

# The Karma of Life

T262 The Inner Teachings 17th May 1960 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

## Invocation:

Brethren, try to close your consciousness to the outer world and come with us into the inner world of the spirit. In this inner world you will find a vast company of souls who are attuned to the harmonies of God. So picture the scene in this temple not built with hands but with the substance of men's purer thought, with the substance of his soul. There you will see the assembled company with shining faces and shining raiment, still human but manifesting a more beautiful humanity than you have yet conceived on your earth. So, in this company of heaven, we raise our hearts and prayers to our Creator, the Source of all this beauty and love, the Source of all the finest qualities in life.

O Great White Spirit, in stillness of mind and body, in quietude and with harmonious vibrations, we wait to receive Thy blessing.... Thou alone understandest the need of each human heart, the need of each aspirant to truth. Thou blessest all these assembled; and we thank Thee for Thy blessing, which is unfailing.

Amen.

If you can picture this higher world and the company of the shining ones in your heart they will help you in your aspirations, your desires for knowledge and wisdom. We would explain that the bridge which is built from earth—notice, from earth—to the heavenly state of life, is built with your help, your desire, with your reaching upward to the heaven world and with your attainment. There may be some present, or certainly some out in the world, who will want to know why—when they are in a physical body and set to a material task—they should bother about spheres which are beyond them, spheres of which they have no knowledge, whereas they have plenty of responsibilities to occupy them on earth. Moreover, they have to have recreation or periods of re-creation to enable them to keep health. Yet re-creation comes first from the spirit.

We admit that there are many levels or planes from which man\* may receive re-creative power, but on whatever level man is operating it must come from the spirit, because the spirit is the source of health and life. Cut man off from this spiritual source and slowly but surely he will commence, perhaps imperceptibly, to decline in health and wellbeing!

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

Now when man recognises this truth, when he can be brought to admit it, when he can be brought to *see* the source of both his physical and spiritual energy, he will change his way of life. You may persuade a man by reason into a belief in an after-death state of life, but that man has still to return to fundamentals and understand that he must first build his foundation of spiritual awareness. In other words, man has to learn to turn within and there seek his true self. Within every man lies the seed of perfect life, and when man recognises this, he must change his attitude, his way of thought, his way of life.

This brings us to our second point. Some people say that those who are called masters or initiates cannot exist where the masses of humanity live, but must withdraw and live on a

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different level. People travel many miles—someday they will be travelling to other planets in this solar system—to seek one whom they will call *the Master*. Men have the idea that a master can only be found on remote mountain tops, enveloped by a white ether which makes the shield through which the ordinary man cannot penetrate unless he is given special help and protection. Nevertheless, there is a way by which the secret places of these advanced beings can be reached. These places are accessible to the astral body of man, even while that man may be still attached to a physical body.

At the moment you are all enthralled with the so-called new inventions of radio and television—methods of receiving wireless waves and light waves which are only the preliminary to a wider understanding of life and the forces that lie within man himself. In the spirit life man is at certain levels quite accustomed to receiving communications either through sound or light from the universe, but as man in a physical body learns how to discipline that body, together with his emotions, and to train his mind and open every chakra of his being to the Divine Spirit, so there will dawn for him a life of unimaginable beauty, happiness, opportunity and interest. This state of being has to be gradually reached by the soul.

We speak to you from a life far above the material level. The reason why we come back in this manner with loving desire to help you is because we have learnt in the Halls of Wisdom that every soul can while here on the earth be so much helped by becoming aware of these wonderful powers within its own being. Every living soul has the potentiality of rising to the heights.

At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount it is said Jesus went up into a mountain; and when he was set his disciples came unto him and he opened his mouth and taught them. Jesus was on a mountain or hillside, which means that he was at a lifted state of consciousness, so that he was raised in consciousness above the earth. At this level he was able to give his message and the multitude to receive it.

At lower levels it was more difficult. It is true that Jesus 'came down' to humanity, but he was very fond of the lakeside, of the sea and the water, and performed miracles on the water and by the sea. Now water is the element which affects the soul—the psyche, or as we call it, the psychic senses. Water stands for the psyche, and in his psyche or soul man feels emotion. You will remember that Jesus was awakened by his disciples when the sea became turbulent, meaning that their emotions were turbulent, the symbol of which was a turbulent sea. Jesus, when he quieted the waves, did so with the words: 'Peace, be still.' This illustrates the need for man first of all to rise in consciousness to a higher spiritual level, and secondly to learn to control his emotions.

Out in the world at the present time emotions run high, and are fierce and turbulent. If ever there was a moment when a Master's voice is needed to say to the people: 'Peace, be still,' now is that time. You have all been moved with anxiety, apprehension and disappointment at the result of the recent conference.\* Fear grips men's minds; and because fear grips them, resentment boils up and they feel they must defend their honour and persons. But the

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Master's voice, calling across the turmoil, says: 'Peace, be still'—be calm. The Master has the advantage of a higher view than any earthly man. He knows that the all-seeing eye of the Creator is watching, that the hierarchies are drawing close; that God is omnipotent, and that man can be guided at the right moment; that if he will not respond to that guidance and inspiration that particular man is in time removed. The law of spirit operates, despite all men's fears. Therefore, if the individual—yourself, for instance—is learning to attune himself and so withdraw from conflict and turmoil which exists on the lower level and rise to the mountain tops, this procedure will not defy or contradict his reason, if he accepts the divine will. Man has to learn to seek first of all the kingdom of heaven, the places of stillness and quiet at the highest level of which he is capable, and then the heavenly influences can pour into him, re-create him and use him for the salvation of mankind.

*[\*This was the Four Power Summit, between Britain, France, the USA and the Soviet Union, which convened on May 15<sup>th</sup> against a background of enormous fear around nuclear issues. President Krushchev of the USSR walked out of the summit shortly after it began.]*

You are all wondering what is going to happen. We might almost say, in the words of the poet: 'God's in His heaven; all's right with the world.' But what we want to explain is this: at the present time humanity has an unprecedented opportunity of rapid advancement. There is a continual outpouring and stimulation by the light, which quickens the seed in every man, but the freewill choice of *how* he will react is his alone.

'Justice is mine,' saith the Lord: 'I will repay.' You all know that the law of karma controls life on the physical level. Every man must face his karma, and not only every man, but every nation! Karma works in two ways—first as a paying off of wrongs which a man or nation has inflicted upon his brethren, but with this paying off of debt there opens before them the opportunity to rise above that level upon which they have been tied and bound by their karma.

At the present time nations are indeed facing their karma. We do not take sides with any political party or nation, but we can see the karma of a nation being worked out and we can also see the opportunity which the working out of that karma brings to the nation. We would not like you to be influenced, biased or emotionally disturbed by what we say. We do not work at any political level, but know that out of Russia comes forth good!

We said many, many years ago that out of Russia would come great good, which means that from that country or nation stimulation comes to the rest of the world—stimulation towards good, awakening, aspiration towards a better way of life, a better way of looking at things, one saner, more sensible and balanced, truer in all aspects of its relationship to the people in the world. Do not be discouraged or disheartened by 'a blowing off of hot air'. There is a power behind things which is patiently working and teaching the people concerned some necessary lessons.

All men and women need such lessons. Surely you do not think that any one of you is so perfect and so good that you do not need to have a rap occasionally on your knuckles! But

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when it comes, however gently, you are up in a minute to say: 'Oh why, oh why, oh why has this happened to me?' It has happened to you because of the divine law of love, and this little rap, which is but something uncomfortable to endure, is engendering an impulse which will enable you to see suddenly in a flash the right thing, the right way to act, and this will raise you a step on the stairway to that glorious state of life which we attempt to describe.

Mankind as a whole is evolving beautifully towards that state of awareness of all life. Instead of man or a race living entirely to itself, left in peace to stagnate and grow rotten, there comes this stimulation, and you see fireworks! It must be so in the evolution of the race. In the past this has happened many times, but in every case, all through the ages, man has reached a higher step on the stairway to a much happier state of life.

Your work, then, if you are students and aspirants, is to be always constructive in your thought, your action and your words. Never be destructive. Pour oil on the troubled sea where you can. There is a lot of work waiting to be done on the individual soul of man. Nevertheless, the task is not unpleasant. Most of you have work that you like and enjoy executing. So, apply that principle to your spiritual work and that of all mankind. It is getting you somewhere worthwhile. Out of apparent evil (which is only ignorance) cometh good; out of darkness cometh light. If there is a little delay, it is because man has to learn his lessons thoroughly, and absorb and digest the spiritual good which comes to him as a result of experience.

In our communion service we interpret the bread—the shewbread\* which took such a prominent place on the altar in the Ark of the Covenant—as the symbol of human experience. When you are told to receive and eat the bread of heaven, understand that it means that you accept the karma of life, knowing that it is indeed your food, your experience as the food which helps the soul and spirit to grow towards perfect manhood and womanhood, towards man made perfect. The wine is the juice of the grapes passed through the winepress. This again is the symbol of human experience; how man himself has to be squeezed and suffers either physically or emotionally, but out of suffering is produced the most beautiful, sweet—divine essence, the essence of the God life of the Son of God: divine love, the child of God.

*[\*Twelve loaves placed every Sabbath in the Jewish Temple and eaten by the priests.]*

This truth is presented to you in communion, because this essence or wine strengthens the soul, heals the wounds made by the difficulties and the disappointments of life. Think of this whenever you take communion. In the orthodox church you are presented with physical symbols, but in our Lodge with spiritual symbols.\* Take them quietly, reverently and humbly, understanding a little more of the inner meaning of this sacrament.

*[\*i.e. in meditation]*

With regard to the other problem on your earth, that difference between the coloured races\* and the white races, particularly in Africa, the problem of apartheid, we say that all men will

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have to learn to live side by side with a finer, better understanding of each other and each other's needs. A divine law is working, working, working, to bring about on this earth planet brotherhood and unity between all races, all nations. The time *will* come when there will be a world conference of all peoples—a conference not working for any one specific race or nation but for the good of all mankind.

*[\*The term 'coloured races', commonly used at the time of this lecture, is now seen as problematic. It is unlikely that White Eagle would use that term today.]*

Do not be put off or dragged down by materially-minded people who will tell you the reverse. You are working with the hierarchies of heaven to uplift life on the physical plane. Your goal is the brotherhood of all peoples, brotherhood of all kingdoms, mineral, vegetable, animal, human, angelic. That is as far as you will be able to go for a long time, but what a wonderful prospect lies before you all—this steady, steady progress towards complete at-one-ment!

Jesus, although associated with the Piscean age, came for the purpose of helping humanity at the beginning of the Aquarian age. The Piscean age was the preparation for the Aquarian age—which will bring the age of brotherhood. So keep your mind upon construction. If only you earth people could understand that every thought is powerful on the inner planes of life! Thought must be constructive and you must shut out all destructive elements. They will be dealt with; all that is unwanted will be absorbed and used at a higher level in a way you do not yet understand. Now a voice—oh, your thoughts are quite loud!—comes to me: 'What about man's reason? Man has been given reason to use that he may protect himself and that he may protect his loved ones and protect his country. What about this voice of reason which tells us to act in self-defence?' My child, rise from that destructive level, where only the reason of the lower self operates; rise into higher spheres of consciousness where reason will operate at a superior level. Show man why he should act in brotherly love at all times. Whatever has to be done, let it be done in the spirit of gentleness and love. Remember the words: 'I will repay; justice is mine'—which means that God is just, as well as loving and merciful. Be kind to one another. Do your best to alleviate suffering and hardship wherever you find it. Live as our beloved brother Jesus lived, with a gentle spirit and a loving heart. All things will work together for good for the man who loves good, loves God.

Peace be with you. Peace be still. God's in His heaven; all's right with the world.

## Benediction:

Now, beloved brethren, it is for you, as individuals, in the silence, to receive into your souls now the blessing of the Great White Spirit and all the angels. Almighty Spirit, Source of our life, we bow our heads. We throw off arrogance and pride and thank Thee for Thy gentle, enduring blessing. May Thy love help us to be good children.

Amen.

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*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:*

*International relations, retribution*

