
CLIMB THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN SERIES

The Path of the Higher Self



Mark L. Prophet • Elizabeth Clare Prophet

*Authors of The Lost Years of Jesus
and The Lost Teachings of Jesus*

*The Path
of the
Higher Self*

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

REVELATION



MARK L. PROPHET



ELIZABETH CLARE PROPHET

CLIMB THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN SERIES

The Path of the Higher Self

The Path of Self-Transformation

The Masters and the Spiritual Path

The Path of Brotherhood

The Path of the Universal Christ

The Masters and Their Retreats

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*The Path
of the
Higher Self*

Mark L. Prophet · Elizabeth Clare Prophet

The Everlasting Gospel

SUMMIT UNIVERSITY  PRESS®

Corwin Springs, Montana

THE PATH OF THE HIGHER SELF

by Mark L. Prophet and Elizabeth Clare Prophet

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Note: Because gender-neutral language can be cumbersome and at times confusing, we have used the pronouns *he* and *him* to refer to God or to the individual and *man* or *mankind* to refer to people in general. We have used these terms for readability and consistency, and they are not intended to exclude women or the feminine aspect of the Godhead. God is both masculine and feminine. We do, however, use the pronouns *she* and *her* to refer to the soul because each soul, whether housed in a male or a female body, is the feminine counterpart of the masculine Spirit.

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We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have made possible the publication of this volume—our heavenly Father, our beloved Masters Jesus Christ, Saint Germain and El Morya; Mother Mary, Archangel Michael and the hosts of Light without number; our faithful staff, our dedicated co-workers and friends throughout the world and our patient children:

To all who have stood with us as the sentinels of a new age—a Golden Age of opportunity for the children of the Light—to all now ascended who “loved not their lives unto the death” we say,

Thank You.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the Everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters

REVELATION

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Authors' Message to the Reader

To You Who Would Climb the Highest Mountain:

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Truth is the summit of being."¹ We have called that summit God—indeed, the God of all Truth—and it is to that Summit that we would direct your consciousness through the writing in this book.

"No matter what our religion," observed Lecomte du Noüy, "we are all like people at the bottom of a valley who seek to climb a snowy peak that dominates the others. We all have our eyes fixed on the same goal, and we agree that there is but one summit to reach. Unfortunately we differ on what road to take. Guides come forward and we follow them. Some go one way, others choose different paths. All are convinced that their trail is the best, and all are sincere. By following them we approach the one goal, but when the groups which started from different points meet, instead of uniting, they seek to convince each other mutually that it is they who have discovered the best road, and they sometimes end by throwing insults and stones at each other. Yet they know that one day, provided they never stop ascending, they must all meet at the top of the mountain and that the road to reach it matters little."²

We uphold, as God does, the right of every man to choose the path he shall take to the Summit of his own being. Although we cannot make the journey for him, we would offer a hand to help him on the way. The climber will need ropes and picks to scale the jagged heights. These we have provided, together with maps and

charts to assist him in avoiding the pitfalls and unmarked ways where danger lurks and where those who have “words without knowledge”³ may perish.

Before you embark upon your expedition to the top, it is advisable that you practice the techniques and test the equipment. The helps we present in the following pages have been successfully used by the summiteers who have preceded you. The experts, who are familiar with the markings on the trail, also recommend that you employ a trained guide who is qualified to show you how to overcome the unmerciful elements of wind and cold, ice or broiling sun that greet the climber sphinxlike, unyielding.

No matter what his faith, his creed or his religion, the seeker can profit from the experience and the know-how of those who have gone before him on the Path. Many look to Jesus as the wayshower; others follow the Eightfold Path of the Buddha or the law of Moses. In the West they have pursued the calling of Saint Francis and Clare, of the Little Flower of Jesus and the Virgin Mother; in the East they hail Maitreya, Lord Krishna, Lao-tse and Confucius. These and countless others have demonstrated the principles of Truth and left a record of exemplary lives. But whomever the seeker follows, it is results that count! If a man’s philosophy does not make him a better man, capable of contributing something of worth to his friends and to his society, then either he or his philosophy has failed.

We may well ask as we look at the world around us, Has Christianity failed or have men failed the Christ? Our answer would be that men have failed because the complete teachings of the Master of Galilee, of John the Baptist and of the prophets who preceded them have not been made available to the multitudes. These we must make plain. These we must free from the shroud of dogma. These we must set forth that the day might come that Micah foresaw when every man should sit “under his vine and under his fig tree”⁴ to be self-taught by the Great Mediator of the Word.

In your hands is a key—a key that will unlock many doors. No work has ever contained the practical and scientific explanations on the workings of your self and your universe that are to be presented

in the volumes of *The Everlasting Gospel*. You will discover how you can work out your salvation not only with “fear and trembling,”⁵ as Paul said, but also with the love and dominion of the Christ.

Once you have put together the cosmic jigsaw puzzle—the pieces of which you will find one by one in the thirty-three chapters of the total work, you will possess not only the hieroglyph of living Truth but also the blueprint of your fiery destiny. If you take the teaching apart piece by piece, making it a smorgasbord of concepts and ideas, you will deprive yourself of the magnificent comprehension of the whole. But if you dare to pursue the totality of the teaching, you will soon realize the full value of the key.

Some of the facts contained in the writing will be familiar to you; others will not. The elimination of what is known to one reader and not to another would jeopardize the worth of the instruction. The concepts unfold “precept upon precept, line upon line”;⁶ and if carefully followed, they will lead you to your life’s destination. This is your destiny: to realize the divine gnosis, the universal saga of your Being, and to become one with all life. By following the most up-to-date road map to the Summit of your identity, you will see rising before you the foothills of your own Everest and behind you a cosmic panorama never before beheld by humanity in any age.

You will be shown mysteries⁷ that will no longer be mysteries—secrets of the ages that will nevermore be secrets. You will find a linking-together of the whole tapestry of Truth in each multiform part. The glossing over of these parts may well abort the embryonic ideas that are intended to germinate in your consciousness until they unfold the magnificence of your own soul’s comprehension of the laws of cosmos. These laws are made known in signs from far-off worlds, from the Pleiades as well as from the sun of our own solar system, from the sands of the Sahara and the tall pines of Darjeeling.

You will find herein the wisdom of the ages, the thoughts of a Christ, a Buddha and the many savants and servants of the Word—all of whom are one in the Lord who said, “Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”⁸ You

will find knowledge of a different kind—knowledge that has been withheld from the masses, knowledge that has been guarded in the retreats of the Masters for thousands of years. In the words of the Apostle, “We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.”⁹

We are concerned with the coming of the vanguard of Light upon the planetary body, “kings and priests unto God”¹⁰ who have heard the whisperings of the universe in heart and soul, who have brooded with the Great Spirit over the rites of creation—those who have been cast in the cosmic drama, reenacting the ritual of a cosmos, a rose, a cell or a conception in the mind of Christ. These are they who are unafraid to involve themselves in Reality and thereby secure the mastery of self, of destiny.

As Diogenes with his lantern roamed the streets in search of an honest man, so we invite you, the reader, to raise the torch of your mind and without bias seek Truth within these pages; for here you will learn the code of your identity, of nature and of life itself. And in the process you will find the power of the Holy Spirit by which each man becomes the king of his own kingdom and the priest of his own temple in response to the fiat of the Logos “Take dominion over the earth!”¹¹

Please recognize that we, as Messengers for the spiritual Hierarchy, have been commissioned to speak the unspeakable, to utter the unutterable and to set forth in writing what no man has written. We have had to make plain in earthly tongue what heretofore has been penned in the tongues of angels. Words consisting of the twenty-six letters of the English alphabet, concepts boxed in by the dictionaries of men—these we have formed into sentences and paragraphs in an attempt to make plain the eternal precepts of love.

At times feeling inadequate to the task, we have stood before the burning bush and asked our Lord as Moses did: “Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?” As God revealed himself to Moses saying, “I AM THAT I AM,” so he has said to us, “Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM

hath sent me unto you.”¹²

And so we have sought to spell out the pathos of a cosmos even as God has sought to create in you the awareness of himself. Not by our own authority, but by the power of the living Word have we spoken the words of the Son of man who said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.”¹³

Within these five hundred pages you will discover mandalas of Truth, conceptions from the heart of the Solar Logoi who declared to John: “I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of Life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”¹⁴

Through the written word you will be made aware not only of the intellectual concepts of Truth but also of the feelings of those concepts. As the positive and negative aspects of self, as mind and heart, these spell out the whys and wherefores of man's need both to understand and to devote himself to the divine plan and to his reason for being. It would be folly to make the claim that these concepts are confined to these pages; for these were in the very breath of life itself which in the beginning God breathed into man's nostrils when “man became a living soul.”¹⁵

Your newfound freedom will come not only from the formed but from the unformed as well, not just from what is said but from what remains unsaid. For words are but cups into which the mind must pour the substance of experience and devotion, the distillations of soul-knowing and the formulations that are idling just beneath the surface of awareness waiting to be energized by the Christ mind.

If by living up to the full measure of your active understanding of Truth you “show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth,”¹⁶ you will expand mankind's consciousness of the Law of Life and serve as an avant-garde messenger of hope to all generations.

The Christ, whom so many proclaim and so few understand, is not confined to a nation, to a people, or to a person. Christ is the Light emanation, the Solar Logos, the living Word by whom all things were made and without whom was not anything made that

was made.¹⁷ You are a fragment of the Lord's body, a measure of his attainment, destined to be a chalice for his Light that you might give a cup of living water to a humanity waiting to be filled.

The "key of knowledge," which was "taken away,"¹⁸ is yours for the knowing. As the scribes and Pharisees lay in wait for Jesus and sought "to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him,"¹⁹ so some will analyze this work with one purpose in mind: to destroy it. Others will take the key and open the door to the Christ who calls: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."²⁰

Inevitably, the profitable servant will enter into the joy of the Lord and the unprofitable servant will be cast into outer darkness.²¹ Those who forsake dogma for Christ, bigotry for love, and ignorance of the Law for wisdom (wise dominion) will find the answers to life's questions that they have long sought. And they will know the dominion of the overcomers: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."²²

As the word of God was spoken by Jesus in parable, so the words of *The Everlasting Gospel* are hieroglyphs charged with both an inner and an outer meaning that can change your life and your world into the beauty and perfection that God intended you to manifest. You must take these hieroglyphs and eat them up—as assimilate them into your consciousness—as the angel told John to take the little book and eat it up, warning him that it would make his belly bitter, but that it would be in his mouth sweet as honey.²³

If the prejudices and precepts of the world have kept you from the divine design, then these must be set aside, at least temporarily, while you explore this virgin forest where Truth lies waiting to be acclaimed in towering oak and tiny acorn, in bubbling brook and nodding flower. Instead of comparing each joyous burst of life you find with the relics of civilization that you have left behind, savor each new concept for its own intrinsic worth; ponder and absorb a new comprehension and a new freedom.

To properly discern Truth, you will have to lay aside your preconceived ideas—even your most cherished beliefs—and give God the opportunity to lead you “in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”²⁴ Above all, remember Jesus’ words “Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”²⁵

The enemy of righteousness may seek to impress upon you the need to immediately accept or reject our instruction. Be not mocked! True progress always manifests to those who in patience possess their souls.²⁶ Therefore, reserve your judgment until you have read the last word of the last chapter.

The purpose of The Summit Lighthouse is to publish the teachings of the Ascended Masters, to shed light on the lost or distorted teachings of Christ, and to provide humanity—every man, woman, and child, bar none—with the knowledge of cosmic law, which, when applied, will lead him to freedom, to self-mastery, to the fulfilling of his divine plan, and to the reunion of his soul with God.

The Summit Lighthouse is not out to capture souls for membership, to tell people what to do and what not to do, or to confine their worship of the one God within the narrowness of man-made doctrine and dogma. The Masters who sponsor this organization seek not to bind men through fear and ignorance, but to lead them through enlightenment on the true path of discipleship where each man gives answer solely to his God.

Pearls of Wisdom are letters written each week by the Ascended Masters to their disciples throughout the world, dictated to us as Messengers appointed by the Lord. They are sent “without money and without price” to all who ask for them. Those who desire systematic and graded instruction in cosmic law and who at the same time are willing to dedicate themselves in the service of humanity may receive the Keepers of the Flame Lessons sponsored by Saint Germain, the Knight Commander of the Keepers of the Flame Fraternity, together with the Maha Chohan, the Representative of the Holy Spirit, and the Seven Chohans of the Rays.

The Summit Lighthouse was founded to be an outer arm of the Great White Brotherhood. This spiritual order of Hierarchy is an

organization of the Ascended Masters and their disciples united for the highest purposes of the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. The word *white* refers not to race, but to the white light of the Christ that surrounds the saints and sages of all ages who have risen from every nation to be counted among the immortals.

Thus, The Summit Lighthouse is a fount of the living Word to which the prophet Isaiah called the people saying: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."²⁷

On the ancient temple walls these words were inscribed: "Man, know thyself!" In order to know himself, man must discover that which is false and that which is true, that which is synthetic and that which is real. Having done this, he can follow the Path that will lead him into all Truth.

Children of the Light, pursue this knowledge and be free! Children of the Light, awake! The day of victory is at hand! The Golden Age is nigh!

In the service of those who have climbed the highest mountain and those who are beginning the ascent, we remain

Mark L. Prophet

Elizabeth Clare Prophet

MARK AND ELIZABETH PROPHET
for the Darjeeling Council
of the Great White Brotherhood

Tell Them

Tell them,
Ancient Fires,
How the strata of the rock
Cooled and formed the surface
Of a verdant sphere to be.

Tell them,
Ancient Waters,
Of the coolants of the deep—
Mighty cycles of perfection,
Marine world now we see.

Tell them,
Mighty Atmosphere,
Of blue inspired veil,
Of lacy white cloud cover
Curtained Cosmos does unveil.

Tell them of Creation
That like clockwork telling time
Shows the intricacy of Nature
In a network so sublime.

Tell them of a seedling
Filled with patterned destiny.
Tell them of a cedar tall
That through sunshine was to be.

Tell them of a whisper
That was heard within the soul.
Tell them, Ageless Wisdom,
Nature's blessed goal.

Tell them of Reality
That plays hide and seek with men.
Tell them of a Golden Age
That cometh once again.

Tell them of the Buddha
And of Christ upon the hill.
Tell them Truth, Reality
That hungry souls do fill.

Tell them of electric spark
That flashes 'cross the sky.
Speak of Immortality that cradles our humanity—
That one day none shall die.

Speak of Truth
That out the mouth of Christ did manifest,
That Pilate heard and questioned,
That now in truth is blessed.

Speak it loud and speak it long;
Tell in poetry and song
That tall upon the hills of time
An ageless wisdom now does chime—

Carillon bells from celestial towers
Rung by other hands than ours,
Angel voices chiming in
Raise an anthem now to win.

Tell them how that we who read
Can in faith plant vital seed,
Watch them push their shoots right through
Soil and rock and obstacle too—

Thrusting roots into the earth,
Seeking vital essence' worth
And reaching to the sun to claim
That I AM real in God's own Name!

Tell them, then, that darkest night
Waits the first dawn's early light,
That man may see and catch the thought
That God in truth has to us brought
An opportunity so fair—
An answer to a child's own prayer.

Our Father, help us now to be
Selflessly engraft' in Thee—
That our nature then shall be
Like a father's heart of love;
Seeds from heaven up above
Scattered here in garden fair—
Sun and rain in falling there
Can assist the planned delight
And the victory for the right!

Tell them, Father, Ageless One,
Of Thy Nature's Golden Sun.
Tell them of Thy Name and Spirit!
Tell them so that all may hear it!
Tell them so that none may fear it!
Tell them so that all revere it!
Tell them so that none may lose
Life or gift—that all may choose
Now and without fail to see
That only Truth can ever be
Clad with Immortality.

In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the Prophets.

And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

REVELATION

Chapter 1

Your Synthetic Image



Your Synthetic Image

But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of Life; and man became a living soul. GENESIS

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man. ROMANS

An Allegory

ONCE UPON A TIME THE SYNTHETIC image of you was created, and darkness moved upon its face. Yet the Spirit of God-Good was the vital energy used to create its very shadowed form. Darkness veiled the radiant face of the Light within, and your synthetic image came into existence and moved upon the human sea. The counterfeit likeness waxed strong and took dominion over the earth. Its patterns became accepted as natural, and the way to the paradise of true happiness was almost entirely lost and forgotten.

With the veiling of the divine radiance in flesh and the coming into prominence of shadowed illusion, an unfortunate event took place: the Real became progressively ethereal and took on the quality of the unreal, until at last its wondrous tones seemed but

muffled echoes coming from the corridors of ancient memory; whereas the unreal took on body and substance, and illusion filled the mind and consciousness of man.

Whirling electrons, dancing in joyous freedom within the body cells, became fixed as orbiting planets around nuclei suns in miniature systems. Alas, these sparks of individuality were imprisoned in imperfect matrices, and the atomic structure of man no longer mirrored the splendor of the true, the free and the brave. Instead, a dense molecular abortion came into being that, although fearfully and wonderfully organized, was, in effect, but a systematized miasma of Matter.

The human diorama became a microcosmic nightmare interspersed with periods of joyful ecstasy 'neath the sun and blue sky, midst the verdure of the earth. The minds and feelings of men were now full of fleeting phantoms—flashes of crimson emotion, the blackness of despair. And the disciplines of the cult of achievement were legion.

The patterns of human experience were locked in a long chain of events leading through stages of infancy, childhood, adolescence and adult years. The pressures of environment continued to mold and shape the personal personality. Home, school, church and nation, parents, teachers and friends—all exerted their influences upon the plastic nature of the evolving soul.

Subtle inner pressures were also at work. At subliminal levels the individual came into contact with the mental musings of the great and the small, the debased and the exalted. The outreach of the subconscious mind was far greater than man ever knew; and while he wandered in a maze of whirling impressions, the problems of his existence amid the social complexities of life became more and more intricate. According to the law that like attracts like, minds attuned with minds whose frequencies were akin to their own. Thus, the rich became richer, the poor became poorer, and the depressed entered new lows of depression.

The cumulative thoughts and feelings of mankind all too frequently caused the individual to gravitate toward the negative, and it became easier for him to descend in a downward spiral than to

ascend toward the Light. Meanwhile, heavenly bodies and solar orbs banded together in fixed wonder of the cosmic plan. In contrast to the vast simplicity of stellar design, the individual's own internal sense of struggle created the complexity that was a friction of worlds within worlds against worlds that were without. And the truism was so true: we had nothing to fear but fear itself.

Freedom, or escape, as some called it, from all of the binding, blinding worries of day-to-day existence was sought in a change of scenery, travel, new climate, new clothes or new acquaintances. But the only permanent change that ever took place in anyone was that which was wrought by a permanent change of thought.

The Quest for Reality

We shall attempt in this volume to weave a tapestry of life—your life—and to provide viable answers to those questions that everyone has asked at least once: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? How do I go about getting there?

We all came forth from the Source of Oneness, and to it we shall all one day return—with or without our individuality. But at this point in time we see neither the beginning nor the end of our existence. Both are remote in the distant past and future.

Having lost the perspective of both shores, we try to fashion meaning out of relativity. Actors on a stage, playing many roles, we are no longer able to distinguish “the real me.” We make merry and join clubs, playing the games people play; and if we dare to think, we attempt to find a rationale for our *Weltanschauung*, which at best, is incomplete. Then, when we think we have found the logic of “the way,” we close our minds to all other interpretations, dismissing them as heresy.

We become so insulated by the contraptions of a synthetic society and the convictions of our own minds that we have no link to Reality, hence no means of escape. We have forgotten our wondrous origin and our glorious destiny. We grovel in the dark; we continue in the rounds of a senseless existence; we ask, “Why?” Many voices with many answers fail utterly to satisfy our soul's longing for Truth.

We go to bed at night, we dream, and when we awaken we are relieved that “it was only a dream.” We have no remorse for the unreal. We dismiss it and we go on. Thus we distinguish the night from the day. But we fail to realize that there is a synthetic world that is also a dream from which we must one day awaken. What’s more, the transition from unreality to Reality will be just as natural as our awakening from an unpleasant dream.

Much of the world’s knowledge we may do without, especially in an age of increasing specialization. As individuals, we can be quite content without having the slightest idea of how an atom is split, what makes our TVs and electrical appliances function, our cars run, satellites orbit or rockets escape the pull of gravity. Whether or not the moon is made of green cheese is, after all, not a question of life and death.

We can survive without the knowledge of such complexities, but can we survive without the knowledge of Reality? Little do we know how necessary to our everyday life is the faculty of discrimination—the ability to distinguish the Real from the unreal. Without it, it is impossible to determine our beginning or our end. Light and Darkness, white and black, Good and Evil—where does one leave off and the other begin?

We may do all things, but we will never reach the shores of immortal life until we have mastered this art. Others may build our homes, service our cars, manage our finances, treat our ailments and spoil us with gadgets, but no one in heaven or on earth can fulfill our destiny for us. This we must do by ourselves, each man with his God; for He—call him Infinite Intelligence, Divine Love or Science, if you will—is essential to the plan.

It is vital that we have in hand accurate knowledge of the laws governing our destiny. For only with the knowledge of the Law can we develop the ability to distinguish the Real from the unreal, to wield the Flaming Two-Edged Sword and to answer the question that has been asked a thousand times, What is Truth? Once we have this knowledge and its attendant skill, life is ours to command; Principle is ours to apply. Love is there waiting to be realized, and we become progressively more real as we behold Reality.

We offer this work to those who are tired of the long sojourn in the rapids of a half-real existence, to those who would get on with the journey, to those who have the courage to approach the jagged rocks of Truth, though the ship of unworthy concepts be dashed into pieces. They know it is possible to reach the Shore while the tides and the winds are in their favor; they remember the words that beckon them onward and the Poet who stands upon the Shore, waiting to throw the line with a mighty heave of welcome:

Onward, courage!
Then blame not the Bard
When the wind and the gale
Sweep o'er the moor
And bow down the sail,
For the ship shall move on
And the Port be obtained
If the courage be high
And the will be maintained!

The Soul: A Living Potential

God is a Spirit and the soul is the living potential of God. The soul's demand for free will and its separation from God resulted in the descent of this potential into the lowly estate of the flesh. Sown in dishonor, the soul is destined to be raised in honor to the fullness of that God-estate that is the one Spirit of all life. The soul can be lost; Spirit can never die.

Never the Spirit was born;
the Spirit shall cease to be never;
Never was time it was not;
End and Beginning are dreams!
Birthless and deathless and changeless
remaineth the Spirit for ever;
Death hath not touched it at all,
dead though the house of it seems!¹

The soul, then, remains a fallen potential that must be imbued with the Reality of Spirit, purified through prayer and supplication, and returned to the glory from which she* descended and to the unity of the Whole. This rejoining of soul to Spirit is the alchemical marriage that determines the destiny of the self and makes it one with immortal Truth. When this ritual is fulfilled, the highest Self is enthroned as the Lord of Life, and the potential of God, realized in man, is found to be the All-in-all.

“God hopes for the soul,” the Ascended Master Kuthumi (whose most beloved Christian embodiment was that of Saint Francis of Assisi) once wrote to his followers. “Man must identify with the hopes of God. And then, as the tolling of a great bell, the death knell of the finite self will make no mournful sound; but it will sing to the soul in cadences of immortality. Through these cadences man shall come to understand the golden meaning of Reality, and the revelation of worlds unknown shall also be his own. Stretching as an endless column of beautiful trees, the landmarks of the Real point the way from present circumstances to the very footstool of Reality, the rainbow of ascendancy, the Spirit Most Holy where man is crowned with the life that is God.”²

The allegory of the synthetic image has become a way of life for millions of souls caught in the labyrinth of a mass accumulation of their own synthetic creations. They do not know that their thoughts and feelings are clothed with the realities they have given them; they have not thought upon the words of the scribe “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”³

It is true that the unreal is often made to appear real, while that which is genuine and sustaining is relegated to the background of life, often stereotyped as charlatanism, cultism or heresy. Moreover, the crystal-clear realities of the Universal Mind are weighed down by dogma and doctrine and ridiculed by the popular people of the day.

In the synthetic society the blind leaders of the blind perpetuate a fraudulent existence and receive therefore the scathing denunciation of the Christ: “Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away

*The soul is the feminine counterpart of the masculine Spirit, and thus is referred to as “she.”

the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered!"⁴

Since the "slaying of the Lamb from the foundation of the world,"⁵ the "scribes and pharisees" have barricaded man's progress by their cunning hypocrisy. They have not afforded man his rightful freedom to think, to believe and to create; neither have they opened the door to his understanding of the universe and its fathomable mysteries.

And so the LORD has sent his prophets and servant-sons and commanded them saying, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people. . . . Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a high-way for our God."⁶

While man carries on his mundane affairs, the soul within cries out for Truth as a beggar in the street. Her pleas are seldom heeded by the outer mind that rushes madly to and fro, fulfilling the patterns of an existence she has not defined. And so the soul is left to starve until one day the din of life recedes; the self, no longer entranced by the glamour of the world, looks around for the beggar in the street and sees standing in his place an old man with a shepherd's crook pointing to an alley somehow not seen before.

Pausing a moment to eye the curious figure, the self turns and follows the way. "No different from a hundred other side streets in the city—why did he send me here?" Suddenly at the far end atop the hill he notices a door; his pace quickens as he approaches nigh. There is a stirring from within his soul, and then a rustling from behind the door. Excitedly, expectantly, almost ecstatically he cries out:

What is this pearly door before which I stand?
Is this some realm of dream
Where lurks a shadowed band?
Nay, for that face I see so clearly now,
Peeping out from behind the open door,
Is an angel face
That I have known in long ago before.

Reflecting upon his departure from Reality, he realizes how far the soul must go to regain that God-awareness she once knew:

My thoughts slid down the finite spout
 And all the light of hope went out—
 The rope I broke
 And fear of icy desolation seized me round
 'Til I was then completely bound
 In all delusions' cords and vanities.

Now once again I rise,
 Pulsation toward the skies
 Where God and Home as fires of love do glow,
 Renewing courses raised to Sources
 All divine.

My soul begins again to climb
 The stairway ladder where
 Each meaning comes
 So tender, sweet and pure—
 It makes me to know
 That God's own plan secure
 Will hold me when the world
 Seems nigh to fall apart.

For after all, there is but one great heart
 Which beats our own,
 And we must rise to fairer realms
 Where we atone,
 At one with all that really lives;
 For paradise is life that gives
 Nobility of efforts just
 To counteract the concept of the dust
 From which God did make in hope
 A living soul—
 And through the fragrant mists
 Reveals the Goal
 Of paradise to come.⁷

The understanding of the living potential of the soul—where to find it, how to recognize it when you find it, how to amplify its

powers for good—all of this and much more can be found in the Teachings of the Ascended Masters, those saints and sages of all time who have successfully passed the tests of life, and whose souls have regained that living potential with which every man and woman was also endowed.

Having graduated from the schoolrooms of experience in this world, these masterful Spirits are rejoined with the Image of Reality; and they stand with the elder brother of the race, the Lord Jesus, ready to assist from exalted heights those who have not yet pierced the veil of the synthetic image. To them we owe our own souls' illumination and the wisdom of this little book. Through them you, too, can discover the Truth that waits beyond the veil even while you solve the dilemma of the synthetic image.

“In the seeming struggle between Good and Evil,” the Master Meru of the Andes said, “there are negative forces that seek to hide from the eyes of man his Real Image and to glorify the pseudo image. This they do in order that they may control men by warping their motives and by surrounding them with fear. But the key to escape is simple.

“You must understand first that the image that appears is not real; second, that the Image that does not readily appear but that *is* real is often hidden; and third, that this hidden Image is the Image that God did make and that he saw was good. The subtle forces of the serpent that roam the planet—whether they act through a fraudulent theology, through psycho-political treachery, or through an invasion of the minds of men, producing obsessions—will continue to downgrade the individual by amplifying his supposed or actual errors; and they will continue to seek to hide the beautiful Image of God in whose likeness each man was made.”⁸

The manipulations of these forces will continue only so long as man identifies with the synthetic consciousness. Therefore, in order to escape the foe without, man must conquer the foe within. The latter is identified as man's synthetic, or false, image of himself; the former is the synthetic society he has created based upon the vain imaginings he sees mirrored in the synthetic image.

The Dethroning of the Synthetic Image

The foreground of your life is the screen of your conscious awareness; your attention is the lever that selects and directs the images that are projected upon the screen. These make up the composite that people identify as the Real You, saying, "This is your life," when it is not at all; for the synthetic you, made in the image of mortality, is never the Real You—the being who affirms, "I AM."

The synthetic you is accustomed to making such statements as "I am sick," "I am tired," "I am poor," "I am lonely." These claims synthesize the unreal you and give rise to those soul-hampering conditions that are never true of the Real Self, who would not and could not utter such binding blasphemy. It is ever the synthetic masquerader—the impostor, the counterfeiter of the Real Man—who thus affirms, whose habit patterns are composed on the one hand of the false reasoning of the carnal mind and on the other of the emotional torrents that flood the mainstream of the race consciousness.

The crude menagerie of thoughts and feelings spawned in the subconscious minds of the populace forms a mass entity whose name is Legion.⁹ A synthesis of synthetic images, this entity is stamped out of the mold of the mass effluvia. Conforming to the lowest common denominator of the human consciousness, this legion is incapable, by reason of its origin, of paying allegiance to the natural perfection of the universe and its immutable laws. This conglomerate glob of nightmarish energies is the betrayer of each lifestream and of the divine plan for this earth, and it has delayed the spiritual fruition of the Golden Age, long envisioned by men and angels.

Deliverance from the hordes of darkness must come first to the individual before it can come to the planet as a whole. And each man must win his own freedom by disengaging his consciousness—his thoughts and his feelings—from the unbalanced and chaotic forces of mass conformism, which are ready at any moment to sweep him into the undercurrents of fear, depression, obsession, mental confusion and emotional insanity. When the individual makes an about-face to challenge the synthetic image, it seems as though he is confronting the entire world. And so he is, for in the synthetic

society, the Real is no longer seen for what it is, but as the figment of some men's imaginations; and he who aligns himself with the Real finds his enemies to be of this world and his allies to be of the next.

Here in the mainstream of planetary life, the power of the various communications media to mold public opinion and to keep alive the synthetic image is almost total. Books, magazines, newspapers, television, radio, theater and movies exert a tremendous influence over the minds of men, controlling their tastes, their morals, their fads and even their politics in the manner of a mass hypnosis. Rightly used, such media can assist man's spiritual as well as his material development; but wrongly used, they can become a monster of sadistic creation, threatening to reduce the individual to an animal and civilization to an "animal farm."

Whereas the molding factors of life, including the artifacts of science, ought to be a slave creation obediently serving their creator, man, the reverse has been the case. Man has been made the slave not only of the atomic age but also of his environment and of his inherited traits and attitudes. The synthetic image has dethroned the Real Man and now stands in the place of his master. This is the "abomination of desolation," prophesied by Daniel, "which standeth in the holy place where it ought not."¹⁰ Thus has it been well spoken of the relationship between God and man, "Thou art the potter, I am the clay"; but too often we have made it to read, "I, the potter, and Thou, the clay."¹¹

Because of the existence of so many conflicting centers of influence and the attendant pressures that these exert upon the human psyche, the type of life that is presently being lived upon earth and the quality of consciousness that registers in the minds of its people do not reflect the true purpose of life as it was planned by the Creator. At a dizzying pace these influences present to souls young and old a kaleidoscope of synthetic thoughts and feelings composed of the conscious and unconscious creations of the mass mind. Certainly this is not the Reality that you were intended to be and which inwardly the soul knows that you are—for that portion of you that was created in the Divine Image always knows who "I AM."

There is a cure for the synthetic image, but its discovery is dependent upon the recognition by each person of the environmental

and hereditary factors that must be counteracted ere the Real Image can appear.

“The only way out is through the door of Reality,” advises Meru, who has parted the veil for the sixth root race at his retreat at Lake Titicaca. “This is the escape hatch that has been provided so that the body of destructivity created by man’s own negativity can be transmuted and overcome. As long as men remain involved in the ego, no matter what religious study they undertake, no matter what devotion they temporarily manifest, no matter how many good works they do, no matter what level of striving they attain, they will never be free from the illusion of the self that pursues them as a wanton ghost of struggling identity.

“Only when they escape through the door (I AM the door) into the understanding that the eternal Being of God is the ‘doer,’ into the realization that God can act in them to remove hampering influences, to transmute their darkness, and to translate their consciousness from Darkness into Light, will they begin to know the freedom of the self [soul] to achieve without limit.

“Let all see and know for all eternity that the not-self, the shadowed-self, the named-self, the personality-self, is and always has been the snare of the ego, and that the man or woman who lives in that consciousness must die in it. There is no possibility for flesh and blood to inherit eternal life.¹² Men seek eternal life because it is their true nature, the nature of God and of the Divine Image. Eternal life is formed independently of the vehicle of self through the process of translation, that man should no longer see death but be translated into that life that is the Divine Nature.

“The statement that man should die daily¹³ to the finite, egoistic self must be followed by another—that he should live daily to the progressive glory of his eternal Self and the apprehending of all the Reality which that Self can and does bring. This is the Sun we face that casts no shadow.

“This concept is far more than an index of words. It is a flow of the vital seed-idea into the consciousness of man whereby the consciousness itself is transformed into its natural glowing Presence. This is the Presence of God that identifies the individual,

through his sense of expanding Reality, with the universal consciousness of God, yet never takes from him one erg of his energy or of his true selfhood.”¹⁴

The Enthroning of the Real Image

Having realized through honest reckoning the truth about the synthetic image, everyone who is born of God should determine to dethrone all the potentates that masquerade as his Real Self and to enthrone in their place the image of Truth that man is intended to be—the manifestation of the Divine Nature.

The scriptures record that God made man in his own “image and likeness” and, further, that he saw the creation that he had made and beheld it as “very good.”¹⁵ This creation that God hath made is your Real Self. It is that inner lodestone of goodness and perfection, that archetypal pattern of the Infinite that is intended to mold the outer form and consciousness in the divine likeness ordained by God.

Your Real Self is the permanent atom of your identity, the rock of ages that remains unmoved by the restless tides of life. It is the wholly natural man who came forth from God, eternally vibrant and pure as a ray of Light from the heart of the Sun. Your Real Self is your conscience, which speaks its own name with the voice of authority and does thereby honor the name of God, I AM.

One cannot deny that in contrast to the Real, there is an overwhelming manifestation of unreality upon this planet; and yet, it would be folly to affirm that mortal error has permanence, for its temporary existence stems solely from mass acceptance in the minds of men. All should recognize that the vacuum we call darkness, which blankets interstellar space, is but an absence of Light—that virgin territory that is our opportunity to expand the kingdom. All should realize that Darkness can also be a misqualification of Light, and as such it forms the *energy-veil* we call *evil*. Thus all should see that in Light is the Presence of God-Good. Therefore, evil cannot declare with validity, “I AM”; for evil is a transitory shadow that must pass away. It is the counterfeit of the life that is

God; it is *live* spelled backwards.

While we can say that darkness is the absence of Light, we cannot say that error is the absence of Truth. Error is a misqualification of Truth just as evil is a misqualification of Light. Jesus' statement "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"¹⁶ tears the mask from the synthetic image and points out man's tendency to misqualify the Light that is in him.

The lie of the serpent, or carnal, mind lends credence to error by creating dogmas and then saying, "Fall down and worship me."¹⁷ Thus, error is founded upon the darkness of a self-centered existence and must be uprooted by scientific investigation as well as by progressive revelation. In every age man must rediscover Truth and thereby be renewed; "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."¹⁸

Only the Light of man's being—the *Christos*—can stand in the Presence of God and affirm Truth. The claims of evil are annihilated by the power of Truth that affirms—for all to hear, to know and to be—the Reality of Perfection's image. The statement "I AM Good" refers to the power of God who created man to be the perfection that God is, the power that conveys happiness and grace to those who acknowledge Truth and bow their knees to the supremacy of the Divinity within.

As the consciousness of man is disconnected from the sense that he is the doer, there is a diminishing of the power of the human ego and a corresponding increase of the power of the Light of Reality within the individual. The statement "I AM the door" shows that the God within must be the only acting (and activating) power in man. When the dynamic, spiritually regenerative act of affirming "I (the lesser self) and my Father (the I AM—the Greater Self) are one" is accomplished, the Presence of God can take dominion in the life of the individual and restore the law of grace and truth to its rightful place.

As John the Baptist spake concerning Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease,"¹⁹ so the power of God, when invoked by the individual who understands that God is the doer, the arbiter

of his destiny, increases the potential of his life until the whole man begins to express the greater reality of his original Self. This is the breaking-down of the partition between man and God.²⁰ This is the dethroning of the synthetic image and the fulfilling of the ancient Mosaic law “Thou shalt have no other gods before me,”²¹ written in the Book of Life as “Thou shalt not place the synthetic image before My infinite Reality.”

When the power of God, the Almighty I AM Presence, is enthroned as the governing authority for the individual’s every act, he is freed from the synthetic image. His consciousness is transformed until he can stand as Moses did on the desert of Sinai (which depicts the wasteland of the synthetic human consciousness) and there behold the bush that is aflame but not consumed.²² This phenomenon teaches that Nature herself outlasts the synthetic image in almost infinite degrees, for the bush remains long after it has turned to dust.

The Flame that is God imparts the knowledge that behind the visible creation is the essential spark of life that comes forth from the Creator and must be claimed by each of his servant-sons. Man, standing in awe of the Creator and the creation, takes off his shoes from his feet, symbolizing his recognition of the omnipotence of Truth that speaks out of Spirit’s own essence and declares, “I AM THAT I AM.”²³

The first commandment, paraphrased by Jesus when he said, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect,”²⁴ reminds us that no man should honor another above the Divine Presence within him. For the Presence is the inner guiding Light that will lead him through the wilderness of human thought and the maze of bewildering experience into the promised land of spiritual opportunity. Here the soul is fattened on the heavenly manna of divine Truth in the joyous seeking of a universally scientific Creator and creation; and man, by his God-given creativity, evolves through the Christic Light toward oneness with Reality.

The Way of Love

From love I came, to love I go;
And all this swing both to and fro
Alters not any jot
Of cosmic purpose I forgot.

I reach out now, to truth I vow;
To love in all I ever bow.
The universe is one alone—
No clash of multifacet tone.

The chime I hear is ever near;
'Tis love that casts out every fear.
Where'er I AM thy love lives too
To free the many and the few.

Command perfection, love's great law!
Command perfection, love's great light!
Thy glowing beauty through the night
As Star eternal, Light supernal,
Woos us all by present might.

For love I AM and love I live;
This is the allness that I give.
To each Manchild the spark is given—
'Twill rend the veil and bring to heaven.

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