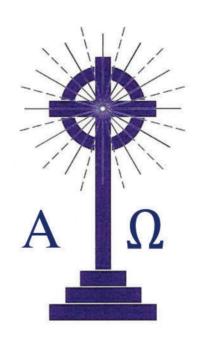
THE CONTINUITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS



THE CONTINUITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

By
J. Todd Ferrier

THE ORDER OF THE CROSS

www.orderofthecross.org

The unfoldment on The Continuity of Consciousness was given to the Friends gathered in the Sanctuary at Headquarters. Thinking it might be of service to many members, it comes to you as a New Year's Message with my love and blessing.

The Psalms are new readings from the Psalter—LXXX and LXXXIV.

May these bring comfort, hope, and joy to you all.

With Hallowed Remembrances.

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New Year's Day, 1934.

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THE SOUL'S DWELLING PLACE

How beautiful is Thy Tabernacle, O Lord of the Heavenly Hosts! For Thee doth my Being long. With yearnings unutterable desire I to come into Thy Courts and approach Thee.

My heart crieth out for Thee to come unto me; even my Body of Flesh doth yearn to be for Thee alone.

Within Thy Sacred Courts the humblest of Thy servants may find a place, even as the swift motion of the Spirit doth find its Home of Rest in Thee.

For in Thy Courts the lowly Heart may Praise, and the Mind of humble mien may let its Thought take flight, even whilst it serves before Thee.

For upon Thine Altars, Lord, do these make sacrifice, even as do the Heavenly Hosts in their service of Thee.

Blessed are all they who dwell within Thy Courts; they are full of the Praise of Thee.

Blessed are they, for Thou art their strength; in them are found the ways of Zion.

For them, in their journeying, the wells of sorrow become pools full of the Joy of their Lord; for the rains from Thy Heaven fill them.

From stronghold to stronghold do all these go until Zion doth appear bringing the vision of Thee.

O Lord God of Sabaoth! Blessed art Thou!

Unto Thee is our Prayer; for Thou hast regard unto us. Thou bearest us up upon Thy Shield;

Thou revealest to us the Face of Thine Anointed One.

Through the Vision of Thee within Thy Sanctuary in the Day of Thine unveiling of Thyself unto us, we are healed of our woundings received as we dwelt throughout a thousand ages amid the plains of Sin.

To stand upon the threshold of Thy Tabernacle is as rich recompense unto us for the days of our tenting amid the conditions of darkness we met in our way.

O Lord God Omnipotent! Thou art our Sun.

Thou dost give unto us once more, the Glory of Thy Grace.

Thou with-holdest no good from us;

Thou makest us to stand upright before Thee, and again to walk in Thy Truth and its Light.

O Lord God of Israel! Blessed are we, that our trust is in Thee.

THE CONTINUITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

What is consciousness?

How does consciousness grow?

How consciousness manifests upon these planes.

What its manifestation is in the Intermediary worlds, and in the Angelic World.

The measure of consciousness within a Soul who dwells within the Divine World.

UCH is now being spoken and written concerning the possibility of the Human Race in the coming days in relation to life and attainment. The human heart was never more full of enquiry as to the future. Even some of the great societies which, in these latter days, have been moved to consider spiritual things as within the possibility of human experience and realization, have come to recognize as the result of their searching, initiative, perceptions, and realizations, that Life does not end with the closing of the earthly drama of a human Soul; that there is evidence of a persistence of consciousness and activity which the human eye cannot witness, nor the human ear hear, when voices speak from the unseen realms. Many believe that such things are communicated through those who are psychic sensitives, and who can be made use of by the Intermediary World at times to communicate messages to those on these planes. There is a growing desire to know whether there is a Life beyond this, one full of reality; whether the light of it will fill the Being with a greater hope; whether it will lift the Life out of sorrow; whether it will cause travail to cease, and bring to an end the world's anguish.

ECCLESIASTICAL INCERTITUDE OF FUTURE

Most of the voices which affirm religious beliefs, seem very uncertain, though willing to declare that which might bring some degree of hope to humanity. That there is a future Life is declared in all religious communities; but the nature of it is left to those who pass into it to discover for themselves. There seems to be no true vision; no definite knowledge; no assurance such as would enable those who have to speak of such a Life, to declare it as those who know.

We cannot speak with assurance of anything that we do not know. The real knowledge concerning Life; the empirical experience of the Soul; the future fruition of such experiences; the crowning of them with a higher degree of spiritual manhood and womanhood; can come only through realization. We know, really know, spiritual and divine things only in the degree in which we have realized them. Outside of that, beneath that estate, we only apprehend that which is spoken of, and only in the degree in which it is unveiled to us, or we are able to receive it. It becomes a matter of belief, and the belief grows to hope. But hope's fruition is in realization.

That there is a future Life I would assure you. That its nature can be known, I would testify as one who knows. That there is hope for the world you may confidently believe. For that hope is in God Who is beneath, and behind, and above all the Life of His children. Even in the ages of their deepest travail He has not been absent. And though He has not been able to convey to them all the Blessings that His Love would fain have conveyed to them, because of their inward state, and because of the atmosphere around them, and also because of the Planetary conditions; yet He has never ceased to be active in the outpouring of His Blessing upon His children.

This world ought never to have known a night wherein no hope shone, no star of certitude illumined the celestial skies of the Soul's vision. It ought never to have known a time when those who were as stars in the firmament and shone gloriously, had their light eclipsed when they fell upon the Earth amidst tragic conditions. For these took unto themselves the world's travail; and as a result they came to know doubt and fear. Yet in their best moments the shadows of fear were chased away, and all doubt fled through the certitude of their inward experiences of His Presence Who had sent them forth into this world to bless it through the culture of its children.

THE HUMAN SOUL'S PAST

Most men and women hope for a future. The religious voices proclaim that there is a future for man other than in a racial sense upon these outer planes; that there are Heavens beyond; that there are Angelic ministries. But even the voices that proclaim such, seem to have no past for the Soul. Where was it in the ages when the prophets spake? Where was it during the time of the long night, when all the children who were upon these planes anguished in the degree of their consciousness, because of their travail?

The present is built up out of the past. The present is the crown of the Past. Even all the evil that is in the world to-day is the manifestation of the up-gathered evil which has been prevailing through the ages. Everything has its fruitage. An evil thought, until it be changed, bears its own fruit. You cannot grow figs (wisdom) on thorns, (prickly and smiting thoughts). You cannot produce grapes out of stubble. The spiritual status of every Soul contributes to the sum of the Race; and the sum of the past ages of the individual's growth is related intimately to the growth of the Race. The state of individuals and nations to-day is the resultant of the past. The evil that is in the world, with all the manifested inter-racial hatreds, is the sour-grape of ages, the fruitage of long misdirected desire and purpose. Likewise, whatsoever there is of good is the resultant of the past yearning of the Being. And as the present is the resultant of the past, so the future is dependent upon the present, and will be exactly commensurate for the individual, the community, the race, and for the world, with what to-day brings forth.

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With this prelude I would now ask you to follow me whilst I unveil what I have to say in relation to the Continuity of Consciousness.

THE MYSTERY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

What is consciousness? It seems elusive. We cannot touch it. We cannot hold it. Nor can we fully define it. We can, however, define and relate its powers. Is it evanescent like the things that come and go as the passing of years? Does it just come and go as the Human Soul moves on to or away from these planes? Is it never permanently suspended?

We know that in sleep consciousness seems to be partially, if not altogether, suspended. In a very deep sleep the individual, on awakening, has no consciousness of anything nor of the time that has intervened. Yet in the awakening, consciousness flies back to the individual. Where has it been?

If we understand consciousness, we will know that it is of the nature of those things which never die. It is of the Eternal. It belongs to the Eternal. It is of the Spirit. And, like the Spirit, its limitations of operation are conditioned by the vehicle through which it operates. Consciousness on the outer planes becomes manifest when we are functioning through the vehicle which corresponds to the objective world, to the realm of observation, to the field of outer activity. But when the activity of the outer ceases, and the power of observation within the objective world becomes veiled for the time being,

consciousness does not cease to operate. It is active in other spheres. Even in your sleep you are being ministered unto. Soul as well as body grows during sleep. Had it not been so through the ages, you would not have been here in the high state of consciousness you are in to-day. But for the guardianship of the Heavens you could not possibly have endured the ages of travail. And in that guardianship there has been ministry given during the night-watches. "He giveth unto His beloved ones in sleep." Oft-times lovely thoughts break upon your mind during the day which have been given to you in the nightwatches. The new energy with which you awaken in the morning has not been gathered altogether from the hours of rest of the outer vehicle, but from the renewing of strength through Angelic communion whilst the vehicle slept. The new hope with which you awaken to undertake your earthly burden which, on the previous day seemed to fill you with despair, has been poured into your cup by some lovely ministrant whilst your body and mind rested from the burdens of the daily round.

Consciousness never dies. When an individual passes from these planes and is said to have died, the consciousness which is of the Spirit, is indrawn. It is withdrawn to another realm. It may be that greater vision and fuller realization, come of being liberated from the limitations with which it has been consciously bound.

INHERENT IN ALL DIVINE ELEMENTS

Consciousness is of the Eternal Mystery we name the Father-Mother, Who is the Omniscient One. HE is all consciousness. He is the All-knowing. Consciousness is, therefore, the power in us through which we come to know. Of it are our perceptions. There are no active perceptions where there is no consciousness. There is no vision where consciousness is absent. Even on the outer planes there is no power to relate and correlate where there is no consciousness. The Omnisciency of God, or the potency we have to name Omnisciency, fills all the elements of which His glorious Universe has been built up and fashioned. The very Divine Elements of our Being are full of this consciousness. When you look at one asleep, you say "He or she is unconscious on the outer planes." Or, if you look upon one whose consciousness has been temporarily suspended, on the passing of the conditions you would say, "He is coming back to consciousness." Yet it is simply, that consciousness, apparently suspended, is becoming operative within the vehicle.

Consciousness is the power of knowing; the power of perceiving, understanding, and remembering. For even memory is in consciousness. When you forget a thing it is because the consciousness has ceased to hold it for the time being, and so seems to fail to bring it through to your historical memory. You may forget something for days, for weeks, for months, for years, and you think you have forgotten it altogether; but in a moment through the law of association, it is flashed upon the retina of your mind. What did it? There were reasons for the veiling of your consciousness for the time, and for its coming back to you to recall to your remembrance.

Consciousness is the resultant of the operation of the Spirit's motion within the Elements of your Being, withholding and giving, withdrawing and intensifying, coming forward to manifest, then sheltering behind limitation.

Such is the nature of consciousness that it is of the Universal.

It is a polarized state of the Divine Elements within each one: for each Soul is fashioned out of the Divine Ætheria.

It is the result of the action of the poles; for each Soul has magnetic centres corresponding to the poles of Planet and Sun.

It is the evidence of the motion of the Spirit in us; for in the degree of the motion of the Eternal Spirit within us we have consciousness, and the power to perceive and understand, to relate and correlate.

Being of the Eternal Ætheria, consciousness never dies. It is as Eternal as Him from Whom it proceeded in our fashioning. It is of His Substance in us when His Holy Spirit, Who is His sacred active Agent of the mysterious centrifugal Force, the Breath, moves unto us, within us, and through us.

THE GROWTH OF CONSCIOUSNESS

That consciousness grows, you must have realized in your own life. It expands like a flower through the operation of the Spirit within you. As a result of that operation you gather into yourself more and more for the enrichment of the spiritual realm of your Being, that which contains the elements of consciousness. That which contains those elements is the Divine Ætheria. It is the Primal Substance of all Being. Though invisible in its primal state, it becomes visible in the Celestial Heavens amidst the realms of the Milky Way and the Nebulæ. Such manifestations do not indicate that that Primal Substance does not obtain and prevail elsewhere. These are realms where, for purposes of Celestial ministry, it becomes manifest. Primal Substance is invisible. But it can be felt. It can be known. It can be realized.

The Soul grows in consciousness as it appropriates the Divine Elements of the Ætheria; and those Elements are accommodated to all the planes of the Soul's consciousness and the degrees of its spiritual estate. Those Elements are accommodated even to the outer elemental kingdoms. For, although we may be unconscious of it as we breathe continuously the Earth's atmosphere, we are breathing into our lungs elements which are vital; which are full of life; which re-energize the vehicle. Without the Breath on the outer spheres we cannot persist on these planes. It is an accommodation of The Breath of the Eternal World. For, as truly as it obtains on the outer, so does it on all the planes of the Soul's estate, and upon all the kingdoms of the Father-Mother's Universe.

THE HUMAN SOUL A DIVINE CREATION

Though consciousness belongs to the Divine World and is in a very special sense related to the Mystery of Life upon its realms, yet it obtains within all the Celestial realms, and is mediated down to the Angelic World and the Human estate. The Human Soul is a Divine creation; therefore, it has Divine Consciousness latent within it. All the potencies of that consciousness are awaiting the unveiling, enriching and deepening of Life. These respond to the attraction upward into greater realms of experience.

Thus the Soul drinks upon its various planes of functioning, of the Breath. "Breathe on me, Breath of God," is the prayer of the Being for the great realization of the Spirit upon and through all the planes of Being. As I breathe the atmosphere of the elemental kingdoms of the world, so would I breathe the atmosphere of the higher elemental kingdoms. I would breathe the elements of the Angelic World. And still upward would I soar, receiving the accommodated Breath, even until I can receive of the Elements of the Divine Ætheria, as these obtain in the Divine World.

How Consciousness Grows

The children of the FATHER-MOTHER who remain for ages just little children on the earth-planes of their life, and who do not or will not learn, have not large

consciousness, or deep consciousness, or high consciousness. For consciousness comes through spiritual education. It is the gift of the breaths. It comes through the desire to grow, to expand, to deepen, to ascend.

In the growth of this consciousness from age to age, the Soul knows backward and forward motion; transition from the earth-planes to the intermediary spheres; then back again to the Earth. There is no real teaching given at and by religious centres concerning the doctrine of what is called Re-incarnation. There was a time when the Church held that doctrine until Rome repudiated it. Indeed, it was repudiated before Rome became the centre of the western ecclesiastical development. But some of the great theologians of the early centuries, and the prophets of centuries preceding historical Christianity's inauguration, and likewise philosophers preceding and succeeding these, have taught that there must be many incarnations for the growth of such a Being as man is, with his consciousness and power to feel and to serve. Man as he is found in his average life must be greater than the limits of the earthly drama, greater in his estate than anything that could result from the pageantry of one brief epoch of seventy, eighty, ninety, or one hundred years. The age of a Soul, when once consciousness becomes operative, is revealed in what it senses. The child's world is all around it. The Soul who is more than a little child, has a larger world. And as consciousness deepens and expands within it, its world goes on enlarging from more to more. It can feel more. It can receive more. It acquires the power to bear more. It can travail more. It can sorrow more profoundly. It can rejoice with the joy of one who is as a giant in spiritual estate.

It is thus that consciousness as manifesting on these planes, has grown through great ages as the Souls of men and women have come and gone; come back to learn, and gone again to have the fruitage of the ages upgathered into the granary of their Being, the value of which will be manifested and revealed when they return again.

THE SOUL'S PROCESSIONAL

The processional of the Human Race was to have been a most glorious one, as indicated in that wonderful Psalm which prefaces this unveiling. It was to have been a radiant procession in which there was the delight of Childhood unto the FATHER-MOTHER, and of real communal fellowship-family, social, tribal, and racial. Many of the children, when they returned from the intermediary realms to be re-incarnated through vehicles suited to the more objective realms of manifestation, could bring back memories. I have seen a child, even in this life-time, smile as only a child could smile who had been talking with the Angels. Many people think that such things are vain dreams. They are no dreams to me. I speak to you, most lowlily as it must ever be, but with no uncertain voice, of the things I know. They are of Him. They are from Him. The Teaching of them is for Him. I would lift you all up out of the shadows into the very Cloud of His Radiance, where there could be no room for doubt or fear, where you would know even as you were known. In the degree in which you could know Him, would I have you realize His near approach, and so dispel all doubt and fear. I would help you to possess the power to sorrow divinely, and yet to divinely rejoice amidst it. I would help you to understand Travail as a Son of God, and yet amidst the majesty of it to be clothed always with true lowliness and gentleness; for thus are His power and majesty revealed through one who knows Him.

BEYOND THE VEIL

Now, for a little while come with me to the realm entered by those who pass over, those who are accounted

as dead so far as this world is concerned. Where are they? There are a great many who have passed over who are nevertheless very much here. There are those who have passed over in high consciousness, and who are able to so function that they can be used as ministrants from the Heavens. But there are many who have passed over who cannot be so used. Some there are who haunt, sometimes for years, the place where they dwelt and laboured. These are Earth bound. They are in prison. The earth-life has had such an effect upon them, holding them to the material side of things, that they find it difficult to let the earthly go even when they pass over. There is a substratum of truth in what are called haunted places. Though in the literary and social world it would be considered a dream of the imagination, yet it oft-times happens. Such an experience takes place in those who have lived their life in bondage to the astral body. They are still held by the influence of the elemental states. They cannot even be called up higher until they accomplish their liberation. Though ministered unto yet they must be willing; for there is no compulsion on the other side. The Soul must rise there as here. There is no compulsion from the Divine World here. There is constraint. The Divine Love constrains us all. That Love never compels a Soul. It operates upon the individual in the best way to help it. If the Soul refuses it the Divine Love waits. Infinite patience is in HIM. The Angels who minister for HIM never grow weary. If you knew all that takes place you would think they must grow weary. In serving Him the Soul never grows weary. On the earth-planes the mind and body grow weary through being unduly strained and over-burdened. Though the Angels never grow weary yet they are relieved from time to time; for even Angels rest from their labours. But those Souls who are growing in consciousness through growing in Life, deepening in feeling, expanding in vision, and yearning through the ascending are of their Being in prayer unto the realization of HIM Who is the LORD, but who have not yet attained that immortal status which enables them to progress right through the Angelic World, enter the Intermediary Realms.

THE MINISTRY OF NATURE-SPIRITS

The Planet has seven circuli. It was within those circles that the Oblation was accomplished. The seven correspond to the kingdoms. The lowest circle is the circle of reflection, where the trees and the flowers are imaged, and where, as it is said in mythology, the nature-spirits serve. There are those who attend to the trees and flowers, little people and greater people, Souls who are exquisitely beautiful though of little stature, and Souls who are majestic and of greater stature. These attend to the trees and the flowers. For the trees and the flowers play a most important part in the economy of the world's life. When forests are cut down that might be of great service, those who cut them down little dream, if they do not replace the trees, what they are doing. There is so much ignorance where there should be knowledge; such a lack of understanding driven out through the spirit of utilitarianism.

There are those who minister on the other side in the first circle, to all the trees and flowers. The second is the circle, and it is a very large one, wherein the astral forms of those, who are of the Creature kingdom, still function. They delight in life in the degree in which they are able to do so. Above that is the lowest estate on the other side of human spirituality. It is the third circle. That is the realm of the Gehenna, or circle where those go who are not yet purified and who cannot rise. They have to remain there until they are purified and can rise to the circle above. But the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh circles have all been purified by means of the Oblation; and these are now in the Intermediary World,

the Heavens of the Earth. It is into these Heavens those who are taken away, pass. They enter the circles according to the degree of their consciousness, spiritual estate, and power to receive and serve. And there they rejoice and learn. How do they learn? What causes them to rejoice? They learn through service. There are arts and crafts there. Cease to imagine that these simply belong to the outer planes. Here they do not seem to reveal heavenly secrets. But in the Planet's Heavens they are the signs and symbols of such heavenly things. They are used in ministries as means of heavenly education. The flowers we rejoice to look on and encourage to grow under right conditions; and the trees we love to walk amongst and observe in the seasons; are but the reflexions as concrete expositions of the glories of the Angelic World. For in the Intermediary World we have trees and flowers, and arts and crafts. The children learn there how to create design. Real design is not created by Design is from the Heavens. When a great designer is born, that one has learnt how to design elsewhere than on the earth-planes. The design that comes from the Heavens is pure and truc. It is perfect as a geometrical exposition, and always balanced.

THE EARTH'S PARADISE

It will thus be seen that the Intermediary World is not a dream world. It is a most active realm in which Souls are trained and educated. If you have friends who have passed over, think happily of them. They may be in the Intermediary spheres because they could not rise farther. They may be in the fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh; or they may have risen beyond these. They may have been able to pass into the Angelic World. But as soon as they are refreshed, rested, strengthened, they will be sent back to minister, perhaps to yourself, to help you amidst some passing dramatic experience where you need special ministry.

Assuredly most of us have Angels in the Angelic World who are also ministering through the Planetary Heavens in this day and in this hour. For, remember, that though this Home-Sanctuary is filled with Angelic presences, and these can minister for the Great Love directly unto all who can receive directly from them; yet there are those who cannot receive directly. To them the Angels have to minister through the corresponding plane or circle within the Soul, a plane corresponding to the Intermediary World.

Thus consciousness grows in the Heavens. It deepens. It expands. The vision enlarges. The power to feel and understand intensifies. And when the Soul comes back it takes up Life with a larger consciousness. The Soul has gathered in above. Indeed, what was gathered in on the earth-life, there finds fruition. All the real experiences, like the elements, are gathered up and polarized, so that the consciousness of the individual is enlarged; it is deepened; it has gained power to ascend yet higher.

We cannot go upward in the spiritual and divine sense. except by means of the expansion and deepening of consciousness; for we can ascend only in the degree in which we understand divinely. Those who pass into the Heavens use the Divine Elements they find there, and they weave them into beautiful garments. gather of the Divine Elements. They have their looms. They have instruments of beautiful mechanism in the Intermediary World. In the fourth circle even, the first of the Human Soul's dwelling places who is not in the prison houses, such services and ministries obtain. That circle is what we would call super-physical. It is a refined astral. But when the Soul ascends into the next circle, the elements are still more refined, though what might be called super-physical or super-refined astral. When it ascends into the sixth circle, the elements are altogether spiritual. And they are more so on the seventh. They are such as the Angels make use of in the Angelic Realm.

The Angels make things of beauty. They weave garments for those who cannot yet weave them for themselves. They weave raiment for the outer body which has to be assumed there.

Thus is it right through the Intermediary World. It is a home of education. It is a realm of enrichment. It is a sphere where consciousness expands and deepens. It is a home in which there are many mansions, many degrees, many estates. It is a realm where the Soul acquires the power to function in higher estate of consciousness, and pass into the Angelic Realms. Those who have not attained the Immortal estate come back here; but they come back enriched with deeper and larger consciousness. They come back having learned something of true art-design, formative art, art expressed in colour, art expressed in motion, as in music. They come back greatly enriched. The great artists have long, long ago learned there. They come to Earth with the knowledge of the Angelic Realms concerning design, colour, fashion, rhythm, music, geometrical formation, balance. Those who are great in these things are Souls who have attained some degree of the Immortal Life. Though they may come here for ministry they need not return for experience. When a Soul need not return any more for experience, it is asked to come to teach others, to help them to grow even into the same estate. We receive that we may give. We attain that we may lay down. No Soul liveth for himself who knows the FATHER-MOTHER. No Soul attains for his own ends. A!! attain for the service of the FATHER-MOTHER

How the Great have Acquired

Thus the great ones, those who are accounted great, have learned their realization of the mystery elsewhere. It has been so even with scientists. Unfortunately, most of them are still veiled. But those who are truly and

selflessly searching, notwithstanding the accumulation of what they would consider facts in the realms of observation in the outer phenomenal world, sense greater really great Astronomers, The Chemists, Geologists, Botanists, Physiologists, metricians, did not learn their inherent knowledge in the world of phenomena on the outer planes. They acquired that knowledge of the Stars amongst the Stars; of the elements amidst the Elements where these are in higher estate than in their accommodated conditions upon this world. The real scientists, like artists, musicians, and designers, belong to the Schools of the Prophets and the Seers. If their vision be veiled to-day, it is because of the tragedy of the Earth. They have not been able to issue from its night into the resplendence which their opened intuition would reveal to them; nor pass into the glory that would again shine within and around them if they could but contact Him Whom once they knew, or even His representative in the Head of their own system. For in that ONE the LORD is embodied and revealed for the unveiling of the Sacred Mystery of the Father-Mother.

All such have great consciousness. Their consciousness is tremendous in comparison with the consciousness that in a general way obtains in the world. Yet they are mostly veiled. But the day is hastening wherein all such things will be changed. The LORD is come in the Message. And all those Souls who have been earnest and true in their seeking, though so long veiled, will again perceive the heavenly secrets hidden in the heart of their science, and understand the things after which they have been groping for ages, and in these days, seeking to reduce to hard material facts. They will learn that this latter cannot be; for Divine Things cannot be reduced to hard material facts. Those who persist in such an effort, will fail. There is all the difference in the world between solving a problem on paper and solving the problem in reality. There is all the difference between building theorems on ever changing premises, suppositions, and phenomena, and building up the glorious superstructure of Divine Life by means of the illumined knowledge of Eternal Law, wherein there is understanding of the Divine Mystery expressed throughout the Universe.

Bear with me, those of you who are students of physical science. The giant minds must be won. Unto this end they must learn the Truth, and the only path along which it can be found. I yearn for the real scientist to come, one who is illumined from Gop: to see resplendent those Generals of the Skies and ancient Administrators of the Elements long ages ago, come back again into that which should in this day now become their own. I yearn for them to reach the real understanding, through illumination, of the sacred Mysteries of the Universe; Mysteries which cannot be stated in terms, words, or figures; which are beyond being announced as so-called discoveries are proclaimed to-day. For they are sacred things to be realized. Thus also must they be understood and known. When the Soul knows Him its science is through the knowledge of Him.

In other realms the great ones are learning to work, to acquire, to attain, and at last become crowned with a radiance begotten of realizations of the Divine Mystery; and they will return to Earth to be its instructors; and again they will administrate, direct, control, and reign as regnant ones.

WITHIN THE ANGELIC WORLD

That which I have indicated to you as taking place in the Intermediary World, goes on right through the Angelic World. It is glorious to see the indescribably beautiful Sanctuaries that are raised in the Heavens. The flowers bloom there in rich profusion, and reveal HIM Who created them as they shed their fragrance. Heavenly voices articulate the motion of the Breaths. They blend with the Music of the Spheres. The Divine approach is heard in the Alleluiah. The Divine proclamation is heralded in the Halleluiah. The Soul bows in the praise of Him. The whole Heavens proclaim how worthy HE is to be praised.

The Angelic World is most active. It never sleeps. It rests not day nor night. That does not mean the Angels have no periods of relaxation. They have Divine drama. In the Intermediary realms they have Divine drama and comedy. For the dramatic art is one of Heaven's gifts to the Angels, and to all the children who are in the Intermediary realms. The only difference between the former and the latter is in degree and intensity.

As the Soul grows in consciousness wheresoever it is functioning, it is not confined to its vehicle, nor its sphere; though it may seem to remain in the sphere of its functioning. It can take the flight of the Spirit in a moment, when once it has attained Angelic estate. If a process of transition has to take place by which in one of its vehicles it has to pass to a sphere within another realm, or to another system, it will have to take time. And that will vary according to the degree of the inherent power for transitional processes and latent dynamic force.

WHERE TIME IS NOT

But in consciousness there is no time. When the Soul grows in its consciousness to Celestial greatness, it can immediately function within the Solar Body. That must seem strange to many. The Soul can look into the Sun; behold its Angelic Hosts; see on the way thither and meet in vision through consciousness, those it has known and served with. And yet, though this seems a part of the time process, it can at the same time, whilst on its

journey, in consciousness take flight right through into the heart of the Angelic World or some other Celestial System it has once known. And the same experience obtains in relation to the Divine World. It can, through the flight of the Spirit, be there in vision and realization even whilst taking its journey thither to one of the inner spheres.

Consciousness is of the Spirit. And as the Spirit of the individuated Being has deepened in its experience; gained power in its motion; expanded in vision, and caused the Life-potencies to rise by the power of Divine dynamics, the Soul can know Him immediately, see Him immediately, hear His voice immediately, receive from Him immediately. Though but a unit in the illimitable Universe, one Son out of the millions of Sons of the Gods and of God who have realized sonship, yet the Soul is capable of knowing Him; of looking on Him; of hearing from Him; and of communing with Him.

Consciousness! There is no end to the expanse of it. There is no death to it; for it is of Him. It belongs to the Initiates as a Divine Inheritance. It finds individuated exposition in and through ourselves. In the measure in which, through our consciousness, we realize Him, we become like Him. We are for God in the world. To be like Him, is to do as He would do; to be to others as He would be; to become in fashion as He is, and as He would have us be. Never to let die in us the consciousness of His Love; nor grow dim the sublime radiance of His Wisdom; never to allow the world's influence upon us to slacken us in our endeavour, nor stay our hand in its outreaching to bless.

* * * *

Beloved ones! Thus would I appeal to you to live in the consciousness of your divinity before Him, and your oneness in Him. Though you have not yet fully realized the fulness of Hts resplendence in the measure in which that resplendence can be yours, yet live in the consciousness that HE is about you through Hts ministrants; that HE is over you through Hts Cloud of Radiance which will enrich your own auric glory through your magnetic poles being in perfect balance. For HE will communicate to you through Hts auric Cloud, Divine knowledge and wisdom.

Live as children conscious of His Indwelling; for His Substance is in you, and your substance is His. His Spirit is in you. Your consciousness belongs to Him, even as are all the attributes which you can bring into activity, and in the degree in which you are able to apprehend and understand, consecrate, and sacrifice.

Ah! beloved Friends! Walk in the consciousness of Him. Let hope be a living force within you. Let belief become a sublime realization. Live as those who walk with Him in Paradise here and now. Though the world's tumultuous conditions may beat upon the outer shores of your life, yet walk with Him, that you may say to the conditions immediately around you—Peace! And that thus you may acquire the power to speak His Peace wheresoever you go, in thought, word, and act.

Most ever Blessed One, our Father-Mother! Thy children would uplift and reveal Thee through the embodiment of Thy glorious Mystery in themselves, and thus make manifest Thy great and most precious Gift of Life Eternal which is full of the consciousness of Thine Indwelling Presence, wherein we are all made one in Thee, sharers of Thy Holy Mystery and the resplendence of Thy Love and Wisdom.

We would evermore Praise Thy Sacred Name.

A PRAYER OF ISRAEL

O Shepherd of Israel! Give ear unto the cry of the Children of Thine Inheritance, and vouchsafe unto them Thy Holy One.

Thou hast led the House of Ioseph, even as the Shepherd doth lead his sheep, into the Pastures of Thy Dwelling Places.

Thy chosen People doth pray unto Thee that Thou wouldst again shepherd them.

O Lord God of Israel!

Thy Dwelling Place is above all Temples.

Thou dost reveal Thy Glory between the Cherubim:

O cause Thy Glory to lighten upon us, and in power make manifest through us, that, in Benjamin¹, Ephraim² and Manasseh³, Thy healing may be accomplished.

O Lord God of Israel!

May all Thy People turn unto Thee, that thus Thy Glory may shine within them, and Thy Radiance be once more revealed through them.

¹ The Intuition. ² The Understanding regnant.

The Mind as it serves in dual capacity, on this side and on the other side of Jordan—the river which divides the Inner from the Outer realms within us.

FLLF-ABANDONALDA

SELF-SACRIFICE

SELF-DENIAL

The Order of the Cross

SPIRITUAL AIMS AND IDEALS

HE Order is an informal Brotherhood and Fellowship, having for its service in life the cultivation of the Spirit of Love towards all Souls: Helping the weak and defending the defenceless and oppressed; Abstaining from hurting the creatures, eschewing bloodshed flesh eating, and living upon the pure foods so abundantly provided by nature; Walking in the Mystic Way of Life. whose Path leads to the realization of the Christhood; And sending forth the Mystic teachings unto all who may be able to receive them - those sacred interpretations of the Soul. the Christhood, and the Divine Love and Wisdom, for which the Order of the Cross stands.

SERVICE

DEVOTION

PURITY

The Order of the Cross

FOUNDED OCTOBER 1904

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TO ATTAIN, by mutual helpfulness, the realization of the Christ-life, by the path of self-denial, self-sacrifice, and absolute self-abandonment to the Divine will and service:

It is of these things that the Cross as a symbol speaks. It stands for the Sign of the Order of the Cross, because its three steps are those which have to be taken in order to arrive at that Estate which it symbolizes. It speaks of the quest after the humble spirit and the pure heart. It speaks also of that further state of realization when the Soul gives itself in absolute abandonment for the Divine Service. The Three Steps are:-

PURITY OF LIVING PURITY OF THE MIND PURITY OF THE SOUL

Thus to endeavour by example and teaching to win all men to the love of Truth, Purity and Right-doing.

To proclaim the Brotherhood of Man, the essential oneness of all religious aspirations, and the unity of all living creatures in the Divine.

To teach the moral necessity for humaneness towards all men and all creatures.

To protest against, and to work for the abolition of, all national and social customs which violate the teachings of the Christ, especially such as involve bloodshed, the oppression of the weak and defenceless, the perpetuation of the brutal mind, and the infliction of cruelty upon animals, *viz.*: war, vivisection, the slaughter of animals for food, fashion and sport, and kindred evils.

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