

The Path of the Soul - 8

T164 The Inner Teachings 26th June 1946 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

Let us pray. We pray for light. O Great White Spirit, beloved Holy Trinity, we pray that all in this room of earth shall be raised up by the light and the love of thy Son whom the world worships as Christ. We open our hearts. May the light of the Christ power illumine us all. May we be responsive to the healing power of the light, the love and the life of Christ. Being healed in body and soul, we are attuned to the spirit, the holy ones, and so may we be blessed and bless all whom we meet through Thy love.

Amen.

Those of you who have been present through this series of talks will know that we have described the meaning of the initiations which all must go through before they can become illumined, or as the orthodox Christian would say, 'saved'. In the first initiation, that of the water, you will remember the soul who is trained and passes all its tests becomes an initiate of the water element, which implies that the emotions are controlled and directed wisely from then onwards. In the next degree the mind learns how to control thought—how to discriminate between the real and the unreal, the false and true, the black and white, the negative and positive, the lower and the higher mind. The candidate learns discernment. This is the air initiation. In the third degree the candidate learns the meaning of the divine fire. He learns to manipulate, to draw up into his higher centres the fire of kundalini. At our last talk we considered the Transfiguration of Jesus and learned that this demonstration meant the bringing into action of the divine creative fire so that the whole being, the body and the soul of Jesus was so illuminated that the actual physical body appeared to be a body of light. This story of the Transfiguration is a very wonderful demonstration of the fire initiation.

Tonight we shall speak of the last of the four, called the earth initiation. Some think that the fire initiation should be final because in it we become consciously aware of the divine fire. You will remember how the initiates of old were suddenly transformed—how one called Saul was suddenly struck by blinding light from heaven and was henceforth changed from the man of earth to the man of heaven. But even after this, he who was called Paul had to prove himself or be tested for his final initiation. The earth initiation means that after the soul has received divine illumination, after it has been caught up into the heavens and seen the vision glorious, it has then to *use* the power of the divine fire to control physical matter. This is what some people call the secret magic, being demonstrations of the use which initiates and adepts make of the power which they can release. You have heard stories of the masters being able to perform what the world calls miracles.

You have heard how the masters can pass matter through matter and themselves travel great distances in a flash of time; how they can produce physical food for the hungry; how they can actually raise the so-called dead! Yet millions still doubt that such miracles as these can actually happen. This is only because the ordinary mind cannot comprehend the process involved. Speaking of these things brings to our memory a question put to us many years ago. It was this: 'If it is true that the masters can feed the hungry when they want to, why don't they feed the starving children in our midst?' A very understandable question from one unable to see spiritual law at work. The reason why masters do not feed starving people by

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miraculously producing food is because hunger is one means by which the soul, even of a child, can evolve towards divine illumination and spiritual emancipation and freedom. No master, no guide, no angel can do the work of regeneration for any other soul. Everyone must tread his or her appointed path from birth right through life until that soul, by its own aspiration and endeavour, frees itself from the bondage of its lower nature and its prison-house of matter. The purpose of the life of every soul on earth is to develop God powers, so that in time each one of us becomes a true son or daughter of God—a living, loving God, not on a throne in a heaven far away, but whose life permeates every atom.

In the earth initiation the individual has to learn that all substance is God. He* has to learn that what seems to be solid matter is not solid at all but divine energy and light. You are all held in bondage in your body. You are all enslaved in matter, enslaved by all the earthly conditions that encompass you. The earth initiation of the soul teaches that soul to free itself from bondage. This can be likened to crucifixion and death, but an earth initiate knows there is no such thing as death. You cannot die (however much you want to). It makes no difference if you believe you are going to die and even want to die, because you cannot. This is the first thing that the candidate for earth initiation has to not merely believe but realise in his very being—that neither soul nor body can die. What do we mean when the body of the uninitiated person appears to die because the soul and the spirit withdraw, unable longer to sustain the weight and inharmony of body, shedding it as the serpent sheds its skin? That body afterwards disintegrates, it is true, and all its particles are dispersed, but they do not die. They still live, still continue, much as the soul continues its existence apart from the body, and eventually after certain preliminary cleansing returns to its true home, which is in a body of light.

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

If you could once realise that your body has a shield of light, if you could live always in consciousness of this light, you would find that the very atoms and vibration of the atoms in your body would become etherealised. Then you would live for evermore in a body of light. This same body of light cannot be seen by ordinary people, that is to say by people still imprisoned in matter, because they are in exactly the same position as prisoners bolted and barred in a dark cell. We are endeavouring to put profound truth into simple words. What can bring about this change in the physical matter of your body? This divine fire which can be awakened by something finer than itself—literally by the voice of God within man's innermost heart. Some would call it the 'I AM' speaking, but remember you need to distinguish between the personal 'I am' which is of the earth, earthy, and the divine 'I AM' which is the voice of the living God—the voice divine, the pure, the humble, the lowly, the gentle, the patient, the kindly, the voice of Christ, only begotten of the Father.

What does 'only begotten' mean? It does not mean begotten of physical parentage but of the Father-Mother God in the heavens. Before the earth was—I AM! This I AM is the living Christ born deep in the heart's cave, in the stable of every man, born amongst the lowliest and the humblest of God's creatures. It is the voice of the I AM in every heart which leads man, the son of God, through pain and crucifixion of earth into the pure life in a body of

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light. We are not theorizing; we are speaking scientific truth. Your scientists begin to think that matter is not solid and that there is something else besides force and energy, which in the very core of the atom is responsible for the construction of matter.

This earth initiation causes the individual to have his understanding of physical matter quickened. He is able to see that what is always thought of as solid is not so at all, and that the power able to raise the vibrations of physical matter to that high state or condition whereby it becomes invisible to the ordinary man is the divine fire, the light of Christ. If you think on these lines it will help you to realise that your true state, your true embodiment is in the eternal light. When you sit in meditation, if you are unable to contact any light, it is because the lower self is so strong that it imprisons you. If you will only persevere in seeking the 'I AM' deeply buried in your innermost you will become gradually aware of this inner spark of light. As you proceed with your development you will find yourself enveloped in this golden radiance. Then you will know the meaning of the words, 'We live and move and have our being in God,' because God is the light and in Him we live and without Him we have no life at all.

So you see, my dear ones, after the fire initiation where the soul becomes aware of the light, the next stage is for the soul to make use of the light, and through power of the light to gain domination over the lower elements, which of course include physical matter. This is the way that every soul will someday tread; we have set forth in the Christ-crucifixion the complete story or process of the earth initiation. Every man, every candidate for initiation will go through crucifixion, suffer the pain of Christ and know the resurrection and ascension of Christ. This the world has to learn, because it applies not only to individuals but to nations, to races, to worlds. All follow the same process. Therefore, the world of men must suffer in darkness and blindness until its own freewill (in a nation as in the individual) becomes the will of God, and the will of God in the individual and in the nation is *love*—goodwill, brotherhood, justice, truth, and peace.

You all know the feeling of life being such a muddle. You cannot sort it out even in your own life, let alone national and international life. We will put it very simply. If you had to unravel a very tangled skein of wool, you might despair at first. But some people take such a skein and patiently pull and shake and pull and shake until they gradually wind it all into a ball. In exactly the same way all muddles can be sorted out in your own and in national and international life. It means that if the will of the 'I AM,' the God within, is allowed to take hold, God guides you through ways of patience and tranquillity until all the little tangles are released. In most lives unfortunately the person gets so heated and so anxious and impatient that life gets more and more muddled. This simile is complete in its truth. This, my dear one, is why we always say to you, 'Be calm, be patient. Let the God within you guide and light your way. All will come right. Stand on one side; be patient; all will be well.' Give forth the Christ light: if every one of you will do this in your own lives, its influence will permeate the nation. Why are you all suffering today? Does it sound unkind when we say it is because you have brought it on yourselves—unconsciously maybe—yet you all know from that voice within the right way to live! We ask your pardon for saying these few homely truths.

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Let us review the events of the crucifixion. The light, the divine fire was burning in the soul of Jesus but he, the man, had still to go through his final initiation. He was betrayed. Everyone at some time will know the meaning of betrayal, of being unjustly and unkindly treated. The lower self rears up in indignation and wants to obtain justice. In this earth initiation, however, the soul has to learn that it is no use hitting back. The only way is to forgive. Thus the words of Jesus become clear to us when he said, 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do'. The soul of Jesus, awakened to divine truth, knew that if those who were then torturing him and who had also betrayed him had known what they were doing, they could not do it. No one can attack or wilfully hurt another when they understand the full implication of their act. So the soul of the initiate cries, 'God, forgive them for they know not what they do'.

Let us consider another incident during the hours of the crucifixion when Jesus called upon John and he said, 'John, behold thy mother,' and to Mary he said, 'Woman, behold thy son'. The woman is the symbol of the soul, John the symbol of the divine spirit; it means that the soul and the divine spirit of Jesus—the Christ—were merging, were embracing, were being eternally united. Life on earth is not finished until such a divine marriage, or as the Hermetics* say, the 'mystical marriage,' has taken place. It is the same meaning as that of the soul going forth to meet the bridegroom. Jesus had spoken of this in his parables.

*[*White Eagle makes a number of references to the esoteric philosophy which began with Hermes Trismegistus and is known as Hermeticism.]*

Again when Jesus said, 'I thirst,' according to the scriptures those in attendance gave him vinegar and gall—a bitter, bitter drink. His was not that kind of thirst. It was the thirst of the soul. His soul was calling upon the spiritual powers. The earth people could not give him that which he was craving. The next episode was when Jesus cried out, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?' There may be other interpretations; the inner meaning is that the soul was calling upon God. The power of the lower self that men depend upon was failing. After this earth initiation men must rely upon the light and the glory of God for everything. Then there came the cry from Jesus, 'It is finished,' which meant that he had finally overcome that lower self. There was nothing more. The lower self was dying, was dead. Think of the continual conflict which goes on throughout life, between the higher and the lower. At this final moment his spirit was released. He had previously said to the thief, 'This day thou shalt be with me in paradise'. The two thieves represent the higher and the lower mind—the lower was the thief debarred from heaven and the higher the thief who went with the Christ into the heavens.

At the next meeting we shall finish with the earth initiation and deal with the resurrection and the meaning thereof, and then the ascension of Christ in his body of light so glorious that he appeared to disappear as in a cloud—that is to say, his watching disciples thought that it was *he* but it was actually *they* who were enveloped. This was the complete and final triumph of Jesus, and this, my dear ones, is the final initiation which all men will go through. All men will one day realise that all their time they have lived and had their being in God's life and love and the purpose of earth life has been to teach them their power of command over the

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elements and over all matter, so that they could in the end reign as a king in the kingdom of eternal light.

Benediction:

Into Thy hands, O Gracious Spirit, we commit ourselves, and thus we receive the glory of Thy blessing. Peace comes to each waiting heart that lives in Thee.

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:

Mastery, release, forgiveness

