

Beloved Companion:

The deeper we delve into the Mysteries of the Occult and into the varied Doctrines associated with the Cabala, the closer we come into juxtaposition with the Inner Planes, the more vital then becomes our need for instruction concerning Reincarnation, and Inner Plane Consciousness.

The thorough comprehension of these topics depends upon an understanding of the Ego, which is permanent, and the changing Individuality. The terms, Ego, Higher Self, Personality and Individuality, refer to distinct phases of Consciousness, each one, when understood, contributing its part in unlocking the Mysteries of Inner and after life existence. With the Individuality we are familiar from our study of this subject thru previous Brotherhood lessons. It represents the world of objective consciousness, the assemblage of traits and characteristics associated with one incarnation. The Personality and the permanent Ego are practically synonymous; they denote the Divine Man which projects consciousness to the physical plane, motivates activity, endowing reason and Spiritual insight to each successive mortal vehicle. It is this consciousness which is held responsible for all of the sins committed by its projection, the Individuality. Has Isaiah not counselled us: "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool"? This level of consciousness is also termed the "Higher Self" in referring to its close associate connection with the Logos, and its consequent ability to transfer Illumination from the God-Head thru to the objective consciousness.

There is still a further aspect of Awareness not touched upon extensively in the studies, but nevertheless important. To name it we employ the Sanskrit noun, Atma. It is the Divine Principle behind the Ego. It belongs to no one soul separately, but it is diffused in the Higher Self Consciousness of all Souls; it is pure consciousness, it is God-like, but it is not God; it is that force which gives the Ego consciousness of Self-hood. To illustrate ---- if we can think of the Logos as represented by the fiery Sun then the Atma is related to the Logos as illumination is related to the Sun. The Ego is then as one beam of the illumination, as contrasted with the total splendor of the aurora, whereas the Individuality is one transitory, scintillating flash, visible as the beam travels on its Eternal Way.

When individual Consciousness has been expanded to catch this Eternal Vision then the circumstances and the aspirations of one incarnation can better be adjusted to cooperate with the Universal Plan. Instead of thinking in terms of one life we think in terms of many incarnations. It is the Ego which is responsible for each life. No single incarnation is overwhelmingly important to that Ego, but in the aggregate all are vital to the welfare of the Higher Self.

Objective Consciousness does not remember past lives as there is no connection between one life and another save that

which exists in the Ego or Personality. Karma conditions the projections of the Ego and we transcend the gulf between one state of objective consciousness and another only as we become Ego or Personality-conscious.

I say that there is no connection between one life and another, but perhaps a better phrasing would be to say that ordinarily there is no realization of association between the past and the present. Actually the past speaks to us constantly in terms which we are prone to accept without acknowledging their significance. I refer to conscience, to intuition and to those strange, otherwise indefinable premonitions. All of these are threads of connection linking the objective with the subconscious and the Ego. The direct union of the Ego and the mundane plane comes about thru governed psychic and Spiritual development.

Although the Ego remembers the sins as well as the meritorious attainments of each life, in itself it does not either suffer for objective evil, nor does it receive benefit because of objective good. It is Divine and equilibrated, knowing nothing of Intrinsic change. Thru the operation of Karma, however, it sponsors the condition of the projected aspect of itself, disciplining its lowest vehicle in the stabilization of its polarity on the physical plane.

In all things is observable the Celestial Harmony of the Spheres; the Ego is responsible for, but it is not punishable for mundane sins, simply because the evil of the physical plane is liable to exculpation only on that plane and on no other.

Regardless, then, of the extent of evil perpetuated in the Life of an individual, after the purgatorial experience (which consists of remembering and evaluating in the light of Truth the events of the life just completed) the Inner Plane existence between incarnations is one of peace. Retribution is delayed until further earth lives, at which time adjustment can be made in consideration of former influences and circumstances. Rightly we say that all men are brothers. However defiled or exalted one segregated life may be, the Ego is Divine, changeless and perfect; Karma does not function on the Inner Planes between the spans of earth life. It is the operation of unpervertable justice, unswervingly balancing the scales of Right and Wrong. As the Soul descends the Planes to come once more into rebirth it delivers itself to Karmic jurisdiction; be that Karma what it may, beneficent or malefic, it is deserved.

Consider the process of transition: at the time of so-called death three bodies gradually disintegrate and are returned to their respective planes; they are not recalled for further use, as they are confined to the operation of one incarnation alone. --- these are the terrestrial Body, the Etheric Double and the Astral Body. These three are lost to be adopted no more, but the memory of that which these lower vehicles accomplished during the incarnation rests permanently in the memory of the Ego, and finds its reflection again in a further and new coordination of lower vehicles, which are assumed at the period of the next rebirth.

Then the Higher Vehicles continue on the Inner Planes unrestricted by the somewhat hindering limitations of the lower aspects of consciousness. They are then free and in a true state of "bliss" --- "Where neither moth nor ruse doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

But those Orthodoxically inclined when studying these Truths, recoil at the thought of losing earth plane identity. Say they, "Is it not much more consoling to believe that one life is all we experience, after which we ascend to a state of perpetual bliss, resurrecting the physical body once again?" More consoling - perhaps so to those who are disposed to accept lyrical phantasies rather than fact. Those who have looked upon the Truth and rejected it are free to accept whatever teaching they may desire, but self-deception is more cruel and deleterious in the last analysis than stern actuality. The desire for a total remission of sins and the sustaining of an inactive, inconsequential Heaven-state is born of nothing more or less than timidity and indolence. It is born of a desire to avoid the normal responsibilities of existence and to feed freely upon the gifts of a Saviour-God.

Future lives will necessarily bear the burden of additional responsibilities, because of the shirking of opportunity for development in this life. This mental state of aimless drifting may be pleasant, but it contributes nothing to soul growth, neither does it elevate consciousness nor invest Spirit with any permanent advantages.

The Inner Plane existence of the four higher vehicles is not to be feared; the Ego knows nothing of inharmony nor of suffering; it is truly at rest in a Paradise of satisfying poise, but its work does not end with the cessation of one life; it but recuperates its forces for further incarnation, that the lower vehicles may be made as perfect in attunement as the Higher, subtle bodies. It will then be complete and self-conscious in operation on all planes - verily a Master.

Another aspect of this question of preference in the matter of belief is that of the Spiritualists who advocate the communion with Spirits of the Departed. This is perhaps more seriously detrimental and indeed more selfish than the inhibitions and fears of orthodoxy. Those who journey to the Inner Planes have done so because their work has been temporarily fulfilled; they merit the rest and peace which re-entry into the Inner Planes affords. It is true that earth ties can restrain that progress, can force a retention of the astral body and prolong the association of the Departed Spirit with the pleasures and the pains that they have been privileged to leave behind. The Astral consciousness, now more highly sensitized than before, is thus compelled to live a suspended existence, hovering perilously between Spirit and Matter, observing helplessly the prayers, the supplications, the pleasures and the sorrows of those left behind to continue their existence.

Rather than giving us encouragement the thousands and thousands of messages of testimonial from Spiritualists' journals repeating the "Messages" from departed ones should give us cause for consternation and grief. The majority of them, it is true, emphasize their condition of happiness, but when we truly understand these matters we will see that they at least, with their more illuminated understanding, are doing what their earth plane associates have not the charity to do -- they are carrying their own burdens without a murmur of resentment, and doing all that they possibly can to relieve the abject sorrow of those who call upon them without ceasing.

Consider well the things we have discussed in this lecture. In a future discussion we shall touch upon other vital points closely associated with this same topic.

In the Bonds of the Eternal Brotherhood.