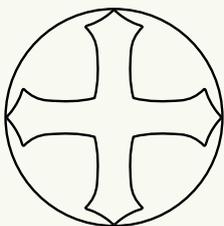


IN THE LIGHT OF TRUTH

SELECTED LECTURES FROM THE
GRAIL MESSAGE

BY
ABD-RU-SHIN



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ALEXANDER BERNHARDT PUBLISHING CO.

VOMPERBERG · TYROL

Note by the Editor:

This booklet contains the English translation of selected extracts of the work “In the Light of Truth” – The Grail Message – by Abd-ru-shin. The original work: “Im Lichte der Wahrheit” – Gralsbotschaft – was written in German. It consists of 168 sequential lectures, which build upon one another. The present texts are taken from the final work as released for publication by the author. This edition is also referred to as the “edition of the last hand”.

“In the Light of Truth”, Selected Lectures from the
Grail Message by Abd-ru-shin, first revised edition 2010,
Alexander Bernhardt Publishing Co., Vomperberg, Tyrol.

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PDF version created on 13 November 2013.

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HE WHO MAKES NO EFFORT
TO GRASP THE WORD OF THE LORD ARIGHT
BURDENS HIMSELF WITH GUILT!

FOR YOUR GUIDANCE!

The bandage falls, and belief becomes conviction. Liberation and redemption lie only in conviction!

I am addressing earnest seekers only. They must be able and willing to examine this objective matter objectively! Religious fanatics and irresponsible enthusiasts may hold aloof, for they are detrimental to the Truth. As for the malevolent and non-objective, they shall find their sentence in the very words.

The Message will strike only those who still carry within them a spark of truth, and the yearning to be true human beings. To all such it will become the shining light and staff. It will lead them unswervingly out of all the chaos of the present-day confusion.

The following Word does not bring a new religion, but is intended as the torch to help all serious listeners or readers find the right path, which leads them to the longed-for height.

Only he who bestirs himself can advance spiritually. The fool who uses extraneous aids for this, in the form of the ready-made opinions of others, walks his path only as if on crutches, while ignoring his own healthy limbs.

But the moment he boldly uses all the abilities which lie dormant within him awaiting his call, to help in his ascent, he is employing the talent entrusted to him in accordance with his Creator's Will, and will easily overcome all obstacles that seek to divert him.

Therefore awake! Genuine faith lies only in conviction, and conviction arises solely through an inflexible weighing and examining! See to it that you stand truly alive in the wonderful Creation of your God!

Abd-ru-shin

WHAT SEEK YE?

What seek ye? What is all this tumultuous agitation? It permeates the world like a ferment, and a flood of books overwhelms all peoples. Scholars pore over ancient writings, investigating and pondering until spiritually exhausted. Prophets arise to warn, to predict ... suddenly from all sides people strive feverishly to spread new light!

Thus it rages now over the troubled soul of mankind, not refreshing and invigorating, but scorching, consuming, absorbing the last vestiges of strength still left to the afflicted one in this gloominess of the present time.

Here and there also a whispering is heard, rumours of a growing expectation of something impending. Every nerve is restless, tense with subconscious longing. There is seething and surging, and over everything lies a kind of ominously brooding stupor. Fraught with disaster. What *must* it bring? Confusion, despondency and ruin, unless a mighty hand tears asunder the dark layer that now envelops the terrestrial globe spiritually. With the slimy tenacity of a dirty morass, absorbing and smothering every ascending free light-thought before it has become strong; with the gruesome silence of a swamp, suppressing, disintegrating, and destroying every good volition even in the bud, before any action can arise from it.

But the seekers' cry for light, imbued with strength to cleave through the mire, is turned aside and dies away beneath an impenetrable canopy, assiduously set up by the very people who think they help. *They offer stones for bread!*

Look at the innumerable books:

They do not animate, they only weary the human spirit! And this is the proof of the barrenness of all they offer; for whatever wearies the spirit is never right.

Spiritual bread immediately refreshes, Truth revitalises and Light animates!

Simple people must surely despair when they see what walls are being built around the beyond by so-called psychic science. Who among the simple is to grasp the learned sentences and strange expressions? Is the beyond, then, intended exclusively for psychic scientists?

They speak of God! But is it necessary to set up a university in order first of all to acquire the abilities to recognise the conception of the Godhead? To what lengths will this mania, which is mostly rooted only in ambition, drive them?

Readers and listeners stagger along like drunkards from one place to another – unsteady, not free in themselves, one-sided, because they have been diverted from the simple path.

Listen, you despondent ones! Lift up your eyes, you who are seriously seeking: *The way to the Highest lies open to every human being! Proficiency in learning is not the gate to it!*

Did Christ Jesus, that great example on the true path to the Light, choose His disciples among the learned Pharisees? Among the Scribes? He took them from the simple, natural people, because they had no need to struggle against this great delusion that the way to the Light is hard to master, and must be difficult.

This thought is man's greatest enemy, it is a lie!

Thus turn away from all scientific knowledge, where it is a question of what is most sacred in man, which must *be fully grasped!* Leave it alone; for science, being a product of the human brain, is piecework and must remain piecework.

Consider, how should scientific knowledge, acquired by laborious study, lead to the Godhead? *What, after all, is knowledge?* Knowledge is what the brain can conceive. Yet how very limited is the perceptive capacity of the brain, which remains firmly bound to space and time. Even eternity and the meaning of infinity cannot be grasped by a human brain. Just that which is inseparably linked with the Godhead.

But the brain stands silent before the incomprehensible power streaming through all that exists, from which it derives its own activity. The power which everyone intuitively perceives as a matter of course every day, every hour, every moment, whose existence science too has always recognised; whereas with the brain, that is with the knowledge and intellect, one seeks in vain to grasp and comprehend it.

So inadequate is the activity of a brain, the basis and instrument of science, and this limitation naturally also affects what it produces, hence all science itself. Thus science does indeed *subsequently* help to elucidate,

classify and arrange all that it receives ready-made from the creative power which precedes it; but when it seeks to assume leadership or offer criticism, it must inevitably fail so long as it binds itself so firmly to the intellect, that is, to the perceptive capacity of the brain, as it has done hitherto.

For this reason erudition, along with those who adjust themselves to it, always remains clinging to details; whereas each man carries within himself, as a gift, the great inconceivable whole, and is fully capable of attaining to the noblest and highest without laborious study!

Therefore away with this needless torture of spiritual enslavement! Not for nothing does the great Master exhort us: "Become like children!"

He who bears within himself the firm volition for what is good, and strives to give purity to his thoughts, *has already found the way to the Highest!* All else will then be added unto him. This requires neither books, nor spiritual strain; neither asceticism, nor solitude. He will become sound in body and soul, freed from all pressure of morbid pondering; for all exaggeration is harmful. You are meant to be human beings, not hothouse plants which through one-sided cultivation succumb to the first puff of wind!

Awake! Look around you! Listen to your inner voice! That alone can open the way!

Heed not the dissensions of the churches. The great Bringer of Truth, Christ Jesus, the personification of Divine Love, did not concern Himself with creeds. After all, what are the creeds today? A shackling of the free spirit of man, enslavement of the Divine spark dwelling within you; dogmas that seek to compress the work of the Creator, and also His great Love, into forms moulded by the human mind. This indicates a dishonouring of Divinity, a systematic disparaging.

Every serious seeker is repulsed by such things, because they prevent him from ever experiencing the great reality within himself. As a result his longing for the Truth becomes increasingly hopeless, and finally he despairs of himself and of the world!

Therefore awake! Shatter the walls of dogma within you, tear off the bandage, so that the pure Light of the Highest may reach you undimmed. Then your spirit will soar aloft in exultation, jubilantly sensing all the great Love of the Father, which knows no limitations of earthly intellect. You

WHAT SEEK YE?

will at last know that you are a part of this Love; you will grasp It easily and completely, unite with It, and thus gain new strength daily and hourly as a gift, enabling you to ascend out of the chaos as a matter of course!

AWAKE!

Awake, ye men, out of your leaden slumber! Recognise the ignoble burden you bear, that weighs upon millions with enormous pressure. Throw it off! Is it worth bearing? Not for a single second!

Of what does it consist? Empty husks which the breath of Truth will scatter in the wind. You have wasted time and energy for nothing. Therefore burst the fetters that hold you down, and free yourselves at last!

The man who remains inwardly bound will always be a slave, even if he were a king.

You bind yourselves with all that you aspire to learn. Reflect: In acquiring knowledge you force yourselves into alien forms thought out by others; you willingly adopt an alien conviction, making your own only what others have experienced within, *for themselves*.

Consider: What applies to one does not apply to all! What helps one person may harm the other. Each individual must make his own way to perfection. The abilities he carries within him are his equipment for this. He must adjust himself to them and build upon them! Otherwise he will remain a stranger to his real self, will always stand *beside* what he has learned, which can never come to life in him. Thus he is barred from any gain. He will vegetate, all progress being impossible.

Listen, you who seriously aspire to Light and to Truth:

Each individual must inwardly experience the way to the Light, he must discover it *himself* if he wishes to be sure of the way. Only what a man experiences inwardly, what he perceives intuitively in all its variations, has he fully grasped!

Both sorrow and joy are constantly rapping at the door to encourage and arouse man to awaken spiritually. He is then very often freed for a few seconds from the trivialities of everyday life, and in happiness or grief vaguely senses his affinity with the spirit pulsating through all that lives.

And *everything* is life, nothing is dead! Happy is he who seizes and holds on to such moments of affinity, using them to soar upwards. In so doing he must not keep to rigid forms, but everyone must develop himself, from within.

Ignore the scoffers, who are still strangers to spiritual life. They stand before the great Work of Creation, which offers us so much, like drunkards, like sick people. Like blind men who grope their way through life on earth without seeing all the splendour around them!

They are confused, they sleep; for how can anyone still affirm, for instance, that only what he can see exists? That where his eyes perceive nothing there is no life? That with his physical death he himself also ceases to exist, all because in his blindness he could not, until now, convince himself to the contrary through his eyes? Does he not already know from many things how very limited is the capacity of the eye? Does he not yet know that it is related to the capacity of his brain, which is bound to time and space? That because of this he *cannot* recognise with his eyes anything rising *above* time and space? Has this logical, intellectual reasoning not yet become clear to any of these scoffers? Spiritual life, let us also call it the beyond, is after all merely something that stands completely above the earthly division of time and space, and therefore requires a similar nature in order to be recognised.

Yet our eyes do not even see all that can be classified within time and space. Think of a drop of water, which appears immaculately pure to every eye; and which on examination under the microscope is shown to contain millions of living organisms mercilessly fighting and destroying each other. Are there not sometimes bacteria in both water and air that have the power to destroy human bodies, and that are imperceptible to the human eye? But they become visible by means of powerful instruments.

Who then will still dare to maintain that there is nothing new and as yet unknown to be seen when the power of these instruments is further increased? Increase their power a thousandfold, a millionfold, and there will be no end to what may be seen, but ever new worlds which previously you could neither see nor feel, yet which nevertheless existed, will unfold before you.

Logical thinking also leads to the same conclusions about everything the sciences have hitherto been able to collect. There is a prospect of continuous progress and development, but never of an end.

What, then, is the beyond? The *word* confuses many. The beyond is simply all that cannot be perceived by earthly means. And earthly means are the eyes, the brain and all other parts of the body, also the instruments

that help them to do their work still more accurately and precisely, and to extend its scope.

Therefore one could say: the beyond embraces all that is beyond the perceptive capacity of our physical eyes. *But there is no division between this world and the beyond!* Nor any gulf! All is united, as is the whole of Creation. *One* power streams through this world and the beyond, everything lives and works from this one life stream, and is thus quite inseparably linked. Thus the following becomes clear:

If one part of it sickens the effect must be felt in the other part, as with a physical body. Through the attraction of homogeneous species, diseased matter from this other part will then flow across to the sick part, thus further aggravating the illness. But should such a disorder become incurable, it will absolutely be necessary forcibly to sever the ailing member, if the whole is not to suffer permanently.

For this reason change your attitude. There is no such thing as this world and the beyond, but only one united existence! The idea of a division has been invented solely by man, because he is unable to see everything, and imagines himself to be the centre and focal point of the surroundings visible to him. Yet his sphere of action is greater. With the erroneous idea of a division, however, he forcibly limits himself, hinders his progress, and allows his imagination to run riot and conjure up grotesque pictures.

Is it surprising then, if as a consequence many only smile incredulously, while others adopt an unwholesome form of worship that becomes servile or degenerates into fanaticism? Who can then still be astonished if some people develop a nervous fear, even terror and consternation?

Away with all this! Why these torments? Break down this barrier which human error sought to erect, but which never existed! Your past wrong attitude also gives you a false foundation, on which you vainly endeavour continually to build up the true belief, that is, inner conviction. You consequently encounter points, obstacles, which must make you waver and doubt, or compel you to tear down the whole structure, perhaps abandoning everything out of despair or resentment.

The loss is then yours alone, because this is not progress for you, but standstill or retrogression. The road which in any case you must follow one day will only be lengthened thereby.

When you have at last perceived Creation as a complete whole, as it is, and do not separate this world from the beyond, then you have found the direct path, the true goal draws nearer and the ascent gives you joy and satisfaction. You are then much better able to feel and understand the reciprocal actions pulsating warmly through this uniform whole, since all activity is driven and sustained by the one power. Then the Light of Truth will dawn upon you!

You will soon realise that many who scoff do so only out of indifference and indolence, just because it would require a certain effort to throw over existing ideas and learning and erect something new. Others would find it interferes with their customary mode of living and thus becomes uncomfortable for them.

Leave all such alone, do not argue, but offer your knowledge helpfully to those who are not satisfied with fleeting pleasures, to those who seek for something *more* in their earthly lives than merely to fill their stomachs like animals. Do not then bury your talent, impart to them the recognition you are granted; for in giving, your knowledge will in turn be enriched and strengthened.

An Eternal Law operates in the Universe: That only in giving can one receive where lasting values are concerned! Like a sacred legacy of its Creator, this Law deeply permeates the whole of Creation. To give unselfishly, to help where help is needed, and to understand both the suffering and the weaknesses of your fellow-men, means to receive, because it is the simple and true way to the Highest!

And to will this seriously brings you immediate help and strength! By one single, honest and ardent wish to do good, the wall which your thoughts have hitherto erected as a barrier is cleaved as with a flaming sword from the other side that is now still invisible to you; for you are indeed one with the beyond which you so fear, deny or long for, you are closely and inextricably linked with it.

Try it, for your thoughts are the messengers you send forth, which return heavily laden with similar thought-forms, good or evil as the case may be. This actually happens! Remember that your thoughts are realities that shape themselves spiritually, often becoming forms outliving the earth-life of your body, then much will become clear to you.

Thus it is quite rightly said: "For their works will pursue them!" Thought creations are works which will one day await you! Which form light or dark rings around you, which you must traverse in order to enter the spiritual world. Neither protection nor intervention can help in this, because the decision lies with you. Therefore you yourself must take the first step in everything. This is not difficult; it lies solely in the volition, which expresses itself through thoughts. Thus you carry heaven or hell within you.

You are free to decide, but you are then irrevocably subject to the consequences of your thoughts, of your volition! You yourselves create these consequences, and that is why I exhort you:

Keep the hearth of your thoughts pure, by so doing you will bring peace and be happy!

Do not forget that every thought you produce and send out attracts all similar thoughts on its way, or attaches itself to others, thus continually increasing in strength and finally also reaching a goal, a human brain which is perhaps off its guard just for a moment, thereby offering such floating thought-forms the opportunity to penetrate and operate.

Just consider what responsibility will fall upon you if at some time or other the thought becomes a deed through some person whom it was able to influence! This responsibility already arises through the fact that every single thought keeps a constant link with you just as if by an unbreakable thread, so as to return with the strength gained on its way, either to burden you or to bring you joy, according to the kind you produced.

Thus you stand in the world of thoughts, and according to your way of thinking at the time make room for similar thought-forms. Do not therefore waste the power of thinking, but gather it for defence and for *keen* thinking, which goes forth like spears and affects everything. Thus create out of your thoughts the *Holy Spear* which fights for the good, heals wounds and furthers the whole of Creation!

Adjust your thinking, therefore, towards activity and progress! To do this you must shake many a pillar supporting traditional ideas. Often it is some concept wrongly understood that hinders man from finding the right way. He must return to the starting-point. One flash of light will destroy the whole structure so painfully erected over decades, and following a shorter or longer period of stunned inertia, he will make a fresh start!

He *must* do so, for there is no standing still in the Universe. Let us take, for instance, the concept of time:

Time passes! Times change! We hear this said everywhere, and automatically a picture arises in the spirit: *We see changing times marching past us!*

This picture becomes so engrained that for many it also forms a solid foundation on which they continue to build, adjusting their whole research and speculation to it. Before long, however, they encounter obstacles which contradict each other. However hard they try, not everything will fit in. They lose their way, leaving gaps that can no longer be filled in spite of all their pondering.

Many then believe that in such places *faith* must *act as a* substitute for the failure of logical reasoning. But this is wrong! Man should not believe in things he cannot grasp! He must try to understand them; for otherwise he opens wide the door to errors, and with errors the Truth is always debased.

To believe without understanding is just indolence, mental laziness! It does not lead the spirit upwards, but presses it down. Look upward, therefore, we are to test and investigate. Not for nothing does the urge to do so lie within us.

Time! Does it really pass? Why does one encounter obstacles when thinking more deeply about this axiom? Simply because the fundamental idea is *wrong; for time stands still!* We, however, hurry towards it! We rush into time, which is eternal, and seek the Truth in it.

Time stands still. It remains the same, today, yesterday and a thousand years hence! Only the forms change. We plunge into time, to cull from her records for the purpose of enriching our knowledge from what has been collected there! For time has lost nothing, it has recorded all things. It has not changed, because it is eternal.

You too, O man, are always just the same, whether you appear young or old! You remain what you are! Have you not already sensed this yourself? Do you not clearly notice a difference between the form and your “innermost self”? Between the body that is subject to change and you, the spirit, which is eternal?

You seek the Truth! What is Truth? What you still feel to be truth today you will recognise even tomorrow as error, in which however, you will

later again discover grains of truth! For the manifestations also change their forms. Thus your seeking continues, yet amid these changes you mature!

Truth, however, remains always the same, it does not change, for it is eternal! And being eternal it can never be clearly and truly grasped by the earthly senses, which are familiar only with the change of forms!

Therefore become spiritual! Free from all earthly thought and then you will *possess* the Truth, will stand in the Truth, and will bathe in it, constantly surrounded by its pure Light, for it will envelop you completely. As soon as you become spiritual, you will swim in it.

Then you need no longer study so painstakingly what science has to offer, nor need you fear errors, but you will already have the answer to every question in the Truth itself. Moreover, you will no longer have any questions, because without thinking you will know all things, will embrace all things, because your spirit will *live* in the pure Light, in the Truth!

Therefore become spiritually free! Burst all the fetters that hold you down! If obstacles present themselves welcome them joyfully; for they show you the way to freedom and strength! Look upon them as gifts from which you will benefit, and you will overcome them with ease.

Either such obstacles are put in your way to teach and develop you, in which case you add to the means of your ascent, or they are the reaction to some debt you have incurred, which you can redeem in this way and thus free yourselves. In either case they help you to advance. Therefore set out to meet them with a bold heart, it is for your own good!

It is foolish to talk of reverses of fortune or of trials. Every conflict and every sorrow means *progress*. Men are thus offered the opportunity to dispel the shadows of former misdeeds; for not a single farthing can be remitted to the individual, because here also the cycle of the Eternal Laws in the Universe is inflexible. The Creative Father-Will reveals Himself in them, and thereby forgives us and dispels all Darkness.

So clearly and wisely is everything arranged that the minutest swerving from this would have to plunge the world into ruins.

But what of the man who has very much to redeem from former times, must he not then despair, will he not tremble at the thought of the misdeeds he has to atone for?

As soon as he *honestly wills*, he can hopefully and gladly begin with it,

free from all worry! For a *balance* can be brought about by the counter-current of the power of good volition, which like other thought-forms takes life in the spiritual, forging a strong weapon capable of removing every dark burden, every weight, and leading the “innermost self” towards the Light!

Power of volition! A force unsuspected by so many! Attracting similar powers like a never-failing magnet, it grows like an avalanche. Uniting with similar spiritual forces, it works backwards, again reaching the starting-point, thus the origin, or rather the producer, uplifting him high to the Light, or pressing him deeper into the mud and filth! Exactly in accordance with what the author himself originally willed.

He who is acquainted with this steady, never-failing reciprocal effect inherent in all Creation, which manifests and unfolds itself with absolute certainty, knows how to make use of it; he must love it and fear it! Gradually the invisible world around him becomes alive to him; for he feels its influence so distinctly that it silences all doubt.

If he pays only a little attention to it he must intuitively sense the strong waves of ceaseless activity that affect him from out of the great Universe. Finally he feels himself the focal point of strong currents, like a lens that absorbs the rays of the sun, concentrating them on one point and producing a combustive power which can burst forth to singe and destroy, but also to heal, animate and bring blessing; and likewise can start a blazing fire!

And you too, are such lenses, capable through your volition of gathering these invisible power-currents that reach you, and sending them forth as a united force for good or evil, to bring blessing or indeed destruction to mankind. Through this you can and should light a blazing fire in the souls of men, a fire of enthusiasm for the good, for the noble and for perfection!

This requires only a strength of volition, which in a certain sense makes man lord of Creation and master of his own fate. It is man’s own volition which brings him destruction or redemption, reward or retribution, with inexorable certainty!

Do not fear then, that this knowledge will alienate you from the Creator, or weaken your present faith. On the contrary! The knowledge of these Eternal Laws, which you can put to use, makes the entire work of Creation appear even more sublime to you. Its magnitude forces him who searches more deeply to his knees in veneration!

AWAKE!

Man will then never wish for evil things. He will joyfully grasp at the best support that exists for him: Love! Love for the whole wonderful Creation, and love for his neighbour, that he too may be led to the glory of this enjoyment, of this consciousness of power.

SILENCE

When a thought suddenly strikes you, hold it back, do not utter it at once, but nourish it; for it will condense through being retained in silence, and gain strength like steam under counter-pressure.

Pressure and condensation produce the quality of a magnetic activity, in accordance with the Law that all that is stronger attracts what is weak. Similar thought-forms are thus attracted from all sides and retained, constantly reinforcing the power of your own, your original thought, yet working in such a way that through the joining of other forms the originally produced form is refined, changes, and takes on different shapes until it comes to maturity. Indeed you sense all this inwardly, but you always think it is entirely your own volition. *But you never give purely your own volition in any matter, there are always other influences as well!*

What does this process tell you?

That only in the union of many elements can anything perfect be created! Created? Is that right? No, but formed! For there is really nothing new to be created; in everything it is merely a matter of producing new forms, since all the elements already exist in the vast Creation. But these elements are to be pressed into service for the way to perfection, which is brought about through union.

Union! Do not pass over this lightly, but try to become absorbed in the concept that maturity and perfection are achieved through union. The principle rests in all Creation as a treasure that needs to be unearthed! It is closely related to the Law that only in giving can there also be receiving! And what is required to grasp these principles aright? Thus to experience them? Love! And therefore love indeed stands as the highest power, as unlimited might, in the mysteries of the great Life!

As with a single thought, union moulds, refines and forms, so is it with man himself and with the whole of Creation, which in a never-ending fusion of existing individual forms, undergoes transformations through the power of volition and thus becomes the way to perfection.

A single individual cannot offer you perfection, but the whole of humanity, with all its varied characteristics, may do so! Each individual has

something which is definitely part of the whole. And this is also why one so far advanced as no longer to know any earthly desires, loves all mankind, not one individual, because only the whole of mankind can make the strings of his mature soul, laid bare through purification, sound the chord of heavenly harmony. He bears the harmony within himself, because all strings vibrate!

Let us return to the thought that attracted the other forms, and thereby became strong and ever stronger. It finally emerges beyond you in firmly united power-waves, breaks through your own personal aura, and exerts an influence upon your wider environment.

Mankind call this personal magnetism. The uninitiated say: "You radiate something!" According to your nature, either unpleasant or pleasant. Attractive or repulsive. It is felt!

But you do not radiate anything! The process which engenders the feeling in these others has its origin in the fact that like a magnet you draw to yourself all that is spiritually similar. And it is this drawing that is felt by those around you. Yet in this, too, lies the reciprocal effect. Through the connection the other person then clearly senses your strength, and thereby "sympathy" awakens.

Always bear in mind: Expressed according to our concepts, all that is spiritual is magnetic, and you also know that the stronger always overcomes what is weak through attraction, through absorption. In this way "from him that hath not (the weak one), even that which he hath shall be taken away". He becomes dependent.

There is no injustice in this, but it takes place according to the Divine Laws. Man needs only to pull himself together and truly will, and he will be protected from it.

You will now probably ask: What happens when all want to be strong? When there is nothing left to be taken from anyone? Then, dear friend, *there will be a voluntary interchange*, based on the Law that only in giving can there also be receiving. There will be no standstill on that account, but all that is inferior is eliminated.

Thus it happens that through indolence many become spiritually dependent, and sometimes, in the end, they hardly possess the ability to develop thoughts of their own.

It must be emphasised that only the homogeneous will be attracted. Hence the proverb: “Birds of a feather flock together.” Thus drinkers will always find each other, smokers will have “fellow feelings”, likewise gossips, gamblers, and so on; yet noble characters will also come together for a high aim.

But it goes further: Whatever is drawn to another spiritually will eventually also manifest *physically*, since everything spiritual penetrates into the gross material, whereby we must bear in mind the Law of Returns, because a thought always remains connected with its origin and radiates back to it through this link.

I am always speaking here only of *real* thoughts, which carry within them the vital power of the soul’s intuition. Not of the power wasted by the brain-substance entrusted to you as a tool, which forms but fleeting thoughts which in a wild medley manifest only as shadowy phantoms, and fortunately very soon fade away. Such thoughts merely waste your time and energy, and thereby you fritter away a gift entrusted to you.

If, for instance, you seriously ponder over something, this thought becomes strongly magnetic within you through the power of silence, attracting all that is similar and thus becoming fructified. It matures and rises above the commonplace, thereby even penetrating into other spheres, from which it receives an influx of higher thoughts ... inspiration! Hence, in contrast to mediumship, the basic thought in inspiration must proceed from yourself, must form a bridge to the beyond, to the spiritual world, in order to draw consciously from a spring there.

Inspiration has therefore nothing whatever to do with mediumship.

In this way the thought is brought to full maturity within you. You approach its realisation, and *bring* into effect, *condensed through your power*, what already in countless elements was floating in the Universe before as thought-forms.

Through unification and condensation of what has long existed spiritually you thus produce *a new form!* So in the entire Creation it is always only the forms that change, because all else is eternal and indestructible.

Beware of confused thoughts, of all shallowness in thinking. Carelessness will exact a bitter revenge; for it will speedily debase you to the level of a playground for alien influences, through which you very easily become sullen, moody and unjust to your surroundings.

If you have a genuine thought and cling to it, then the gathered power must eventually also press towards realisation; for the evolution of everything takes place entirely in the spiritual, *since every power is purely spiritual!* What then becomes visible to you are always only the final effects of a preceding spiritual-magnetic process, which takes place continually and uniformly according to a firmly established order.

Observation of your thoughts and feelings will soon prove to you that all real life can in truth *only be spiritual life*, in which alone the origin and also the development lie. You must come to the conviction that everything you see with your physical eyes is in reality only the manifestations of the eternally driving spirit.

Every action, even the slightest movement of a human being, is indeed always first spiritually willed. The physical bodies merely act as spiritually animated instruments, which themselves only took shape through the power of the spirit. The same applies to trees, stones and the whole earth. Everything is animated, permeated and driven by the Creative Spirit.

However, since all matter, thus all that can be physically seen, is simply the outcome of spiritual life, it is not hard for you to comprehend that *conditions on earth* are also formed according to the nature of the spiritual life which *immediately* surrounds us. What logically follows from this is clear: Through the wise ordering of Creation man has been given the power to shape conditions for himself with the Power of the Creator. Happy is he who uses it only for good! But woe unto him who succumbs to the temptation to use it for evil!

The spirit in men is only encompassed and darkened by earthly desire, which clings to it like dross, burdens it and drags it down. However, his thoughts are acts of will endowed with spiritual power. *The decision to think in a good or evil way lies with man, and he can thus guide the Divine Power to good or evil purpose!* Therein lies the responsibility that man bears, for reward or retribution will infallibly be his, as all the consequences of his thoughts return to the starting-point through the established reciprocal action, which never fails, and which is quite inflexible in this matter, thus inexorable. Thereby also incorruptible, stern and just! Do people not also say the same of God?

If today many opponents of religion reject the existence of a Godhead, this cannot in any way alter the facts I have cited. People need only omit the

little word “God”, and engross themselves deeply in science, and they will find *exactly the same*, only expressed in different words. Is it not absurd, therefore, still to argue about it?

There is no getting round the Laws of Nature, no man can defy them. God is the Power that activates the Natural Laws; the Power that no one has yet grasped or seen, but whose *effects* every one, daily, hourly, indeed in every fraction of a second, must see, intuitively sense and observe, if only he *wants* to do so – in himself, in every animal, every tree, every flower, in every fibre of a leaf swelling and bursting its sheath to come to the light.

Is it not blindness to oppose this so obstinately while everyone, including these stubborn repudiators themselves, confirms and acknowledges the existence of this Power? What is it that prevents them from calling this acknowledged Power God? Is it childlike obstinacy? Or is it a certain shame at being obliged to confess that they have been obstinately trying all the time to deny something, the existence of which has always been clear to them?

Probably nothing of all this. The cause may well lie in the caricatures of the great Godhead held up to mankind from so many sides, which on serious investigation they could not accept. Any attempt to press the all-embracing and all-pervading Power of the Godhead into a picture must certainly debase and dishonour It!

On serious reflection no picture can be brought into harmony with It! Just because every man bears within him the awareness of God, he rejects with misgiving the narrowing down of the great inconceivable Power that created and guides him.

It is *dogma* that is to blame for a great number of those who, in their antagonism, seek to overstep the mark altogether, very often against the certainty living within them.

The hour is not far distant, however, when spiritual awakening will come! When the words of the Redeemer will be rightly interpreted and His great Work of Redemption rightly grasped; for Christ brought redemption from the Darkness by pointing out the way to the Truth, by showing as a man the path to the Luminous Height! And with His blood shed on the cross He set the seal to His conviction!

Truth has never yet been different from what it was even then, and is today, and still will be tens of thousands of years hence; for it is eternal!

Therefore learn to know the Laws contained in the great Book of the entire Creation. To adjust oneself to them, means: To love God! For then you will bring no discord into the harmony, but will help to bring the resounding chord to its full magnificence.

Whether you say: I voluntarily submit to the existing Laws of Nature because it is for my own good, or: I adjust myself to God's Will, Which manifests in the Laws of Nature, or to the unfathomable Power Which activates the Laws of Nature ... would the effect be any different? The Power is there and you recognise it, you simply *must* acknowledge it, because as soon as you reflect a little there is nothing else you can do ... and thereby you acknowledge your God, the Creator!

And this Power also operates within you when you are thinking! Therefore do not misuse it to evil purpose, but think good thoughts! Never forget: When you are producing thoughts you are using Divine Power, with which you can achieve the purest and highest!

Try never to forget here that all the consequences of your thoughts always fall back upon you in proportion to the power, importance and extent of the *effect* of the thoughts for good or evil.

Since thought is spiritual, however, the consequences will return *spiritually*. They will thus affect you no matter whether here on earth, or later in the spiritual after your departure. Being spiritual they are by no means bound to the material either. Thus it follows *that the disintegration of the body does not prevent the consequences from taking effect!* The requital in the reaction will surely come, sooner or later, here or hereafter, with all certainty.

The spiritual link with all your works remains firm; for indeed earthly, material works also have a spiritual origin through the creative thought, and will remain in existence even when everything earthly has passed away. It is therefore rightly said: "Your works await you, in so far as the effect has not yet reached you through the reaction".

If you are still here on earth when a reaction is due, or if you are again here, the consequences coming from the spiritual will exert their force *according to their nature* either for good or for evil, through your circumstances and your environment, or directly on yourself, on your body.

Here it must once more be specially emphasised: *The true real life takes place in the spiritual!* And that knows neither time nor space, and therefore

no separation either. It stands above earthly conceptions. For this reason the consequences will strike you, wherever you may be, at the time, when according to the Eternal Law, the effect returns to its starting-point. Nothing is lost in the process; it is bound to come.

This now also answers the question so often asked: Why is it that obviously good people must sometimes suffer such bitter adversity in their earth-lives as to make it appear unjust? *These are reciprocal effects, which must strike them!*

Now you know the answer to this question; for your existing physical body plays no part in it. Your body is not you personally, it is not your entire "ego", but an instrument which you have chosen or which you were obliged to take according to the existing Laws of the spiritual life, which you may also call Cosmic Laws if that makes them easier to understand. The particular earth-life is but a short span of your real existence.

A crushing thought if there were no escape, no protecting power to counteract it. On awakening to the spiritual many a person would then have to despair, and wish rather to go on sleeping in the same old way. For he has no idea *what* awaits him, what will still strike him in the shape of reaction from former times! Or as people say: "What he has to make good."

But take comfort! In the wise provision of the great Creation, as you awaken a path is also shown to you through that *power of good volition* to which I have already called special attention, and which mitigates or entirely pushes aside the dangers of the karma that is taking effect.

This, too, the Father's Spirit has given into your hands. The power of good volition forms a circle around you capable of disintegrating the evil pressing upon you, or at least of greatly modifying it, exactly as the atmosphere also protects the earth.

But the power of good volition, this strong protection, is fostered and nourished by the power of silence.

Therefore I once more urgently exhort you, seekers:

"Keep the hearth of your thoughts pure and then, above all, exercise the great power of silence if you wish to ascend."

The Father has already endowed you with the strength for everything! You have only to use it!

ASCENT

You who are striving for recognition, do not entangle yourselves in a web, but become seeing!

Through an Eternal Law you are burdened with an irrevocable obligation to make atonement, which you can never cast upon others. What you burden yourselves with through your thoughts, words or deeds can be redeemed by no one but yourselves! Consider, were it otherwise Divine Justice would be but an empty sound, in which case everything else would also crumble into ruins.

Therefore free yourselves! Do not delay a single hour in setting a limit to this enforced atonement! The honest volition for what is good, for something better, reinforced by a truly heartfelt prayer, *will bring redemption!*

Without the honest, steadfast volition for good there can never be atonement. Evil will then perpetually find ever fresh nourishment to keep it alive, and thus require ever new atonement, unceasingly, so that through constant renewal it only appears to you as a *single* vice or affliction! Whereas it is a whole chain without end, continually binding anew even before the old could be severed.

Then there will never be redemption because of the demand for constant atonement. It is like a chain that keeps you fettered to the ground; and there is very great danger of being dragged still further down. Therefore, you who are still in this world or already in what you regard as the beyond, pull yourselves together at last and concentrate your volition on what is good! With steadfast good volition the end of all atonements *must* come, since he who wills what is good and acts accordingly will incur no fresh debts demanding further atonement. This will then bring deliverance, redemption, which alone permit ascent to the Light. *Listen to the warning! There is no other way for you! For no one!*

But thereby everyone also receives the certainty that it can never be too late. For the individual deed, that you will have to redeem and settle, certainly; yet in the moment when you earnestly begin to strive for the good you mark the end of your atonement. Rest assured that this end *must* come one day, and your ascent will therewith begin! You can then joyfully start

working off all your karmic burden. Whatever you then still encounter is for your own good and brings you nearer to the hour of redemption, of liberation.

Do you now understand the value of my counsel to begin exerting yourselves with all your strength for what is good, and to keep your thoughts pure? Not giving up, but pursuing this course with all your longing, all your energy? It will uplift you! It will change you and your environment!

Bear in mind that every life on earth is a short time of schooling, and that you yourselves do not cease to exist when you lay aside your physical body. You will continually live or continually die! Continually enjoy bliss or continually suffer!

Whoever imagines that with earthly burial everything is also ended and balanced for him, may turn and go his own way; for thereby he wishes only to delude himself. Horrified, he will come face to face with the Truth and ... will *have* to begin his path of suffering! His true self, deprived of the protection of his body, whose density surrounded him like a wall, will then be attracted, enveloped and held fast by what is homogeneous.

It will be more difficult for him, and for a long time impossible, to arouse the earnest volition for what is better, which could liberate and help him to ascend, because he is entirely subject to the influence of the homogeneous surroundings, which does not carry the kind of light-thought that might awaken and support him. He must suffer doubly under everything he has created for himself.

For this reason ascent is much harder than when he was in the flesh, where good and evil dwell side by side, which only the protection of the physical body makes possible because ... this earth-life is a school in which every "ego" is given the opportunity of further development according to its free will.

Therefore rouse yourselves at last! The fruit of every thought will return to you, here or there, and you have to taste of it! No one can escape this fact!

Of what use is it to you, if you try to bury your head timidly in the sand like an ostrich, in the face of this reality? Face the facts boldly! You thereby make it easy for yourselves; for here progress is quicker.

Make a start! But realise that all old debts must be settled. Do not expect blessings to rain down upon you immediately, as many fools do. Perhaps

some of you still have a long chain to expiate. But he who despairs on that account only harms himself, because it cannot be spared and remitted him. Through hesitation he only makes everything more difficult for himself, perhaps for a long time impossible.

This should spur him on not to delay another hour; for he only begins to live when he takes the first step! Happy is he who plucks up the courage to do so, for link by link he will be released. He can rush ahead with giant strides, jubilantly and gratefully overcoming also the last obstacles; for he becomes free!

The stones that his previous wrong-doing had heaped up before him like a wall, *inevitably* barring his advance, will indeed not be cleared away, but on the contrary will be carefully laid out before him so that he may recognise and surmount them, because he must bring about the balance for all his errors. However, filled with astonishment and admiration, he will soon see the love that surrounds him as soon as he only evidences his goodwill.

With tender forbearance the way will be made as easy for him as a child's first steps, aided by its mother. Should there be things in his former life that were a silent source of apprehension to him, and which he would rather let sleep for ever ... quite unexpectedly he will be placed directly before them! He must decide, must act. In a striking way he is urged to do so through the enchainments. If he then ventures to take the first step, trusting in the victory of the good volition, the fateful knot is severed, he passes through and is freed from it.

But hardly is this debt settled than already the next one in some form or other presents itself to him, requesting as it were also to be settled.

Thus one by one the fetters that restricted and were bound to weigh him down are burst. He feels so light! And the feeling of lightness which some of you have surely experienced at one time or another is no illusion, but the effect of reality. The spirit thus freed from pressure becomes light and, in accordance with the Law of Spiritual Gravity, leaps upwards, to that region to which in accordance with its lightness it now belongs.

And so it must rise steadily upwards towards the longed-for Light. An evil volition presses the spirit down and makes it heavy, whereas a good volition uplifts it.

For this, too, Jesus has already shown you the simple way leading unerringly to the goal; for deep truth lies in the simple words: "*Love thy neighbour as thyself!*"

With these words He gave the key to freedom and ascent! Because it is an irrefutable fact: What you do for your neighbour you do in reality only for yourselves! Solely for yourselves, since according to the Eternal Laws everything returns to you without fail, good or evil, either already here or there. It will surely come! Thus you are shown the simplest of ways in which this step to the good volition is to be understood.

You should give to your neighbour with your *being*, your nature! Not necessarily with money and goods. For then those without means would be excluded from the possibility of giving. And in this being, in this "giving yourself" in the relation with your neighbour, in the consideration and respect you voluntarily offer him, lies the "love" of which Jesus speaks; lies also the help you give to your neighbour, because it enables him to change himself or ascend further, and because he gains strength from it.

The returning radiations of this, however, will quickly uplift you in their reciprocal action. You will receive continually new strength through them. With a soaring flight you will then be able to strive towards the Light ...

Poor fools are they who can still ask: "What do I gain by giving up so many old habits and changing myself?"

Is it a question of a business deal? And were they to gain only as human beings, to become ennobled as such, that alone would be reward enough. But there is infinitely more to it! I repeat: The moment a man begins to exert his good volition he also marks the end of his obligation to make atonement, which he must fulfil and can never escape. In this respect no one else can take his place.

Thus with this resolution the end of the enforced atonement is in sight. Of such great value is this that all the treasures of this world cannot outweigh it. He thus struggles free from the chains that fetter him, which he is constantly forging for himself. Therefore rouse yourselves from your enervating sleep. Let the awakening come at last!

Away with the intoxication that brings the paralysing delusion that redemption through the Saviour has become a letter of safe conduct, enabling you to spend your whole life in careless selfishness, provided that in the

end you embrace the faith, turn back, and depart this earth believing in the Saviour and His Work! Fools to expect such miserable, defective piecework from the Godhead! That indeed would mean cultivating evil! Remember that, and free yourselves!

RESPONSIBILITY

This question is always one of the first, because the vast majority of people would be only too glad to throw off all responsibility, and cast it on anything rather than themselves. That this is in fact self-humiliation causes them no concern here. In this respect they are really remarkably humble and modest, but only so that they can go on living all the more merrily and unscrupulously.

It would indeed be so wonderful to be permitted to gratify all one's wishes and calmly to let all one's desires run riot, even at other people's expense, without having to atone for it. If necessary, the earthly laws can be evaded and conflicts avoided. Under their cover the more adept can even rake in quite a successful haul, and do many a thing that would not stand up to any moral examination. In addition they often even enjoy the reputation of being especially capable people.

Thus with a little shrewdness one could really live very comfortably according to one's own ideas, if ... there were not something somewhere that awakened an uneasy feeling, if from time to time there did not appear a rising disquiet that after all many a thing might be somewhat different from how one's own wishes shape it.

And indeed it is so! The reality is serious and inexorable. The wishes of men can bring about no deviation whatsoever in this respect. Adamantine stands the Law: "What a man sows he will reap many times over!"

These few words hold and convey much more than many a person thinks. They correspond minutely and exactly to the actual process of the reciprocal action resting in Creation. No more appropriate expression could be found for it. Just as the harvest yields a multiple of the seed, so man always receives back greatly multiplied what in his own intuitions he awakens and sends out, according to the nature of his volition.

Thus man bears spiritually the responsibility for everything he does. This responsibility begins already with the making of the resolution, not just with the accomplished deed, which is simply a consequence of the resolution. And the resolution is the awakening of an earnest volition!

There is no division between this world and the so-called beyond, but all

is only one single immense existence. The whole mighty Creation, visible and invisible to man, gears together like an amazingly ingenious, never-failing mechanism; it does not function separately. *Uniform* Laws support the whole, penetrating everything like nerve-strands, holding it together and affecting each other in constant action and reaction!

When schools and churches speak of Heaven and hell, of God and the devil, this is right. It is wrong, however, to explain it as good and evil powers. That must at once plunge every serious seeker into error and doubt; for where there are *two* powers there must also logically be two rulers, hence in this case two gods, a good one and an evil one.

And this is not the case!

There is only *one* Creator, one God, and hence only *one* Power which streams through all that exists, animating and furthering it!

This pure, creative Power of God flows continually through the whole Creation, lies in it and is inseparable from it. It is to be found everywhere: in the air, in every drop of water, in the growing rock, the struggling plant, the animal, and naturally also in man. There is nothing where it would not be.

And just as it flows through everything, so it also streams unceasingly through man. Now the latter is so constituted that he resembles a lens. Just as a lens collects the sun's rays streaming through it, and passes them on in concentrated form, so that the heat-giving rays, united on one spot, singe and set on fire, so man by virtue of his specific nature collects through his intuition the Power of Creation streaming through him, and passes it on in concentrated form through his thoughts.

According to the nature of this intuition and the thoughts connected with it, he thus *guides* the self-acting creative Power of God to good or evil effect!

And that is the responsibility which man must bear! Therein also lies his free will!

You who often seek so strenuously to find the right way, why do you make it so hard for yourselves? In all simplicity picture to yourselves how the pure Power of the Creator flows through you, and how you guide it with your thoughts in a good or in an evil direction. There you have it all, without trouble and without racking your brain!

Consider that it lies with your simple intuiting and thinking whether

this mighty Power will evoke good or evil. What a furthering or destructive power is thus given to you!

You need not exert yourselves until you perspire, you need not convulsively cling to some so-called occult practice in order to reach, through every conceivable and inconceivable physical and spiritual contortion, some stage that is completely worthless for your true spiritual upward-swinging!

Cease this time-wasting trifling, which has so often become painful torment, signifying nothing other than the former self-scourgings and mortifications practised in the monasteries. It is only another form of the same thing, which can bring you as little gain.

The so-called occult masters and pupils are modern Pharisees! In the truest sense of the word. They are the true reflection of the Pharisees at the time of Jesus of Nazareth.

Realise in pure joy that through your simple, good-willing intuiting and thinking you are able without effort to guide the one and mighty Power of Creation. The Power will then take effect exactly according to the nature of your intuition and your thoughts. *It works by itself*; you need only guide it.

This takes place in all simplicity and unassumingness! No erudition is required for this, not even reading and writing. It is given to *each* of you in the same degree! In this no difference exists.

Just as a child playing with a switch can turn on an electric current that produces tremendous effects, so is it given to you, through your simple thoughts, to guide Divine Power.

You may rejoice over this, may be proud of it, when you use it for the good! But tremble if you fritter it uselessly away, or even employ it for impure purposes! For you cannot escape the Laws of Reciprocal Action that rest in Creation. And if you had the wings of the morning, the Hand of the Lord Whose Power you thus misuse would strike you through this automatic reciprocal action, wherever you wished to hide.

Evil is brought about with the same pure Divine Power as good!

And it is the kind of use made of this uniform Power of God, left to the free choice of each one, that bears within it the responsibility which no one can escape. Therefore I call out to every seeker:

“Keep the hearth of your thoughts pure, by so doing you will bring peace and be happy!”

Rejoice, you ignorant and weak ones; for to you is given the same power as to the strong! Therefore do not make it too hard for yourselves! Do not forget that the pure, self-creating Power of God also streams through you, and that you too, as human beings, are enabled to give a definite direction to this Power through the nature of your inner intuitions, that is of your volition, for good as well as for evil, destructively or constructively, bringing joy or sorrow!

Since there is only this one Power of God, the mystery of why in every serious final struggle the Darkness must retreat before the Light, evil before good, is also cleared up. If you guide the Power of God to the good, it remains undimmed in its original purity and thereby develops a much greater force, whereas with the dimming into the impure a weakening takes place at the same time. Thus it is the *purity* of the Power which in any final struggle will always work effectively and be decisive.

Everyone feels to the very finger-tips what is good and what is evil, without a word said. To brood over it would cause only confusion. Dull brooding is a waste of power, it is like a swamp, a clammy mire which paralytically clutches and suffocates all within its reach. But a brisk cheerfulness tears apart the spell of brooding. You need not be sad and depressed!

At any moment you can set out on your way to the Height and make good the past, whatever it may be! Do nothing more than think of the process of the pure Power of God always streaming through you, then you yourselves will shrink from guiding this purity into the unclean channels of evil thoughts, because without any effort you can equally attain to what is highest and noblest. You need only to *guide* it, the Power then works on by itself in the direction you desire.

Thus you have happiness or unhappiness in your own hand. Therefore raise your head proudly, and face everything freely and courageously. Evil cannot approach unless you call it! As you *wish* it, so will it happen to you!

FATE

Men speak of deserved and undeserved fate, of reward and punishment, retribution and karma.

All these are only part-designations of a Law resting in Creation: *The Law of Reciprocal Action!*

A Law which lies in the entire Creation from its earliest beginning, which has been inseparably interwoven with the great, never-ceasing evolution as an essential part of creating itself, and of development. Like a gigantic system of the finest nerve-strands, it supports and animates the mighty Universe, and promotes continual movement, an eternal giving and taking!

Plainly and simply, and yet so aptly, Jesus Christ has already expressed it: "*What a man sows that shall he reap!*"

These few words render the picture of the activity and life in the entire Creation so excellently that it can hardly be expressed differently. The meaning of the words is inflexibly interwoven with life. Immovable, inviolable, incorruptible in its continual operation.

You can see it if you *want* to see! Begin by observing the surroundings now visible to you. What you call Laws of Nature are, of course, the Divine Laws, are the Creator's Will. You will quickly recognise how unswerving they are in constant activity; for if you sow wheat you will not reap rye, and if you scatter rye it cannot bring you rice!

This is so obvious to every man that he simply never reflects on the actual process. Therefore he does not become at all conscious of the strict and great Law resting in it. And yet here he faces the answer to a riddle, which need be no riddle to him.

Now the same Law which you are able to observe here takes effect with equal certainty and force also in the most delicate things, which you are able to discern only through magnifying glasses, and, going still further, in the ethereal part of the whole Creation, which is by far the larger part. It lies immutably in *every* happening, also in the most delicate development of your thoughts, which also still have a certain element of material substance.

How could you imagine that it should be different just where you would like to have it so? Your doubts are in reality nothing more than the expression of your inner wishes!

In all existence, visible and invisible to you, it is no different, but each kind produces its own kind, regardless of the substance. Just as continual are the growing and developing, the bearing of fruit and reproducing of the same kind. This process runs *uniformly* through everything, it makes no distinctions, leaves no gap, it does not stop at some other part of Creation, but carries the effects through like an unbreakable thread, without interruption or cessation.

Even though the greater part of mankind, in their limitation and conceit, have isolated themselves from the Universe, the Divine or Natural Laws have not ceased on that account to regard them as belonging to it, and to go on working without change, calmly and evenly.

But the Law of Reciprocal Action also stipulates that whatever a man sows, thus where he causes an effect or consequence, he *must* also reap!

Only at the beginning of every matter is man free to resolve, free to decide where the Omnipotent Power flowing through him is to be guided, in what direction. He *must* then bear the consequences arising from the Power that was set in motion in the direction willed by him. In spite of this, many persist in asserting that even so man has no free will if he is subject to fate!

This foolishness is only meant to serve as a narcotic, or to be a grudging submission to something inevitable, a discontented resignation, but mainly a self-excuse; for each of these consequences falling back on him had a beginning, and at *this beginning* lay the cause of the subsequent effect, in a previous *free decision* by man.

This free decision has at some time or other preceded *every* reciprocal action, thus every fate! With a first volition man has each time produced or created something in which he himself has to live afterwards, sooner or later. *When* this will happen, however, varies greatly. It can still be in the same earth-life in which his first volition made the beginning for it, but it can equally well happen in the Ethereal World, when the gross material body has been laid aside, or later still in yet another gross material earth-life.

The variations are not important here, they do not free man from the consequences. He carries the connecting threads with him continually, until he is redeemed from them, that is to say, “detached” through the final effect that ensues through the Law of Reciprocal Action.

The one who forms is bound to his own work, even if he has intended it for others!

If therefore a man today decides to do another an ill turn, either in thought, word or deed, he has thereby “put something into the world”, quite irrespective of whether this is generally visible or not, thus whether gross material or ethereal; it has within it power and therefore life, which continues to develop and work on in the desired direction.

How it will affect the person for whom it is intended depends entirely on the condition of the soul of the one concerned, to whom it may thereby bring either much or little harm, perhaps also different from what was intended, or even none whatever; for again the state of the soul of the one concerned is alone decisive for him. Hence no one is exposed to such things unprotected.

It is different with him who through his decision and his volition has given rise to this movement, that is to say, who was its producer. His product remains unconditionally bound to him, and after a short or long journeying in the Universe returns to him reinforced, laden like a bee, through the attraction of similar species.

Here the Law of Reciprocal Action takes effect in that every single product in its movement through the Universe attracts, or is itself attracted by, various similar species, through whose union a source of power then comes into being, which sends back as from a power station reinforced power of the same kind to all those who through their products are connected as if by cords with the assembly-point of similar species.

Through this reinforcement an ever greater density also occurs until there finally arises from it a gross material precipitation, in which the one-time producer must now live and experience to the full what he once willed, in order at last to be freed from it.

That is the origin and development of the so dreaded and misunderstood fate! It is just, down to the minutest and finest shading, because through the attraction of *only similar species* it can never bring in the returning radiation anything other than what was actually willed personally in the beginning.

Whether for a particular individual or in general makes no difference here; for it is naturally also the self-same process when man does not specifically direct his volition to one or several persons, but lives generally in some kind of volition.

The kind of volition which he decides upon determines the fruits he must eventually reap. Thus countless ethereal threads cling to man, or he to them, all of which let whatever he once willed flow back to him. These currents result in a mixture that constantly has a strong influence on the forming of his character.

Thus in the mighty machinery of the Universe there are many things which contribute to how man “fares”, but there is nothing to which man has not himself first given cause.

He furnishes the threads out of which in the untiring loom of life the cloak he has to wear is made.

Christ plainly and distinctly expressed the same when He said: “What a man sows, that *shall* he reap.” He did not say, “can” he reap, but he “*shall*”. That is the same as saying: he *must* reap what he sows.

How often does one hear otherwise very sensible people say: “It is incomprehensible to me that God should allow such a thing!”

But it is incomprehensible that men can speak thus! How small they imagine God to be with this remark. They prove thereby that they think of Him as an “*arbitrarily* acting God”.

But God does not at all directly intervene in all these small and great cares of men, such as wars, misery and other earthly matters! From the very beginning He has woven into Creation His perfect Laws, which automatically carry out their incorruptible work so that all is accurately fulfilled, forever taking effect uniformly, thus preventing any preference as well as any prejudice, an injustice being impossible.

Hence God has no need to trouble Himself especially about this, His Work is without flaws.

But one of the principal mistakes so many people make is that they judge only according to gross matter, regarding themselves as the centre therein, and taking into consideration *one* earth-life, whereas in reality they already have *several* earth-lives behind them. These, as well as the intervening times in the Ethereal World, are equal to one *uniform* existence, through which

the threads are tightly stretched without breaking, so that in the effects of a particular earthly existence only a small part of these threads therefore becomes visible.

Hence it is a great mistake to believe that at birth an absolutely new life begins, that a child is thus “innocent”, and that all happenings can be accounted for in only the short life on earth. If this were true, then the existing Justice would naturally require the combined causes, effects and reactions to occur during the span of one earth-life.

Turn away from this error. You will then soon discover in everything that happens the logic and justice which are now so often missed!

Many are alarmed at this and afraid of what they still have to expect from the past through the reaction in accordance with these Laws.

But such are unnecessary worries for those who are in earnest about the good volition; *for in the self-acting Laws also lies at the same time the certain guarantee of mercy and forgiveness!*

Quite apart from the fact that, with the firm beginning of the good volition, a limit is immediately set for the point where the chain of evil reactions must come to an end, yet another process of immense importance comes into force:

Through the continuing good volition in every thought and deed, a constant reinforcement also flows retroactively from the homogeneous source of power, so that the good becomes more and more firmly established in man himself, emerges from him, and first of all forms accordingly the ethereal surrounding that envelops him like a protective covering in much the same way as the atmospheric layer round the earth affords it protection.

Now when evil reactions from the past return to this man to be redeemed, they slide off the purity of his surrounding or covering, and are thus deflected from him.

But should they nevertheless penetrate this covering, the evil radiations are either immediately disintegrated or at least appreciably weakened so that the harmful effect cannot manifest at all, or only to a very minor extent.

In addition, through the resulting transformation, the actual inner man to whom the returning radiations are adjusted has also become much more refined and lighter through the continuous striving for the good volition,

so that he no longer has any homogeneous affinity with the greater density of evil or base currents. Similar to wireless telegraphy, when the receiver is not tuned in to the energy of the transmitter.

The natural consequence of this is that the denser currents, because they are of a different species, cannot take hold of anything, and thus pass harmlessly through without evil effect, redeemed by some unconscious symbolic action, the various kinds of which I will speak about at some later time.

Therefore set to work without delay! The Creator has placed everything in Creation into your hands. Make use of the time! Every moment holds disaster or gain for you!

THE CREATION OF MAN

“God created man after His own image and breathed into him His breath!”
These are two happenings: the creating and the animating!

Both processes, as with everything, were strictly subject to the existing Divine Laws. Nothing can go beyond their scope. No Divine Act of Will will oppose these immovable Laws, which bear the Divine Will Itself. Also every revelation and promise takes place in regard to these Laws, and must be fulfilled in them, not otherwise!

So also the coming into existence of man on earth, which was a step forward for the mighty Creation, the transition of the gross material to an entirely new, higher state.

In order to speak of the incarnation of man it is necessary to know of the Ethereal World; for man in flesh and blood is placed as a furthering connecting-link between the ethereal part and the gross material part of Creation, while his root remains in the spiritual.

“God created man after His own image!”

This making or creating was a long chain of development, which took place strictly within the Laws which God Himself has woven into Creation. Put into effect by the Highest, these Laws work inflexibly and steadfastly at the fulfilment of His Will; automatically, as a part of Him, towards perfection.

So also with the creation of man as the crown of the whole work, in whom all the species that lay in Creation were to unite. Hence in the Gross Material World, physically visible matter, there was gradually formed in the further evolution the vessel in which a spark from the Spiritual that was immortal could be incarnated.

Through the continuously striving forming there grew up in time the most highly developed animal which, by thinking, already made use of various aids for its sustenance and defence. Even today we can observe certain species of animals which make use of certain aids to secure and store their necessities of life, and which often show astounding cunning in defence.

The aforesaid most highly developed animals, which were swept away by upheavals that took place on earth, are today described as “primeval

men". But to call them *the ancestors of men* is a great error! With equal right the cow could be described as "part-mother" of mankind, because in the first months of their lives most children need the cow's milk to build up their bodies, and thus with her help remain alive and grow.

The noble and thinking animal "primeval man" has also not much more to do with the real man than that; for the gross material body of man is nothing more than the indispensable instrument that he needs to enable him to work in all directions in the gross material earthly, and to make himself understood.

To assert that man is descended from the ape is a great exaggeration! This is going much too far. Raising part of the process to represent the absolute full fact. The main point is lacking!

It would be right if man's body really were "the man". As it is, however, the gross material body is only his cloak, which he lays aside as soon as he returns to the Ethereal World.

How then did the first man come into existence?

The highest stage in the Gross Material World having been reached with the most perfect animal, a change for the purpose of further development had to come if there was not to be a standstill, which with its dangers could become retrogression. And this change was foreseen, and came:

Having issued as a spirit spark, sinking down through the Ethereal World and at the same time uplifting everything, there stood at its boundary, at the moment when the gross-material-earthly vessel rising upwards in its development had reached the highest point, the ethereal-spiritual human being also ready and prepared to unite with gross matter, in order to further and uplift it.

Thus while the vessel in the World of Gross Matter had grown to maturity, the soul in the Ethereal World had developed so far that it possessed sufficient strength to retain its independence upon entering the gross material vessel.

The union of these two parts now signified a closer union of the Gross Material World with the Ethereal World, right up to the Spiritual.

Only this event was the birth of man!

Procreation itself is still a purely animal act with men even today. Higher or baser intuitions attending it have nothing to do with the act itself, but

they bring spiritual consequences whose effects become of great importance in the *attraction* of absolutely similar species.

Also of a purely animal nature is the development of the body up to the middle of pregnancy. Purely animal is really not the right expression, but for the time being I will call it purely gross material, and only enter into it more fully in later lectures.

In the middle of pregnancy, at a certain maturity of the growing body, the spirit intended for the birth is incarnated, which until then stays very much in the vicinity of the mother-to-be. The entrance of the spirit causes the first twitches of the small developing gross material body, thus the first movements of the child.

At this point there also arises the peculiarly blissful feeling of the pregnant woman, in whom quite different intuitions set in from this moment: the awareness of the presence of the second spirit within her, the sensing of it. And her own intuitions will also be in accordance with the nature of the new, second spirit within her.

Such is the process with every incarnation. But now let us return to the first coming into existence of man.

Thus the great epoch in the development of Creation had come: On the one side in the Gross Material World stood the most highly developed animal, which was to provide the gross material body as a vessel for the coming man; on the other side in the Ethereal World stood the developed human soul who was waiting to unite with the gross material vessel, and thereby give a further impetus for spiritualisation to everything gross material.

Now when an act of procreation took place between the noblest pair of these highly developed animals, there was incarnated at the hour of incarnation not an animal soul, as hitherto, but instead the waiting human soul bearing within it the immortal spirit spark. The ethereal human souls with predominantly developed positive abilities incarnated in male animal bodies, corresponding to the homogeneity; those with predominantly negative, more delicate abilities in female bodies, which were closer to their nature.

This process does not support the assertion that man, whose real origin lies in the spiritual, descends from the animal "primeval man", which could provide only the gross material intermediate vessel. Even today it would

not occur to the most extreme materialists to consider themselves directly related to an animal, and yet there is now, as there was then, a close physical relationship, hence a gross material homogeneity, whereas the really "living" man, that is, the actual spiritual "ego" of man, has no homogeneity with or derivation from the animal whatever.

Now after his birth the first earthman really stood alone, without parents, because in spite of their high development he could not recognise the animals as parents, and was unable to have any communion with them.

Nor did he need it; for he was a completely intuitive human being, and as such also lived in the Ethereal World, which gave him values that made up for everything else.

The severance of the woman from the first human being was an ethereal-spiritual one. It did not take place in a gross-material-earthly way, as in fact the descriptions in the Bible and ancient religious writings mainly refer just to spiritual and ethereal events. Man as such stood alone, and during his growth primarily used the rougher, sterner intuitions for his subsistence, as a result of which the more delicate ones were increasingly pushed aside and isolated until, as the more delicate part of the spiritual man, they were completely severed.

Now this second part, in order not to remain inactive in the gross material, where in the first place it was absolutely necessary for upliftment, was incarnated in a second vessel, which in accordance with its fineness was of the female sex, while the rougher intuitions were left to the gross materially stronger man. Exactly corresponding to the Laws of the Ethereal World, in which everything immediately takes on form, the delicate and weak manifesting in female forms, the stern and strong in male forms.

Through her more valuable spiritual qualities, woman should and could in reality be more perfect than man, if she had only exerted herself to clarify ever more harmoniously the intuitions bestowed upon her, whereby she would have become a power that was bound to have a revolutionising and greatly furthering effect in the entire Gross Material Creation.

But unfortunately it was just she who above all failed, because she surrendered herself as a plaything to the strong powers of intuitions assigned to her, which in addition she even dimmed and defiled through feeling and imagination.

What deep significance lies in the Biblical narrative of the tasting from the tree of knowledge! How the woman, incited by the serpent, offered the apple to the man. A better illustration of the event in the material sphere simply could not have been given.

The offering of the apple, emanating from the woman, was the woman's becoming conscious of the effect of her charms upon man, and their *intentional exploitation*. But the taking and eating by the man was his response to it with the awakening urge to draw the attention of woman only to himself by beginning to make himself desirable through accumulating treasures and appropriating various things of value.

With this began the cultivation of the intellect, with its accompanying manifestations of greed, falsehood and oppression, to which men finally subjected themselves completely, thus of their own free will making themselves slaves of their instrument.

But with the intellect as ruler it inevitably followed that, in accordance with its very nature, they also chained themselves firmly to time and space, thereby losing the ability to grasp or experience anything above time and space, such as everything spiritual and ethereal.

This was the complete *severance* from the real Paradise and from the Ethereal World, which they brought upon themselves; for it was now inevitable that with the horizon of their ability to comprehend firmly bound to earthly matters through the intellect, and thus narrowly limited, they could no longer "understand" all that is ethereal, which does not know the earthly concept either of time or of space.

Thus the experiences and visions of intuitive men, as well as the misunderstood traditions, became "fairy tales" to the intellectual men. The ever-increasing number of materialists, that is, those who are able to acknowledge only coarse matter bound to earthly time and space, finally ridiculed the idealists to whom, through their much deeper and more expansive inner life, the way to the Ethereal World was not yet quite barred; they called them dreamers, if not fools or even impostors.

All this was a long-lasting period of development, comprising millions of years.

But now at last we are very near the hour when the next great epoch in Creation sets in, which is unconditional upward-swinging, and brings what

the first epoch with the coming into existence of man should already have brought: the birth of the spiritualised complete man! Of the man who has a furthering and ennobling effect on the whole of Gross Material Creation, which is the real purpose of man on earth.

Then there will be no more room for the oppressive materialist, chained solely to earthly conceptions of time and space. He will be a stranger in every country, homeless. He will wither away and perish like chaff that separates from the wheat. Take care that in this separation you are not found too light!

MAN IN CREATION

Man is not really meant to live according to the conceptions which have hitherto prevailed, but should be more of an *intuitive human being*. In that way he would form an essential connecting-link for the further development of the whole Creation.

Because he unites in himself the ethereal of the beyond and the gross material of this world, it is possible for him to survey both and to experience both simultaneously. In addition he also has at his disposal an instrument that puts him at the head of the entire Gross Material Creation: the intellect. With this instrument he is able to guide, thus to lead.

Intellect is the highest of what is earthly, and is meant to be the *steering element* through life on earth, whereas the *driving power* is the intuition, which originates in the Spiritual World. The basis of the intellect therefore is the physical body, but the basis of the intuition is the spirit.

As a product of the brain, which belongs to the gross material body, the intellect, like all that is earthly, is bound to the earthly conception of time and space. The intellect will never be able to work outside time and space, although it is actually more ethereal than the body, but nevertheless still too dense and heavy to rise above earthly conceptions of time and space. Hence it is completely earthbound.

But the intuition (not the feeling) is timeless and spaceless, and therefore comes from the Spiritual.

Thus equipped, man could be closely connected with the finest ethereal, indeed even be in touch with the spiritual itself, and yet live and work in the midst of all that is earthly, gross material. Only man is endowed in this way.

He alone, as the only bridge between the Luminous Heights and the gross material earthly, should and could provide the healthy, fresh connection! *Only through him in his special nature could the pure Life from the Source of Light pulsate downwards into the deepest gross material, and from there upwards again in the most glorious, harmonious reciprocal action!* He stands as a link between the two worlds, so that through him these are welded into *one* world.

However, he did *not* fulfil this task. He *separated* these two worlds instead of keeping them firmly united. *And that was the Fall of Man! –*

Through the special nature just explained man was really destined to become a kind of lord of the Gross Material World, because the Gross Material World depends on his mediation, inasmuch as, according to his nature, it was forced to suffer with him or could be uplifted through him, depending on whether the currents from the Source of Light and Life could flow *in purity* through mankind or not.

But man *cut off* the flow of this alternating current necessary for the Ethereal World and for the Gross Material World. Now just as a good blood circulation keeps the body fresh and healthy, so is it with the alternating current in Creation. Cutting it off must bring confusion and illness, finally ending in catastrophes.

This serious failure on the part of man could come about because he did not use the intellect, which originates only in gross matter, solely as an instrument, but completely subjected himself to it, making *it* ruler over all. He thus made himself the slave of his instrument and became merely intellectual man, who is in the habit of proudly calling himself a materialist!

By subjecting himself entirely to the intellect, man chained himself to all that is gross material. Just as the intellect cannot grasp anything beyond the earthly conception of time and space, obviously the man who has completely subjected himself to it cannot do so either. His horizon, that is his ability to comprehend, became narrow together with the limited ability of the intellect.

The connection with the Ethereal was thus severed, a wall was erected which became dense and ever denser. Since the Source of Life, the Primordial Light, God, is far above time and space and still stands far above the Ethereal, naturally every contact must be cut off through the binding of the intellect. For this reason it is quite impossible for the materialist to recognise God.

The eating from the tree of knowledge was nothing more than the cultivation of the intellect. The resulting separation from the Ethereal was also the closing of Paradise as a natural consequence. Mankind locked themselves out by inclining wholly towards the gross material through the intellect, thus degrading themselves, and voluntarily or of their own choice placing themselves in bondage.

But where did this lead? The purely materialistic, thus earthbound and

inferior thoughts of the intellect, with all their accompanying manifestations of acquisitiveness, greed, falsehood, robbery, oppression, sensuality and so on, *were bound* to bring about the inexorable reciprocal action of what is homogeneous, which formed everything accordingly, drove men onwards, and will finally burst over everything with ... annihilation!

A World Judgment, which in accordance with the existing Laws of Creation cannot be avoided. As with a gathering thunderstorm, which must finally burst and bring destruction. But at the same time also purification!

Man did not, as was essential, serve as a connecting-link between the ethereal and the gross material parts of Creation, did not let the ever refreshing, animating and furthering necessary alternating current flow through, but separated Creation into two worlds by evading his obligation, and chaining himself wholly to gross matter. Consequently both parts of the World were gradually bound to become diseased.

The part which was completely deprived of the Light-stream, or received it too weakly through the few human beings who still provided a connection, naturally much more severely. This is the gross material part, which is therefore driving towards a terrible crisis and will be utterly convulsed by mighty fever spasms, until all that is diseased therein has been consumed, and it can at last be restored to health under a new, strong influx from the Fountain-Head.

But who will be consumed in this process?

The answer to this lies in the natural happening itself: Through the creative power dwelling in it, every *intuitively permeated* thought immediately takes on an ethereal form corresponding to the content of the thought, always remaining connected as by a cord with its producer, but being drawn off and away from him through the power of attraction of homogeneous species in all that is ethereal, and driven through the Universe with the currents constantly pulsating through it, which like everything in Creation move in ellipses.

Thus the time approaches when the thoughts that have come to life and reality in the Ethereal, together with the similar species attracted on their way, *will fall back* upon their origin and *starting-point*, because in spite of their wandering they remain linked with him, in order now to discharge, to release themselves there.

Hence in the final combined effect that is now to be expected, annihilation will *first of all* strike those who through their thinking and intuiting have been producers and constant supporters. That the destructive rebounding force will describe still wider circles, and in passing will affect even near homogeneous species of these human beings, is inevitable.

But then men will fulfil *that* which they should fulfil in Creation. They will be the connecting-link, will through their quality draw from the Spiritual, that is, will let themselves be guided by the purified intuition, and translate this into the Gross Material, thus into the earthly, to this end using their intellect and accumulated experiences only as an instrument, in order to carry through these pure intuitions in gross material life, taking into account everything earthly, whereby the entire Gross Material Creation will be continually furthered, purified and uplifted.

This will make it possible in the reciprocal action for something healthier to flow back from the Gross Material to the Ethereal; and a new, uniform and harmonious world will arise.

In the proper fulfilment of their activity men will be the longed-for complete and noble human beings; for through the right adjustment to the great Work of Creation they too will receive quite different powers than hitherto, which will let them intuitively experience contentment and bliss unceasingly.

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