

Spirit Assuming the Form of Matter and its Application to Man

By

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BY DR. WALTER E. MANSFIELD.



MY WORTHY FRIEND and Chairman and all Friends and Soul-Companions in the Order of Life, we greet you.

Brother Chairman, if I should trespass too much on the time of the evening, do not hesitate to make that fact known. I will try to do my uttermost in giving you such essential facts that relate to the Order of Being in as brief a statement as possible, but in treating these great problems that confront the human mind it is necessarily proper that we have at least a little latitude in order to bring out the data we have to offer you.

The subject which your worthy Chairman has submitted to us and to you for discussion this evening will be "Spirit Assuming the Form of Matter."

In presenting to you the facts which we shall submit to you for your consideration this evening may fully be understood by many energetic and capable persons whom I see assembled before me. If there be any others who will be unable to follow the thought embodied in the discourse, I trust that you will bear with us while we speak to those who do understand, and if that will be your attitude, I am sure that you will gain some thought that will aid you in your efforts to appreciate the wonder-working powers of the universe and thus become established in her laws and by the use of them you can appropriate them to your service and benefit.

If we succeed in bringing to you such thought and material that will aid you in your journey with life, we certainly then have been of some service by calling your attention to these facts, as they appear on the way of life.

We find, my friends, in the universe a principle called Spirit, to your minds and our minds it may be invisible, but surely it demonstrates its presence when we behold the forms of life issuing therefrom. Here we see an evidence of an intelligent workman within the order of life, that unfolds itself in the phenomena of life by form, expressing itself from a plane of action, invisible to the observation but fully conceivable to the wise who behold the working powers resident within the order of things.

This great intelligent power is called the Wisdom agency. This Wisdom power to be such must be active; it must radiate intelligent waves of motion. These intelligent waves of motion are enveloped in

an aura called the Spirit Atmosphere, in which there is a relationship established between wisdom and action by which the spirit becomes materialized by force of motion, conveying through vibration a condition of form that individualizes itself when it finds the lowest point in the vibration attuned to the key and the principal thought within it—a form and matrix that gives birth on the planes of matter to the form of spirit materialized.

In Wisdom we find an active principle, because for wisdom to be it must act. No wisdom is a negative force. No wisdom is a passive quantity—but an active agency that understands. To understand is to be active—to be otherwise is to be inert—which means in the great law of assimilation—nothing. That which we call passive or inert is nothing but the period of action in a degree of force suitable to its rest or sleep in its human manifestations, if you please. What is rest? Nothing but a plane of repose, a plane that gives to you the opportunity of reviewing what you have accomplished in your active practice. We find embodied in wisdom—what? The potencies of intelligence. These intelligent wave-motions go out, setting up a rate of vibration. This rate of vibration creates or rather assimilates into form your color motions. These color motions are the elements evolved out of different rates of vibration and these different rates of vibration produce what are called the forms of retarded motion, and these forms of retarded motion, and these retarded motions are the vehicles that become crystallized as color-motions, as chemical forces, and these chemical forces become greater and more greatly materialized as the vibration is retarded. The more the retarded condition of the vibration the more is the color-motion retarded, crystallized, by which forms are attracted and drawn together. Vibration is a result of a corresponding of forces meeting each other in a law of contact, which when greatly retarded gives rise to light waves, sound waves, color waves and thought waves as forces in motion.

By this process the Great Spirit “moved upon the face of the waters.” Why do we call it waters? Because the water is the symbol of Motherhood—the womb of Nature, if you please, in which is contained all the elements that spirit vivifies and fructifies by her ever-generating process by which she brings into expression the forms of universal motherhood, the giver of life, if you please, the giver of all things seen, the expresser of all things revealed and the blessed Mother is ever present, giving out of her womb that which she serves with the things materialized as vivified by the spirit Wisdom within her law.

Spirit, my friends, cannot be seen with eyes that can only see its symbol, matter. And as we behold matter, what do we see? A spirit

condensed into form. The greater the density the more spirit is solidified, and this gives us spirit in a low rate of vibration and the lower the rate of the vibration the lower is the action, and the lower the action the longer will you have the thing with you; because the death of the rock is much slower than the death of the plant—now we have man, the crown and glory of the spirit acting and living on the planes of matter.

We see in this great constructive principle an influence that dresses itself, an influence that knows itself, an influence that works within itself, an influence that disseminates itself as a radiating force that goes out as the builder, the developer and the molder of forms.

Can you see, dear friends, that when you have knowledge, you act in accordance with that knowledge, and as you act with that understanding, you see you are an energetic soul and not a passive one. You see that your law of life is expressive. The Wisdom, then, of the universe works precisely on the same lines and follows the same course as is exemplified by you in your mental efforts on your plane or any plane that you may occupy in the universe.

The law is one and the same regardless upon what plane it may function or demonstrate its presence. The law cannot be one thing on one plane and another thing on another, but it must be uniform in its action while it may be modified or accentuated in its effect, because of the environment under which it operates. This is the law.

What is that law? That law is Spirit—the living, the permanent substance that can never cease to be!

All of that which Spirit gives is the result of its action, producing color-motions by vibration. These color-motions are the parents of your chemical forces; these chemical forces produce your molecules, produce your forms of matter by collecting until the nucleus is strong enough to take its position and place on the planes of life.

When the great intelligence of Spirit viewed its understanding its understanding acted, and as its understanding acted, it went forth as intelligent rates of wave motion. These wave-motions were the distributing power of that wisdom, and as they left upon the planes of being the effect of its wisdom through a law of vibration matter its wisdom became established objectively from an abstract plane to material understanding.

This Power is called God—the supreme and absolute Being. Whoever it may be the Principle cannot be denied. You may call it Nature; you may call it Cosmic Consciousness; you may call it what you please, the *name* is merely the comparative analysis that you give to a *thing*—

whatever the Name might indicate—the principle is with you as your life—is with you, notwithstanding the form you live in and operate under.

The Spirit lives most assuredly. It *lives*, for without Spirit, my dear friends, in the universe, there could be no effect of wisdom acting by its own vibration. This vibration is the vehicle of motion, the agencies by which motion is revealed in the object we see, whether it be a mountain, whether it be a flower, whether it be a man, an angel or a God it is the power of this Wisdom taking objectified form as Spirit into Matter.

Matter is not the permanent dwelling-place of Spirit as it is objectively considered; but matter and spirit always are the two great dynamic forces of being, that will ever exhibit to you spirit and materiality always.

Spirit never changes, but the symbol called matter which it materializes does change in its coating, in its structure and in its form; but matter is the antithesis of spirit; it is the spirit objectified as given form by the wisdom-power within it; but the Spirit does not speak by word, as we understand words. The Spirit speaks through laws, through principles, through agencies—and through us. And as such we, in attitude, attune and co-operate with those principles, if we are to enjoy the benefits of the Spirit assuming matter. The garments change, I told you, but the Spirit is always with you, for it is never absent, although its form may undergo many changes. Why? Because in the phenomena of spirit assuming matter we have birth—and in the phenomena of death, wherein spirit withdraws from that particular portion or construction of matter, it is spirit withdrawing or spirit entering into a higher rate of vibration—the lower must succumb—it must dissolve and the elements be taken up again and put into form in some other state or condition of life. We cannot see, as I said—law; we can only see its effects; but we can conceive the law by studying the effect as emanating from causes that speak to us in multifarious ways.

Who is the Spirit of the Universe—the All-Spirit? Who is the vehicle that expresses that Spirit? The All of that which is matter.

Does matter always live? We answer Yes, because it is the negative power of Spirit; it is that which individualizes the Spirit, because as long as the wisdom of the universe acts so long will there be vibration produced, and as long as vibrations are produced color-motions will result, and as long as color-motions result there will always be chemical forces established, and as long as chemical forces are estab-

lished, you will have your mineral kingdom, your vegetable kingdom, and your animal kingdom, your man the human kingdom, your angel kingdom, and you God kingdom—coming from Him and returning to Him is the long journey that all souls must take; it is the journey by which you all seek to find out its destiny, “your house well garnished and in order,” to quote the language of a sage of centuries ago.

All of this wisdom, this vibration, this color-motion, this chemical force, this mineral force, this vegetable force, this animal force, this human force, this angel force, is Spirit—in degrees—if you please, modified by one environment and accentuated; by another from the base on which it was modified—all of this, my friends, is God, in another sense, and is to us, as we exist, in image and likeness of these things; hence we are an *epitome* of the whole, a microcosm of the macrocosm; a god within a God, a spirit within a Spirit, a soul within a Soul, a form within a Form of the Whole.

This, my friends, is the first and last analysis of Spirit, Matter and Form. We cannot change that law; we cannot alter its effects; we can only change the conditions by which we get a larger, a fuller and a greater effect of that Law.

What do we do, then? Do we look at ourselves and analyse ourselves, wondering where God is, wondering where we shall be—wondering what will be our condition?

To the last phase I should say, Take good care of that—but don’t wonder where God is. He is everywhere—he is in this room tonight, for His Spirit is here as He is on every plane of the universe.

You are here, for what? For the express purpose of fulfilling the wisdom-principle in the vibration that produced you. Remember that you are the result, the effect of the wisdom-power associating you to a principle of vibration out of which law you have your existence. That law of vibration is founded on wisdom. You will ever be claimed, ever be recognized and will ever be supported as a Soul of that Power as long as time, eternity—the universe itself—may exist.

But what am I to do in order to enjoy and receive this knowledge? We may answer it by calling your attention to the great law known as repentance. But what is repentance, you may ask. The changing of your mind, the attitude of yourself to a greater law than that which you have heretofore been following. This change and attitude of mind will create within you certain specific mental actions that will set in motion certain soul functions and the soul functions will attitude you

to the soul-powers of the universe, and the soul-powers of the universe will reach you through your soul-power, and your soul-power will speak to your mental faculties and your faculties will receive this Word as your ideas comprehend it.

Your ideas, friends, are the symbols of intelligence expressed to you, your words are your ideas symbolized in the mind of another. Your work is your words materialized to the observation of another. Your love is the force that attracts, that attunes, that associates you to another. It is this law and that law you should follow in your efforts to know the Spirit.

Some say, How can I find my proper place? Did you ever consider that the mere thought of wanting to find your proper place was a recognition of your ability to reach that plane, or you should have never received the idea?

But a recognition of a thing is not sufficient. You must appropriate to yourself that which you recognize, in order to enjoy it. But you say, "I don't see it." Then you must look for it, and in the looking for it you open up the avenues of your mind to receive the color-motions, if you please, in a rate of vibration from the wisdom-power. What does this rate of vibration producing color-motions within your mind do? It furnishes you a picture—your physical eyes see visible things. Your eyes could not see a thing in the world if it were not for the color-motions giving a different effect of the vibration presenting the picture unto you. You would have no thought that there were any color-motion to register, for you would have no understanding of that thought if there were no picture formed of color-motions that revealed your thought dressed in image and likeness of what? Your idea.

Then when you open up your minds by the attitude of attention, you *focus* your energies and these energies acquaint you through effort with materials that meet you on your plane of understanding; but to see a thing mentally, physically or spiritually, you must have a color-wave motion to materialize it before you. So if you want to see matter materialized you have a physical eye by which to perceive it. If you desire to see on spiritual planes being higher than that of the rocks and the mountains you must open up your eyes to behold the vibrations that function and operate on that plane. In this way, friends, you will constantly see pictures, perceive forms and notice the effect of vibratory actions through what? The vehicle of your color-motions. In no other way can you see anything.

Tell me, friends, how you can see anything unless you have color to paint it before your eyes? If you can, I say you have no eyes.

You can hear sound—also an effect of vibratory action. You can feel substance—an affect of vibratory action; you may taste substance—an effect of vibratory action; you may smell it, and you have an effect of vibratory action. You may have an inspiration, an intuition or a vision that reaches beyond the planes of matter, and still it is an effect of vibratory action meeting you as a color-motion, as a wave-motion, as a sound-motion, as a flavor-motion, as an odor-motion—call it what you will—it is all founded upon vibration, the great revealing power, the concealing agency, but is never superior to this wisdom. The vibration is its vehicle of expression, for the moment when wisdom acts, which it must do, vibrations are set in motion, as we told you a moment ago, and these vibrations are the effect of that wisdom.

So wisdom is what? Is God in you, God in the universe, God in everything. We never can get away from that wisdom. You may, friends, have doubts; you may have fears—you may have limitations. But there is one power that has authority over you, notwithstanding your attitude to the contrary, and that power is that you always desire something that you have not yet received.

Did you ever think of it—that it is wisdom that addresses you when you are dissatisfied with your portion. It is wisdom that addresses you when you are satisfied with your portion. Here we have two polar opposites addressing us. What does it teach us? The fault lies in our inability to vibrate with the emanation that issues out of wisdom as a radiating force.

Did you ever consider that force is fire—the flame of spirit that eliminates, that is positive, that is active, that is energetic, that is radiant—that gives life? Did you know that it is symbolized by the power of being? Did you know that the water is the great molding agency that contains the great matrix out of which all things derive their existence? Not material water. No. But water symbolizes that law, for in it are all forms developed, without it no life can be. It is the giver, the vivifier, for both are jointly related to each other.

Another thought in this connection: I want you all to believe in yourself as well as in another; believe in your own ability; concentrate your work to unfold those qualities you have within you. You have knowledge to a degree; you have intelligence to which knowledge may become manifest. You have love by which you can be attracted and drawn unto that which your knowledge reveals to you. You have memory by which you are associated, from past experiences, with that which you now enjoy. All of these, my dearly beloved, is the law of your in-

telligence receiving its succor and aid from the superior degree of intelligence.

One more little thought I desire to say in this connection—and that is this: Did any of you, my friends, ever in your solitary moments, in the hour when you felt that you needed some helping hand or some cheerful thought to comfort you—did you ever think that through the law of correspondences you receive that impression from some source? Did it ever occur to you that you were not and are not the creator of your own ideas? In order to give you these specific processes, I desire to call your attention to two important operations of this law, and when you have found that and know them, you will go forth from this meeting, friends, and feel that you have been well repaid, and you can appropriate it to your life's action and receive its benefits and its instruction ever, by adopting the law:

Some of us say "I think," some say "I know I think." I ask you, "How do you know you think?" and all you can say is, "I know I think, because I think." There must be a law by which you think or you could not think. Now, friends, we are going to try to qualify you, that by directing your attention to an important matter, you may become fit and not feel that you are not any better than the person who is crawling upon the sands and finding homes to live in. We admit you have a phenomena called thinking. We admit that you have a phenomena that you call thinking; but, when I tell you that you really do no thinking, you may say that I am stating an untruth. Let us analyze the matter for a moment and see its specific bearing. First, there is a passive state of consciousness that holds the essence of every substance and phase of intelligence that is operative in the universe. The passive state of intelligence is the conscious emporium to which you and I go for our supplies. When we are in doubt we focalize our energies in attention. This calls into action the answer embodied in the passive state of our consciousness; and when it impresses itself upon our minds we discover an intelligent force addressing us by giving us an idea that we never had before; but, in order for it to do that, it must awaken within us an action of recognition by telling us through our ideas that we are getting help, that we are receiving help. This is meeting intelligence with intelligence, the brain, the instrument, the player is the revealer, that demonstrates and expresses itself on this instrument. Through what? A mental vibratory action leading us from the passive state of consciousness to the active state of consciousness.

So all we do, friends is to discover things, whether it be under the role of a thought-wave, a mental vibration or a love symptom—whatever

it may be, it is merely a discovery of something seeking to address us now for the time when we are in doubt or in worry about an important matter.

Did you ever consider, blessed ones, that a desire is simply a suggestion from the law informing you that something is for you, and by you not limiting your desire, but paying attention to it, by studying its effects, by studying its garments, by studying all of its things, you enter what? You enter the atmosphere of your passive state of consciousness. The moment that you do that you have found a place; you knock at the door and a little voice, or the little phase of intelligence, or the little seed that contains the answer to your question will come forth from the matrix and it will address you by saying, "I have been waiting a long time to give out of myself that which I have to offer, that through it from my planes of action and through my passive functions the wave-motion, the thought-force, the color-effect may reach some mind sooner or later who would catch up the idea and would seek to discover the source, and you have been fortunate in receiving the message, you have followed its path, you have come into my sanctuary, you have entered into the holy of holies, now I will give you the child of my love in answer to your desire."

And, blessed one, you both agree, you receive that which I give and appropriate it to yourself and to the world. You get glory in having your minds released, in having your thoughts eliminated, in having your conscience appeased, and I get pleasure by you being the channel through which I may express myself in order that the wisdom power of intelligence may ever address you as a spirit while you are clothed in matter.

Blessed ones, this is the spirit of wisdom power assuming matter as the custodian of its action.

Why does Wisdom need something to act on? It needs an object, for were there no objects in the world there could be no expression of intelligence. If there were no expressions of intelligence there would be no forms of life that exhibit themselves to the universe. Tell me, my beloved, if you can have a thought that does not act; tell me if you have a thought that is of value unless it acts? Because all thoughts to be known must be active; no thought can make itself known unless it acts upon something, my friends.

The great law, then, is what? The law of intelligence in degrees is embodied in wisdom that every man and woman should emulate. Don't question the wisdom-power of the universe, but question your ability to co-operate with it, and you will find yourself as a spirit attired and ar-

rayed in the garments of flesh of another form of matter, for the spirit and matter are the father and mother of life—ever at work. Out of matter forms are born; by spirit form is vivified. By intelligence both are held together. By love all are attracted together. By concentration all are bound together in one unity.

Then let us love the Spirit. Let us love Spirit and love its Form. Do not complain of the rock because it bruises you when it falls upon you. Do not complain of the sting you receive from the nettle that grows near by nor do not complain of the thorn that pierces you, if you want to have the rocks to build your mighty colossal buildings, if you want to have the foliage that your bodies may receive the nourishment and the sustenance of nutrition, nor do not complain of the flower if you want the smell, the beauty and glory to view in your homes with the crown and jewel that will reward you that have the spirit; for it is the vehicle that you use as you live as a spirit, existing in its essence as the soul and you will find consolation in the wisdom-power addressing you as the mind-agency of the whole.

Blessed ones, love each other, for you are all spirits, and as such you must enjoy yourselves now—if you cannot do so now, you will have to in the centuries that are to come, for you are destined to enjoy the beauties and the glories of nature that wisdom has painted through vibration with the invisible Artist and Architect drawing plans and working out the beautiful scenery that Nature unfolds, that your intelligence beholds and your souls enjoy and your minds appreciate.

Blessed ones, take this thought: Embody the principles of the philosophy of Spiritualism, that mighty power, that religious spirit of action and of form, We subscribe ourselves to thy name and may you ever live and ever be the custodian of man from plane to plane as he communes and rejoices with his sainted ones as they journey from plane to plane to meet the Father resting in the bosom of intelligence, to receive the soul as his creatures in law, in substance and in name.

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