

THE FREEDOM OF TWO WORLDS

Lecture given on Ascension Day, May 25th, 1933

THE Key that I mentioned in my last lecture ensures for us the Freedom of two Worlds—this material, human world, and the World of Light, the spiritual world.

We must, as complete individuals, understand once and for all, that it is as necessary for us to comprehend the laws that govern the spiritual world (those laws which our spirits either obey or disobey), as it is essential that we should investigate the working of natural laws that affect our physical body and material conditions. The laws that govern matter, and the laws that govern spirit or Light are not at variance, but are in complete harmony, and interpenetrate. In our ignorance, in past ages, spirit and matter have been thought irreconcilable substances. In our knowledge of to-day we have found the Law that unites all apparently irreconcilable conditions; and that is—the Law of Transmutation.

The understanding of the working of this law gives us the Freedom of Knowledge—Power on Earth—the Power that defeats death.

Our knowledge, or the lack of it, is our individual responsibility; the parable of the talents is a very searching one. Knowledge can free us from the Kharmic Law; ignorance that binds us on earth, binds us in Heaven; Knowledge that frees us on earth, frees us in Heaven. Therefore it is essential that we obtain our freedom here. So essential is it, that we must endeavor to eliminate all prejudice and all pre-conceived ideas and examine unemotionally the source from which they

THE FREEDOM OF TWO WORLDS 41

Law, which can transmute the substance of Matter into the substance of Light, originated.

Knowledge of that Law was given to the world, through the incarnation of the Spirit of the Christ, into the human personality of the Conscious Medium, Jesus. Every human individual is controlled by a spirit, and that spirit receives its individual name in infancy. We do not name the body, we name the spirit. A still-born child has a perfect human body of flesh, blood, bones, nerves, and brain; but it has no breath, no life, no spirit; and it receives no name, no individual sound.

If we begin to examine the statements of the New Testament regarding the activities of Christ, we come across the most amazing facts concerning His power to demonstrate the working of this Law of Transmutation.

We find that He was able to recall from the World of Light the spirit of Lazarus. In the immediate functioning of the Law of Light, this re-animation of matter, He was able to demonstrate this new Law to a people who had been instructed by the Scribes and Pharisees concerning the Mysteries of the past civilizations. Those Mysteries had not included a knowledge of the co-ordination of the Laws of Light and the laws of material substances. He proved to them that the requisite amount of Light, incarnate in the proper proportion of Matter, actually makes a corpse into a perfectly healthy human being, in what I say 'individual,' for it was not only the re-animating of a body; He restored the spirit of Lazarus to his own healthy physical body, by the instantaneous

of course, we cannot understand any branch of science by rote. It must be taught, and we must be willing to master the intricacies of physical science and its practical application and concentration,

coupled with an urgency to learn; and that is a straight and narrow path of service. To develop the capacities of one's mind, so that it is possible to comprehend the infinite expanding transcendencies of Spiritual Science needs also mental concentration, united to an earnest desire to acquire knowledge, and treading with unfaltering footsteps the scientific path of Service.

I have just said that every human body is controlled by a spirit that we know by its baptismal name. The quality of that spirit is manifested by its actions, and what we call its characteristics. From the social point of view we roughly divide human nature into two classes—the controlled, and the uncontrolled. In the former class the proportion of Light and Matter are well balanced; in the latter, Matter predominates, and offends against the law of proportion.

We all know the difference between the qualities of exterior light; candle-light, gas, electric light, and spot lights of intolerable brilliance. I want you to realize that the substance of incarnate spirit varies as much in quality as does exterior light. The spirit sustains and increases its quality according to the strength of the source that it draws on. If the spirit is unaware of, or repudiates the existence of spiritual energy, it must, of necessity, deteriorate. If the spirit is of a slovenly nature, and not at all particular as to where it derives its nourishment, and changes its diet according to its mood, it will suffer from as many spiritual discomforts and diseases as the body does, if it follows the same regimen. That is why Christ claimed His Divinity, because He knew that He drew into His being sustenance for His Spirit from the True Source of Light. No power on earth can separate the substance of the Mother from her child, and no power in Light could separate the

Spirit of the Christ from the Spirit of God. So—given the Unity of Eternal Substance—what is the effect on the human individual?

I see the personality of the man Jesus as the perfect Conscious Medium, controlled by the Spirit of God; and that, I claim, is what we all should be: conscious mediums controlled by the Omnipotent Spirit of Light.

It was as a medium that Jesus consciously transmitted the knowledge of the Divine Laws to the world. Never did He claim power of His own. He knew what He was doing, but He knew that the knowledge was the result of direct Inspiration, which could only make a contact with His mind, if He deliberately transmuted the grosser qualities of His human substance into the subtler essence of spiritual energy. That took Him many years to do. Then He became God's Medium. He spoke with the voice of Divine authority. Through Him the Creator was able to control the elements; through Him, not *by* Him. Through Him the power to transmit sufficient Light into the spirit of Man, to adjust the predominating balance of Matter, so that diseased bodies became whole, was manifested. Through Him the Knowledge of Light was established as a worthy accomplishment.

Through the ages there have been individuals who had mediumistic qualities; of that we have legend-ary historical evidence; namely, the Oracles, witch, seer, mystics, and the twentieth-century mediums, all making some contact with super-normal forces, and all testifying to various experiences in the range of the normal individual.

These experiences were quite usual in New Testament times. It was very difficult for the people to discern the difference between the individual who drew his power.

If the results appeared the same, did it matter—said they—whether the source was Beelzebub or God?

Does it matter whether our experiences are psychic or spiritual? Does it matter whether our knowledge comes from the astral plane—the plane of hallucination—or from the World of Light, the plane of Reality? There lies our individual responsibility; we alone know where our desire for knowledge rests.

There is in most of us a great craving for illusion; something that will take our minds away on a holiday from the grim realities of our everyday life. Everybody has some power of imagination, some secret place of phantasy, where our spirit relaxes and withdraws from the immediate present. It may consist in dreams about the future, castles in Spain, or those gossamer veils that drape our minds when we return incognito into the past, and wander at will in those pleasant realms of unreality.

Our minds have the power to create the conditions that our souls demand to live in. If our bodies are hungry they demand to be fed; if tired, to rest. If our souls are tormented by the restrictions of their incarnate conditions, if their creative power is thwarted, if their craving for beauty is denied; then, in ignorance of the power of our spirits to transmute the restrictions and limitations of our material environment, they create for themselves the necessary illusory conditions to ease the pain of their torment.

Will you look on your mind as the builder and architect, your spirit the material, and your soul as the owner and occupier, all these working in such close co-operation that it is difficult to separate them? What I want to emphasise is that your soul is bound by the restrictions placed on it and around it by the qualities of your spirit, and the constructive or destructive energy of your mind.

If your Spirit, working in harmony with your body, through the agency of your mind, creates for yourself, in this world, an atmosphere of harmony, dealing with the realities of life at their true and not their fictitious value, you are, through the medium of your mind and spirit, creating for your soul your heaven on earth. But, if circumstances are too strong for the mind to cope with, if the spirit is weak, if it creates for itself synthetic conditions, if it does not know from where to draw its strength, it continues with increasing energy to draw its force from the world of illusion, the astral plane.

Look for a moment on the astral plane as the theatre-world of the mind, where it can legitimately create for the soul pleasant—or unpleasant—conditions, according to the quality of the spirit that controls it. There are many illusive conditions in this material world that deceive the physical eye; many startling optical illusions. On the astral plane there are as many and varied conditions calculated to deceive the mental vision. In the world we can 'fake' new furniture to look genuinely antique, on the astral plane the mind can create synthetic conditions of beauty that will deceive the uninitiated into thinking, temporarily, that they have reached the home of eternal realities. But they find that on the astral plane there are all conditions of minds. The depraved, the sadistic, the ruthless, minds can also create the conditions for which their spirits provide the material, and in that condition their soul must live, and the spirit changes its quality, and understands that the key of Transmutation is the key that unlocks the door to freedom.

The soul is the individual note in the eternal harmony of life; the spirit is the tone, the quality, the expression of that note; and the Mind is the instrument that plays

it. The inadequacy and inefficiency of the instrument is responsible for the appalling discords that provide the destructive energy that is so evident in the world to-day. It is expressed through the Bolsheviki spirit, and put into action through the agency of the Bolsheviki mind. No change, either for construction or destruction, can take place in this world, or on the astral plane, except through the agency of man's mind. Therefore, the whole future of the world's welfare lies in the minds of men living to-day. It lies, individually, with us.

The whole responsibility was shouldered, primarily, by the Soul of the Christ. Could He, in full knowledge of that responsibility, incarnate in Matter, learn the technique of drawing the necessary quantity of the essence of Light into His Spirit, as daily food. Could He transmute an ordinary, normal, Jewish mind into a delicate instrument, that could express, in utter perfection of tone, one perfect note, the standard pitch to which all humanity could tune in?

He did change the condition of minds that made a contact with His own mind; He made men understand that mind and spirit can dominate all substance, even that intangible condition of hallucination. If only people could realise that reality can be far more beautiful than phantasy, that there are legitimate retreats where the Spirit can travel to and rest, and bring to the Mind fascinating material for constructing a radiant environment for the Soul.

The Spirit has a two-fold activity; the power of drawing in, and the power of radiation. It can draw into the Mind any form of illusion, and through the Mind can express any form of unreality. We all know people whom we cannot trust, who often appear to believe genuinely in the truth of their own fantastic imaginations

There are some people who prefer to live in a world of their own, of make-believe, with themselves very much as the central figure. We call them megalomaniacs, but they are quite happy in thinking themselves all that their fancy paints them. Where—when their spirits leave their bodies—can their minds go? Only where their spirits can lead the way—to their favourite haunts of illusion on the astral plane. There are many people to-day who think that because a spirit has passed out of the limitations of physical conditions, the mind automatically becomes receptive to eternal Truth. They believe that any information that comes through from a spirit on the astral plane, into the mind of a medium on this physical plane, must have more value because of its discarnate conditions. If the spirit is of the substance of unreality, it must, of necessity, make a contact with its own kind; and if Truth is demanded by the sitter in this world, and Truth cannot be discerned amidst all the unreality that surrounds the control, then the *appearance* of Truth is all that is available.

Unreality is only intolerable to the spirit that yearns for reality, and—as I have said so often before—Love is the force that makes the spirit aware of its own potentialities. There is no limit to the power of Love; it can change the spiritual condition of all souls, incarnate and discarnate. Love sets in motion the Law of Transmutation of Matter into Light. Every spirit has the same free compassion as its Creator; therefore, every spirit is fundamentally the same capacity for development. Its capacity for Love can be stimulated into far greater activity by the contact of the Love Force of another spirit. The Law of Love makes instantaneous response possible. Therefore, if we know how to radiate this

power of Love into the spirits on the astral plane, to make them aware of reality, we can direct their minds towards the realities of the World of Light. We can, in the flesh, give to those who want it the Key of Freedom. Love is never helpless. Ignorance makes us slaves.

Will you all visualise, for one moment, the radiant World of Light; then, visualise this physical world as you know it. Then, picture the connecting corridor—the world of phantasy and illusion—and try to visualise what happens to your spirit in sleep. Your spirit will go, in sleep, to its habitual rendezvous, wherever that may be. If it is in the realms of detective fiction, it will revel in the thrills provided by the minds that can produce, on the astral plane, living replicas of the printed word. These replicas have no creative force behind them; they cannot actually do the things they appear to be doing; they have no force of their own. They are the creatures of the mind, puppets of phantasy, terrifying or entrancing according to the type of mind that has produced them.

If the natural flight of our spirit in sleep wings its way to the realms of reality, the World of Light, we can pass through the corridor of hallucination so swiftly, so surely, that no impression of unreality is retained by the waking brain. We wake with a sense of refreshment and often with a great reluctance to start another day in this inferior world. It depends on the state of our spirit, before we go to sleep, whether we have a straight trip through or have what we call a broken night. We all know those short, unsatisfactory glimpses of unreal conditions, the pursuit and flight from malignant or grotesque forms; that wandering down eternal corridors packing, or trying to, and never reaching any destined point. Such conditions are tormenting for a spirit longing

for that all-pervading sense of balm that comes from contact with even the suburbs of the City of Reality.

The mind does not function on the physical plane, in sleep. It is never divided in this life from the spirit. The spirit leaves sufficient light in the body to keep it alive. The mind works the whole time; and, according to the material provided by the spirit, it builds the environment for the soul. It builds by night, it builds by day, this mind of ours. Freemasons we are, all of us; and the Great Architect of the Universe is our Master Mason.

When you go to bed, to ensure freedom of transit, in sleep, from this world to the World of Light, pray for protection on all planes; and, in addition, visualise yourself as a Cross of Light, from the top of your head to your feet, and acrossways over your heart. Hold it in your mind, and have no fear. The protection of Light is a reality, and no power of darkness can come near.

What the Christ set Himself to do was to make a Path of Light, straight from the World of Light, through the astral plane, to the earth; so that spirits should be able to travel in freedom from this world to the next, immune from the power of darkness. What all conscious spirits are trying to do is to make that Path into a Throughfare. That is what they are doing, our loved ones on the other side: widening the road, sending us the material for our spirits to do our share of it. They cannot do it all themselves, being no longer in the flesh, but they can show us how they are working, and get us to cooperate. That is the note that our spirits must tune up to: that our minds must work to produce. Cooperation. If only we can become delicate instruments through whom He can work; conscious mediums controlled by the Spirit of God.

The knowledge of the Freedom of our Two Worlds

lies in the achievement of the Ascension. If the Christ had been unable to construct the Pathway of Light from this world back to the World of Light, then, indeed, this world would have remained the cul-de-sac that our world would have remained it to be. Step by step He would this world have remained the cul-de-sac that our ignorance often imagines it to be. Step by step He retraced His way back. He knew the scientific formula. He prophesied the results beforehand. He realised the effect it would have on the minds of the people. He knew it would take years in Time, for the knowledge to penetrate into the minds of men. He knew it could only be accomplished through the power of Love, Essence of Divine Light. Unless He accomplished His return, there would be no Pathway for that great Spirit of Light, whose individual note, or name, is TRUTH, to make any contact with the spirits of His initiated Apostles, whom He left to carry on His work. The coming of that Spirit of Light would *prove* to them that He had accomplished the return journey. The blazing of the Trail had been achieved. His work was finished. Can we begin to realise what that work was? It was not only defining a hitherto unknown Law, it was fulfilling it. The Law was made Flesh. The descent of His Spirit into matter was the Incarnation; the conscious return of His Spirit was the Ascension. The Christ is the only Spirit that has ever achieved a conscious return, "Be of good cheer," He said, "I have overcome the world." Like all scientists who serve humanity, He left the formula behind to be used by those who came after Him. Whose fault is it that it has been locked up and the Key mislaid? Not for us to enquire, not for us to judge. Past failure is no excuse for present inertia. The knowledge He gave to the world is our rightful inheritance. It was a world gift, this freedom of inter-course between His world and ours; this uniting of

knowledge between incarnate and discarnate minds; this illumining of a Pathway through the world of illusion, straight to the Gateway of Reality. He *was* THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, and there was no other way of return to Infinite Light except the Way He took, by transmuting the substance of His Flesh into the Substance of His Spirit. It was accomplished by the energy of His Mind, generated by the power of Love, and, through that power, He was able to build for His Soul, His Eternal Habitation.

That is the Key that liberates every imprisoned spirit, that transmutes the insulating conditions of men's minds into the vital power of transmission. It has been ignored, misunderstood, abused, rejected, scorned. It is the KEY that will unlock all mysteries, reveal all hidden knowledge; that tiny little KEY, made of the pure gold of the essence of Infinite Light that is called—LOVE.