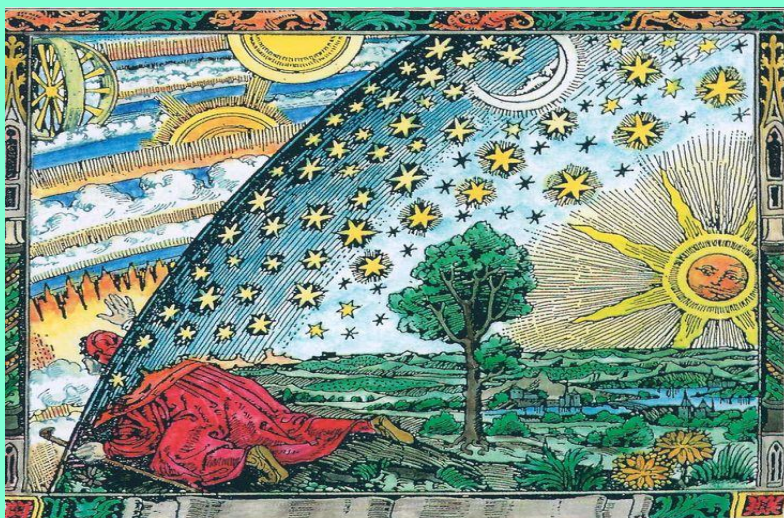


THE HOLY LIGHT ACADEMY



The Path of the Holy Light



Section Three

At the Threshold of Reality



## **Introduction**

There is a place in your spiritual unfoldment where you realize the old ways of the world don't work for you anymore, as much as you might try to make them. Once you realize there are more virtuous ways to live, those with true spiritual values, you will find them more appealing, more refreshing, and more uplifting. You will feel less dense and more joyous when you enter a virtuous lifestyle of the Spirit. You will still feel the tug of the earthly world, its ways of limitation and separation, and the untamed ego often remains stubborn. While you are trying to enter this new way of life and desire to step into a deeper reality of the Spirit, the old way still has a draw on you. This is when the so-called "Dweller on the Threshold" rears its head and endeavors to tempt you away from the spiritual path, hence, you will undergo trials of the soul. You will experience a tug-of-war and this quite often happens right at the threshold of reality.



## **Lesson One**

### **The Ego Illusion**

The nature of the ego is to maintain separation and to perpetuate this false belief system in your way of thinking. Unfortunately, it has succeeded – thus far. You can learn to disengage this limited and defeatist programming if you sincerely desire this, if you are truly willing to change drastically, to the point your limited ego submits completely to where God is everything through you now. That is, you come to realize that you are not the “false you” that you thought was real all this time. Human beings are basically masqueraders, and the Earth is the stage upon which they act. Shakespeare knew this all too well.

“Ego is your false self. Your true self is eternal. It is the God force within you that provides the energy for you to roam around in the clothes you call your body – a quiet empty space surrounded by form. Believing you are only the physical self, the body enclosing the energy, is a false belief. You needn’t repudiate the ego when you recognize it is a false self. What you really recognize as the ego is an idea of the self that is inconsistent with your true, sacred identity.”<sup>1</sup>

In this case, the ego is a false perception of your real Self. This human ego is the cause of separation from your Divine Self. It is the belief that you are separate from God that causes problems.

“Ego teaches separation. Ego wants to convince you to believe the illusion of separation. With each painful experience of feeling alone, apart or separate, ego tightens its hold. This false belief is continually reinforced by our outer culture.”<sup>2</sup>

You must stop paying attention to the negative, limited separatist dogma of the untamed ego that has been ingrained into society and into the mass mind of mankind. You have been playing tapes in your mind which acts as negative affirmations upon the subconscious, especially if you are continually in denial. So you must develop a practice of counteracting the negative affirmations with positive affirmations.

When you go into your nightly retrospection, you can analyze exactly what your own negative affirmations have been all these years, to observe them and catch them in the act, to cast the Light on them to expose them, because they thrive in darkness and do their most deceitful work there, under cover where you don’t see it occurring. The Light will reveal these devious thought

processes and you can more easily undermine them because the fire of the Light will burn them away. Then you begin to replace them by practicing positive affirmations instead. Here's an example. If you often find yourself thinking, "I'm just not worthy enough, I'm so messed up," then try something like, "God will always accept me and love me for who I am despite my imperfections." Actually, you are NOT your imperfections anyway, which is what the ego would like you to think. You are not your actions. You are spirit, the being within, the observer of these things around you. And the ego orchestrates many deceiving illusions all around you. So you have to point them out and knock them down, one at a time, replacing them with what is real, good, honest, and righteous.

As you walk the spiritual path, the tools you will be learning to use will show you how to tame the ego, so that there will be less struggle, and your journey will become more harmonious. It is similar to having an untamed dog, for it is willful and has its own mind in the beginning, but then you will spend much time taming and teaching it to obey you, until it submits and becomes a loyal obedient companion.

You can practice various righteous virtues to reprogram your mind to a more righteous way of thinking, living, and being, so that the veil of separation can be dissolved finally, and drawing closer to God and entering Divine Union will become a reality. Then the ancient illusion will be exposed for the fraud it has maintained for thousands of years in this world. As explained in the special course of **Soul Unfoldment on the Virtuous Path**, observing and practicing ten virtues is discussed, these being: Gratitude, Patience, Humility, Compassion, Service, Kindness, Purity, Sincerity, Detachment, and Faith.

Incidentally, the inner being or true observer that you are, once it truly awakens, will be the one to direct your life, and the ego will no longer be in charge, and once it has submitted to the higher Self, it will be absorbed. Once the being is awakened, illumined and Self-realized – for it has begun experiencing union with God – it will become the central driving force of life, because it lives and functions in God's Will and Mind now.

“And many of these would have God will that which they themselves will, and are fretful at having to will that which He wills, and find it repugnant to accommodate their will to that of God.... Thus they measure God by themselves and not themselves by God.”<sup>3</sup>

The ego knows that you are striving to reach God, so in all of its conceit, it strives to set itself up as your God, giving you its sage yet vain advice whenever you seek answers to your questions. Since most people have rarely reached beyond the ego level, not yet deciding to let go and surrender enough, they have only fallen back on the ego, the old deceiver, and they have not risen higher at all, for the ego has deceived them into thinking they have been hearing God's voice. This can be very frustrating. So how do you solve this problem?

You have to stop being so comfortable and safe in your little illusion. You have to pull away the safety net, your protective shell which only fears what is real. You have to be willing to be unafraid, to gain courage, and to jump off the cliff – the cliff of the world – no matter what, and to simply fall, to die if need be, for to save yourself you will only lose yourself. You must lose yourself, your false self, the ego. You have to take that leap of faith and just fall and keep on falling, not letting the ego catch you, as you have always allowed it in the past, and keep on plunging

downward, through and beyond the ego, and finally going deeper – and to fall into the loving arms of God. Actually, you will discover you were not going down any longer, but rising up into the Light of the Sun. Paradoxically, falling downward for a righteous cause is actually rising upward in Spirit.

Analogies can only explain things to a point, being limited in nature, because they are only shadows of wisdom. You can't completely explain spiritual realities in terms of up or down and even within or without. You may say God is found within, or the kingdom of God is within, but these are still limited ideas attempting to explain things you can only experience in the soul. Words often fall short in the face of the raw, absolute Truth.

As long as you live in this illusory world and get caught up in the ego's limited parameters, you will tend to struggle with such limitations in your search for truth – even through analogies and parables, unfortunately. So you have to learn to go beyond these, beyond archetypes and symbols eventually, as helpful as they may have been in your search at one time. But you must some day learn to face the real Truth without constructs and concepts to aid your limited understanding.

“The ego is the part of the mind that believes your existence is defined by separation.”<sup>4</sup>

Therefore, the ego will maintain this separation as long as you will let it. As long as you believe you are separate from God, the ego has won. But when you begin to sincerely aspire toward the true divine unity that is real and eternal, and maintain this endeavor, you will gain the upper hand – but the ego is now threatened and will fight for its separation and limitations. So you must endure and persevere, and to surrender into God within, until you fall into His arms, which is actually rising into His heart.

“The communication system of the ego is based on its own thought system, as is everything else it dictates. Its communication is controlled by its need to protect itself, and it will disrupt communication when it experiences threat.”<sup>5</sup>

In this case, anytime you listen to your intuition, or going within in meditation, then the ego strives to cut off any communication from your Divine Source, and to interject itself as being in charge, to give the pretense of its God like all knowingness – in essence pretending to be God for you. Now, this can't last long, for soon it will exhaust itself and run out of ingenious answers; for remember, it is a limited construct, an artificial intelligence in reality, yet without any real reality whatsoever. So as it continues to pontificate, it will soon fumble about futilely, becoming desperate, declaring nonsense finally – and this is when you will realize you have been deceived, and that the ego had been gumming up the works for you when you just wanted to sincerely listen to God's guidance and inspiration – not the clever advice and grand maxims of the devious ego.

Realize that over the years, you may have read much literature and accumulated much knowledge and information, from which the ego uses as its “lofty” resources; hence, these are the old tapes you listen to so often. In this way it can appear to seem all wise. But it is insight and revelation from God within where true wisdom comes from. This is why you must regularly use such tools as intuition, meditation, contemplation, retrospection, prayer, practicing the presence of

God, and also practicing total awareness. These will guide you in getting centered within and coming into balance and harmony with God, to develop a genuine relationship with your Creator, by which you in turn will soon enter Divine Union.

So it is vitally important to learn and use these tools of the soul, in order to cut through and beyond the ego's garbage, in order to sincerely penetrate God at your center, to listen for the REAL and genuine Voice and Impulses from God.

Once you unfold into this deeper reality of Life through surrendering into God, you will likewise find yourself going beyond the illusion of this world. We define "illusion" in this way: anything of this world that represents limitation, separation, deception, impermanence, doubt, and anything transitory and perishable. The Real Reality is defined as that which is unifying, infinite, eternal, true, righteous, harmonious, and luminous. You can refer to this as the Kingdom of Heaven which resides within the soul, that place from which the Light shines brightly, or you can refer to this as Divine Consciousness.

Illusion is also defined as an incorrect and limited perception of reality, or incorrect way of thinking. If you are correctly and clearly seeing and thinking, then you are perceiving what is Real, hence, you are focusing on something truthful. However, most people have been deceived by an incorrect understanding or belief, hence, it is illusory.

For example, many centuries ago, those who believed the world was flat clearly deceived themselves. They lived in the illusion that the world was flat rather than round. Some still believe this today. Unfortunately, people still live in a world where they believe many things that aren't true; hence, they deceive themselves. For instance, there are those who still believe the physical world and universe are all there is; what they see around them is all there is. Obviously, this is false. Likewise, many people think they are their physical bodies. They don't realize they are souls that temporarily use flesh bodies as vehicles. The list of falsities is long, and anyone can analyze this and find more examples.

The ego is from the world of illusion and deception. Your inner spirit, or true Self, is from God's Eternalness and Infiniteness, and you can rightly say that it is from the Kingdom of Heaven. Your inner being, or real Self, has been lying dormant and needs to emerge from the ego illusion. The ego lives in darkness, but your true being lives in the Light. The ego exists in separation and deception. Your inner being lives in oneness, truth, and righteousness.

Our definition of "ego" is the false self, the ego/mind/will-association that you often think you are. The ego is not whole, but it denies this. The basic components of the false self are the ego, mind, will, and body. Yes, the body is needed for you to operate in this world of illusion. But it can do so for positive and righteous reasons or negative and deceitful reasons. This is your free will working here. You usually use your own limited will and mind, but you should submit to God's Will and Mind.

The ego is like an unruly child that doesn't know how to grow up, or misses important steps that lead to growth and adulthood. Maturity is not something you simply reach at adulthood, it is not automatic; it takes a lot of work to become a mature adult. The fact is, too many people in the world may have adult bodies but emotionally and mentally they are children who think and act like children. The untamed ego reflects this immaturity and childlike behavior. Like an unruly child, the ego can be stubborn, fearful, possessive, self-important, given to temper tantrums or anger in general, shifting blame to others, the desire to be right about everything, etc.

Since the ego lacks wholeness and completeness, other components are required. Certain necessary components are missing in this association. But the missing ingredient that would qualify you to be a functioning whole being is the God-Self. Hence, the immortal soul and God-Self are the real components that you are, that exist in God's Reality. Therefore, allowing these to be expressed through you is where true maturity and spiritual unfoldment are developed.

The ego fears God or anything that is real and of God's Reality. The ego imagines that its own realm is real, for it is in denial of that which is actually true and real. It cannot allow itself to see the truth, since it lives in fear, although its belief system has erroneously become its truth. The ego is like a character in a play you are portraying, and you have forgotten that you are simply an actor while you get caught up in imagining you are that character you created. This is when you must wake up and realize who you really are.

The moment the ego is exposed to the Light and witnesses the truth of its own false nature, it has to submit completely; otherwise, it will continue to cause problems. It fears surrender over to something greater than itself. It has much to fear indeed! So, remember, you are not this ego, or false self. You are the soul/Self, the divine life spark from the Creator. You are this immortal soul where God is at its heart, hence, you are the God-Self. This is why you must stop adhering to and living in this false world of limitation, separation, impermanence, and illusion in order to aspire toward Divine Union with God. This is done through genuine yearning and love for your Beloved Creator and finally total surrender into His infinite and eternal Beingness.

The ego is indeed a tool you use while in this earthly world, but when used incorrectly you fall into imbalance, limitation, and separation. Used correctly, the ego will enter balance and eventually surrender over to its true Divine Source.

Although the ego is not whole, the God-Self, the real you, uses it as a tool for further growth, to learn and develop, to transmute the dense form into a higher form, that of Spirit. The ego-will shall be transmuted into God's Will. Ego-mind shall be transformed into God's Mind. And the human ego is finally transformed into God's Ego.

Have you noticed how much the unruly human ego sounds like the devil? Is there a difference then? While the ego remains a false entity, it acts as a devil, and when it finally submits and surrenders over to God, it has been subdued and transformed, then the falsehood has been obliterated, and only your real divine being will come forth.

The idea of "the devil" is strictly allegorical, contrary to popular religious beliefs, which are quite often taken too literally. Each person is responsible for his own thoughts and actions, not an outside adversary. True, anyone can attempt to influence you, but you decide how to respond. The person's untamed ego is the real culprit for his misdeeds, and can sometimes be seen as the "dweller on the threshold." However, if free will is not abused, but used correctly, then you will surrender the ego over to God, and then only God's Ego remains, and this is the real you, the Real Ego that exists. The ego illusion must be replaced with the reality that the human ego is not real and that God's Divine Ego *is* real, and this is what you are.

The lower nature of your ego has its purpose and is a part of your body consciousness, but it must be tamed, must learn to submit to the God-Self, and although it fears losing control, like a well-trained loyal dog, soon it will become a worthy companion.



## **Lesson Two**

### **The Reality of Ego**

In this course of study we define the ego as the false self, your lower nature that is transitory. Does this mean the ego has an illusory nature? Yes. That is, as long as it is subject to this dense world. However, there is a reality to “ego” that we shall discuss soon.

The ego is your lower nature and it is how you identify yourself while you exist in the material world consciousness, or mass mind. This lower state must be transcended whereby the fuller realization of a deeper reality is necessary.

This lower nature or false self is synonymous with the dweller on the threshold. This is that obstacle that you must face on this path of unfoldment if you are to continue. It rears its head when you strive to go deeper on this path, for it cannot go there itself; it would rather stop you. Being afraid of it and its negative traits only slows you down. The aim is to face it head-on.

“The contrast of old ways compared to the truth just realized brings forth the old person for release. At this point the aspirant feels this negative field surfacing and the person cannot surpass it inside. As the negative field raises to the surface, fear that it will consume the being arises, but then it just surfaces and passes away. This is called meeting the ‘dweller on the threshold.’ The desire to manifest truth and the desire to live in the kingdom of heaven relinquishes the hold of the dweller, for the dweller lives in darkness and the manifest God-being lives in the light. The releasing of this dweller on the threshold causes the aspirant to realize the one Being within.”<sup>6</sup>

There is the analogy that when you look into the mirror, you recognize your physical image; however, the day will come when this image morphs into something darker, and you no longer recognize the image as yourself, realizing it has never been your true self. In truth, your consciousness has shifted to where you realize what you see is no longer you. That’s when you realize what you are facing is actually this masquerading dweller trying to influence you in the old worldly ways and temptations. That’s why you must fearlessly confront it and release it completely and then go deeper to meet your true Self. The way forward is through humility and sincerity in your spiritual endeavors.

In esoteric circles, this dweller is considered to be the accumulation of previous incarnations and endeavors to attach itself to you in this current incarnation, hence, it is an aspect of your untamed lower nature that has not evolved yet. Often it is called a defunct double, an earlier incarnation that yet lingers and remains hidden, but comes forward when you are awakening on the spiritual path, when you are at the threshold and ready to go forward, whereby it tempts you with impure delights of the past. This becomes a period of testing for your soul and your self-worth



(the high worth of your true Self), hence, you must decide which way to turn, toward your old ways, or this path of unfoldment you have been walking.

In truth, the dweller is not a real entity, but a mere shadow or reflection, so it is merely an illusion. If the false self or ego is not real, then what IS real? What or who is it that IS real?

The only true reality retaining ego is God. The Ego of God is the only true ego, and it is this you must realize. The Self of God is at your center, for this is what you are in truth. What you think is your ego is false, since God's Ego is the real Self in you. Your false self must be transcended, to realize your true divine Ego, the center and source of what you are, which is God. Therefore, only God's Will is real, and your human will is a pretense.

The dweller on the threshold is like an earlier version of yourself wearing a fancy costume, playing an old role from an old movie you could say, portraying a character that indulged in various carnal activities, but it is a character you once portrayed yourself, you soon realize, and it wants to drag you down into those old ways you once knew. You must courageously confront it and give it no power over you, and shining your inner Light, make it vanish, for after all it is simply an illusion.

These old influences have made this untamed ego what it is, influenced by the often hidden dweller, which you must face to go forward on the path. You identify with this ego but it must be purged and purified in the Light, to reveal the true source of Being.

What we are saying is that only God has ego. Only God can actually identify with true Beingness, and you have the capacity to realize this within you. You only identify with a lower nature self, until you wake up to the true Self. If a separate individual has ego, it has created a falsehood, a false self. It has imagined that it is separate from God. Therefore, it has created its own separate ego outside of God's Ego. Hence, it exists in an illusory state. It cannot truly "live" in illusion. You can only "live" in reality. This is one basic difference between illusion and reality. While you are asleep in illusion, you cannot truly be living in it. When you truly "live," you are ALIVE, and the Spirit of God is living and flowing through you. This does not occur while you slumber in the world of illusion. You may exist or merely survive, and even dream, but you cannot actually **live** or **be awake** while accepting the illusion. This would be a contradiction. When you actually **awaken**, you have transcended the illusion. The two cannot co-exist. Sleep and wakefulness are diametrically opposed. Hence, when you truly wake up, you realize you have been in the illusory world and that you are beginning to live in the spiritual world.

The unawakened person who drifts in a sleep-state will sometimes have flashes or glimpses of wakefulness, seeing some aspect of Reality, and then he falls back asleep. These glimpses may reveal mistakes and errors he has made and must deal with, or it may be the inner voice trying to warn him of something. Sooner or later he will have to pay attention to them. Eventually, these glimpses act as seeds and help in his actual awakening.

Being awake is a state of ALIVENESS, a conscious awareness of the deeper reality around and within you. You cannot reach this higher awareness while your mind is engrossed in the worldly illusion. You can either be conscious of one or the other. While your mind is asleep, it cannot be simultaneously awake. Yes, you may be conscious, but only conscious within a dream state. Your mind is always active on some level, either during a state of sleep or an awakened state.

However, you can vacillate between the two states, or imagine that you can. You may fluctuate back and forth often, drifting in a grey area, but this is fruitless, for no progress is made this way. Sometimes you are in a near-sleep mode, and other times you are more awake, though

not fully. Often, when you find yourself getting caught up in the mundane things of the world, being assailed by temptations, or bogged down with various problems and hardships, these tend to anchor you into the common illusion.

Nevertheless, once you have awakened and are illumined, you won't want to fall back asleep again, because you will be too aware of that dingy state, which has become repugnant to you, and even if you slip into it momentarily, you will snap back out of it, recognizing this is a place of darkness, and you have experienced the Light.

You are always learning and growing while you are on the spiritual path. You must become detached and indifferent to the ploys and allures of this world. Don't let your possessions possess you. Don't let your thinking rule you; you decide how to think. You must discipline your mind toward a more positive and virtuous way of thinking. In the framework of Christian Mysticism, you can take on the Mind of Christ; think like Jesus Christ did, or imagine how he will think, act, or speak in any given situation. This can be a useful tool in your daily life to guide your unfoldment process. Also, practice total awareness, live in the Here-Now, in the present moment while impersonally and unemotionally observing everything around you. While being detached from everything, while you watch, you will soon notice the world is merely a theatrical performance on a large-scale stage. TV shows and movies are merely a reflection of this ongoing series of worldly plays, reminding you that you are experiencing this illusion in an illusory world. Art reflects life, this worldly life.

You will soon slip out of the illusion and no longer be a part of it. You will no longer be OF the world, although you are momentarily IN it. Let there be no emotional involvement in things, no attachments to things or patterns or thought processes of the dense world. Attempt to simply BE.

Be the Observer, not the observed. Be the watcher in a play, not a character in it. If you are experiencing your own TV show, getting caught up in your character as if it is real, you need to wake up and realize you are a soul experiencing this temporary role in this physical world. Be the Observer in this world. Try this approach for at least one day, reflect upon it, and note what you have observed. Then try this for a whole week, and see how this changes your thinking and way of seeing the world around you. See yourself as an observer in the audience watching a play on a stage, watching people and situations unfold. Of course, there are times you will realize you are up on the stage as well when situations happen to you. That's when you have to detach yourself from the whole theatrical performance, becoming emotionally detached, not letting it bother you; not an easy task, but it takes practice. Try this affirmation: "Treat trivial things like water off a duck's back; don't worry, don't care, don't obsess."

The goal is to detach yourself from your untamed lower nature, and to identify yourself with the God-Self you truly are. The reality of ego must shift from false self to God-Self, where it should be, and has been forever. Once the lower nature is absorbed into the higher nature, you are entering Divine Union. This can't simply be intellectualized, but it must be realized. It is experiential.

Soon you will be going beyond the illusion and you will be penetrating the Reality of Life. Going beyond fancy words and phrases the outer mind likes to cling to, you must learn to realize your true Source. Then you may ask yourself, as the Observer, "Who am I really?"



## **Lesson Three**

### **Life in God**

Ultimately, there is one Initiation: LIFE. Life in God. This means you experience God in Life and God experiences through you in Life.

Life is God's Spirit perpetually flowing through Creation.

Mankind's life is essentially an illusion. Your life will only become REAL when you live in God's Reality, not your own, which is unreality.

What you perceive in this world is an incomplete picture. As long as you don't see the whole picture then your perception is not even close to accurate, hence, this is why it is illusory. You only see a small amount of ALL THAT IS.

Likewise, that which comes from God's eternal, infinite, and harmonious nature is that which is REAL. That which expresses separation, limitation, and perishability is all the illusion of Maya.

This world of the earthly life is in constant transition and change, but God's Truth is constant. However, you must enter levels of transition and change on this Mystical Path so you can REACH this Truth. Permanence and Impermanence are a continual duality you must face, the Ebb and Flow in Creation. You exist through levels of impermanence until you're able to reach and live in the Permanence of Truth and Divine Unity.

You can go forth and fall into greed and selfishness which leads to pain and suffering, or you can go forth to serve, help, bless, and heal others, whereby you will be living a righteous life. Keep in mind, you don't serve or "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" in order to continually seek reward; that is a selfish approach to service. By self forgetting service to mankind, and by surrendering over to God, whose Spirit is within your heart of hearts, and by God's loving grace, you will indeed find yourself walking on the Mystical Path, for by this your continued spiritual unfoldment is assured.

Many people in this world are not aware that their actions, as well as their thoughts and words, have repercussive consequences. Jesus Christ said, "As you give, so shall you receive." Likewise, he said, "You reap what you sow." The Eastern philosophies teach the principle of karma, which is exactly the same thing.

Since the energy projected from your actions, thoughts, and words will cause karmic effects, you must be very careful what you do, think, and say. Act, think, and speak positively, not negatively. As the Buddhist will declare, act rightly, think rightly, and speak rightly. Hence, it is wise to observe all of these areas when you do your nightly retrospection, to catch such mistakes and misdirection of energy, to turn them over to the God within who will transmute them, so that you don't fall into these erroneous places next time. Your stumbling blocks will be turned into stepping stones.

Actually, your words and actions began on the thought level, so pay especially close attention to your thinking before it manifests. Be sure you are sowing virtuous things, such as kindness, love, joy, peace, a helping hand, a kind word, a reassuring smile, and so on. Jesus said, during his Crucifixion, “Bless them, Father, for they know not what they do.” For if they truly KNEW what acts they had committed, they would not have done them. They would know that they would reap what they sowed. They would go forth knowing that if they committed harm on another, they would be casting the same harm upon themselves. But yet people ignorantly commit such acts regardless, as if no results will take place. Obviously, the Creator created this system so people can learn from their mistakes. Otherwise, if it did not exist, there would be rampant chaos and people would get away with misdeeds and horrible crimes without learning anything at all. However, the majority of this purgation process works on the subconscious level, between God and you on an unseen level.

Those who know not and continue reaping negative things will be visited upon by the effects of their own thoughts, actions, and words, in one form or another, sooner or later. Those who know not what they do are the “unawakened.” For if they were AWAKE, they would KNOW that the fruits of their thoughts and actions will inevitably return to them. Those who do not care, do not believe, or are too full of greed, stubbornness, anger, or vengeance will pay no attention to God’s Divine Laws. If they do not wake up, they will only suffer the consequences. Therefore, they unknowingly block God’s love and grace for them. This is where repentance and a contrite heart will lead them back to God’s Righteousness.

Jesus Christ taught the Law of Love, to love God with all your heart, mind, and soul, and to love your neighbor as yourself. What does “love your neighbor as yourself” mean? Treat them as you would have them treat you. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. This Law of Love is considered to be the highest of Divine Laws, for this is where Grace flows into everyone’s lives. As God loves all of us, His Grace will carry us through our journey on the Mystical Path, into the kingdom of God within.

When your heart’s yearning is realized as love for the Divine, God’s love for you is experienced more deeply. God’s grace through His love perpetuates you into true righteousness, freedom, peace, and Truth. Then it becomes much easier to practice spiritual virtues; whether they are the ten we have suggested, or others beyond this.

On this Mystical Path you seek God’s Life within you, because God’s Life IS the Way. You are already HERE in God’s Life if you simply realize it. You must awaken to this fact. God’s Being is closer than hands and feet, for the Eternal Spirit of God is within your own heart. So you don’t need to imagine God is out there somewhere beyond your grasp; that is a terrible illusion if you believe this, because it demonstrates separation, and God is not separate from you. If anything, this kind of belief becomes detrimental because it is actually a delusion, because the human mind has been compromised and replaced with a falsehood, which must be corrected.

God’s Light, which is within you, leads you to the Truth of God who is HERE and NOW, WITHIN YOU.

Be sure to live your life in God’s Life; not later, not tomorrow, but RIGHT HERE NOW WITHIN! It will be worth every second, for ETERNITY!!!



## **Lesson Four**

### **The Light of the Miraculous**

It is by God's Grace that miracles occur. A true miracle occurs when you have begun to awaken from the illusion of the world, even if it is just a little bit at a time. When you realize you are not actually bound by the limitations of the world, then "miraculous thinking" is occurring in you. Your mind is being transformed because your whole being is awakening into a deeper level of reality, even if it is gradually. What is normally "seen" in this world, begins to be seen as a deception. What is normally "unseen" begins to be more clearly "intuited" and perceived as real. What normally seemed real to you is realized as the illusion, and what many believe is unreal becomes realized as real. This is awakened, enlightened, and miraculous thinking. The miracle becomes real when you have realized the true Reality of God within, when you have awakened to truth and wisdom, when you have changed in the twinkling of an eye. When real transformation has occurred, this is a miraculous process taking place. Divine Alchemy is another way to describe what a miracle is.

Many people believe that only this world is real, and even those who believe there is something real beyond this world, still seem to treat this earthly existence as the real reality, because it is directly tangible, especially to the normal five senses. But you must learn to go beyond this, to develop your awareness and intuition to the deeper reality, because this is a transformation process.

From the worldly standpoint, transformation is miraculous, because this dense world exists on principles of limitation, perishability, separation, and changelessness. Many people believe either that it is impossible to change, that they are unable to change, that they are afraid to change, or that it is too difficult to change. When you believe any of these, they are simply excuses, which means these people refuse to do the work of change. Even if they are open to the idea of change, some think it takes too much time, energy, and hard work.

Although time has nothing to do with it, you do exert a degree of energy and work, but grace takes care of the rest of your spiritual unfoldment. Inner growth should be natural, but the adopted unnatural state of mind has retarded this progression. If spiritual growth is a flowing river, it should continue to flow; however, people have a tendency to build dams, which hinders that flow. Growth is natural, but building those dams is unnatural.

Transformation from your ordinary human state into the reality of divine being leads to union with the Divine, which is miraculous, especially from the unawakened viewpoint of worldly thinking. What they call impossible appears to be a genuine miracle. And it is! But from God's perspective, this process is the way it IS. But the unawakened do not accept that. Remember what Jesus said, "With men, this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26.

Spiritual transformation is divine alchemy and this always seems miraculous, although it is scientifically sound. That which is spiritually sound is always scientifically sound. Often the miraculous is equated to magic, but magic and miracles are simply misunderstood science. The laws and principles of the universe are often misunderstood if not fully recognized.

When we discussed healing in the last lesson, we explained that true healing is the way to your wholeness and harmony, for healing is this transformative miraculous process. It is the impossible being transformed into the possible. It is mankind's limitation and separation being transmuted into infinite possibilities and unity of being. True healing is awakening and realization that you no longer have to live in worldly illusion, which is limitation, separation, changelessness, sickness, and death; therefore, you can now accept the reality of wholeness, harmony, freedom, and unity of being as you are truly One with God. Jesus' statement, "I and my Father are one," is not exclusive. It is inclusive. It is the path you walk. It is the essence of the Greater Work. You are on the journey into wholeness and unity with Divinity.

You are whole in God. Without God, you appear to be unwhole, but this is illusory.

Here is a test. Say to yourself, "I am completely separate from God." Repeat this a few times, and feel what this means to you inside. Does it feel correct or incorrect? What emotions do you feel from this? Answer for yourself.

Now say to yourself, "I am whole and one with God." Repeat this a few times, and once again, feel this inside, and feel if this is correct or not. If you are in tune with your real Self, even to some degree, this should be a very easy test.

If you choose to believe that separation, limitation, and disease are real aspects of reality, then awakening and healing will be very distant from you. If you believe that changelessness, unwholeness, sickness, and death are real and inevitable functions of the world and its thinking, then you will make it true for yourself, then wholeness and healing will appear to be untruths.

"Miracles occur naturally as expressions of love. The real miracle is the love that inspires them. In this sense everything that comes from love is a miracle."<sup>7</sup>

When you feel the love of God within you, this can be seen as miraculous. Therefore, when the Mind of God acts within you, you begin thinking with the Mind of God, which this is miraculous thinking

As you accept that you must change your way of thinking, first you must begin to think with a miraculous thinking process now. Begin to think in terms of wholeness, harmony, unity, love, peace, freedom, joy, Light, and so on, all aspects of the God within. You can try a process of applying affirmations, which will assist in changing your thinking, by dispelling bad habits for positive patterns. The affirmations of truth will begin to trigger and bring forth the truth within you. The old weeds of falsehood will begin to be uprooted as you plant new seeds of truth in their place. You are weeding the garden of the subconscious, and reprogramming your outer mind to think in terms of positive and righteous ways of thinking, and doing and being. You may affirm these truths, and the intellect will soon accept them, but the heart will more readily embrace them fully, once the inner realization of these truths sinks in and hits home. The process of affirmations is only one method, and may not work for everyone the same way. Affirmations will work, but the truth of God's reality in you will be fulfilled essentially through your awakening and realization of this reality.

Try this affirmation for a few minutes in contemplation: "I am purified, healed, and made whole in the Light of Christ."

The Light of Christ reveals the miraculous nature in you. It activates the regeneration of body, mind, and emotions in you. The inner miraculous transformation of your being will reveal your true unity with God's Divinity in you. Then you can go forth and demonstrate this miraculous reality to others, for you have been transformed by it. When your mind and whole being has been awakened, illumined, and realized in God's Harmonious Reality of Oneness, you can go forth and be an instrument to awaken and heal others who come to you. Realize that it is God who enacts this through you, but then you and God are one now. When you become nothing that God is everything through you, this is a miraculous reality taking place!



## **Lesson Five**

### **Where Lies True Value?**

“As long as I give meaning to this world, as long as I try to make it comfortable for me to live in, then I am making it real for me. As long as I make this world real for me, I become more attached to it, day by day. I make all positive and negative elements appear real to me, anything of this dense material world that seems so close to me, because I maintain all of my judgments, opinions, likes and dislikes, fears and worries, etc. My comfort zone, which is my personal reality, depends on what I create to be real for myself, so I can protect my ego, my beliefs, my close circle of family and friends, etc. However, I must fight off all the negativity that would sabotage my created existence. Anytime something or somebody unwanted intrudes upon me, it is interfering with my own personal reality, and I try to either fight it off, ignore it, or deny its existence. I live for my personal existence, in my own created reality, in my own little universe.” –so says the slumbering soul.

This is the kind of thinking that gives this illusion the pretense of reality. This illusion is real on its own level, that is, it is seemingly real. From the standpoint of the higher levels of reality it is a temporary existence, only a brief thought in the mind of God which wisps in and then wisps out.

Also realize that the misguided ego is at the heart of this created personal illusion. It is also inconsistent. Although it only desires pleasantries in its comfort zone, and accepts these as real, it also accepts negative things into its personal world, usually on a subconscious level, but it wants to deny their existence although they appear to be very real and threatening, whether it is sickness and death, hardship and tragedy, worry, rejection, anger, worthlessness, doubt, and so on. So the ego seems to not know what it really wants. It will draw many things toward itself, good, bad and indifferent, while denying them at the same time. It is often selective one moment, picking and choosing certain things, and then receptive to anything the next. It denies and rejects certain things, and yet fears them. It will disbelieve things, and yet fear they are real. It may hold certain superstitious beliefs, and then turn and scoff at them. The ego is very inconsistent. As long as it doesn't know the Truth it will be misguided and remain in the dark. It has no real ground to stand on while it isn't living in the Light.

However, another thing you do is place value on certain things of the world, because they seem real and pleasing to you. Anything not pleasing to you has no value. This game of applying false values only reflects how much you are accepting this illusion.

You put meaning and importance in so many things of this world, making real to you these things that actually have no value. You place value on the material things that have no real value, although they are unreal, temporary forms of existence. True value is in things and gifts of the Spirit, that which is eternal and infinite. True value should be acknowledged in that which is real and everlasting, not that which is temporary and perishable.



God does not prefer that you hold meaning, importance, and value in carnal things or in anything of this world. However, God does prefer that you find importance in spiritual realities. It is also expected that you find importance in God Himself, to even go beyond value and importance, to honor Him, to respect Him, to adore and love Him, and to worship the Creator. He is your Source from whence you came. This world is not your source, not your place of origin. It is only an outer shell of manifestation, from the Spirit in essence. You must not look to the world, but look to the Creator for your supply. What you get from this world will not last. But what you receive from God will last. When the world provides, it is temporary and superficial, and it is a deception above all. You receive falsehood from the denser world. When God provides, this leads to true sustenance for the soul, and for the whole being, for such heavenly things are lasting and real.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” –Psalms 23:1.

When you realize worldliness has no value and provides nothing for you, you no longer want things, not things of this world. And the good Shepherd will always provide for you, which ultimately is the Creator.

The world cannot give you peace, harmony, fulfillment, and happiness. Only God can. Happiness and wealth or any of these things from the world are short lived and will perish in the end. When you experience joy, peace, and love from growing closer to God, this is eternal. That which is eternal is real.

Things in this world only have the pretense of value and importance. Whether it is money, possessions, owned property, worldly knowledge or information, etc., these have no real value from God’s standpoint. Only the divine realities have infinite and eternal value. Your true being, above all, has true value. Your immortal soul is of utmost value to God, for you are part of Him. Without you, God would not be God, because God is in you and IS you in essence. Likewise, without God you will not be you.

However, God can provide for you through the things of this world. He can use the physical world as an avenue of expression of providence, this is true, as long as you exist in this limited level and are endeavoring to wake up from it. Obviously, you need food, water, shelter, clothing, the ability to have a job and pay the bills, etc. These are necessities of this world, this is understandable.

Although, when you rely only on the world, you are cutting off the flow of the Spirit, which is the true Provider. When you rely on God and His Spirit to flow through you and this world around you, then you will receive your due supply from Him. When you receive from God through the world with moderation and discretion, while you receive more deeply of the realities of the Spirit, then you will enter harmony, peace, and joy. When you maintain a renunciant attitude, and a nonmaterialistic way of thinking, or physical and emotional detachment to worldliness, as the things of the world lose their luster for you, temptations will lessen and value and importance in them will diminish. Then surrender into God will become easier as you progress.

When you redirect your values and importance from the world and turn them to God, you will be freeing yourself from the shackles of worldliness and deception. You will be placing your sight on the Kingdom of Heaven.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” –Matthew 6:33

Now you can declare: “I exist in this unreal world, and I have to fully realize this, yet I exist here momentarily. Although I have to deal with its business while I am here, I have to change my attitude about how I approach it and live in it. I have to learn to become detached from the world, emotionally, mentally, and physically. Therefore, my attitude must change concerning money, possessions, comfort level, and all other attachments. I must learn to be open now to the things and reality of the Spirit of God, and denounce my feeling of need for material things, which have no value or meaning for me any longer. Therefore, I commit myself to surrendering to God from now on.”

Realize this: everything in this world is unstable, unreliable, deceptive, and perishable. You cannot become attached to such a world lest you perish with it. It will deceive and betray you in the end. However, this began when you first accepted it. You must acknowledge this and begin to change this as soon as possible. Turn to the indwelling Light, which is the Way into Truth.

Now the paradox is this: although God is that which is real and the world is not, God is in all things, therefore, God is also in the world, but you must learn to find and see Him there. You start by turning to God within.

The Reality of God is infinite and eternal. You can trust and rely on the Creator. Therefore to surrender into this Reality of God is not just the wisest choice you have, but is the only REAL option available to you.

Nothing else is real but God.

There is nothing but God, for God is all there is.



## **Lesson Six**

### **Disillusioned in the Illusion**

Don't let the idea that this world is rooted in illusion become an excuse for you. Don't let this become a principle that gives you license to neglect and ignore priorities or necessities that you must acknowledge. Even when your heart is in heaven, keep your feet on the earth. Balance is the key. You need to keep yourself grounded, not aloof with your head in the clouds, and yet not compulsively attached to the earth plane either. You need to be able to deal with immediate things before you while remaining reasonably detached. You don't want to get emotionally bound to things that will only hold you down. This is why balance and moderation in all things are required.

Quite often, being here in this earthly life is like doing a tightrope act. You have to focus and carefully step along the rope, holding your pole an equal distance for the needed balance. If you tip too far either way, you will fall into the net. Yes, it is a safety net, so no real danger will befall you (because danger is not real, and it's just another illusion) but you still have to get back up on that tightrope and start over again. The real danger here in this case, or should we say, the real error is failing to move forward in life. You can't allow yourself to become fearful, paralyzed, or even stubborn in life, lest any real growth becomes dormant. Errors and mistakes will be wrought, inevitably, and you learn from these, so you have to keep walking on the Path of Life.

There are too many trivial things in this world that you do not need to pay attention to, as well as deceitful and tempting elements you will want to stay clear of. However, you must learn to discern which things of this world are important and which things are not. Your own trivial needs can easily be put aside. As a servant of God, you want to stay focused on service to God through mankind, your first Striving.

Some people need help and healing in this world. Although these souls live in temporary physical forms and limited circumstances of illusion, you cannot ignore them. Just because you are an actor on a stage, doesn't mean you can neglect your role as a servant. Because on stage or off, you are still a servant, so you can't escape it. When you help people, you help awaken them from the surrounding illusion as you subtly, or directly, work with them. If you simply be kind, compassionate, and sympathetic toward others, you are demonstrating your service to them. You may be giving a helping hand to the elderly, consoling or counseling someone in need, or assisting a handicapped person; there are a variety of ways to serve people. Let your heart guide you.

People find themselves amidst negative circumstances because these are learning tools for them. You draw negative and positive things to yourself, for as you sow, so shall you reap. As you give, so shall you receive, good, bad, or indifferent. So in this world, these things will visit you time and time again, until you deal with them correctly. This is one way you learn, for this world is a training school and you learn by trial and error, although you learn to hear the inner voice until such errors become fewer and fewer.

This is similar to acting out a theatrical drama on the stage as an actor, where you are learning life's lessons and improving yourself, for the stage of the world is illusory. However, you

must take it seriously, being aware of karmic circumstances, because what you cause will have effects in this world, good or bad. You are influenced by others and you influence others in this world. Each person alone will pay for his or her own mistakes, and will likewise learn by them. Actually, karma is a system of healing and balance; it shouldn't be viewed as punishment and retribution.

As long as you exist here in this perishable world of illusion, you can't ignore or neglect it, but as a spiritual servant you must help uplift mankind's consciousness. For as you ascend into higher levels of reality, you will see through the illusion and the reality within shall be revealed. As more servants and teachers do the Work, more people will be awakened and illumined. As mentioned earlier in these sets of lessons, World Illumination is a worthy goal and part of the Holy Work. When that occurs, this world will no longer be immersed in separation, deception, and illusion, but a world of Light, Love, Joy, and Peace. It will no longer be the same world, but a new one that has been transformed.

You will reach a point where you become disillusioned with this illusory world, realizing it does not offer you anything meaningful or valuable. While you do the things you need to do, hold a job, pay the bills, gather together with friends and family, and so forth, keep in mind that you are either striving or currently living in the Light. Ironically, you still need to be grounded in the earthly plane while you are spiritually unfolding into a higher reality.

If your head is too far in the clouds and you are not grounded, it's like the Christian ascetics who have chosen to reside on top of high pillars as if trying to avoid living amidst the world, while still actually being in the world. One example is Simeon the Stylite who supposedly lived thirty-seven years on a small platform perched on a high pillar in Syria in the 5th century, practicing extreme austerity, and many other ascetics followed his example. This was their choice, but there are far better ways to find God. Generally, most devoted aspirants must learn to function in this world while learning to live in the spiritual reality as well. However, you must learn to be emotionally and physically detached from the things of this world while learning to strive for the spiritual realm.

You must transcend the idea of this worldly illusion, or Maya, because you won't be let off the hook by ignoring it. Instead, you need to enter a state of "awakened realization" that this world IS indeed illusory, by experiencing this, and not merely holding an intellectual belief about it. As you intuitively and inwardly realize that the Real Universe exists, then the true Reality will dawn on you finally. For it is all around and within you. It is the Kingdom of Heaven. It is God's Divine Consciousness. But you must recognize and realize this, going beyond mere belief in this idea. Then you will be able to more effectively serve God by serving mankind. By being IN the Real Universe, or Heavenly Kingdom, you can visit the illusory world to help and uplift it in consciousness. For now you are no longer OF the world or in any way a part of it. You are merely a visitor who comes to awaken and enlighten souls.

This is the Greater Work, the Holy Work of the Christos, the work of the human being becoming a divine being, a being who has realized its true Divine Source, Christ Consciousness. The Creator and you are one.

Why do you think human beings have the gifts of imagination and creativity? Most people are born with fascinating talents, being co-creators with the Grand Creator of the universe. They may not fully realize this creative connection with their inner Source, which is manifesting through

them via their talent. However, as long as they are passionate and demonstrating this creativity, that connection with their Source does exist. There are countless writers, storytellers, musicians, singers, sculptors, artists, painters, actors, comedians, architects, potters, cooks, teachers, etc., who are all demonstrating their creativity through their talents.

You are a spiritual being using your physical vehicle and having physical experiences. The point is to energize your vehicles and the outer mind, to use these on your journey toward Divine Union. When you allow the outer vehicle to transcend this world, your spiritual unfoldment becomes easier.



## **Lesson Seven**

### **The Illusion of the Reality of Evil**

One of the most controversial religious topics is the question of evil. Does it really exist? Does it have any reality or substance, or is it another illusion?

Let us first say that evil does exist in this physical world. There is no doubt about that. However, it does not exist in God's Reality.

There seems to be a paradox here since all things are part of the One, where no real separation exists, but then in the lower manifestations of existence, duality exists, hence, a concept of separation has become the rule, or a false law of the physical world. This has been arranged by mankind's thinking, not by the Universal Mind of God. Human beings who determine their own individuality and separation from their Source have set this up by the expression of their free will. Hence, this arrangement is the illusion, not the reality at all. Mankind has created this separation; however, God sees all as one. Individuals who believe in separation have created the deception that God is separate and distant from them. Here lies the human problem of evil, and how evil was created to begin with. In essence, belief in separation causes all wrong-thinking, which in turn causes evil. Separatist thinking causes people to abuse free will and in turn to defy God's Will, hence evil is born. Disobedience to God is the essential message in the Garden of Eden story. In this case, the original sin was disobedience to God, but the root of this is belief in separation from God. The only way Adam and Eve could have disobeyed God was by believing they were separate from Him. The lower nature persuaded them to become rebellious. Most theologians will call this the devil, which is nothing more than listening to the untamed ego.

Remember, that which is real has qualities of eternality and infinity. That which is real reflects wholeness, righteousness, wisdom, harmony, unity, etc. Evil has none of these qualities, so it cannot last. The effects of evil are temporal and perishable. Yes, they can hinder the soul's progress, but only temporarily. The aspirant's backward steps in his ongoing journey is only a blink of an eye amidst all of eternity. Many lifetimes of resistance to God's Way are minute in the continuing unfoldment of the soul into Divinity. However, the sooner a soul ceases to resist the divine flow, the sooner his struggles and hardships of earthly life will be over. The soul is the prodigal son for a brief while before he returns to his father once again.

Evil cannot exist eternally, hence it cannot exist in the Eternal Reality of God. That which exists in the higher realms of Reality will simply extinguish evil. That which is darkness is expunged as soon as the Light is cast upon it. That which is evil is perishable. That which is perishable is illusory and cannot withstand that which is eternal and infinite, which is whole and harmonious, pure and righteous. Therefore, evil cannot withstand that which is Real, which is God.

People will allow evil to be as real as they believe it to be. They will allow it to affect them and sabotage and destroy everything else in their immediate world they believe is real. They will allow it to destroy the whole world if possible. But then this world is illusory and perishable. So

this whole scenario is a false reality. Your physical senses give the illusion of reality to this world and to evil, this illusory world of Maya. The world and evil may co-exist together, but Reality and evil cannot co-exist. One would instantly cancel the other out. In this case, Reality would be the victor. However, there is no universal principle or cosmic law that allows this, because the Creator did not establish an existence for this scenario. If evil existed in God's Reality, if He allowed this, then Reality would be contaminated, or possibly predestined to be doomed from the beginning. Fortunately, evil has been isolated within a very limited bubble of physical existence, where human beings reside for the duration. This is an illusory perimeter where mankind may experiment with his free will in this safety zone that will not affect the rest of existence. Therefore, it cannot affect Reality.

The biblical concept of the "war in heaven" is merely an allegory, for this heavenly realm exists in a much higher vibration whereby this illusory thing called evil cannot penetrate. It is more correct to say each person has an indwelling war, a symbolic tug-of-war, a battle between the lower nature and the higher nature, but only one can win out in the end. This is also depicted in the concept of the "dweller on the threshold" who is trying to veer you away from the path of unfoldment. Although this dweller is the untamed ego that you originally identified with, your true nature is Divine and one with the God-Self.

When your mind, heart, soul, and whole being absorb God's Light, Wisdom, and Reality, evil will subside in power and become too weak to affect you. Temptation will have less and less effect on you as you ascend beyond their attraction and allure. When God's Reality becomes more real to you, and more effective in your life, the darker ways of the world will have no interest to you. You become indifferent to them, for your desires are now driven by the Divine Consciousness. This is the ideal, and it can become real in your life if you learn to live life this way.

Many religions or churches still argue that evil is very real, and they may be angered and offended by those who declare that evil is an illusory phenomenon. But why would you want to defend evil? Isn't that absurd? Likewise, evil justifies the concept of a devil behind it all. Isn't that an illusion too? However, their main point is that many terrible and evil circumstances have occurred in the world, and you can't ignore these. Yes, people do have to deal with such things and find solutions to the rampant discordant activities in this physical existence. But the healing must take place in mankind's thinking first.

Therefore, it is fortunate that you are not let off the hook. As servants of the Light, you are still required to care for and help people of the world by all means. While you live in this world, you still have to find solutions to problems and learn from your mistakes. You live here, so you must deal with your circumstances on a daily basis. So you must put things in their proper perspective; that is, put Reality and Illusion in their correct places, and act accordingly. You must realize that since evil is illusion, it naturally follows that so is chaos, disease, suffering, disharmony, crime, sin, and death.

The body, the intellect, the ego, and the emotions, are indeed affected by this world. Therefore, you may feel fear, hatred, greed, anger, worry, etc., because you are subject to the ways of the world as long as you exist or operate through a physical form. This is why you must learn to allow the raising of your consciousness, to transcend illusion by ascending into God's Reality. So realize that you are NOT the fleshy body, nor the intellect, ego, or emotions. These aspects are

transitory, for they are limited to this current lifetime. The soul exists in God's Reality, for it is immortal, hence the elements of the denser world cannot actually affect it. Soul growth may be hindered temporarily or slowed down at least, but the soul is always growing and evolving, even if slowly. There will always be lessons to learn while you live in this world. If you simply reflect upon your past, especially in the retrospection exercise, you will see that this is true.

Likewise, living in separation is temporary. It is believing in separation, especially between God and mankind, that has caused what people call evil. As long as a person thinks he is separate from his Divine Source, he enters error, he creates sin, and then evil is born. As long as this person ignores the Divine Will, and acts according to his own desires, he will hinder his own progress. This one becomes a Prodigal Son who has experienced the darker and nefarious ways of the world. But after he has exhausted worldly resources for his own benefit, realizing these are not at all fulfilling, this individual will soon seek out his original Source, the higher Reality which is greater than himself, his Higher Power, his Creator. He will want to know God, he will seek a relationship with God and soon, when he realizes separation is an illusion, he will seek a deeper intimacy with God, which eventually leads to Divine Union.

As a wave crashes against the rocks and the spray flies off, countless drops of water briefly become separate from the ocean, but then they return. They will always have their source here, they will always be one with the ocean, from whence they came. So from the standpoint of eternity, one's imagined separation from his Source is just as momentary.

Spirit descending into the world will begin to dissipate evil, and this happens through God's agents of Light, whether they be angels, spirit guides, or ascended masters in the higher planes, or Light-workers, adepts, and teachers in this world.

Meditation: I am not of this world. I am simply existing in it. I am merely a visitor in this world, living here to help transform myself, all mankind, and the whole world, alongside countless other Light-workers. I know that illusion will fade and Reality will take its place, as it should. I am one with Reality. I am one with my Divine Source, for God and I are one.





## **Lesson Eight**

### **Sin and Evil**

Is sin real? Is evil real? Only in this dense world. Sin and evil only appear to be real, as long as you exist at this illusory level, so you have to deal with them. Sin and evil are very real in this dense world – but then, this world is not real, from the standpoint of God’s Infinite and Eternal Reality. In the Kingdom of Heaven, in God’s Mind, there is no sin or evil.

In Maya, remember that its nature is to deceive you and make you think it is very real, very solid, and subject to cause-and-effect, hence, karmic repercussions. The world is like a mirror; it will reflect back to you what you put out. For instance, if you step into the middle of a street and get hit by a car, then die, this will seem very real. But then, you as the soul are quickly disconnected from the body, because you are disconnected from the physical world. Essentially, you are still alive, no longer subject to the illusion that you left behind. Indeed, you may observe the body lying on the ground as you realize that is not you, and it never was. You are the observer looking down on it. But now you must move on to the next realm of Reality.

Unawakened people have cut themselves off from their Source, letting their lower nature rule them, which leads them to do heinous acts against other people, violating them, victimizing them, committing murder, or committing evil in general. Clearly, they don’t believe there will be consequences to their actions, but their acts will soon catch up to them, one way or the other, which is the principle of karma. They don’t realize what they are doing, jeopardizing their own spiritual growth by inflicting harm on others, for they know not what they are doing in reality. Once they realize what they have been doing, having brief flashes of wakefulness (which usually subsides), or seeing a glimpse of the error of their ways, this will gnaw at them until they begin to change their ways. The voice within is trying to warn them if they will only listen. They might feel a twinge of guilt, but they try to ignore it, although it continues to nag them.

Aspirants already on the spiritual path basically know right from wrong, and although their mistakes and errors are not as extreme, they will more immediately catch themselves so they can change their circumstances readily. For instance, you may find yourself criticizing or judging another person, but then you quickly see what you are doing and you stop yourself right away, and then strive to not fall into this pattern again. These are observations in yourself that you look for in the Retrospection practice.

Sin is the act of missing the mark, or going against universal principles of being. Belief in separation from God is one of these. That leads you to disregard God’s Will and Plan for you. Unfortunately, most people don’t know what that is, because their lower nature has been guiding them on a fruitless path, which often leads to erroneous behavior and making many mistakes; hence, sin. It is the lower nature that leads people to erroneous thinking, negative behavior and emotions, and falling into various temptations, which cause this appearance of separation from God, which causes people to sin.

Although many people innately know the difference between right and wrong, often people adhere to scriptural texts to guide them, such as the Ten Commandments. This is a starting point, but you must learn to go beyond the illusory separation from God by going within. This is why aspirants on the Mystical Path must align yourself to the God within, and learn to hear the inner voice, which means you are learning to make fewer errors.

Is there a difference between sin and evil? There is an old school of thought that claims all sins are equal, but this is erroneous because, for example, in the justice system the punishment is meant to fit the crime. If one person steals a loaf of bread and another murders someone, are these equal? Should they receive the same punishment? Should they both be put to death? The notion is ridiculous. Quite often, ordinary sins are based on ignorance, stubbornness, or greed. In either case, selfishness is the root cause of sin, which can lead to evil. You may hear different definitions of evil, but here we will state that evil is based on intention. Quite often it is based on anger, revenge, hatred, jealousy, greed, and so forth. Quite often it involves purposely violating another person, in one form or another, usually causing suffering, despair, torment, or murder. Committing an act of evil is deliberate, and usually not accidental. Yes, there are often grey areas, and you can dissect acts of sin and evil, declaring there are lesser sins and then greater evils, but then this is a waste of time. It is better to not dwell on the negative aspects of this world at all, but to focus on the positive virtues of the soul, as addressed in **Soul Unfoldment on the Virtuous Path**.

Indeed, you may observe the negative things of this world while you are in the world, but you don't have to let them affect you.

Tragedy, sickness, sin, and death exist in this world, not in the heavenly realm. Temptation, deception, addiction, and attachment are vices of this earthly realm. You may make many mistakes and fall or fail because of them, but then you learn from them.

The body is perishable, but you are not the body. However, the soul is immortal. But you still have to pay attention while you are in this world, learn to see with the eyes of the Spirit, using your God given spiritual sight. You usually learn by trial and error, but this will occur less and less as you listen to the inner voice of God within. Learning lessons the hard way is actually the ego's way. Using your intuition and listening to the inner voice is the easy way. It is when you ignore that voice that causes you to fall on your face, then you realize it indeed was your inner voice trying to guide you, perhaps out of a bad situation.

In order to truly live in and experience the higher realm of Divine Consciousness, you must first live life in this earthly world, which is a school of tightrope walkers. It is an art you learn to master. Therefore, once you succeed at going across the rope, all the way to the other side, without a fall, then you must practice it over and over until you never fall at all. Of course, you will fall into the net several times before you truly begin to master the performance. Because you are in the process of mastering this art, you can show others how to do it now. You don't have to wait to be perfect, but as long as you are practicing the art successfully, you can lead others.

You can relate this to the art of sacred service to mankind as a dedicated servant, where you go forth and awaken and illumine those ready to change. You have to do this while in this world, for this is where the unawakened souls live. This is where they sleep, and so this is where you must wake them up. We are not talking about proselytizing people to some specific church or religion, but you are allowing the message of Wisdom to be available to others. You cannot force people to subscribe to your beliefs, but you can passively circulate the message. We are

endeavoring to reveal the reality of the Holy Light as the way of Illumination, and numerous spiritual traditions have been teaching this reality for thousands of years.

Darkness is the absence of Light, hence it represents the worldly illusion.

As servants of the Light, all of us together, it is our task to bring the Holy Light into places of darkness and ignorance to dispel the reign of illusion over people, so the slumbering souls will awaken into the glorious Light of the Christos.



## **Lesson Nine**

### **Faith vs. Fear**

Most people live in a world of fear. Fear is the result of separation, for fear is the lack of faith. Fear is disconnection from your true Self, an aspect of mankind's belief in separation from God. Fear is the illusion that you are separate from your true Source. If you were fully integrated with your true Source, you would have faith in its assurance that you are in good hands, for your faith in God would sustain you in this reality, and then you would have no fear.

“The struggle of the ages, symbolized by the rise and fall of cultures, is the conflict between faith and fear. Faith is a uniting force, and fear a dividing force. Through faith we are brought together in the communion of noble purposes. By fear we are separated, each attempting to ensure his own survival by exploiting others.”<sup>8</sup>

Fear is an attitude of the ego. Fear is the attitude of a nervous tightrope-walker who continually falls, but he fears someone will take the net away and that he will die. Fear is a lack of faith. When you have faith in a higher source, you know that the net will always be there to catch you. In the meantime, you are learning to master the rope so that you will fall fewer and fewer times because your faith is strengthened now.

Fear, doubt, and worry are the attitudes of lack of real faith in the Divine Source. As fear is a lack of faith, this also means fear is separation from love. Fear keeps you from experiencing faith and love in God. When you have genuine love and faith in God and His assurance of well-being for you (for you love He who sustains you), then fear no longer resides in you.

Fear is distrust in anything or anyone around you, for fear is the ego being afraid of the unknown. Fear is the expression of the ego not certain as to its future outcome, or even its own existence. It believes in fate, but fears what that fate may be. It only desires to save itself. Yet it cannot. The truth is, it must lose itself to be saved, which is illogical to its thinking. The ego suspects and fears, yet disbelieves, that its own reality is a pretense. So it exists in continual denial. It would rather be separate from its Divine Source than to not exist at all. It would rather live in fear and separation, being its own self-important individual personality, than be in union with Divinity. Therefore, it is separate from itself. It does not wish to be one with Divinity, because it is comfortable and satisfied in its created false self. It has created a separation from its true Divinity, its real Self, and this has become the fate most human beings have chosen. This is the path of the Prodigal Son, one who chooses to live in the world rather than to live with his heavenly Father. But then this material world exists in time, therefore it will soon perish. Existence in time is transitory. Living in God's Reality is eternal. Therefore, each soul will eventually return to its true Source. As long as it exists in time (outside of eternity) it only prolongs its return to its true

home. As long as it lives in fear, which separation has caused, it will always be uncertain; it will always question its own validity and will always remain in denial.

The ego suspects its falsehood, and yet stubbornly declares its substance and reality. This uncertainty and inconsistency is the act of living in fear. This is the human ego's creation. It will deny its own Source and defiantly remain separate. It would rather live in fear and darkness than in Love and Light. Obviously, this choice is real insanity, and yet the ego perceives itself as quite sane. True insanity is one's created separation from God. But that ridiculous state cannot truly exist, and yet the ego has created or imagined this illusion. This is why this concept is so insane; likewise, this is why there are actual "insane" individuals in the world, or those who have stubbornly cut themselves off from their true Source.

You will never find an insane person who has experienced the Illumination, or who is reaching Self-Realization, for he is realizing his connection to the Divine Source. And yet the paradox is, to the rest of the world this sublime state appears quite insane. You have heard of holy men or great sages whom others declare as insane, because they are declaring that they are one with God, which may sound like extreme arrogance. But it is a matter of perspective. The truth is they have become extremely humble and realized their true Divine Source.

Likewise, fear is an insane state actually. But in reality, there is nothing to fear. You don't even have to fear fear itself. This mundane world is not real. Whatever happens to you while in it is not real. If you acquire a disease, it is not real. If you die, it is not real. If a loved one dies, it is not real. If you or your loved ones face any tragedy, it is not real. This sounds quite insane! So how can these things be? As we have pointed out before, you are in the midst of a theatrical performance, and after it is over, all the actors will resume their real lives. Until the next play. The plays you act in are only pretend. No one really acquires a disease, or dies, or faces any real tragedies. It was all pretend. The actor donned a created persona when he went out on the stage of the world.

Remember the days of youth when children played make-believe, playing out their silly roles; perhaps they played soldiers, or pirates, or knights and maidens, and afterwards, they returned to their real lives. It was all pretend.

This world is very real on its own level – or so you perceive. It does exist, but its existence is transitory and limited. It is not eternal, nor real.

What YOU are is real, not the character in the play. The soul is immortal and unscathed by the illusion. And more essentially, what you are is God-Spirit, Spirit in form. As you perform your role in this play, you are experiencing life here and learning lessons. Although certain circumstances will affect you, you learn to be detached from them, and learn from them.

Did you ever play the role of Romeo or Juliet, both of whom died in the end? Perhaps you did in a few lifetimes. However, when the curtain closed and then reopened again, the actors stepped out and bowed to the clapping audience, showing they were just actors playing their roles.

Your real Self is not that character who died in the end. You only imagined that in the illusion. Your character up on stage only went through the motions. You aren't that false self, it was an illusion, a game in which you were play-acting, yet you took it too seriously. You got emotionally involved. Those deaths and tragedies happened to a make-believe character, not the real actor portraying the role. If the character faces some terrible calamity, or if he dies, then it didn't happen to the real being. The immortal soul is unharmed, it lives on, free from the pretense

of the performance on stage or on the movie set. Although the actor might get caught up in the role at the time, afterward he is fully aware of who he really is. He discontinues his identity with the character.

This analogy is nothing new to you, but this indicates how it is in the illusory world, where you think you live. Yet it is the immortal soul, untouched and unharmed, that only uses the physical vehicle as a learning tool for your spiritual unfoldment.

Here's another analogy. When you have a tragic or horrifying dream, you soon wake up and realize it was only a dream and not real after all. You can look at this in many different ways, but until you have the awakening and realization of your true unity with God in the real Reality, then this will only be an intellectual concept. While you unfold spiritually, the idea of separation tends to hang in the back of your mind, or sits like a bad taste in your mouth, while you strive to believe in unity and harmony. But once you truly let go and surrender into your true Divinity, the realization and experience of this Holy Unity will indeed come to you and envelop you. Then there will be no more fear, for separation will no longer exist to you.

The question must be asked: where and how does Karma fit in? You may be an actor on a stage or you may just be in a dream, as if none of it really matters. But the paradox is, you are still responsible for your actions. You aren't that easily exempt. This is why the law of karma exists in the world and it is part of your continuing unfoldment. Karma is action that you project forth; good, bad, indifferent. You "act" things out and learn lessons from them. You learn how to be good, as opposed to being bad. So simply because you are an actor on a stage, portraying a particular role, doesn't mean you can get away with murder. What you do in the world will reflect in your soul record, and hence you accrue karma. Every person must account for their actions.

But equally, you can become purified and forgiven so that the karmic tie is dissolved. In the Christian tradition, this is Redemption and Jesus Christ's unconditional forgiveness.

Trust is an aspect of faith. The problem is not whether you can trust God, but can you trust yourself to allow God to act or live through you? Can you trust yourself to trust God? You often doubt or mistrust yourself more than anything, and you may perceive this as not trusting God. Do you really think God would lead you astray? Would God really betray you? This is absurd of course, and yet the ego believes this. It's afraid God will make you do things you won't like or won't be able to do, and this causes fear. It fears God will take you down the wrong road, or sabotage you. It fears that God will punish you for doing something wrong. It even fears that God will extinguish its very existence, because the ego chooses separation over unity with God. The ego won't actually be extinguished but replaced with the higher reality of God's Ego. The energy of this personal ego will be absorbed into the greater Ego of God. Likewise, the soul will never be extinguished, nor betrayed. But then the ego is not the soul. The soul is divine, the ego is mundane. The ego says of God, "He will take you where you don't want to go. He will do things you don't like. Don't trust God!" What is wrong with where God will take you? He will do things for you that are only in your best interest and inner growth, like it or not, because God loves you. God will above all CHANGE YOU! The ego despises change; it is scared of change. So you don't trust change or anyone who wants you to change. God wants to change and transform you completely, so the ego has no trust in Him. This transformation means the ego is in jeopardy of being assimilated and absorbed into God. Its separation is at stake.

True, the ego has a lot to fear. But realize YOU are not the ego, nor this false self. Remember, the only true Ego is God's. Only His Self is true and genuine, and you are one with this Divine Beingness of God-self.

There is absolutely nothing to fear, and all you need to do is absolutely trust God. When you have faith in God, you trust God. This kind of faith is your rudder on your journey forward, but it must unfold into realization and experience of the God-Self within.



## **Lesson Ten**

### **The Illusion of Separation**

If it were true that God was totally outside of His creation and His creatures, and totally separate from mankind, then disunity would be the supreme truth, then chaos would be the normal law. Then all creation would soon fall apart and dissipate, and entropy would ensue. It would be a cosmic experiment gone wrong. Any creation based on separation would imply perishable principles at work. Order and harmony cannot co-exist with separation and disunity. If such a godless universe of chaos had formed, it would eventually sabotage itself. Chaos is a path of self-destruction. Even in the limited earth realm, anything people form doesn't last long. This is a realm of limitation, separation, and impermanence.

Because the law of the Cosmos is harmony and order, then chaos and disunity will dissipate eventually. So you see how absurd such a concept would be if creation was based on such off-balanced principles. This would be like trying to separate the water from the ocean. It's impossible. Therefore, the Creator is NOT separate from His Creation.

If God existed beyond mankind completely, or beyond His creation, a vast emptiness would exist in mankind. Unfortunately, people do believe in separation from God, hence they exist in a false emptiness, which is why they eventually yearn for fulfillment.

In truth, the fact that God is within people explains why and how they are alive. If God was not within human beings, within their souls, they would be dead, or nonexistent. The fact is God's essence is within all life-forms.

Once you awaken beyond the illusion of separation, you realize that God is not only all around you but also within you. God is totally around you and totally within you at once. He is completely outside and inside simultaneously. God is *in* everything and *is* everything. There is literally no place where God is not. The substance of creation is made from the Creator, so only unity can exist ultimately.

Using an analogy, countless grains of sand make up the beach. If each grain was a little consciousness, then a single grain would think that it is a separate entity that simply lives in this vast expanse called a beach, not even knowing how vast the beach really is, even what it really is ultimately. It is too busy being a separate grain of sand. Eventually, it may join in with a community of a few hundred grains of sand that impart to it that they are all part of the vast beach, that they are inseparable from it. Without the sand, there would be no beach. Eventually, like this community, it will realize that it too is one with the whole beach.

The idea that God is outside and inside of you is yet another concept of illusion, although it was a stepping stone in your continuing unfoldment and realization. This sense of different "sides" is a degree of separation as well, so you cannot maintain it indefinitely. Likewise, the concept of the "other side" is ultimately incorrect. For in truth, the Ultimate Reality of God's Being is One Reality. It goes beyond the ideas of "within" and "without," or even "inside" and "outside," and "up" and "down." These are symbolic ideas at most. To say God is "up there" is sheerly



symbolic of a state of higher consciousness, or higher in vibratory rate. In reality, there is only God everywhere, with no sides, boundaries, or constraints. But then these limited words can't even touch the real mystical experience you can have of this. Experience supersedes mere words in such cases.

The human physical vehicle and its limited mind are the barriers that create the appearance of within and without, or this side and the other side. The ego desires for the separation to continue, which will justify its existence. Once unity is achieved, the ego will be integrated and assimilated into the whole, for in truth, only God's Ego exists.

Once you transcend your finite physical/mental form by entering Divine Consciousness, you will see and experience the Oneness of All. There will be no barriers, no limitations, no distance, no separation. Only Divine Unity will exist and flourish.

Oneness is equivalent to Beingness. For Oneness is true Beingness.



## **Lesson Eleven**

### **From Separation to Unity**

You live in a world where people have submitted to the incorrect principle of separation. The most devastating aspect of this belief is that people believe they are separate from God, the true Source of being. However, the plan is to return to this Divine Source.

The concept that everything is separate from everything else is erroneous. The ideas that the Creator is separate from the Creation, that mankind is separate from his Creator, that Nature is separate from mankind, that people are separate from other people by forming borders, cast systems, racial and cultural differences, etc., are all incorrect and illusory. These are all faulty premises of the mass mind. All things and all lifeforms come from one Divine Source and they will return to that same source because what they are in essence IS the one Source. Ultimately, amidst levels of higher Reality, there is only one Self of Mankind, and there is only one Self of the Universe, and there is only one Self of God – and they are all the same Self, the same Source. In essence, all is one.

This may be a difficult idea to acknowledge for many people, but if they were to simply observe all life and all things around them, beyond their limiting separatist concepts, they would begin to see the underlying unity. Because there is only one Universal Mind from which all things were created, a principal must stand that all things come from one Reality.

When you observe a prism, it casts a rainbow of seven colors, but their source is the one light of the sun. This is the living symbolism of Nature that reflects deeper realities, that teaches higher truth principles. The Source is one, although it manifests in various forms. In the beginning, the Word was spoken, the Divine Logos, the First Cause emanated forth and caused the Creation to manifest, and it is still unfolding. But remember that it all comes from one single Source. The Universal Christos is the source of this Divine Cause that allows creation to unfold, that gives life and light to all beings, to all lifeforms, and especially allows human beings to become divine beings.

Spirit entered matter, experiencing a denser form of Itself, allowing Itself to experience this lower vibration to see where it would go. Human beings and other lifeforms became outer expressions of the Spirit. Therefore, from unity came diversity, and then people perceived separation. Now they must learn to see beyond the diversity and return to the unity. This is why you must learn to see beyond the dense, mundane level. When you look at another person, you are not just looking at someone else, you are looking at yourself. When he looks at you, he is looking at himself. When you help another, you're helping yourself. When you give to another, you give to yourself. When you receive from others, you're giving to others. When you come to know yourself, you come to know God. When you know God, you come to fully know yourself, for your true Self is God in essence. This is realizing Divine Union. However, don't endeavor to intellectualize this idea of Unity, but rather surrender into it and experience it. People think in terms of each human being having his or her own self. This only exists in the dense physical world.

Ultimately, there is only One Self that resides within each person, the God-Self. This can be realized more fully when you meditate.

Believing in separation is erroneous, and it will lead you down a futile path. So first you should accept that **all is one**; hold to this, surrender into it until it becomes real to you, until you experience that "the Creator and I are one." This is Union with the Divine Source. This is the Atonement, which is At-One-Ment. Separation is the way to misery and suffering. Oneness is the way of joy, love, and peace in your life. Go into yourself deeply and find God here. For you are *That!*

The human ego lives in separation, illusion, and limitation. When you focus only on the ego or live from the point of the ego, this is how you separate yourself from God, because the idea of separation becomes part of your belief system. This belief in separation is often caused by doubt and lack of faith in a greater Reality, and quite often it is due to a blatant rejection or disbelief in this Reality. This occurs because the untamed ego believes it is the center of attention and it separates everything away from itself. It only wants attention for itself, and that can be positive or negative. It doesn't necessarily care for others, but it may use the disguise of helping others if this benefits itself. It enjoys categorizing everything and everybody, especially when it places everyone else in a lower category than itself. It wishes to be greater than others. However, there are times, due to an ongoing inferiority complex in some people, when the ego puts itself in the lowest possible category because it feels that is all it deserves. So you can have narcissistic egos and debased egos, and variations in between. People's egos can be rather fickle and unstable. Either way, these types of individuals live in a world of separation and limitation. This kind of separatist thinking is handed down from generation to generation, going back into antiquity.

When Spirit entered dense matter, this was the beginning of a learning and growth process, because the manifested souls had to experience the depths of the physical world to spiritually unfold. Hence, in the beginning, they experienced separation and limitation amidst a world of diversity. Many philosophers have said that when you experience the depths, you will appreciate the heights. Therefore, when you experience the greatest separation, even in pain and suffering, you will eventually appreciate spiritual oneness, especially unity with your Divine Source. Also, once the Spirit has descended into matter, it can raise it up into higher vibration. One of the ways this is accomplished is through enlightened aspirants and teachers moving along the Mystical Path who have realized the reality of this spiritual oneness of Reality in all things, as they go forth and raise the consciousness of mankind.

On this path, while you are awakening further, you begin to sense a connection with all people, with Nature, and with the Universe. If you go on a Nature walk and just let yourself go, let yourself feel Nature, tuning into it, you will begin to feel an affinity with it, and soon you will feel oneness with it. If you attend a gathering of people, especially spiritually-minded people, and if you attend week after week, soon you will sense a definite bond with them, a sense of unity. You will feel joy every time you meet with them, and you will also begin to sense love for them, because they have become your family. When you learn to meditate and go within, feeling the Divine Presence herein, you are definitely tuning into this unity. The same can be true between two lovers who formed a bond of love, hence, they have tuned into this inner unity. Likewise, you can begin to develop a yearning toward your Divine Source, whose love sought you out from the beginning, which inspires you to love your Creator in return. In these ways you begin to leave the

misconception of separation behind you as you learn to enter true Oneness of Being. One of the key realities you will discover is that love leads to unity. When you surrender through love, Oneness comes.

At the beginning of your spiritual journey you may accept the idea that separation is indeed an illusion, that your outer self is merely a shadowy reflection of your true inner Self and that ultimately you are one with God. This always begins as an intellectual acceptance, but through various spiritual exercises and meditation, you will begin to have realizations and epiphanies and real mystical experiences of this deeper reality that leads to Divine Oneness.

You are leaving behind the concept of separation when you begin to realize your connection with the Divine, to experience that you are one with It. From whence you came you shall return.

The Mystical Return occurs through your Illumination and Self-Realization, which are crucial initiatory steps toward Divine Union. Illumination is seeing the Light shining out from within. Self-Realization is seeing with this Light and witnessing your Source. When you receive a glimpse of who you truly are, you begin to realize that "The Source and I are One."



## **Lesson Twelve**

### **Mankind's Delusion**

When we speak of illusion, we are referring to a trick of the lower mind, because it is deceiving you to believe something that is not true. There is a point where this may become delusional, and all mankind has suffered from this delusion, which can become dangerous because even if a certain fact disproves their delusion or attempts to show that it is erroneous, they still choose to believe it. Quite often this does occur when a person staunchly believes in a particular doctrine, whether this is religious, scientific, historical, cultural, or superstitious, etc. This means they have been indoctrinated by people around them, whether it is family members, peers, religion, politics, the school system, etc.; or to use a harsher term, “brainwashed.” This is why you need to apply healthy skepticism and critical thinking because you can’t believe everything you read, hear, or see. This is why applying your intuition is important, and becoming humble, putting the ego in its place, and then you are willing to see beyond this mass delusion, or mass mind, that has existed for thousands of years.

For example, because humanity has been immersed in the physical world, people have believed that they are their physical bodies, and the five senses seem to reflect this. However, when certain philosophies introduce the idea that the soul is within the body and is not a physical thing, but something spiritual, then certain individuals that come to accept this will begin to depart from the usual delusion. To believe that you are your body is similar to if the driver believed he was his car, which is absurd. Obviously, people don’t do that, although they may identify with their vehicle as if it were an extension of their ego. We will say that the soul is the driver of the physical body, although it may act belligerently at times because it identifies with the untamed ego. Nevertheless, just as it is absurd for the driver to think he is his car, it is equally absurd to think you are your body. You are the driver and the observer that controls the body, an exterior vehicle. You may have heard the saying, you are a spiritual being having a physical experience, and not the other way around.

Another example of this delusion is the belief that God is separate from mankind and the world and exists elsewhere, perhaps skyward or some other vague place that isn’t real. Again, when spiritual philosophies are introduced that explain how God is within and without and exists everywhere, especially within each person, then certain individuals who accept this will begin to dispose of the old delusion.

Similarly is the belief that heaven is somehow upward, somewhere in the sky, where God is, and this erroneous idea may be exemplified in the story of the Tower of Babel, where prideful and arrogant people were trying to build a grand city and especially a tall tower that would reach heaven, that is, “whose top may reach unto heaven.” –Genesis 11:4. But they did this for themselves, not necessarily for God, which is why in the story God was angered and made them all speak different languages and then scattered them abroad. Although you can view this story quite allegorically, the point we are making here is that they believed God’s Kingdom was literally

above or in the sky somewhere, just as many believed that hell was below. Not everyone takes these ideas literally, but more insightful and intelligent individuals will understand this symbolically. This is why metaphysicians will clarify this stance by explaining that other dimensions exist at various higher frequencies, or that the heaven realm exists at a higher level of consciousness, whereas the physical world exists at a much lower level. Hence, this is a more scientific approach to these religious ideas.

One of the problems is that many people take these stories and words in these scriptures too literally, and they either ignore or don't understand the symbolism therein, which means they lose the inner meaning behind them. This means they have been reading the Bible or other religious scriptures in a very shallow manner and not going any deeper. Quite often this is how dogmas are formed.

Such erroneous dogmas tend to cripple people's thinking and attitudes, and clinging to these human-created beliefs only perpetuates the delusion, which is why it becomes dangerous. Proof of this is easily shown in the so-called "holy wars" fought between religious factions, as if the spilling of blood is approved by God to perpetuate and justify a particular religious persuasion. Each faction believes God is guiding them and not the other, but the truth is both parties are wrong in their thinking and actions. God only desires peace and love between people, not hatred, vengeance, and war. Likewise, the aggressive proselytizing of certain religions and churches can be detrimental because they cause further division between large groups of devout people instead of peace and harmony. Sadly, the problem is the people of each religion think they are chosen by God and not other groups, which prevents them from any kind of reconciliation.

Furthermore, when a group of people twist the idea of "God created man in his image" into the arrogant idea of "man created God in his image," that is where such dogmas are formed and infiltrate the thinking of religious people, and the belief in a warlike and vengeful God became real to them. Therefore, this fabricated god became a very human or anthropomorphic deity, because people didn't know anything beyond being human and so they gave this very male deity very human personality traits and emotions. That alone should suggest that the usual human imperfections and flaws that come with being human were projected onto this deity, making him imperfect, weak, and very sinful in behavior. Is that truly a picture of the real God? Realize these early people didn't intentionally and consciously "create" this humanlike deity, but they simply accepted that was the way this God is, although "He" clearly reflected their own mentality, emotions, behavior, defects, and so forth. Many people still believed this way, making the Old Testament God seem real to them. This concept is referred to as the "demiurge" by early Gnostics, which is considered to be a lesser god and actually subordinate to the real God. Even this view is symbolic and not literal, hence, easily misunderstood.

You must apply critical thinking in these matters, whether you are reading the Bible or other religious scriptures and texts.

If those devout people who wrote the books of the Old Testament were truly the mouthpiece of God, having a direct pipeline to Him, wouldn't they have portrayed a more benevolent, loving, forgiving God, which is reflected in the New Testament? Their picture of God was that of the humanlike demiurge, an angry and vengeful warrior god.

Obviously, they were spiritually-minded devotees who honored and worshipped what they thought was God, but most likely the real God did plant seeds in their minds or spoke to them now

and then, but did they truly have a direct connection to the Divine? Indeed, many of the scriptural stories were laced with symbolism and allegory, clearly the handprint of God, hence, deeper meanings can be deduced in this manner, and through the sieve of your intuition you can discern these, and then shake out the dogmatic debris therein.

The major problem is that in those days most people erroneously believed that they were separate from God, except for the few initiates who knew the truth. That's why this belief in God's separation from mankind is a delusion and therefore detrimental to spiritual growth.

This belief is detrimental because it can lead you down the road of misguided thinking if not wrongful behavior, or developing a sinful attitude. There is another delusion wherein some people think they can run away or hide from God, as if this is possible, and this usually happens when they are so ashamed of their sinful actions and thoughts they don't want God to know about them. Since God is within themselves, they can't hide from Him.

That is another misguided belief, that God is a "he" or "she," although "it" is closer to the mark, but that usually suggests an inanimate object, or a creature whose gender is not clear. Language is a limited construct and does not explain these things very well. God is androgynous because what we are talking about is something beyond the physical world, something beyond gender and human constraints, that which is Eternal Spirit. Even the word "God" is clouded with negative dogmatic concepts, although people have tried other words, such as Yahweh, Jehovah, Allah, Heavenly Father, the Almighty, the Creator, the Maker, Supreme Being, Divinity, the Divine, the Nameless One, the Source, and Divine Consciousness, etc. These are human expressions of something that is beyond human languages. This is why we emphasize the practice of meditation, which will lead you to the real Source and will dispel all words and phrases, making them obsolete, and then you may instead have a sublime experience of God's Reality. Therefore, God is not so much found in words, but in your deep inner experience of THAT WHICH IS. Simply put, God is...



## **Lesson Thirteen**

### **Light and Self**

On the Mystical Path, the aspirant should not focus so much on intellectual comprehension as you should on experiential spirituality. The intellect has its place and function, but it is a limited faculty. Whereas intuition is the doorway to much greater reality and wisdom, if you use this faculty correctly. The intellect often depends on the five senses, logic, and analysis. The outer mind of the ego will attempt to comprehend anything and everything, but due to impatience in its struggle, it too hastily creates tangible concepts that it can understand, but then this is only a false understanding. Hence, a deception has been created, and the real truth has been suspended in the process. For example, going back countless centuries, many human cultures tend to believe in an anthropomorphic god with human emotions, such as most ancient mythologies reflect, because people couldn't comprehend anything transcending their own humanness. A humanlike god is easier to understand, hence, people use the designation of "He," but this concept blocks them from the truth of God's real nature and being.

The intuition allows the quantum leap beyond the outer mind and into the Spirit. The human being's self-consciousness is expanding toward Cosmic Consciousness. The normal cognitive capacity cannot fathom what lies beyond its common realm, but it strives to accomplish this nonetheless. But only the intuition will bring the soul to greater understanding. Many schools or traditions will call this kind of realization "Enlightenment," especially on Eastern-based paths, particularly Buddhism. When a profound understanding is reached by the aspirant, he gains enlightenment. However, there is far more to enlightenment than this, for spiritual understanding is only the beginning. Although certain Eastern schools regard genuine enlightenment as the highest pinnacle of spiritual unfoldment, others don't hold it at such an unreachable high level. It's often a matter of doctrinal differences and semantics. One must look beyond phrases, words, and definitions, because experiencing the spiritual level is what matters.

In Buddhism, enlightenment pertains to the whole journey, whereas Nirvana is the destination.

Nevertheless, on this path we prefer the term Illumination, which will eventually lead to a total transformation on all levels. When the whole being is illumined, the mind is illumined as well, and it gains greater comprehension of Truth and Reality, hence, the intuition functions more clearly through it. That is, instead of the outer mind endeavoring to grasp superficial intellectual knowledge, it becomes silent and allows Divine Wisdom to be intuited from a much higher source. This is ideally how you should function if you are in harmony and centered in the Divine. It requires steadfast practice and discipline.

The spiritual heart is the center where intuition functions wherein you are attuned to God's will and wisdom. Likewise, it is the seat of love, wherein you become receptive to God's love. When the heart chakra opens, you can receive and express love, hence, it flows more freely.



When the Illumination is unfolding in your life, the transformation takes place gradually but steadily, and the human being is becoming a divine being. Body, mind, soul, heart, spirit, all levels are affected by the Light and are being transformed. This is the alchemical process of the Philosopher's Stone, or the Stone of the Wise.

Certain schools teach Illumination as a particular initiatory degree, only one of many degrees, by which certain rituals are applied to assist the aspirant. However, such rituals may not always be required. This is because it is more common for the aspirant to receive this illuminative experience in meditation. This is why continuing the spiritual disciplines is necessary.

The Light of the Christos is the reality of Beingness that transforms you. The God-Self is what you become, or what you realize that you are. The Light is the transforming radiance that affects you, which emanates from the inner God-Self. As you accept it and receive it, it shall draw you into its center, the SELF of GOD.

At first, you will witness this beautiful Beingness within, and although the outer mind perceives it as separate from you, this is just an old ego/mind-association concept, because while you think you are separate from God, or from your real Self, when God is glimpsed in some way, you might perceive it as beyond you. But this is just as absurd as looking into a mirror and thinking the image is not your own reflection, but something foreign. Because when you look into the cosmic mirror of your purified soul, you do NOT see anything foreign at all. You see your own reflection; you see your true Self, just as you really are, not as you thought you were. You see the true Divine Beingness you really are, the God-Self.

The problem is that you identify yourself so much with the false self you have created, whether from this lifetime, or an accumulation of previous lifetimes, in which case certain elements would carry over; therefore, when you first look in the mirror, this is what you see. You are masquerading as a particular character in a play right now, you're an actor portraying a certain roll. But it is a false roll nonetheless. So, when you look within, you need a clean mirror, or a purified heart and soul. But in addition to this, you need to take the costume off, layer by layer, for quite often, just like the actor, you have many guises, and you must peel them away like the layers of an onion, to get to the core of your being. You must continue to do this, in meditation, and in daily retrospection, until you have no more costumes on, where you stand nude before the cosmic mirror. This often frightens the aspirant, for it is always comfortable to keep the costumes on. You tend to feel vulnerable, afraid, and alone without the facade. The natural impulse is to immediately don those old clothes once again. But you must persevere and withstand the initial shock of confronting your bare naked Self! For when you do, you realize the false self was not you at all, and NEVER was you at all! This was the deception you lived with for so long! This was the illusion you believed, that kept you separate from the God-Being you really are. So this process seems like a "Becoming," but it is in fact a "Realizing." At first, you appear to "become" who you really are, but you actually "realize" who you really are.

This is how the spiritual Initiations operate on this Mystical Path. You begin with the Awakening, where you realize what you have done in the past was not in your best interest, and only hindered your progress. The reality dawns on you that this mundane, earthly world is not real, that you come from someplace else, or from a deeper source of being. You realize that all you have seen around you is only a small portion of the full picture, you see only a tiny morsel of

the whole universe. This is another reason you live in illusion, the illusion of “What I see is all there is.”

The Awakening is different for each individual, and previous chapters have covered this point. As you awaken further and seek the Light and become receptive to it, applying spiritual disciplines, especially meditation, you will receive the Illumination. Your illuminative experience has begun, however, quite often you will have further episodes of experiencing the Light within. This is an ongoing unfolding process, a continual transformation on all levels, because the more Light you see, the more you will see deep within, revealing your true Source, which is the realization of the God-being within. These two Initiations appear to be two different stages, but in reality they are aspects of the same process. Many will say that the Illumination leads to the Realization of the God-Self, but in reality, these are two aspects of the same process.

Using a parable, a man who has been living in darkness finds an old oil lamp that is encrusted in dirt and dried mud. Methodically he begins chipping away at the hard debris and begins seeing glimpses of Light within, for it is a living lamp he discovers. The more he chips away and peels away the dirt and mud, he sees more light until the glass is completely clean. Then he looks through the glass and sees a beautiful flame within, the source of the light he saw. This suggests two steps of one process. Although analogical portrayals are limited, the truth is that the God-Self within is much larger than you can imagine, beyond your small physical body. In the beginning, it's as if a small portion of God's Light is within you, then you realize God's Light is everywhere, and within every being, whether they know it or not.

When you begin having experiences of the Light or the rising of the Self, the unfoldment of deeper awareness continues in this ongoing process of inner transformation. When you have these kinds of initiatory experiences, all ideas and words regarding these will fall away and are no longer needed, for you have gone beyond them.

In the process of Self-Realization, when the veil wears thin and soon disappears, the separation is gone and true Divine Union begins. However, the old ego-self doesn't quite understand what is going on, because remnants of the false self still remain. It is not easy to dispose of, you will find, so this makes it harder to fully realize your full divine Selfhood. But you must persevere, you must surrender all of what is left of the old facade, in order to become truly free. You are never fully free as long as the old false self remains. As long as the old patterns remain, as long as the tentacles of the old processes and programming continue to feed you, and cause separatist-thinking, then you have not fully let go, and this will plague you until you reach a place of TOTAL SURRENDER. You must become the Fool as seen in the Tarot cards, who blithely steps off of the cliff, trusting God will not fail him as he plunges headlong into the unknown.

You know you can trust the Divine, but it is the false ego-self you can't trust. You can't trust the false self to confide in God, or your true God-being. The false self declares you can't trust God but it is you who must not trust this outer voice. You- as the God-being- can't trust a false being, but can only trust your real Self. In the beginning, as long as you identify with the untamed ego, you act uncertain about what or who you really are, while you feel safe within the self-deception of separation, which is actually an insane way to think. This is the least safest place to be, because as long as you imagine that God is out there somewhere beyond you, then you are like the tightrope walker without a net. You may fall many times, injuring yourself, and growing tired

of this, until you realize you have separated yourself from your Source, that which you can trust always.

The most freeing thing in the universe is when you have completely shed the old skins of falsehood, and have fully realized your Oneness with the Divine, when your real Self is experienced in all its beauty, wonder, and splendor. Then your real journey has begun! Your true Work has been initiated!

The transformation of the human being into a divine being is the process of the Greater Work, or what we prefer to call the Holy Work.

You most likely have heard the saying that life is a journey, not a destination. When you focus only on the destination, you miss the beauty of the journey, and there are countless scenic places along the way. Likewise, it is more realistic to say there are numerous destinations, not just one. In this scenario, if you have reached a particular destination, you have only made a brief stop on this journey across Infinity in this whole expanse of Eternity. For every end is just another beginning!



## **Lesson Fourteen**

### **Principles of Truth versus Old Beliefs**

Everyone has a subconscious belief system since childhood, based on old patterns, internal tapes, dogma, opinions, etc., based on influences from parents, siblings, relatives, elders, schoolteachers, literature, religion, education, culture, stereotypes, etc. Even though you may have acquired new beliefs more recently, hopefully more advanced ones based on principles of Truth, the old beliefs and patterns still have an influence on you.

For example, many people still identify with various superstitions, even though most of them outwardly declare otherwise. For instance, do you still cringe or feel uneasy, even slightly, when the number thirteen pops up? Normally, you know such superficial ideas cannot cause bad luck, that they hold no power over you, but some part of you may still adhere to them. There may still be a seed of superstition in your subconscious that appears now and then, whether you want to admit it or not. They may even be modified personal superstitions you created as a child that still linger, that is, silly little things you believed could cause bad or good luck.

As an example, in basketball, there is an odd belief that if you make three or more baskets in a row, it will mean good luck for you, but if you miss, that would mean bad luck. Alternatively, sometimes this might be tossing wads of paper into a wastebasket using the same superstitious principle. In reality, there is no power in these superstitions, and neither is there some sadistic deity or devilish imp overseeing them either, making sure you get what you deserve. This is sheer nonsense.

Most nations and cultures carry numerous archaic belief systems and old wives' tales that have filtered down into their people's subconscious minds. Beliefs, cultural taboos, curses, and superstitions are carried down through the generations, either consciously or subconsciously, and by osmosis, everyone is susceptible to this onslaught of erroneous worldly beliefs.

How can his problem be resolved?

We will attempt to explain. Often your life is unfulfilled and not flowing properly, due to the fact that your current philosophical view is not receiving enough energy from you, because the older, ingrained, hidden beliefs are still influencing you. This action is similar to how weeds run amok in the garden, taking valuable energy and nutrients from the crops, literally draining them. You need to keep pulling the weeds from the garden so the crops will grow properly and abundantly. Therefore, you are removing the weeds of your old beliefs. This can be accomplished in daily retrospection, which is a tangible way toward resolution.

These negative beliefs, old patterns, and superstitions are the weeds in the garden of your subconscious. For example, you may currently hold the view that this physical world is illusory and that you are one with God. However, you may not fully accept this or understand this, let alone living this in your daily life as you should, because the old belief that the world is real and that you are separate from God might still have an influence on you. Like an old weed in the garden, it is still rooted deep in the subconscious, for it emerges frequently through your behavior, attitudes,

emotions, thoughts, actions and reactions, speech, etc., and these are demonstrated through the expression of your limitations. This occurs more often than you may realize, hence, you need to become totally reprogrammed. You need to deconstruct these old patterns so that the new harmonious patterns can more easily take root.

To initiate this reprogramming, first you must practice total awareness, to become more conscious of your ongoing thoughts, actions, words, behavior, attitudes, emotions, etc. You need to become more alert so you can literally catch the old beliefs and patterns in the act as they arise to your conscious mind. Observe your reactions to people and circumstances, and notice how you feel, think, act, and talk. Do you witness an old pattern arising here or not? You have to take one instance at a time of course, as they pop up. You can do this kind of continual evaluation throughout the day, but likewise conduct a nightly retrospection, to review everything that occurred during the day, especially if you missed something you didn't catch before. You really don't want to leave one single weed unnoticed. One weed can still weaken you and draw valuable energy from your ongoing unfoldment process. However, if you do miss a few, plan to find and root them out the next day. Being weed-free is the goal, which requires perseverance and patience. Realistically, this is not an overnight process, it takes years to truly change internally. But it's important to get the process started and moving along.

You will want to do this process day after day, continually, until this becomes automatic and less effort for you, and soon the old beliefs and patterns will have no more power over you. As you see them pop up anytime, simply deal with each item right at the moment, not waiting for the nightly retrospection. They will disappear as the principles of Truth will take root and gain power in your life now. Your sense of well-being and fulfillment will increase, and your spiritual unfoldment will become more steady.

One of the reasons these old beliefs and negative patterns reside in you still is because you continue to identify with your false self, the untamed ego that thinks it is separate from God. As long as you are hooked into the ego, you are hooked into the world and its thinking and programming, hence you live a life of illusion and separation from your Divine Source. This is why it is so critical to surrender to the truth that you are one with God, not a separate individual. If you find yourself resisting this idea, it is because you still have a sense of individual self-identity, or a concept of separation from God.

To unhook from the old beliefs you must catch them at every turn, and continue to reinforce the truth that "God and I are One." When you allow God to express through your life instead of the ego, to let God think through you, act through you, speak through you, live through you, feel through you, then you have succeeded at detaching from the world and connecting into the Divine Reality of what and who you truly are. When the false-you is no more and the God-you is expressing and experiencing life, then Oneness has been reached. But realize this may not be a continual phenomenon of never-ending bliss; that is, you will experience this higher consciousness periodically, feeling this Oneness now and then. Sometimes you feel the pull of the world, and other times you will feel the inflow of Spirit, like the crests of ocean waves, as the waves ebb and flow toward the shore, but it can become a smoother journey as you gradually surrender more to Spirit each time on your path inward. Eventually, you will feel less and less of the world's influence and more and more of the Spirit as you advance along the Mystical Path.

## Principles of Truth

1. God is within you and all around you, not separate from you.
2. The God-Self is who you truly are.
3. By serving God, you will serve mankind.
4. Three important keys are: yearning for God, service to mankind, attainment of yourself.
5. The Holy Light of the Christos is within you and all around you; simply tap into it.

There are others, but these are the foundations of Wisdom.



## **Lesson Fifteen**

### **The Problem with Problems**

Why do people have problems?

People's thinking is erroneous, therefore, people complain that they have problems. The only problem they really have is that they THINK they have problems! Change the thinking and the problems will disappear. Why? Because any and all problems are illusions of the physical world. Every problem has a solution because the problem isn't real in the first place. Realization of this leads to true freedom. When you begin living from the Spirit, and not from the body and mind of your untamed ego, then you will be experiencing freedom from problems, worries, hardships, etc. You will learn to stop identifying with these negative constructs, even while they prevail, or seem to prevail, as illusions often do. You may still see the mirage up ahead, but you now know it is a false image. You can become emotionally detached and they won't bother you anymore, but then this detachment and living from Spirit will soon deflect any further problems. You will be living in balance with the Divine now, and no problems exist in the reality of the Divine.

When these things arise from day to day, see them as situations or challenges to grow by, as stepping stones of opportunity, not as stumbling blocks. When you judge circumstances as bad or negative, or horrible even, that creates a blockage. When you see these situations as opportunities, this frees you from the blockage.

Notice some people may be offended when you say their problem is not real, that it doesn't exist in reality, whether it is disease, legal matters, relationship conflicts, family tragedies, etc. They become angered and defensive when you confront them with this radical idea. Why? Are they proud of their problems? Does it give them life and energy? Does fear keep them trapped in these issues? Do they gain attention by talking about them? Does it define who they are? Does it justify their ego? Do they thrive on conflict in life? These are typical reasons for allowing the illusion of problems to continue. Some people act as if they truly desire their problems, and when you declare to them that they are not real, they are insulted. It demonstrates that they are still strongly attached to their problems and are not ready to let them go. However, letting them go will allow healing. "Let go and let God."

Of course, you can only deal with one problem at a time, that's reasonable.

Also, such problems are usually based on the old beliefs and patterns people had from long ago, still rooted in the subconscious, still not yet replaced by principles of Truth.

Once again, this process of resolution is not an easy one, but must be conducted with patience and perseverance. Remember to practice total awareness every day and commit to daily retrospection. A daily affirmation will assist you as well. We will suggest this:

**There is no separation, there are no limitations,  
there are no problems, for God and I are One.**



## **Lesson Sixteen**

### **Self-Identity vs God-Identity**

What do you identify with in life? Do you identify with your vices more than your virtues? Do you identify more with dependence on money rather than faith in God? Do you identify more with a material life than a spiritual life? Do you identify more with your own ego and see it as more important than God?

When you identify with your ego, that is where your personal energy goes. However, when you identify with your God-Self, your energy goes here.

If you identify with your past with too much importance, your energy focuses on this. When you associate with the history of your personal individuality, such as successes and achievements, or even failures and hardships, then you lose energy in these areas. These tangible earthly things drain your energy. But if you decide this personal past holds no real importance to you any longer, that simply being here now in the moment of God-Beingness, then your energy will focus here instead of your personal illusion the ego created for you.

You may identify with being a physician, a carpenter, a housewife, a mother or a father, or perhaps even being a drug addict, an alcoholic, an invalid, etc. But these are all exterior facades. The God-Self that you are goes forth and experiences the world through these expressions, whether they are good, bad, or indifferent, so you will learn and grow by your choices. You may perceive that you experience God occasionally, but realize that God experiences through your outer form continually. Your awareness of God may be occasional, but God's awareness of you is constant, as He experiences through you. But realize who you are. You are the God-Self experiencing through the physical form. Your ego/mind association sheathed within a body, your individuality, is what you commonly identify with, but it is not you. This outer form is not much different than the automobile you drive. You are the driver, not the vehicle. It is amusing that quite often a person's fancy car is an outer reflection of his ego. They identify with this exterior form and all their energy goes into this.

Realize that your personal will drives your physical vehicle, and the will is the driving force of your ego. It is the ego that would rather do the driving, for it does not trust the God within. Learning to trust God is an important key to your spiritual unfoldment.

In truth, God is experiencing through the material creation. Why? To raise dense matter into higher energy, or raising mankind's consciousness into Godkind. Form transmuted becomes Spirit. In essence, all matter is energy. But once you realize this, you come full circle.

When you focus on your physical form and believe that is all it is, then that is all you accept. Until you realize you are more than that, that you are an immortal soul within that form. When you let go and surrender to God, you return to a higher state of consciousness. You return to Spirit. You must transmute your ego identity into your true God identity.



Remember the analogy of the sand that makes up the beach; they are completely inseparable. One cannot exist without the other, for the one is the other. The grain of sand realizes it is one with the whole beach, for all of the sand therein IS the beach.

This oneness is the key to Reality, especially the reality of your own being.

All souls are intrinsically part of the vast Beingness of God, or Divine Consciousness. All souls serve as a means of experience for the God-Self in this physical world. As much as many people would like to believe that they are physical beings striving to have spiritual experiences, the fact is that Divine Consciousness has descended to have physical experiences. However, in the process it is raising the lower consciousness of mankind. You could say the earth plane is being raised heavenward.

Throughout these courses and the lessons therein, many ideas and principles are repeated intentionally, for the purpose of continually reminding you of their importance. The fact is, when the lower nature is trying to take charge, it wants you to forget any kind of real learning. When you are born into this world, the soul encased in a new body, the cloak of forgetfulness has already descended. It takes time to begin to remember who you are. At first, all you know is your untamed ego that wants what it wants, and it cries for what it wants. Similar to the little grain of sand who doesn't really care about the rest of the beach, and thinks that it is the center of everything, that everything revolves around it. That narcissistic complex must be dealt with, and the soul must come to wake up and realize it must no longer identify with this untamed and unruly lower nature. It will begin to realize there is something greater than itself, a higher power, a higher consciousness, God, the universe, whatever you wish to call it.

There is a concept that claims you must commit "ego death." The truth is, you do go through a series of deaths through the Initiations. Many things of the lower nature will die, but in reality everything is energy, even the ego, and although it may seem to die, or completely cease to exist, in reality it is completely transformed and its energy is absorbed into the greater God Ego. Yes, figuratively, you can say that your ego goes through a death as long as nothing is left except the God-Self manifesting through you. But its meager energy has been consumed by the Divine Consciousness.

A child will take five hundred building blocks and perhaps build a wonderful four-story house with it. After a while he grows tired of this, then he will tear down all the blocks until it is a vast mess on the floor. Then he will build something new, perhaps a tall narrow tower that reaches toward the ceiling, or some other form perhaps. The point is, the building blocks themselves were not destroyed, only the form that they previously took.

In physics and chemistry, this is the principle of mass conservation, wherein mass cannot be created nor destroyed, but it can be transformed into a different form. You could say that the previous form it took has died, and the substance herein is reborn into a new form. And this is what real death actually is, a transition from one state to another; put another way, this is the action of alchemy. This is how the caterpillar is transformed into the butterfly. Its old form has died and it has been transformed into a new form.

You believed you were this thing called ego, this lower mind, this lower will. These are mere shadows that thrive in the physical world, which includes the mental and emotional levels. The ego must be used as a tool, allowing the higher Self, or God-Self to use it. That is, you must

start identifying with the *real you*, not the false you, and the real you of the God-Self will begin to manifest through this outer form.

Robert A. Heinlein said, “Thou art God, I am God. All that groks is God.” (from *Stranger in a Strange Land*)

The word “grok” may have different interpretations, but essentially it is acquiring an intuitive understanding or realization of something, and in this case, that would be God. So with that in mind, it is time to grok God.



## **Lesson Seventeen**

### **Many Bubbles, One Air**

You are a soul in a vast ocean of many souls. All souls are here in this earthly world because it is a school of learning, a great university that involves spiritual unfoldment. The harshness and denseness of this world are how you are challenged and grow. You can submit to the calamity and negativity of the world, or you can change this and learn to be attuned to a higher source, to Divine Consciousness, hence, living a more virtuous lifestyle.

You could say that your soul is a reflection of the greater Self of God. The two may seem to be separate, but this is an illusion.

Let us demonstrate this through an analogy. The air is all around you as it surrounds the whole earth. Now take a bubble-blowing wand and a bottle of bubble soap. Blow as many bubbles as you can. You can make bubbles of different shapes and sizes, but basically oblong or spherical, so different personalities are expressed, or let us say, each bubble is unique, for these are separate individualized bubbles, although they are similar as well.. Let's say you are one of these bubbles, these bubbles, and you have forgotten about the vastness of the air around you. You are only aware of your bubble and the small portion of air within it because a pocket of air is within each bubble. But the bubbles continue being bubbles and that is what they think they are. However, the air trapped within them is that which keeps the bubbles as bubbles. A vacuum inside a bubble is impossible, for the bubbles would burst or not exist at all due to this fact. Nature abhors a vacuum. The bubble, in order to exist as a bubble, requires a pocket of air within it. So the air gives it its substance and shape, in a globular nature. Incidentally, this occurrence suggests a clue to the nature of the air itself. Bubbles allow the nature of the air to have an almost visible, tangible form, revealing the globular nature of it. In fact, glassblowers express this same globular form in their work. The hot glass begins as a globular bubble until the glassblower shapes it into the form he wishes.

If it was not for the air around everyone, the bubbles they create would not exist. Not only this, but the air is the real substance, not the bubbles. Realize also that the word "air" is singular, not plural. Thus, you cannot correctly say, "There are many airs." There is only one air that people breathe. This is significant to this analogy. However, you can see an artificial expression, which is that there are many individual "pockets" of air, but still one air. It is all one air and always will be. Thus, there are many pockets of air surrounded by the compartmentalizing bubbles, and eventually the air pockets reach a point where they yearn to be free, to reunite with the vast body of air they were once a part of. The encapsulated air pockets yearn for this union, and this is called "spiritual starvation." This is when you begin seeing the barriers of separation, the illusory world around you that you must break free from, so that you may reunite with your original Source.

Now, you realize that you are not the bubble that you normally identify with, but you are the air inside the bubble. Now, once you take action and make the bubble pop, then you are once

again united with the all-encompassing air. But the actual process that leads to this transition is usually more gradual.

However, certain occurrences in the initiatory process are instantaneous when you are ready for the next step. When an aspirant has been illumined and then after a while when the veil is rent to where he sees the radiant being within, the God-Self, this is the popping of the bubble. This is where he begins to realize he is one with God. Although this is the beginning of your awakening into Divine Union, the sublime fullness of this comes later.

The fact is, during your unfoldment you could say the shadow of the bubble seems to linger, because that bubble was all you knew for a while, but it is an illusion, until you learn to dissolve it and be free from it to where you realize you are one with the surrounding air. Such concepts and analogies are very limited and are mere glimpses of the higher Truth, particularly through the Ancient Wisdom Teachings that we offer.

In truth, the state of experiencing oneness with the Divine is not constant while you are here in a physical body in this world. It is intermittent but can be felt to varying degrees when you sincerely pray, meditate, contemplate, or other spiritual practices. In fact, when some people first experience the Illumination, they will get a strong sense of this, the beginning stages of oneness. Each individual experiences these Initiations a little differently, so they are not absolutely uniform. Similarly, all snowflakes may look very much alike with their hexagonal shapes, but each is unique in and of itself. So are each aspirant's spiritual experiences on the Mystical Path.



## **Lesson Eighteen**

### **What is Death?**

Death is a thin curtain that you part to enter the next realm.  
Death is the transition from one state of being to another.  
Death is an initiation from this world to the next.  
Ultimately, death is an illusion.

Do people know what death really is? Is it just another illusion or is there something to it? People fear death because they don't know what it really is. Those who do not fear death, for the most part, are those who may believe in an afterlife. Death, as pertains to the physical body, is permanent; but there is no death of the soul because it is immortal. In spiritual unfoldment there is another form of death, which involves your lower nature, and everything it has given you. Surrender through crucifixion leads to death, or rather, the transition and transformation of the ego, so that it becomes absorbed into the God-Self. The lower nature learns to work in harmony with the Divine Self. What many people may call "ego death" is actually ego transformation so that the only thing that remains is God's Ego.

That which dies is your old ways of thinking, old beliefs, old patterns, old habits, etc., which came from the ego. Once the ego is stripped of these, it can enter harmony with the higher nature of the God-Self.

Death for thousands of years has been a mystery to most people. It has become more so in recent years, especially in documented cases in the 20th century where individuals in the hospital environment have seemingly died and then returned to life.

There have been many cases of individuals who were declared clinically dead who have come back to life, having near-death experiences. In many of these cases, but not all, individuals had out-of-body experiences and recalled them enough to report them. They briefly entered a realm beyond the physical world while their bodies were apparently dead. They had a glimpse behind the curtain to see what was there beyond the physical realm. Their lives were transformed thereafter and many of them went forth on spiritual missions.

Usually during surgery, these individuals had undergone cardiac arrest and then clearly flatlined, designating death; however, quite often several minutes passed before their breathing and heart-rate returned, but physicians had declared them dead – until they weren't. In reality, clinical death is not the same as actual death of the body.

So, one must ponder, what is really occurring when the body on the operating table flatlines and appears to be dead for several minutes or longer? The physician attempts to resuscitate the patient, and when this is successful, the individual regains consciousness. Therefore, this event of near-death is not actual death of the physical body, although in many cases these individuals' lives have changed drastically because they experienced a spiritual resurrection.

Metaphysically, physical death occurs when the astral cord is severed between the physical body and astral form which houses the soul, and in this case the being will no longer return to the body; it will move on to the next realm. It is simply this individual's time to move on.

What occurs at actual death of the physical body? When the cord has been cut, the soul will not return, and so the body has expired, meaning there is no longer respiration, blood circulation, reflexes, and brain activity.

Many factors occur after death, such as the cessation of blood circulation which causes the skin to become pale, called Pallor Mortis. Then the body grows cold, basically called Algor Mortise. Then within the first few hours Rigor Mortis sets in, the stiffening of the body. These are the basics but there are more details than this; however, the point we are making is once the body has gone through these stages, this is obviously absolute physical death of the human body. This vehicle for this particular soul is no longer relevant since it has moved on to the next realm.

The important truth is that when your time is up in this current lifetime, the physical body will indeed die, but your soul continues living because it is immortal. The problem is when people become attached to their bodies, and the body is directly connected to the lower mind, emotions, and personality, all of which culminate in the person's ego. Therefore, when body dies, the unawakened soul may linger for a time just above the earthly plane, confused. This occurs if this soul has not learned any real truths on the path of unfoldment, hence, it finds itself in a limbo state.

This is why learning detachment from your physical vehicle and lower nature is so important. You must be free from this and be willing to move on. The illusion of the world can cloud your perception of reality, especially when you so closely identify with anything of the physical nature, especially the body. This attitude of detachment will lead to a clearer sight and acceptance of how the world around you really operates with its traits of limitation, separation, and deception, which are aspects of the state of Maya. Also, you learn acceptance of a deeper reality beyond. Then when you face physical death, you will be ready for it and you will be prepared for your soul to leave this dense world and go beyond, experiencing that which occurs next, and many say you return to your true home, as some will call this heaven. Until your next incarnation. These are the cycles the soul experiences, life in the physical world, and then life in the home-world as you progress on this path of unfoldment, reaching toward Divine Union. Think of your current lifetime as if you are driving your car on a long journey along the highway. And although you become comfortable in your car, you know that when you reach your destination, your home, you will step out of the car and leave it behind and never return to it.

This is the contrast of each lifetime and then returning to the home world. This is the yin and yang of your overall journey, until completion, a place that Eastern philosophies will identify as being off the wheel of reincarnation, or continual rebirth. While a soul continues through samsara, the cyclic change of reincarnation, it embarked upon countless learning experiences as a part of its spiritual growth, learning to master life and not be bound by the illusion, and then there is a point where certain souls have reached this completion, also called liberation, because they have attained Divine Union, hence, they have become a bodhisattva, that is, a fully enlightened teacher who has returned to the world to teach the way of the path that leads to enlightenment.

We must point out a misconception here. The dogmatic version is that he has put aside reaching enlightenment as he returns to the world to help others reach enlightenment. This makes no sense, because a genuine bodhisattva, or enlightened teacher, will explain that he is required to

reach enlightenment if he is going to help others reach this point. What he has given up is samsara, the need to return, to continually reincarnate. The difference is the bodhisattva has chosen to return to uplift the consciousness of other people.

Not many have reached this point but some have, even in today's world, for it is required as established by those of the White Brotherhood, and likewise, certain ones in the Melchizedek Priesthood will reach this point. As mentioned before, World Illumination is the goal and Light-workers of various traditions, whether they are here in this world or the next, are at work uplifting the consciousness of mankind for this to take place someday. Indeed, it will be a gradual process, not a sudden overnight phenomenon.

You too can meditate and pray for the Light to shine into the consciousness of the people of the world, to help dissipate the illusion, to dissolve the curtain of Maya, so that they may see the deeper reality and step beyond the threshold.

Learning detachment from the world is key to learning to identify with the God-being within, and this is the path you are on.

Death has been misunderstood and given a negative definition, turning it into a finality. Death in itself is a symbol, but not of finality, but of transition and transformation. After death comes rebirth, and this is expressed allegorically in the portrayal of Jesus's crucifixion, death, and resurrection.



## **Lesson Nineteen**

### **Surrender**

When you have successfully surrendered something in your life, with it comes the realization that what you surrendered had no real value, although it may have seemed to at first. Often this realization begins when you observe a particular thing is hindering you in life. Before you made the actual act of surrender, you either saw value in it or you had a strong attachment to it, whether it be an addiction, an obsession, or a temptation. You were hooked into it for any number of reasons, so it still had value, whether you really desired that thing or felt reluctantly bound by it in some way. So you will observe two forms of worldly value here, things of desire and things of addiction.

But the new thing in your life you now desire (God perhaps) has greater value to you, so the thing of lesser value must be relinquished. Hence, you come to realize the thing surrendered had no genuine worth. It was becoming a hindrance to any real progress in life, but before you did not realize this.

We are referring to the false things of the world, such as possessions, money, power, prestige, superstitions, beliefs, addictions, desires, negatively influential people, etc. The list is too long to cite here. When you realize such things only hinder you and keep you bound to the world, then you will acknowledge there is something of greater value to pursue. This is when you realize these negative things must be given up in order to receive the next level, which is Truth and Reality. This is how you develop in the process of spiritual growth. You release things that have become obsolete and receive things that are virtuous and beneficial to your unfolding awareness. Therefore, spiritual growth involves surrender, as long as you're in this world. When you realize you are relinquishing something of no importance, this opens the door to a deeper awareness of a greater Reality, where you are realizing your connection to God within. For example, you might have valued your untamed ego, with all its imperfections and flaws, but when this is realized to be a hindrance to your interior progress, a greater Self must be realized. Then you begin to let go of the old self-image, giving it up in order to realize your true Self as God. So in reality you have given up nothing, that is, nothing of any real value. This realization of nothingness leads to realizing everythingness – which is God.

This doesn't seem logical at first, but if you have experienced real surrender to some degree, you'll understand what this means. The paradox is, once you have surrendered everything of the world – which is illusion, hence, nothingness – then you will receive the true everythingness of God. You will be exchanging everything of the world, which is nothing, for everything of God, which is truly everything, then you have realized the genuine worth of God in everything.

Again, this is a long process that requires patience and perseverance.

Do not confuse surrender with sacrifice. Often you hear that you must sacrifice these negative traits in order to move on. Sacrifice is a negative term that means your act is forced and begrudging, and you have some degree of reluctance. You may recognize you no longer need



certain things in your life, but they still have hooks in you and they are hard to give up; therefore, sacrifice diminishes you. Surrender is a positive term and involves giving of yourself, which means you are increased and it will not diminish you. It means you are willing to leave behind those negative things because what you really want is to grow closer to God, to feel his presence and activity in your life. You may hear various definitions for sacrifice and surrender, but these are our definitions for these terms.

It is believed that Jesus's crucifixion involved his great sacrifice, but let's replace this with the fact that he surrendered himself completely to God. That's what we must do.

Surrender is a tool you can use in this physical world, because it is a stepping stone into the Real Reality. When you surrender something no longer needed, it becomes easy to surrender over to God. When your yearning for God becomes stronger than that old habit in your life, then surrendering to God becomes easier. Eventually, ultimate surrender will lead to Divine Union, or Oneness with God.

Separation must be surrendered for Oneness, illusion for Reality, ego for God, duality for unity, and so on, for these limited constructs have no true worth. The real key is surrendering over to the higher nature of Divinity, which is within yourself. When you realize this is more fulfilling than your old ways of being, you can more easily surrender.

Walking the spiritual path appears to be a journey through many levels, exemplified through the various Initiations. However, the idea of different levels is actually false. So you have to give this up too. Levels may suffice for a while in dense matter, serving as vehicles of perception, but they are ultimately devices of separation. In truth, there are no levels, there is only One Reality. And the illusion you see in this world doesn't even factor into this equation, because it isn't real. Incorrect perception is believing in many levels, limitations, and separations, and has no part of this One Reality. It is a misinterpretation of Reality based on incorrect thinking and perception. Now, you can learn to see this world correctly, with true sight, which means you will actually see beyond it, hence, beginning to see more of the whole picture, or the whole Reality instead of just a small portion of it, which is only the dense physical plane of existence people live in – which is one of those apparent levels. Clearly, this will be a later stage of spiritual development for opening your inner sight, or clairvoyance, but in the beginning you may see glimpses of this greater Reality that exists in higher dimensional levels beyond the physical. This starts with learning to surrender the illusion you see around you, which involves letting go of the concept of various levels, or planes of existence in this case.

We have mentioned the example of the concept of the "other side" as opposed to this side, which is the contrast between the spiritual world and the physical world. In truth, there are no sides, but it may seem that way because of your limited perception through the five senses. Once your sight opens and expands, you will see more of Reality, and sides will dissolve. It is very much like trying to see a large beautiful mural while you're looking through a peephole in a door, which gives you only a small portion of the whole picture. But when you open the door and enter the room, you see the entire mural, hence, seeing the whole reality in all its beauty.

Another element you need to surrender is the untamed ways of ego, as in your sense of self-identity. Self-identity is a major thing to relinquish because it is difficult to let go of the ego. But once you realize it's ways and methods have no value, and that your God-Self has true value, your surrender will occur more easily. When you stop identifying with the lower ego and start

identifying with the God-Ego, the true being that you truly are, the transition will take place more smoothly. The key is to allow the lower nature to enter harmony with the higher nature of Divinity. This is how the ego can be surrendered, but it is not the death of the ego, it is the transformation of it.

Once again, we will use the analogy of the person who is training his new puppy, which is usually unruly at first, having its own mind, but when you spend much time training it as it gradually matures, then eventually it becomes a loyal companion. Essentially, the person has trained a wild beast to become a domesticated pet. That which has died is that wild nature, which has now been tamed.

The ego is a tool, but it is usually abused instead of used properly. You must teach the ego humility, even though its tendency is to be self-righteous, self-important, or arrogant, and these are hindrances to spiritual growth.

One of the problems that sometimes arises is the God-complex. This attitude goes beyond a person having a superiority-complex or narcissistic behavior, but it can start there. Sometimes a seeker will have a profound experience involving a connection with the God within. When this subsides, often the person's ego takes over and sets itself up as God, or sees itself as a God-like figure. Often this one begins believing God has chosen him to be the next savior of the world, or New Age Messiah, or the founder of the true church of God, or that only he and his immediate followers are the chosen ones, or at least exceedingly special in God's eyes, etc. Whichever the case may be, this is the height of arrogance. This is why applying humility is so important. Humility keeps the ego in check, and only allows God within to come through.

In the realm of Christian Mysticism, surrender is important, especially as exemplified by Jesus Christ. What did he surrender at the crucifixion? First, understand that the crucifixion, death, and resurrection are initiatory steps; therefore, when you experience the crucifixion you are surrendering your ego, which indulges in the way of erroneous thinking. In reality, you are being stripped of the negative aspects of the lower nature so that it can rise above them. Like training the dog, you are teaching it new habits and helping it to forget its old wild nature.

Classically, the Gospels explained that Jesus sacrificed himself and died for the sins of the people of the world. Not everyone holds this view but regards it as more symbolic. A more direct explanation is that he surrendered his untamed ego and became united with God; hence, he demonstrated that you must do the same.

At first, you were comfortable with your lower ego-nature, but when you began awakening and embarked upon the spiritual path, you realized surrendering it becomes quite challenging. The old habits and patterns of the lower nature must be relinquished, and like the dog, must be trained to obey the higher nature of Divinity. This all involves the process of your crucifixion, death, and then your resurrection, because you are entering a spiritual rebirth, a most sublime initiation, where you begin to realize your oneness with the God-Self.

At Jesus's death, the temple veil was rent, an archetypal event signifying that the way of the spiritual Initiations were more accessible than ever before, and that a clearer path would lead to Divine Consciousness, and this is still true in this age.

“Christ made the first self-sacrifice, thereby abrogating the sacrifice of animals, and finally at the consummation of his work in the visible world *rent the veil* and opened a way

into the Holy of Holies, not only for the favored few, the priests and Levites, but that WHOSOEVER WILL may come and serve the Deity whom we know as our Father. Having fulfilled the law and the prophets Christ has done away with the outward sanctuary, and from henceforth the Altar of Burnt Offerings must be set up within the heart to atone for wrongdoing; the Golden Candlestick must be lighted within the heart to guide us upon our way as the Christ *within*, the Shekinah Glory of the Father, must dwell *within* sacred precincts of our own God consciousness.”<sup>9</sup>

Let us explain here that the Tabernacle in the Wilderness is steeped in symbolism. Whether they are temples, churches, synagogues, etc., there will most likely be a central sanctuary and an altar in these structures. However, all these symbolize the temple of the body and the central altar of the soul where you worship the God within. This is where the central focus of initiations takes place. In those ancient days, the idea of the sins of the people lay very heavily on their hearts, by which they practiced animal sacrifice, although this is no longer the case. Now you must find forgiveness of your errors at the inner altar of your soul where the indwelling God resides. Although God’s forgiveness is immediate and a grace upon one’s soul, quite often it is more difficult for the person to forgive himself, which must be dealt with. God’s love for all humanity is more powerful than you think, but do you love yourself enough to forgive yourself? That is the question.

Many Christian churches seem to hold value in sin, but this is misthinking. They dwell too heavily on sin as if it is some kind of commodity, although it is a negative tool that can only create fear, shame, and unworthiness in your thinking. Sins have no value whatsoever; they are void of value. Nevertheless, sins must be surrendered, or gotten rid of the same way you take out the trash. You may accumulate useless possessions in your house over time, but eventually you must take them out and be done with them. Of course, this is an ongoing process, taking out the trash, and this is why we emphasize applying the retrospection exercise. This is how you take out the trash.

Redemption is genuine atonement, or at-one-ment, for when Divinity forgives you, your soul is being cleansed and purified of past errors, so that you can reach oneness with your Source. Also, since you are being purged and purified while walking the Mystical Path, which is further surrender as your past sins and errors have been forgiven, this doesn’t give you license to commit more sins. You will still have to pay the consequences. Past sins are redeemed, but you have to do as Jesus said, “Go and sin no more.”

True repentance is achieved when you demonstrate that you will sin no more. Realistically, this would involve discarding one item at a time, and rather than calling these sins, it is better to see them as negative habits and thought patterns that you must discard. You have to dispose of the dogma that makes committing sins mean you are stubbornly disobeying God, which means He must punish you. That is furthest from the truth. Because everyone lives with their lower nature, they always make mistakes of one sort or another, sometimes out of stubbornness and sometimes out of misunderstanding or wrong-thinking, hence, they are learning life’s lessons in this earthly school of learning. The main goal of its curriculum is to tame the ego, to train it, to transform it so that it is in harmonious alignment with the higher nature of the Divinity within. Also, in this school students can eventually become teachers of God’s Wisdom.

More specifically, this was the plan of the ancient Mystery Schools of Wisdom, wherein sincere seekers became initiates or even adepts, then journeyed forth to be examples of the greater Truth to others.

Once you have surrendered the ego in this crucifixion and death process, and when you realize what you are in truth, the God-Self, then you become whole and harmonious in reality, because you have been resurrected, you have experienced rebirth, hence, this is your greater Awakening on this path. You in your physical form are imperfect, but God can be perfect and sinless through you. That is the secret to realizing true redemption. When you accept that “God and I are one,” forgiveness is enacted, then you go and sin no more.

In reality, God has already forgiven you of any errors, but you must learn to forgive yourself and let go of them. The ego will continue to create trash, and it is your task to continually get rid of it, until it becomes less and less over time as you live a more virtuous life. Hence, you should regularly go into retrospection.

In spiritual unfoldment, the point is to not revert back to the old ways as if this was acceptable, but to practice a new way of virtuous living, because the instruction is to sin no more. This is the ideal process, although many people continue to sin, but they will have to pay for their actions still. The action of karma is not only the great equalizer but the great healer. Lessons learned lead to fewer mistakes and fewer errors, because this is a cleansing, purifying, and healing process.

Let us make another point. Since sin and errors have no real value, other than to learn from your mistakes, Jesus’s act of surrender on the cross meant that his intention was to replace people’s illusions for God’s Reality. Mankind had nothing of real value to begin with that was in this world, so when Jesus initiated the Redemption, he opened the door to a wonderful gift, the greater reality of God in their lives. This was the new covenant of Grace and Love. The old way of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,” was retributive justice and had to be replaced, along with the tradition of animal sacrifice.

The new way of forgiveness, grace, and love was entering the world now, especially in Jesus’s time. Actually, these were not completely new ideas, although they were new to most people. The evolution of mankind’s thinking always unfolds as he leaves the darkness and enters the Light, and many things seem new that have been ancient principles all along. Jesus knew the old law had to be replaced, and it was replaced with the Law of Love, which means you should love God with all your heart and being, and to love other people as yourself.

When Jesus was crucified and died, and then was resurrected and ascended, this initiated an infusion of God’s Light into the world, hence, the consciousness of the world began rising higher, breaking up crystallization and the hardness of hearts of people. This occurred slowly at first, but the process began. Throughout the ages, many avatars and teachers, whether known or unknown, have endeavored to raise the consciousness of humanity, by bringing in the Light, by helping people in the spiritual unfoldment process through the Initiations, and by helping them realize that they are one with the Divine Source. In this way, mankind is being led toward the coming of the World Illumination.



## **Lesson Twenty**

### **Archetypes of the Initiation Process**

The Gospels in the New Testament on one level is the story of the Master Jesus and his ministry. On a deeper level this is analogous to the Path of Initiation. In this portrayal, Jesus Christ as the main character of the story demonstrated certain steps along the initiatory process, as demonstrated by certain events in his life, such as his Baptism and trial in the wilderness, Transfiguration, Crucifixion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Basic Christian doctrine takes these milestones very literally because that is how they were written in those first centuries of Christendom. Clearly, Jesus did experience these Initiations on a spiritual level, which is a plane of existence that is difficult to put into actual words; therefore, they had to be portrayed in an allegorical framework so that people may understand these initiatory steps a little easier. Many religions and traditions use stories, parables, and allegories to explain the higher teachings that are otherwise not easy to express in limited human language. The point is not whether he experienced these things on the physical level, the literal sense people are familiar with in the Gospels, but the fact is he did experience them on a spiritual level, wherein those who do not have eyes to see and ears to hear would not necessarily witness them. That's why they must be put in the archetypal framework of parables because people more easily understand occurrences of the physical world. The backbone of the stories in mythology thrives on archetypes and symbology; therefore, seekers can always look for deeper meaning.

For example, when an aspirant experiences the Illumination, he has awakened into a deeper realm, and nothing physical appears to have happened because the experience is internal. Although in some schools, such Initiations may take place during elaborate rituals, hence, they are physical enactments of an internal process that is unseen. However, usually these Initiations will be experienced during meditation.

Some people indeed go through Initiations in different ways, and an individual going through the so-called NDE, near-death experience, is one way this can take place, because this is a form of death that leads to spiritual rebirth, although it begins on the physical level. Thereafter, many of these people have experienced definite changes in their lives, and some go forth on a spiritual mission.

In many cases these individuals have gone through a crucifixion of sorts, personal trials and tribulation, that leads to the near-death experience, and then the rebirth of resurrection.

St. Paul the Apostle said, "I die daily." This could be explained as you are transformed daily. This is essentially the path of continual surrender, not an easy path to take, since those that are steadfast and determined to persevere will continue this lifelong process. Using mundane examples, people who have successfully overcome habits or addictions, whether these are alcoholism, smoking, drugs, weight-gain, even negative emotions, have experienced dying daily. They died to these old ways and chose to improve their lives, so they have gone through a rebirth.

In dying daily, you go through little deaths; emotional, mental, psychological, and spiritual, which means you are dying to certain things that you no longer need in your life, things that weigh

you down, such as habits, patterns, negative thinking, etc., hence, you you are being transformed. When you surrender these things over to the God within, that's when you experience a spiritual rebirth. It is an awakening of the soul.

It must be clarified that these initiatory steps are necessary while you're on this Mystical Path. The soul must experience a gradual climb upward on the journey toward reaching union with God. You cannot be quickly thrust into the full presence of the Creator; the soul requires preparation and this gradual process of interior growth. In analogy, the school system spans from Kindergarten to 12th grade, and then some people go to college for advanced studies. You need this gradual learning experience, especially with certain courses, such as mathematics. You must first learn the basics of adding and subtracting, then you can learn multiplication and division, and then fractions and decimals. Soon you will learn algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and precalculus, and then in the universities you will learn calculus and other advanced mathematics. But a student in elementary school is not ready for calculus; therefore, he must first learn fundamental mathematics. The same holds with most other courses; fundamental studies first, next intermediate studies, then advanced studies.

Initiatory steps portrayed by Jesus operate in this fashion. He was baptized, then he went through trials and tribulations when facing certain temptations in the wilderness, as the untamed ego reared its head in testing him. As some schools point out, the Transfiguration typified his Illumination. When you come to the Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection, these are symbolic of transformation and rebirth, where the human ego is transmuted and absorbed into God's Ego and begins to manifest through the person. The crucifixion and death would be Jesus surrendering his ego so that the reality of "I and my Father are one" manifests; Divine Union with the Creator; hence, his resurrection.

Remember that death is transformation, wherein the lower nature is transformed into a divine nature. Death is not a finality but more than anything it is an alchemical stage along the initiatory path.

Earlier in these lessons, we spoke of the scientific principle of mass conservation, which explains that matter isn't created or destroyed, but can be transformed into other forms, whether this is at the atomic or molecular levels, or with various elements in chemistry, etc. Likewise, the Death card in the Tarot deck shouldn't be taken so literally, because it simply means transformation.

The "dark night of the soul" commonly occurs during this crucifixion process, for you feel disconnected from God, if not abandoned. Since the ego believes in the illusory separation from God anyway, this is why it feel disconnected, and it fears its own demise as the God-Self is coming into focus as you unfold and grow toward this point. On a personal level, you are feeling and thinking through the ego's sense of disconnection and fear since you have identified with it most of your life, rather than your true higher Self. This is why surrendering your ego feels like a death. You are dying to the old and being reborn into the new.

Likewise, there is a time when the "dweller on the threshold" rears its head and enters your consciousness more abruptly than ever before, not just in subtle ways any longer. It will tempt you with things you indulged in from the past, perhaps presenting them as nostalgic experiences you have been trying to leave behind. This often occurs right when you are taking this path very seriously and you are striving to move forward, and the dweller comes up as a hurdle on your path

that you must overcome. That is why these are trials and tribulations the aspirant always goes through, being tested, and if he succeeds in casting these temptations and negative patterns aside, fearlessly facing the dweller and determinedly casting it in the Light, which it dreads, then it will pass away.

There is the allegory where a lone traveler on a rugged road meets a huge ugly beast that he must fight and vanquish, but then he realizes, as he faces it and attacks it with his sword, the creature shrinks down to a mere imp, which he easily slays. It was never the huge scary beast he thought it was. The legend of St. George who fights and defeats the dragon also depicts the dweller on the threshold.

Your Crucifixion, Death, and then Resurrection is where total surrender takes place, and all the negative elements a soul has accumulated must be disposed of. Usually this takes place one or even a few items at a time, not necessarily all at once. Eventually, all these elements are relinquished because they have been hindering you and are no longer needed, so this is where you truly die daily, but it is actually these negative elements that are dying. Along the way you are seeing glimpses or impressions of the Divine Being within, and also hearing its voice, which you have to learn to discern. When you begin experiencing this Presence within, you know it is real, and not some idea people talk about in church. So when this genuine transformation comes, you are renewed, reborn, and this is your Resurrection, your Rebirth.

Jesus Christ exemplified these initiatory stages in his life, although these particular labels were ascribed to them later, but the Gospel accounts were written in such a manner that these Initiations would appear less abstract and more literal and concrete to those reading the Gospels. If you read any of Jesus's parables, you will know that he had used symbology that pointed to higher truths. Perhaps the writers of the Gospels did likewise in trying to portray these graduating steps of the Initiations, especially if they had been taught the higher teachings by their Master, Jesus Christ. There will always be those who believe in the literal portrayals, and this is fine, as long as they learn to see the underlying truth they are pointing to. Whether in mythology, various religious scriptures, or wisdom stories across the world, the point is not did these events literally occur, as some people have fixated on, but what is the deeper meaning behind them? What is the message found in them? That is the important point.

“For the symbols of mythology are not manufactured; they cannot be ordered, invented, or permanently suppressed. They are spontaneous productions of the psyche, and each bears within it, undamaged, the germ power of its source.”<sup>10</sup>

The mythology of the Gospels is often misunderstood since they are cloaked in archetypal language, and readers must learn to discern the symbolism therein. Otherwise, they will simply be reading meaningless accounts, or interpreted merely as history. When you read such passages too literally, you miss the reality therein. Even people's dreams are cloaked in symbolism, so that they may learn deeper truths. The Creator arranged it this way so that symbolism can relay messages to them, whether through dreams, allegories, parables, fairytales, wisdom teachings, mythologies, etc., hence, reflecting a deeper Source.

No matter where you are on the Mystical Path, if you have begun going through these initiatory steps, one at a time, and especially if you felt the Call, which is the Call to commit to the

Greater Work, then you become one who is willing to carry the torch of the Holy Light. You don't have to ascribe to any particular church, religion, or tradition, unless you wish to, as long as you are going forth and doing the Work of the Light. You can be Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, etc., or none of these, and still be a Light-worker. Many have gone beyond formal religions and entered a fluid state of spirituality, or the Way of the Spirit.

When discussing the Light, the usual question asked is, "How do I work with the Light? What do you mean by this?"

We have touched on this in previous lessons; however, to reiterate, there are many ways to do this. Use the Light for internal work on yourself by way of the spiritual disciplines, especially meditation. You can use the Light in visual prayer, seeing the Light go forth to certain individuals on your prayer list. If a certain person needs healing or blessing, visualize this one surrounded in a bubble of Light. You can see the Light being spread across your city, or even the whole world. You can send Light to hospitals, clinics, schools, the homeless and the poor, and so on. If a fight or a riot erupts somewhere, or a war is taking place somewhere, send the energy of Peace, Light, and Love to the people. You can call on angels for help as well. You can use your imagination to create other ways to use the Light.

It is in the process of working with the Light in various ways that you will receive the Light, because you are availing yourself and preparing yourself for the Initiations, especially the Illumination. The key is making yourself available and surrendering yourself to the God within. This is why we stress the spiritual disciplines, which assist in harmonizing your lower nature with your divine nature.

In this unfoldment process, the stumbling block you must confront is your untamed lower nature, an illusory entity that you think is you. This is why you must learn to identify with your soul, which is an aspect of the innermost being of the God-Self.

By surrendering this ego illusion, you begin to enter God's Reality. This is essentially the crucifixion of the ego, hanging your ego on the cross. Experiencing the way of the cross is temporary, for it is the way of crucifixion and death. Then you must go beyond that, into the resurrection of rebirth.

"Do not make the pathetic error of 'clinging to the old rugged cross.' The only message of the crucifixion is that you can overcome the cross. Until then you are free to crucify yourself as often as you choose."<sup>11</sup>

By overcoming the cross, you are overcoming your lower nature, and crossing the threshold whereby you enter the Reality of the Divine Consciousness within you. By implementing the act of surrender, you will go far on the path of unfoldment.

Jesus understood the effects of surrendering his ego, for in reality he knew that by losing himself, he would gain much, but not necessarily for his own sake, but so that others would learn this form of surrender, hence, releasing the ego to allow God in their lives instead. He helped pave the way for mankind to gain awakening and enlightenment, as did other great teachers before him. By surrendering his own ego over to the Creator, he became an example for all others to do the same. Of course, not all would follow this particular path, but followers would indeed come forth. This is true redemption when you have surrendered your ego over to God. When Jesus said, "I and



my Father are one,” he understood what this really meant, and it meant giving up the old ways of the lower nature, to be replaced by God’s Ego. In this way, Jesus as a human being became a divine being, and this is your path as well. Any and all human beings may follow this path too, if they so choose. All the great teachers and sages knew and demonstrated this.

When everything you think, say, and do comes from God’s Will, and not the ego’s will, you have crossed the threshold and are entering Divine Union, for you are receiving the urgings or the voice of God within.

Soon you will learn the great secret that this Divine Will that you come to hear in your life has been your real will all along, because the ego’s will is false and illusory and not to be trusted.

So, listen to yourself, your *real* Self, the Self of your true innermost being, because that is what you are!



## **Lesson Twenty-One**

### **The Philosophy of Divine Union**

Early theologians referred to the Unitive Way, although this is preceded by the Purgative Way and the Illuminative Way. The aspirant must be purged and purified in the Light first, then the Illumination will come, which in turn leads to the Unitive Way. This is a path that may begin with faith, but soon enters the realm of mystical experience. The Unitive Way is not simply entering a deeper understanding of God, but through Divine Love a genuine intimacy and bond is formed, and then this one realizes his true Source, that he is One with it. “I and my Father are one,” as Jesus said.

It is not arrogant to say “the Creator and I are One.” In reality, it requires great surrender and humility to reach this point of realization and sincerely mean it, and especially to experience this. Rather it is arrogant to stubbornly insist that you are separate from God, to declare that “God and I are separate.” It is absurd to state or believe that “I am a separate individual and God is outside of me. I have my own independent ego and mind which are removed from God.” This kind of thinking is the height of arrogance and egotism. Worse than this is the denial of God’s existence entirely, and equally arrogant to believe. Imagining that there is nothing greater than yourself is the height of narcissism.

As we discussed in earlier lessons, only God’s Ego is real, whereas the separate ego of the human being is a pale reflection and a temporary mode of expression. The human ego is a limited concept and on this path it eventually will be transformed and absorbed into God’s higher nature. However, you as the growing soul will continue on, for it is immortal, for the soul is God’s. The divine spark of life resides within the soul and this is what you are, for this is where you find God’s Ego, at least the part that you will be acquainted with. You must awaken to this fact in your continuing journey. You will become acquainted with the divine nature that resides within you, although the entirety of God’s Ego encompasses the whole Creation.

However, the human ego is a tool to use, not to abuse. The idea of ego death or destroying the ego is incorrect, rather you must allow the ego to be absorbed into the greater Ego of God. When you have gotten the ego under control, coming into submission to the Divine Will, then it will be absorbed into the Divine.

“As the old patterns of ego-identity break up so the deeper identity of the self begins to surface. We do not identify with the Self – the ego cannot grasp this greater dimension. But the ego is contained within it and is slowly transformed. Eventually the ego does not battle the Self but surrenders itself into being a vehicle for the Beloved to experience His world.”<sup>12</sup>

Another way to say this is that you are a drop of water, or believe yourself to be, until you realize you must surrender to the whole ocean. And once you become one with the ocean, then it is God's Ego that is prominent in your life.

Realizing your own Divine Source is the Unitive Way, although many people do not really understand this. Although there are numerous church doctrines within the large umbrella of Christianity, the general dogma in most denominations advocates that God is a being outside of mankind, a separate divine entity altogether. When such believers hear the idea that God is within, they don't take this seriously or realistically, hence, they don't really understand what this means. Therefore, such dogmas consider the idea of union with God simply meaning you form a connection or solidarity with God.

Likewise, when Jesus said, "I and my Father are one," many followers believed that this only applies to him alone, as if the door was closed to everyone else. It also led to the Catholic doctrine of Jesus's deification, becoming "God Incarnate," exclusively. Obviously, the early church fathers' misunderstanding led to an incorrect doctrine. The deification of mere humans has been a pattern throughout history, and so early church fathers took this opportunity to do the same with Jesus, making it doctrinal, which was a grave error, because it detracts from the reality of the path of unfoldment for all human beings – not just Jesus alone. Since he reached a level of divinity, as did many other great spiritual teachers, it is so for every soul.

Divine Union is true for each soul, but the difference is that most people have not realized or experienced it yet. If it was true that the reality of "I and my Father are one" strictly pertained to Jesus Christ alone, this would clearly imply that the door would be closed to all others. Then what is the point of Redemption and Atonement if the door is closed to everyone? When Jesus said, "Follow me," it is that simple. He did not say to follow him and then stop at a certain point. If you are not meant to follow him all the way, why did he say, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works then these shall he do." –John 14:12

There are many great works you can accomplish, but the Greater Work is the highest Call for any mystic, for it culminates in Divine Union, and this is the path for all mankind. Let us clarify a deeper point here by applying four key verses from the New Testament:

"Follow me." –Matthew 4:19

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." –Matthew 22:34-37

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works then these shall he do, because I go unto my father." –John 14:12

"I and my Father are one." –John 10:30

"Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." –John 10:37-38

If you connect these verses together, you have a powerful formula for your journey into the Unitive Way. It must be pointed out that if this path was exclusively Jesus Christ's alone, that only he could unite with God, then your own journey is pointless and futile. His life demonstrated the Path of Initiation for all mankind, that each one can take the journey that leads to Divine Union. Like many great teachers and sages, he merely pointed the way and hoped that others would follow through.

Generally, there are many paths for mankind, but one ultimate Way. Exoterically, this Way is acknowledgment of God in people's lives, but esoterically this Way is realizing God within the soul which leads to this Holy Unity within. There are many paths, traditions, and religions that people may choose from, but all lead toward God, who is the Divine Source. All of these avenues hold the potential to carry you to the depths of spirituality, as long as you apply sincere dedication and devotion to the path you chose. Also required on such a journey is for you to eventually transcend the outer religious form, and to enter the realm of Spirit beyond form, or the Way of the Spirit. But unfortunately, many people do not believe this is necessary. They believe their chosen church or religion is the Way. They feel the way is to hold to the dogma of their chosen religion or church, that this will lead them to salvation. Too often people will hold to the letter of the law rather than the Spirit of the Law. The first is staunch doctrine, whereas the second is quite often the voice of God.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal to God.” –Philippians 2:5-6

Jesus was equal with God because he was one with God, very simply. But then, this is not an exclusive case, but inclusive. He has been called the Way-Shower for people to walk this sublime path, to apply this transformative process of Divine Union. All people are allowed to follow this sacred path, all who willingly choose this. Jesus is not God alone, or solely God incarnate, as many Christians believe, but he shares his Godhood with all people on the path to Divine Union. He is not the only Son of God; you are all sons and daughters of God. However, there is only one Sonship, but all mankind can share in this way of unitive reality together. Let us not forget that Jesus is one of many great teachers and avatars throughout the ages, who also recognize the Greater Work that leads to Divine Union. For instance, Gautama Buddha taught that you must seek the atman, or the inner self, which in its highest reality is the God-Self. Sufism teaches that you as the lover must have a bond with the Beloved, hence, leading to spiritual unity. St. John of the Cross abides by this philosophy as well.

“Inasmuch as it is the loving wisdom of God, God produces striking effects in the soul, for, by purging and illuminating it, He prepares it for the union of love with God.”<sup>13</sup>

Returning to the verse in Philippians, there is another clue: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Since this mind which is in Christ Jesus can also be in you, this is another key to the Unitive Way. This Mind of Christ is simultaneously the Mind of God, for the Creator and Jesus are one, and so are all people, whether they realize it or not. People are only separate in

their misthinking. They must first realize their true Sonship along with Jesus Christ, then they shall realize their Godhood with God. But Sonship and Godhood are only human dualistic terms, for these are two aspects of the same reality in essence. This refers to the first two points of the Trinity, the Creator at the top of the sacred triangle, and the Sonship at the right point of the triangle. The Sonship is the same as Christhood, which the aspirant realizes in experiencing Divine Union or reaching Christ Consciousness. Understand that this is an initiatory level that all great teachers and avatars have reached, not just Jesus. They were all anointed by God, or “Christed.”

Let us continue the passage in Philippians above: “But made him of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

–Philippians 2:7-8

This is describing the humility of Jesus, who expressed Divine Union with God. Realize that in humility is great power, as Jesus demonstrated throughout his life. But another perspective is hinted at here, that God was the one humbling Himself through the human form, through the man Jesus, who became exalted in the process, for the passage continues:

“Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. –Philippians 2:9-10

Therefore, it is not arrogant, nor is it robbery, for a soul to become equal with God, for the core of your being IS God. But you cannot intellectualize this and leave it at that; it must be realized and experienced, and then the full transformation of Divine Union will take place in you.

Realize that you must focus on the purification of your lower nature first, the Purgative Way, which will open the door for the Illuminative Way; therefore, in seeing and experiencing the Light of Christ within and around you, the door will eventually open for the Unitive Way. This process quite often takes years to unfold in the aspirant’s journey, so it must not be rushed. There is no deadline. The virtue of patience must be practiced here.

Be warned that there are those whose egos are inflated and believe they have reached this sublime godly status of inner union, via a form of the God-Complex. When the human ego thinks it is God, literally missing the God-Self within in its striving, this person becomes narcissistic and self-righteous.

The aspirant must be sure that he is sincerely reaching for the God-Self within, to experience this. This process requires great perseverance and patience, sincerity and integrity, devotion and discipline, and also humility and surrender. These factors and this journey begin with an inner yearning for the Divine. You must allow the true heartfelt yearning for God to lead you onward and inward on this sacred journey, for this heart’s yearning is in truth God’s own love for you resonating in your being and heart, to where it seems to be your love for God as your Beloved. Human love is a reflection of God’s love, although it is a watered-down version of it. There may appear to be a two-way interaction here, as in most relationships, where the man loves the woman

and the woman loves the man. In this manner, it seems to be God loving the soul and the soul in return loving God.

“We love him, because he first loved us.” –1st John 4:19

This is how you see it in the first stages of the process, but you must soon go beyond this duality. The truth is, there is only one energy of love flowing through a divine circuit, or a circulation of love. Love draws all things and all beings together, for love harmonizes; love unites. Not only does love lead to the realization of true union, but this love is God Itself. God is love, for love is God. Therefore, only one phenomenon is occurring here, not two, or three, or more, or a whole community of people. Since you normally perceive through dualistic thinking, you may not fully understand this until it is realized within. It is often so simple that it is easily misunderstood, because people are used to thinking in complicated ways.

Here is an old mystical philosophy: God created mankind and saw His reflection. The image of God is not in the form, but in the Spirit within the form. The outer form is the creation process unfolding, evolving, harmonizing, unifying, until the form and the spirit are one. Then the Creator will see His own reflection. Divine Union takes place as the Spirit descends into form, raising it up in vibration, over countless lifetimes of humanity, and finally returns to its Source, Itself. This is God experiencing through matter, through mankind, and this is how mankind evolves spiritually. Matter is actually dense energy, but the two are one in essence, that essence being Spirit. The fact is, although the mystic may perceive himself as experiencing God, the real occurrence is God experiencing through mankind. Only one reality is taking place here, although you may perceive it dualistically. Exoterically, it seems as if God is reaching down as you reach up, then He lifts you up the rest of the way, similar to the return of the prodigal son to his father. But in reality the Spirit flows through matter and raises it in higher vibration, since matter is essentially energy.

Here is another way to explain this. The dense human form has a small amount of consciousness within it, which is actually a portion of God’s Consciousness, manifest as a divine spark of life within the form. The Spirit is not just within the morsel of consciousness, but IS this consciousness. Then it raises it higher in vibration, awakening, purifying, illuminating, transforming, harmonizing, and unifying the form. So in essence you are not the created form, as most people commonly believe, but you are in essence the spark of life within the form; and that spark is the Spirit of God within you, where God’s Divine Consciousness is. When a portion of God’s Consciousness is placed into the limited form, the illusion of individualization begins. But the overall process will eventually lead to Divine Union.

Just because many aspirants may accept these philosophical ideas, or seem to intellectually grasp them, doesn’t mean they truly understand them. On the path of spiritual unfoldment, you come to REALIZE and EXPERIENCE this deeper reality within the soul and whole being.

“The Self is our divine consciousness, the part that knows it is not separate from God. It is eternally present within us, and yet through meditation and aspiration we create a sacred space within the psyche where we can meet.”<sup>14</sup>

As we always emphasize, for this Divine Union to take place, sincerely applying the spiritual disciplines are necessary and especially continuous meditation, wherein you reach deep into your soul to find God herein.

To reiterate an important point, surrendering over your lower nature is your crucifixion and death, whereby your resurrection is the rebirth of who you truly are. You are not this personal ego, you are not this entity that dwells in the earthly plane. The inner spark within you is a glimpse of the true God-Self you really are. It is when you stop listening to the ego's will and start listening to the Divine Will of your true innermost Being, learning to become one with your true Self, realizing this IS your true Self, then you realize that this IS your true Will. God's will IS your own will. This is not a matter of intellectualizing this; it must become a realization. Then you will have gone beyond the threshold and entered the deeper Reality.

Keep meditating!



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