

The Path of the Soul - 9

T165 The Inner Teachings 17th July 1946 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

Great White Light, Eternal Spirit, Thou in Whom we live and move and have our being; we pray this night that we may have the mists of confusion and illusion lifted. May we behold the vision glorious, the vision of truth. May we behold the presence of Thy Son; and may we, Thy children, come into that presence and take upon ourselves the soul of Christ and live as He lives; and in His life may we become aware of the eternal presence of God.

Amen.

First we would like to tell you that we are encompassed by the brotherhood of the light. We are no longer in the prison of the flesh; we are in a temple of the spirit. Do not think of the spirit company and the spirit world as being in some remote place that you cannot reach. The spirit world and companions of your spirit are here within your consciousness, but your consciousness has expanded beyond the ordinary limits of the physical senses through your aspirations while you have been waiting in this chapel. Therefore your physical vibrations have changed from the material world into the sanctuary of the spirit. Within this chapel you are away from the outside world, and since then you have withdrawn even from the outer vibrations of the chapel and entered into a temple of the spirit. This temple of the spirit is eternal and it is real, more lasting than the material structures that you regard as solid and permanent. During the past six or seven years you have seen that in an instant what seemed to be a solid structure could be reduced to nothing. The buildings on the inner planes of your spiritual creation cannot be thus destroyed. Although we are digressing perhaps from our subject of initiation we want to say these things because we believe that they will bring to some a realisation of the truth of spiritual substance.

Those of you who have read about the ancient civilisations and what are now lost continents regard these conditions and places which once existed on the earth plane as now extinct. You think of Atlantis as something now finished, although you may have been told that Atlantis will rise again from the sea. This of course applies to other lost continents such as Lemuria, Mu and Hyperborea. But what we want you to know and realise is that although these continents have vanished from the material plane, on the etheric planes they still exist and can be tapped into—that is to say if you know how to touch the correct vibration, you can tune into places that are thought to have vanished for ever. All that ever has been, still is. All that has once been manifested remains, not perhaps in outer manifestation but on the inner planes. That which in you is attuned to those ancient places can find its level—that is to say can enter again a state of life which having once been cannot die. At this moment we touch what we call the akashic records upon the ether. Life as you once knew it on any of the lost continents or in ancient civilisations still is.

This brings us to the problem of time and space. When we say that there is no such thing as time on spiritual planes of existence and even on earth, you are all naturally amused, because the clock which registers your time takes its time from the sun when telling you the hour. These hours limit your whole conception of life. In spirit there is no limit to time because all time is at this instant—at this instant we are in eternity. All that was or is to be is now. Thus

The Path of the Soul - 9

T165 The Inner Teachings 17th July 1946 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

you can go forward or you can go backward in time. All is a question of your realisation of the spiritual eternity.

All this is to help you to realise that here and now you are enfolded in the love of the great White Brotherhood. You are encompassed about by a vast company of spiritual companions, those whom you have known and loved and whom you meet continually when you are functioning on the plane of pure spirit. Whenever you aspire to truth you are in contact with the age-old companions of your spirit. Beloved brethren, this means that even on earth, when you have achieved or passed through the discipline necessary to enable you to become initiates, you will know how to attune yourselves and so realise the glory of the heavens. This brings us right back to the subject of the earth initiation, because you will absorb through either listening to these talks or reading them a certain amount of understanding, and you may be able to get the vision glorious of the spiritual realms and of the companions who are your guides and teachers and helpers. This is where so many stop short. They see, they know theoretically, but when it comes to using the power which they know is there, they fail, proving unable to bring through this power of God or allowing it to dominate or control their actions.

This is the secret of what is called the earth initiation or the ascension. At our last talk we referred to what happened to the soul during crucifixion, how at last the lower self became separated from the higher, and how the true self of the Son of God was able to behold the glory of and surrender to His Father in heaven. Jesus was completely master over the lower self. 'Into Thy hands I commend my spirit.' He arose and went forth into the glory of the Father. Then we spoke of the anguish of crucifixion, which is that which all of us must undergo someday. You are not apt to think of your problems and your agonies as being related to initiation—but they are. If you can once realise that those human experiences which tear your heart and cause such pain are really part of a process which you must undergo before you can be liberated from the sorrows of this mortal life; if you can realise that every test, every sorrow is worthwhile because they help your soul towards liberation; then you will sooner know that kingdom of heaven the glory of which you have yet to realise.

After the crucifixion the body, the earthly vehicle of the Master, lay in the grave for three days. We are told that Jesus visited souls in hell, associated himself with his brethren who were suffering. After you have passed through what to you is a crucifixion you also can identify yourself with the sufferings of others, knowing then what others are suffering and feeling because you have passed through identical experiences. An initiate knows that he has passed through a crucifixion, but the souls whom the Master visited are those who do not know why they suffer or what is happening. That is why they are in hell. Now you, who are qualifying for initiation—and some of you who may be initiates (that is for God to decide and not for any mortal—only God) can look out into the world. You know why men are suffering. You will be yourself visiting suffering souls in hell. You can take to them the light of the spirit and comfort them. This is work for everyone who has passed through initiation with understanding, whose eyes are opened. You can bear comfort to others. Some will listen and some will not. That does not matter—to you. We speak most earnestly because at the present

The Path of the Soul - 9

T165 The Inner Teachings 17th July 1946 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

time there are millions suffering in a state of darkness; it is for those who have seen the light and who have understanding to comfort these souls.

After the three days in hell it is said that the body of the Master Jesus rose again from the grave. Remember that all we are saying is the inner explanation of the outer story of the crucifixion and resurrection. The stone was rolled away from the grave. The stone (representing the soul) allowed the spirit of the Master to come forth. It no longer imprisoned the divine spirit, being rolled on one side. The soul allowed the divine spirit to manifest, to come forth. Again you remember it was a woman at the tomb to whom the Master first spoke. She again represents the soul. The woman, the soul, first sees the Master, and recognises that it has found something greater than itself. Even in daily life the soul will recognise that of itself it is not enough. Something deeper than itself must take command, must re-animate everything in life. This something is the divine spark, the pure spirit of Christ. The initiate knows that he must allow this pure divine spark to guide, to command him.

This is a very important truth for you to understand, because all come up against the same problems. Many of you have said to us, 'White Eagle, how may I know when it is pure truth speaking and when it is only myself? When it is the guides from the spirit or when it is my own mind?' The mind of course is the same as the soul in this respect. Both mind and soul have to learn to stand aside and to be very still to hear the voice of pure spirit—what is called the voice of the silence, the soundless voice which needs no words, which speaks only truth, and from which you know. Of this you say perhaps, 'I feel it in my bones'. You know then that if you go against your knowing you will fall into the depths and have to toil wearily up the mountainside again. In other words, this is the voice of conscience and you cannot evade it. Instead, encourage and develop it and then you will understand what it is doing and how it is teaching you.

In this way does the master in us all rise from the dead. All of you here know this. The master in you has risen from crucifixion or else you would not be here. Then something important follows. The Master said, 'Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father.' Touch me not. He did not want to be touched by anything worldly because He was not then complete, not strong enough at that moment. It would seem that a certain time must elapse after the soul has gone through crucifixion and risen again. Not yet having acquired the full glory of his Father, it would seem that worldly men and worldly things at that stage would do much harm. So the spirit cries, 'Touch me not'. Some of you here will understand. You have risen and even seen the glory and yet you are not strong enough to stand up against corruption. The material touch, you feel intuitively, would damage you.

The final test, the final experience of the ascension of the master into the heavens is the withdrawal of the higher self from the denser life and the transmutation of the bodily atoms so that the intangible or the materialised body which the man* is using becomes permanent, not in the earthly sense but in the heavenly sense. This is called the state of ascension, which state all masters attain after the highest earthly initiation. You may know that you yourself have a master. Your master will impress you with his or her presence (because there are women as well as men masters). The ascended master who has passed this high earth

The Path of the Soul - 9

T165 The Inner Teachings 17th July 1946 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

initiation whilst functioning in his or her physical body so transmutes its physical atoms into light that he or she is caught up in the clouds or the mists, and so the body seems to fade behind a cloud from the earth people.

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

We want you to realise that there are a number of people who have passed this highest of the four initiations. They have ascended to the Father in heaven and appear to have withdrawn from the world. But they still live and move and have their being in a higher form such as the ordinary earthly man cannot conceive.

Have we been able to tell you something that will help you? At least we can tell you that every effort, every aspiration you make is worthwhile; for all such efforts are actually steps upon which you rise to ultimate liberation from the darkness of the earth.

Q. Can we get anything through our outer minds that will help us along?

A. Any truth that comes into your outer mind will be known by its quality. Supposing you wanted directions on a certain subject which is in your outer mind and you asked quietly, mentally for guidance; if the guidance received is in accordance with the spirit of the gentle Christ, and even if it conflicts with your worldly judgment, then you can be sure that what comes is guidance from the inner worlds.

Do not forget; we have told you tonight that to each is given the mission of helping those in darkness to understand the reason of their suffering and the reason of the world's agony, and to help them to rise from the state of hell into which they have descended. That is the duty of every awakened soul—to radiate light, to quicken the hearts of their brethren. We give this to you as a sacred charge—to spread the light of the eternal spiritual truth of man's being.

Benediction:

Now we bless you. May the light of God's countenance shine upon us all. O Great White Spirit, we humbly bow our heads that we may discard all arrogance and pride and that we may put our hands into Thine as little children. Thy will be done in our hearts and lives, and unto Thee be all honour and glory for all good which is accomplished. May peace dwell in the hearts of Thy children. May they walk peaceably and joyously henceforth all the days of their lives.

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:

Purpose, reality, interpenetration, oneness, far-memory