we think?

A.The responsibility is that of one brother to another, not of parent to child, after a certain age. Every soul has its responsibility to its brother soul. Parents would do well to take their hands off, you know. I hope I have not hurt anyone. Having fulfilled their function, it is well to recognise their work as parent is finished. It is thus no longer parent and child, but brother and brother.

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Benediction:

Beloved Father–Mother God, we thank Thee for our creation, for Thy love, and for all the blessings of life. May we so live, in thought, word, and deed, that we may grow increasingly aware of the spiritual life, and that we may see clearly the path of progress before us. Give unto us, O Father–Mother God, the hope, the faith and the courage, to tread the path leading to the celestial City of Light.

Amen.

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Parenting, God within, spiritualism

