

The Varying States of Consciousness - II

T039 The Inner Teachings 24th February 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

O divine Presence, we open our hearts to Thee. Thou knowest the need of Thy children. We do not ask, we aspire to be more in tune with Thy love. And the peace of Thy spirit shall dwell within us, we shall know that all is well.

Amen.

We greet you beloved, we greet you all with very great love. At our last talk we promised that you should ask questions., but because there may be some here who missed the previous week's talk, we shall briefly introduce our subject.

We dealt particularly last week with the psychic centres of the etheric body and the glands of the physical body. This week we are going to deal specifically with the spirit and the soul of man*. In any case, we cannot give you new truth; the Ancient Wisdom pervades all the secret teachings of the past, but we may be able to present truth to you in a simpler form. It is said 'Man, know thyself, and thou shalt know God and the Universe'—a quotation frequently in use, but we still do not penetrate very deeply into the mystery of man's being. Yet the wise ones, the sages of the past, learnt so much from the human body and from the soul of man. One night we will talk exclusively about the human body as related to the mysteries or the spiritual aspect of life, but tonight let us consider the meaning of spirit and soul.

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

Let us define spirit and soul. In the past the wise ones would teach their pupil that when he was functioning in the lower triangle (in which you will find the lower organs, the generative organs of the human body) man was solely a materialist; when functioning in the head centre he was an intellectualist, and when he was functioning in the heart centre he was an initiate. A materialist, an intellectualist and an initiate or mystic: here we have a clear picture of man's threefold being. The soul consciousness, as we have already said, resides in the head, in the brain; the spirit has its home in the heart. The soul is the consciousness and expression; the spirit is the divine urge, the infinitesimal ray from the Divine. An ancient symbol of the spirit displayed the heart from which the flame was issuing, which clearly indicates that spirit is the divine urge urging man upwards towards his home. God is spirit—no man has seen God at any time. Spirit is the light, the ray within the heart which urges man to aspire to the love essence of life.

Soul is the individuality, the individual consciousness, that part of man which finds expression through the mind. The soul does not incarnate in entirety. I give you the symbol of the triangle. I am going to use that symbol inverted—recall the triangle on its apex, coming down into the triangle resting on its base, the two of which when interpenetrated signify the spirit manifesting in matter. Visualise the triangle descending with only the point penetrating the life of man. So we find that the greater part of the triangle remains in the higher realms, in its spiritual home. The greater self has not entered into physical consciousness, but only the apex is in contact with the brain of man.

The Varying States of Consciousness - II

T039 The Inner Teachings 24th February 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

A question which has arisen is this: is White Eagle that higher aspect of the triangle of this instrument? A natural question, but no, the personality of White Eagle is not that higher aspect of the triangle of this instrument. White Eagle brings something else besides the higher part of that triangle; he contributes his spirit, the divine spark, quite apart from the divine spark in the instrument. But we make use of the higher aspect sometimes to a great extent. This depends to some degree upon the medium. If she herself is attuned or in tune with the higher aspect of herself, we come through with greater clarity and greater power. But if there is a cloud hovering between that higher aspect and the soul consciousness in the brain, we are unable to bring through the same power and clarity.

I hope that will give you some food for thought. In sleep state, when the little point is withdrawn and functions in entirety on the higher planes, it can review the whole history of itself. Therefore often during sleep state memories of past lives recur.

The purpose of man's development and growth is that he may learn to function completely, that is to say, that he may bring through not only the point of the triangle, but the whole soul, so that his full consciousness can function through the mind and the brain.

The great initiator, death, is that which returns the little bit to the greater self. When death comes along and the little part returns to the greater self, then there follows complete illumination. But the ultimate purpose of life and evolution is that, without death intervening, in time will come a complete illumination of the soul through the medium of the intelligence and mind consciousness.

Q.Can you explain why in what is called conscious trance, the medium is often aware of what is said? Is it a question of the distance to which the etheric body is withdrawn?

A.Distance? No, I would not say distance, but suggest that the activity of the lower mind causes consciousness of what transpires. If you are sitting for meditation and your lower mind interrupts, you are functioning only very slightly on a higher plane. If you lose all consciousness of the lower self, you function on a higher plane. When a medium is sometimes conscious, it is the lower mind that has not learnt to be in abeyance.

Q.But things come through in that way which would be quite unknown to the lower mind?

A.O well, things may come through purely on the etheric. O yes—I am only giving you an explanation of why some remain conscious and others not. Things can come through which are quite unknown to the lower mind, but the lower mind can hold down the higher consciousness.

Q.Is this the only method of trance? Is there no medium who is entranced through space by a ray sent by some spirit? What kind of trance is that?

A.Most certainly, yes. We described the using of the higher aspect of the soul—possibly you know how. The word 'trance' is used in rather a loose way; the medium may be used by an

The Varying States of Consciousness - II

T039 The Inner Teachings 24th February 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

operator on earth or many thousands of miles away. You do not understand the elimination of space. There should be complete control or subjugation of the lower part of the medium as the ray takes possession and works through the higher soul of the medium.

Q.Then the soul does not leave the physical body?

A.Yes, it is withdrawn to a degree.

Q.Then it is the higher mental consciousness that the ray controls?

A.You remember the little point of the triangle? That is withdrawn, and the higher aspect used, but it is more like a directing ray which controls the body.

Q.Would the Master Jesus be an example of that, when the Christ Light shone through him?

A.An excellent example.

Q.Then it is illumination, rather than control?

A.Yes. You use the word trance so loosely; there may be but an automatic trance, or there may be that illumination of the higher aspect of the soul.

Q.Is it all a matter of degree of penetration?

A.Yes. The ray of the Master has more powerful, more complete control, and yet is so gentle.

Q.I have heard it said that it is not wise to concentrate on any particular centres, but let them develop naturally. Is that so?

A.It is not wise to force development of the psychic centres, but it is in the plan of evolution that these centres must be vivified and in full working order before man is complete. At the present time humanity, or many of you, have reached that point where the vivification of the centres is desirable.

Q.When this unfoldment is in process of taking place, does it not result in rather an uncomfortable and difficult time?

A.Very—physically, mentally and spiritually.

Q.And would the result, once complete, be a perfecting of the health of the body and mind, and serenity of spirit?

A.That is the ultimate. Of course, the adept is the complete man. That was the secret of the ancient Rosicrucians*—they had the secret of perfect health and prolonged life. It is all in the spiritual self. The transmutation of the base metals by those Rosicrucians of old, and the

The Varying States of Consciousness - II

T039 The Inner Teachings 24th February 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

perfection of health: it is all in the same process of spiritual evolution and spiritual awakening.

*[*White Eagle refers to a form of Rosicrucianism that dates back much further than the spiritual movement which arose in Europe in the early 17th century.]*

Q. Did the ancient Rosicrucians actually turn base metals into gold, or was that a spiritual symbol?

A. The wise ones possessed all the secrets of nature, but as above, so below. It was absolutely necessary for the wise man to have transmuted the base metal in his own nature into pure gold before he could possibly understand and penetrate the secrets of nature which gave him control over the elements.

Q. Then it may be taken literally?

A. Yes, literally. But all these things, beloved brother, have the spiritual aspect as well.

Q. May we not absorb too much psychic food, just as we absorb too much physical nutriment?

A. But you should be giving it away all the time, otherwise there is something wrong somewhere, because the only reaction should be to give as you receive.

Q. You spoke of the point of the triangle touching the physical body. Can it be taken that the physical body in its present state of development is not fit to receive the whole or a greater part of that triangle?

A. You are right. That is the reason why it is necessary for man to purify his physical vehicle. It is no use trying to develop spiritually if you are keeping your physical vehicle coarse by wrong living, though if the soul development is taking place, the desire for coarser things will leave you. The quality of the soul determines the type of body you have. In other words, the quality of the consciousness which you have acquired from the past determines your present.

Q. Cannot one make an awful nuisance of oneself by being over-particular and finicky?

A. If people are finicky and difficult, there is something wrong. If the perfect balance is there you would not make yourself a nuisance to anyone. Never stick your elbows out. If you are associating with those who do not understand, do not say 'I will not smoke, I will not eat meat.' When in Rome, do as Rome does—I do not think it will hurt your soul! Always think first of others before yourself. If you do that, you will not develop into a faddist and be a nuisance to your neighbours.

Q. When we are finicky, we are becoming conscious of the irritation of other people, and that is what we have to overcome?

The Varying States of Consciousness - II

T039 The Inner Teachings 24th February 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

A.Of course, in the course of development the nervous system becomes very sensitive, and you feel that annoyance and irritation doubly—but that is all part of the training. You have to learn poise, which comes from the spirit.

Q.I suppose the great mistake is to try to take two steps at once?

A.That is so wise. In your experience you may find yourself stuck in an appalling condition—you feel you can bear no more. Well, you will have to bear it until you do not mind it and have ceased to worry about it, and then you have learnt your lesson and the door will open, and you will be released from that condition.

Q.Does not the very highest part of us always remain in the spheres?

A.The higher self, the higher soul, is in the spheres, but the life force, the ray, is in the heart—or you would not be here. When that is withdrawn—death.

Q.In view of what you said recently about life on other planets, is the earth planet greater than the others?

A.Most certainly it is no greater, but rather less. The life is different from what it is on earth; therefore those men who say that life cannot exist on other planets are right in this, that life as you know it in the physical sense does not exist, but life of a more rarefied form of matter or substance. The physical body of the earth cannot exist on one of the other planets. The body of each planet must be made of the substance of the corresponding planet.

Benediction:

Let us raise our hearts to the love of the Infinite. We stand on the hilltop, midst trees and air, with the stars above, and we are conscious of peace of soul. To God, our Father, we are thankful.

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:

Chakra, akashic, inspiration, mediumship, sensitivity