

## [Questions and Answers]

T018 The Inner Teachings 22nd July 1936 Pembroke Hall, London

### Invocation:

O Thou Who art the Light, our Father and Mother, unto Thee we give all humble thanks for our creation, our preservation and all the glories of eternal life. We pray, O Gracious Spirit, that we may be in humble mind, waiting to learn of Thy wisdom and the inner beauties of Thy kingdom. We glimpse the glory of Thy being. May this grow within us. Show us the way, O Divine Spirit, to truly love and serve Thee and the whole human family.

Amen.

We greet you all with dear love. Before your questions, we would like to add something to our subject of last week, for we feel it incomplete unless we explain the work of the guides and helpers, since many of you are helpers and servers in the world of spirit. We spoke of the third class of souls, those who are awakened on the astral plane during sleep. These cannot always bring a perfectly clear picture back to the brain, but within their inner consciousness remains the knowledge that they have been serving and working, but not of the exact work they have been doing. This may be revealed if they are strong enough to receive it and to bear the two lives—that is, the life on earth as well as this conscious life in the astral world.

At the present time there is on the astral plane an increasing organisation, a grouping of souls still incarnate who are able, by virtue of their spiritual growth, to serve the Great White Brotherhood. Such souls are drawn into groups, all souls comprising a particular group being in harmony, and so able to work perfectly together, receiving and projecting thought in exact harmony one with another. Indeed, the group is almost as a unit. Now this is not only important from the spiritual side as far as the service is concerned, but of the utmost value to the participant. You will note on the earth plane today groups of minds—groups working for the benefit, for the love of humanity. Remember, as above, so below, and what takes place on earth has its origin in the spirit, so many at night leave the body to join their group to work for the Master. They do not always minister to souls both of earth and of the lower astral planes, but sometimes collectively go to the halls of learning to receive instruction, to receive wisdom for teaching and more responsible work.

A soul still incarnate does not work alone, but his guide or teacher—you may know him by any name—waits for him, takes him and then brings him back to the physical body. Always, always you travel with your guide. (We might refer to him or her as the deacon, which some of you will understand.)

Now for your questions:

Q.Can you explain the difference between the occult, mystic, and psychic paths; how can one know which one should follow, and is there any difference in the place of evolution of these three?

A.All depends on what is meant by the psychic path. If you mean contacts through the ordinary channels of mediumship, I do not think that comes into the question. With regard to the mystical path, this means the path taken by the devotee, one who worships and loves an

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ideal and has no thought of anything but his ideal, to which he adheres with a great love. He contemplates and meditates on the light. He is the true mystic, following the ideal always of love, devotion and worship.

The occult path we would describe as the bringing through into action of knowledge of the inner planes and the power lying behind physical manifestation. The occult path is the path of power, using the knowledge gained either for selfish or for selfless purposes. Therefore the occult path must be dangerous, because temptation is great. It is almost like walking on a razor edge.

Which path are you to follow? How are you to know? First, with regard to the psychic path, if you mean the true psychic, we would couple that with the mystical. The true mystic must of necessity be psychic, because true psychic power is developed on that mystical path. So let us reduce these paths to the mystical and the occult only.

If you normally gravitate towards the intuitional, if you feel intuition guides you, then you follow the mystical and the love-wisdom ray.

If your mind is uppermost, if you want knowledge and reason, and to know how to use powers, then the occult path will attract you most. But eventually there must of course be harmony between the mind and the heart. The mystical path is the path of the heart, and the occult that of the head. The more you advance on either, you come at length to the same place. No, it makes no difference which path you take, so far as the ultimate is concerned, because in the end, all paths blend. On the mystical path you eventually learn all that which you would have learnt on the occult.

Q.How does one set about finding one's past incarnations?

A.If I were you, I should not try to set about it, because you may get a shock. Until one is ready to stand the shock, I should keep the door closed. There is some seriousness in what I say. There are many who think they know their past. It is true that the power of spirit is quickening in mankind, and many are having their consciousness or memory quickened. You cannot find anything about past lives through the lower mental vehicle, which you must be using to want to find out! When you can touch the Buddhic or the plane of pure spirit, it is there that you will find the memory and the storehouse.

Evolved souls at the present time are being taken to the Hall of Records, and in the waking moments you may bring back a flash, as in a dream. Take notice of your waking moments. And it is good (I am not telling you how to force the door) to fall asleep meditating upon the Divine Light, for then you may go to where you will be permitted to glimpse the past. But you have to be quick, for on waking, it is forgotten in a flash.

Q.How far does our forgiveness help the brother who has, from our point of view, hurt us?

A.True forgiveness means that you send to your brother love, you have no thought but to

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love and help him. You forget your own hurt—it does not matter how you were hurt. If we are hurt, I expect we have deserved it. You can help your brother by forgiveness so much because you send him light; if he cannot receive the light, it returns and lightens and beautifies your own aura.

Forgiveness is a considerable help to your brother in the working out of karma. It prevents the ball going backwards and forwards. You catch the ball and keep it, instead of throwing it back. By doing so, by sending out love and forgiveness, you are relieving a great deal of karma, both from yourself and him.

Q.How far is it permissible to impose our wills upon children in requesting obedience? And how far should we respect their individuality?

A.Well, my dear, God's will is imposed upon His children. He gives them a certain amount of free will, and by exercise of free will they learn eventually that God's will is the only will that must be obeyed. Translate that same principle into your work of dealing with children—give them a certain amount of freedom, but hold always in your mind that they must learn their lesson. Thus you do the will of God. If a child disobeys, do not go to pieces; arrange that in some way, through the disobedience it faces a consequence. Although man's free will creates a certain amount of chaos, the law allows humanity to go so far, and no more. And free will brings the child back once more to His Father.

Q.Will you explain the Holy Ghost?

A.A tall order! Beloved children, always take that which we say and examine it, ponder, but do not consider it the final word—because truth comes to you, as a child of God, and we can only throw out little pointers.

How am I to find language to describe to you the Holy Ghost, the Holy Breath, that which is breathed into physical manifestation, the third aspect of the Deity which we might describe as the wisdom aspect? The Word of Power was with God the Father; the ray of Love is the Son, and the breath of Wisdom is the Holy Ghost. There is a great deal more behind; ponder well.

Q.Might we call it the Comforter?

A.Wisdom descended upon the Son, but the Holy Ghost comes to all men\* at a certain time. The Holy Ghost is not personified in the same way as the Son, but is of the Father. We might almost say 'Mother, Father, Child': wisdom, born of the Father, but in no way personified as with the Son—in all, through all, and comes with growth of consciousness to all men.

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

Q.Will you tell us more of our masters and guides? Does everyone have a master, a guide and a guardian angel?

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A.First, every soul has a guardian angel, almost a recording angel, the angel who is under the direction or order of the great Lords of Karma. There is so much which is difficult for you to understand. You think of your guide as being someone who lived a long time ago and who comes to help you. That is true to a certain extent, but you, the real you, is linked to your guide or your teacher in a very certain way; indeed, we would almost say that you are inseparable and yet you are separate. It is difficult. Your guide is your highest self, and that highest self has other personalities. Your guide is really your teacher—because your teacher is your highest self, but not *your* self. Think, it will come to you what we mean. There are many helpers from the astral spheres of life who help you on the earth plane with earthly things, but do not confuse helpers—you yourself may be a helper while still incarnate—with guides and teachers. Your guide is so intimately related to your highest self as to be part of your highest self.

We smile sometimes when we hear certain thoughts given out to the world concerning mediumship and control. I do not think that anyone, certainly none in your country, knows what takes place when a guide controls a medium. They talk about the sub-conscious mind, so much on the mind and brain of the instrument. It has nothing to do with the mind of the medium.

Q.When you say that guides are so closely linked, is it because in that sphere all is one?

A.The more advanced an ego becomes, the more it becomes at-one with the whole, and does not know separation. Your guide is so much en rapport with your higher self that it is actually part of yourself and knows no separation, except when you manifest as a much lower being than you actually are. When on the higher plane of true self, you are at one with your teacher. You breathe as one, you are one.

Q.When a child is born, it is not the whole ego that manifests, but a piece of the ego. Would that cause the feeling of separation?

A.Now we are getting near. Very rarely is there a complete manifestation of the ego through one physical form. When a tiny babe is born, there is only the pinpoint of contact, and then gradually comes the fuller personality. Some tell you that it takes twenty-one years for the ego to come in but we would not limit it, since even after that period there is the incoming and then follows the withdrawal. Even so, only an aspect, only a part comes. Do not forget the 'temple' above, the higher self, which consists of many personalities.

Q.Are guardian angels not of this planet?

A.Angelic ones are not usually those who have passed on the human line of evolution, but it is possible for a human to go over, as it were, to the angelic ray of evolution, because the angels evolve, the same as the human evolves. Angels are linked more with interplanetary beings.

Q.Are the guide and the master one?

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A. The guide can be the channel for the master, and often is. I do not want to tell you too much. The guide may be the master; the master often works through the guide of the spirit.

### Benediction:

Will you unite in thanking our Father for the joy of spirit communion ? O Gracious Spirit, we thank Thee for these opportunities of communion, for the joy which fills our souls with the love for our brothers. O Father God, may Thy power be with all these Thy children: may they be sustained with courage and alight with love and at peace with life and all humanity. May they know that in Thee, they and their loved ones are safe, and that Thy plan is perfect. May the Great White Light protect them.

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:*

*Spirit world, far memories, Holy Spirit*

