

Chapter 2

INDIVIDUAL AWAKENING

There comes a time in the life of an individual when he begins to question set forms and values of religious beliefs and tries to find a reason for their observance, which is based upon understanding and inner need rather than mere outward routine. His intuitive longing for an inner understanding of the essential Essence of Life and a closer tuning into those vibratory waves of a deeper significance of the Soul Principles in Life is the start of the search for the hidden values within his very being, and not in mere external rituals. And that is when the living Master or Mystic comes to the rescue and shows him the way.

All religions exist because they fill a need which is best suited for the guidance of a race, a nation or a tribe, at that particular time or era. Religions, like the Sabbath, are made for men-not mankind for religion. When the consciousness evolves or changes, then all old values are questioned and a search for new ones is in progress. All set forms have a way of changing in the economy of Nature. The mind of man is no exception to this adaptation of growth, or expansion from within outward.

Everything in Nature sprouts, develops and fully expresses itself as mature sentient beings or vegetation.

From the unconscious to the Conscious, is the way of life. If this is true of the growth of the body, the emotions and the mind, then why not the Soul Life and Consciousness also? **The latter is the real actor and the Essence** of the entire being. It is the very reason and cause for living. It is slow to mature and comes to the surface in the daily consciousness among the pressure of the body's material needs and the grosser frictions and attractions in life. But when once awakened, such individuals are heard of in history and act as a leaven for awakening many other souls, as one lamp can light another. They become the first fruits of that season or age. Spiritual growth and fruition is an individual progress. It depends upon the purification and development of the consciousness of each soul as a unit. That soul's awareness and attraction is toward the core and Inner Essence of all Being, whence it originally came. It is the cry of the soul to go back home to the Father's House, no matter where it is located or how it is conditioned on earth; that very conditioning being the fruit of its own previous actions and desires. Kings and beggars alike have received that call and set their faces toward the "East" the Inner Sensory Origin of their very being, the rising Sun of Reality.

The awakening of souls is a process of the ages, and the purpose of creation. All creation furnishes the material, condition and friction for further conscious development, through pleasure and through pain. Some have laboured in this Vineyard of the Lord of Soul Growth for many ages; others begin, while a few enter at the tenth hour of the day, and they receive the same

wages at the end of their day of labour. Soul growth, soul awakening, God-Realization is the reward. Each age has its message of the Creator to mankind. This Truth is proclaimed by great Mystics, Saints, Sages, Seers, Sadhus, Yogishwars, Prophets, Lawgivers, and followers of great Teachers. Through the mercy and grace of the Supreme Father, none are forgotten or left out. To each race and nation, an interpretation of the Great Truth is given, which is best suited to the needs and the characteristics of the mental and emotional background.

Only that can be given which the conscious mind is ready to receive and to which it can respond. This is necessary for each era and clime, and need not be the whole Truth at any one time, as progress or evolution is not a sudden ultimate either. Hence, the great variance in religions and teachers at every epoch of time. Instructions to the many must necessarily be adaptable to them and accepted as a step forward in a better understanding of the Soul Life and its higher values and standard, in a gross material world of experience.

All creation is but for man's benefit, as a Kindergarten of Life. The Eternal Father furnishes all the material and the environment, plus the instruments or vehicles with which to enjoy this experience of His Grace. The physical body, the emotional nature and the mind of man are all tools for the expression of the Soul, the Real Self or Being, as the One Essence in every form and substance. Gradually, this realization dawns on the consciousness of the Soul in this journey of life in the Vineyard

of the Lord, the Kindergarten of Souls. Little by little the gross is worn away and the Essence begins to be revealed within and shines forth consciously as a Diamond Soul, a real jewel in its own nature. All that had previously been sought for on the outside-and much more-is revealed and given within, a thousand fold greater and richer than the earth could give or hold. This is the literal explanation of the experience of Job who surrendered all, endured all in this pilgrimage of life, in order to find God-Realization. In the end, his faith was rewarded and he received thousand-fold rewards of Realities, of which the most precious earthly things were but mere shadows. Spiritual values and gifts cannot be compared with physical things, even though they are recorded as such for the sake of those who know nothing of the Inner Jewels of Life. How else could the Saints tell the multitude of those Inner Values and describe them to those who know only material things? Spiritual things must be spiritually discerned:

"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

(1stCor. 3:1, 2, 3)

Religious renaissance or awakenings come periodically, as cycles of time in the life of souls on earth. Then a Great Teacher is sent, who calls the souls who are

ready for one great stride forward. Such are the seasons of the soul. Their cycles are slower than material things because they are deeper and more lasting, the soul being an eternal verity.

The Soul is the Mystery of Life and the Darling of God, for which all creation was formed. All other things grow and perish. Even planets and solar systems grow cold. Only the Soul endures as the spark of the One Eternal Essence of the Supreme Father Himself.

Within every mortal is concealed the mystery of the Word of Life and Creation. It is the Lost Word found, and is also symbolized by the Lost Chord. The parable of the Prodigal Son is symbolic of the experiences of the soul. It returns to its Father's House from its wanderings on earth and material existence, after having worn its garments or vehicles to shreds, or so thin, that it can find and see the way Home by the Inner Light of Love and Grace bestowed on it through the Living Master. Then the Heavenly Father bestows a new set of robes for the wedding feast of the soul. This wedding feast is not the celebration of a physical union, but that of the soul with its Divine Source, and that is termed "God-Realization'. (MAT. 22 : 1-15)

All ceremonial robes, and the wedding garment spoken of by Jesus in the parable of the call to the feast, as well as the multicoloured coat of Joseph, are all symbols of the finer vehicles of man, besides his physical form or body. These are actual inner experiences of souls on the homeward journey, back to their own conscious being in the Father's House, the Eternal Essence of the One Substance.

Most great Teachers had and still have a secret doctrine for the few, and creeds and customs for the masses. Jesus said to His apostles:

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? Hic answered and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. "

(MAT. 13: 10-17)

"All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them." (MAT. 13:34)

Even the temples had an inner court where only the priests entered, and an outer court for the multitude.

In most of the Sacred Texts there is a promise of Saviors or Avatars, who are to come from time to time in the progression of cycles, to reveal a new aspect of the Great Truth to a particular nation or race at that time. The Hindus had the nine Avatars of Vishnu. The tenth is yet to come as Maitraya Acharya, also called Kalki. The Christians are looking for the second coming of Christ. The Jews are also still looking forward to a Messiah. While they acknowledge Jesus as a Prophet, His message did not blend with their particular type of consciousness and therefore they could not benefit by it. In the teachings of Jesus the Mosaic laws and rituals were not emphasized enough to be a fulfilment to them. Jesus brought to earth a new aspect of the same Truth, and those who were not ready to evolve with and by it, persecuted Him. And so the cyclic expectation and prayers for further revelation by the multitudes on earth goes on, while they themselves may persecute or ridicule the very answer to their prayers during His lifetime among them

However, in every uplift of the general consciousness, there were many who were the first fruits of that vintage of spiritual effort and Soul Growth, who gave their entire attention to this Reality in preference to earthly pursuits. Religious orders perpetuated the forms which were established by their prominent leaders in the effort of Spiritual Growth.

As there are first fruits in Nature, which ripen before the rest of the fruits on the tree, so it is in humanity with the souls and their inner fruition on the Tree of Life in this material existence. There are awakenings of souls and longings and midnight tears of many whose consciousness does not fit any more to the forms they find themselves in, or to the trend of thoughts and values they were accustomed to before this awakening. These souls struggle and seek, either within or without the folds of formal creeds. The spirit is not bound by form but seeks to reveal itself to the consciousness daily, through experience, by practising and living according to soul qualities. Truth is the Essence of all existence. It is omnipresent, like the air on earth. Where can these souls find the answer? Some type of air is more suitable to some individuals than to others. For these seekers after Truth, the Supreme Father has provided an answer in this age in order to show the shortest way Home to these first fruits of His Vineyard. In this Iron Age, the Supreme Father sends Saints out from the highest region of Spirituality to gather and bring in these souls by Their teachings and guidance. These Saints do not start new Creeds or religions, nor do They attempt to convert the multitudes into formal observances, and they do not seek numbers.

They merely attract and instruct those souls who come to them in all sincerity and want to find the Way to God-Realization. The Goal is achieved by His Grace and Love, and the individual's own attitude of mind plus effort of

attention to the development of soul consciousness. The direction for inner devotion and concentration is given by the Master at the time of Initiation. Otherwise, the disciple works and toils like others, in whatever station of life he may be, to earn his own living and fulfil his karmic obligations. He does not have to leave his church or creed; rather, by a process of better understanding and deeper devotion, he fulfils all these requirements until he does not need this outer help any longer to steady him in his inner progress. Naturally, he curtails his animal nature and lessens his karmic burden by following the strict instructions not to eat anything that must be killed or stopped in its progress of development, like eggs, meat, fish and fowl, or anything containing them. Alcoholic beverages of any kind are also to be definitely avoided because they dull the mind and senses, and stimulate the nervous system and the earthy pranas which have a downward material tendency and result in deterioration.

The aspirant aims to ascend the Tree of Life from which he had originally descended, and to again reach Kether, the Crown of Consciousness. He is literally going back Home by the One Road of Life itself. And this is the straight and narrow way of Inner Devotion and Understanding, under the guidance of a living Master who has Himself traversed the Way. Just as in His time, Jesus said:

"I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.' (John 14 : 6)

"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father,

and the Father in me? The words that I say unto you, I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." (John 14: 9—12)

"And he that seeth me seeth Him that sent me." (John: 12:45)

This great Truth was a Reality when Jesus was on earth and could be seen by men. How many have actually seen Jesus since His departure from this earth, and yet they think that His work continues for ever on this earth. However, His Love and Truth remain for the guidance of the people who can raise their consciousness to that height, with the personal help of a living Mystic. Every man's earthly work ceases when he leaves the earth. All obligations and promises made by Jesus were fulfilled when He was on earth. His earth life and obligations ceased when He entered the higher Spiritual Regions.

"In my Father's house are many mansions." (John. 14:2)

He can descend within and show Himself to His devotees, who contacted Him during His lifetime on this earth, but after ascension, cannot assume the physical body without re-incarnating. He can work through a successor, duly appointed by Him, or through

any duly appointed successor of the previous successor, until that line runs out; providing the successor is sufficiently developed spiritually to go within consciously, by the process of Inner Transport, and meet the Savior on the inner planes of consciousness. Such is the teaching of the real Saints and Mystics of all times.

The Truth of the Saints is the consciousness of the Mystic life of the spirit, lived daily. It is a living of the soul for its conscious reunion with God. It is the process of the spiritual child, growing up to meet the Father in a distant country, from whence it originally wandered, so long ago that it has forgotten its origin. This is told in many myths and stories by the Greeks, like the story of the hero, Thesus, who was recognized by the Father when he brought back with him the sword of spiritual Truth, left by the Father when He had visited that region, and with which the son had girded his loins after finding it where it had been hidden from other eyes under the Rock of the Word.

The initiate, hero, or the son of the Father does the work of the Father by the strength of the Spirit of Truth, the Sword of Truth, which conquers all things and obstacles. The son's love and longing, coupled with patient and courageous effort, lead him on the Way to his Father's House in a distant land, which is really the spiritual world within. Such are the literal meanings of these marvellous myths of old, when truly understood for the message which they hold.

It is not for all, but for the children of the Household of Spirituality, who live the life and walk on the Way to the Kingdom of God within man. None other can cause this great spiritual sword of Truth or benefit

by the mere possession of its form. Only he who **lives** the life can know the doctrine of the One Truth.

Truth is the Inner Life, while the conscious existence in a form is called the outer life and is actually unconsciousness, away from the bliss of consciousness and kingship of the realms within. Jesus stated this clearly when He said:

"My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight." (John. 18:36)

"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (MAT. 26:53).

Pilate found no fault in Jesus and washed his hands of the matter, in order to show his innocence. (MAT. 27:22-27).

Forms and customs which were originally meant for the security of life, become hard and lifeless as they grow old and crystallize, and are replaced in Nature by young and new forms as time goes on. The spirit or soul always remains solvent as the active pole of life itself. Laws become forms which bind the Life eventually, because the within moves swiftly while the without crystallizes and cannot keep up the pace of the need of the spirit. New bottles are required for the new wine of life, or both are lost. (MAT. 9 : 17)

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."
(Rom. 8 : 6)

St. Paul admonished the Christians to be one in Spirit, as it was in Christ Jesus. (ROM. 8: 9-12)

When the children grow up, it is both a joy and a sorrow to the mother of life, because the love of the babe must be replaced by the love of the adult, which is different. All growth is painful to physical forms, bodies and customs of established ways. One moves constantly like the hands of the clock, while the other stands still like the face of the clock to measure time itself and gathers the dust of the ages, which buries the life of any civilization.

Where the consciousness is, there is the life. A dead thing has neither. Life and consciousness are One in Essence. Therefore, the Saints advise their students to raise the consciousness to the center of the forehead and hold it there, consciously. The head is Kether, the Crown of Creation, and the center of the highest consciousness possible. The lesser centers and chakras - situated below the eyes-belong to the unconscious realm, and the true Mystics do not go in at these lower Centers.

That part of the body which is situated below the eyes is in the field of Nature and is automatic in function, to supply the needs of the body by attraction or repulsion to the great outer realm of Nature's energy fields. The psychic realm is in this subconscious field. The Spiritual Realms are situated above the eyes, the actual center of consciousness in the body. That is the abode of the soul in the body, and is referred to as the heart center by the Saints.

The physical heart center is ruled by the emotions, while the spiritual heart center is governed by soul qualities, and that is where the Mystic Union takes place. When in deep thought, man's consciousness

is normally in the head, so the Saints teach us how to utilize that faculty to enable us to go in and up from there, instead of wasting a lot of time and energy and perhaps becoming confused besides, in concentrating on the lower chakras.

In the first place, man is not so constructed as to be able to properly go in and govern these lower chakras, as he was in the ages past; and secondly, the life span is not long enough in this age to accomplish such a long and arduous task. And, even after all that has been done, it is still necessary to go in and up from the topmost conscious chakra in the body. Then why delay and take all the detours, when the straight and narrow has to be taken eventually if we wish to reach the Goal, and **can** be taken RIGHT NOW! **Now** is the time of the Lord. The degrees of life are measured in sentient sensitiveness and conscious awareness at each center or region. The good Lord has many shepherds for His sheep, and not even a sparrow falleth off the roof without His knowledge:

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father: But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." (MAT, 10:29-31)

There have been a number of Mystics and Saints in the East. Since the advent of Saint Kabir in the fifteenth century, there have been quite a few Saints who brought the Great Truth to mankind, in a very simple manner. The Radha Swami teaching,

known also as *SANT MAT*, is a direct revelation of the Path of the Soul and its Inward Ascension, without attention to the lower five *CHAKRAS* or centers in the body, as was previously practised in all the earlier teachings in every land.

The Mysticism of all ancient Sacred Lore began at the bottom of the Tree of Life; namely, at the rectal center-called the Muladhara Chakra-to evolve the consciousness through it and upward. In the Vedas, these six centers in the body, with the seventh at the center above the eyes-the thousand-petalled Lotus was the height of attainment revealed. In the Old Testament of the Christian Bible, which is based upon the Talmud and the Zohar, there are many hints and references to a secret process of concentration practised by the Patriarchs of old, and their success was announced in terms of positive results in the spiritual life, symbolized as male off-spring; or negative results, symbolized by female off-spring, in their message to other mystics. These terms are similes and do not refer to the begetting of physical off-spring.

The Esoteric Kabbala, with its Tree of Life as the symbolic form of the finer essences of the human body, the Temple of God, was based upon the teachings of the Talmud and the Zohar. It has a system of centers or whirling energy virtues called Sephiroth, similar to the *CHAKRAS*, built or designed as a replica of the temple seen by Moses on Mount Sinai. The hidden mystery of the Life Energy in the human body is clearly shown to be the objective of the entire system. Definite centers are given as stations for concentration, for devotion, for the showbreads, for incense and for sacrifice of

thoughts and animal emotions at the abdominal center of digestion and absorption. Ceremonial magic was the method of concentration in this system.

In the Vedas, it was the control of the *PRANA* to still the emotions and the mind. Other methods of control by the will were also used.

In all these systems, the methods differed somewhat, but the goal and the objective were the same; namely, to purify and still the mind by concentration, so that the Light of the Soul can shine forth. Thus the consciousness may meet God in the stillness of the Garden of Life, the Paradise within.

The seat of the center of consciousness in the human body is the central axis of the brain. Here the Sound Current, called the Holy Shabd or the Word is consciously contacted. This is the first station and step on the ladder of human ascent above the eyes. Elijah's experience on Mount Horeb (1st KINGS 19: 8-15) tells of such an event. Jesus also referred to it:

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

(John. 3 : 8)

In fact, all of the verses from 3 to 14 in John, Chapter 3, pertain to this subject, as well as many other passages in the Bible which can easily be recognized and understood when one has found the key.

Elijah also used the squatting posture of Yoga when he produced the rain for King Ahab at the time of the great drought (1st KINGS 18: 42). Again, this shows that these secret methods for soul development

and for power (which a true Mystic never squanders for material gain) were known to the ancient Prophets, Sages, Yogis, Rishis and Law Givers. In fact, this type of knowledge was the science of that age and much sought after by scholars. Even Alexander the Great was instructed by Diogenes. Most rulers revered the sages and those learned in the secrets of the finer forces in Nature and in man.

Our present-day material science does not satisfy the soul, no matter how much comfort and ease it may provide for the body. The emphasis is too much on the material side, and the soul feels the pressure, like the bondage in Egypt of Biblical times. Of course, these very bonds are the individual's own mind and senses, in their attachment to outer things. A living, vital understanding is necessary at this time, to strike at the core and the essence rather than the form and the belief alone. Can it be proven? Can it be done? Or has God forsaken His creation in this age of materialism?

The answer is that the Saints have done it and do it daily. They actually **live** this Mystic Inner Life, and can show the true seeker the simple Path of God Realization, which is to be trodden, not as an ascetic, but while living a normal life, performing our worldly duties and earning our own livelihood. But how many will give it time, thought and effort, when material things pay off in cash? Man, in his purely material pursuits, is turning his mind away from God. God never leaves His creation. Without His eternal support, it would pass away into non-existence.

The consciousness of the Supreme Being is not limited, but man's awareness has been limited by his

own acts of indulgence and desires, until the veil between himself and God has reached the proportion of a veritable mountain. The Saints show us how to wear away this mountainous obstruction, without at the same time increasing its height or its depth at some other point while doing so. Thus They help us to again reach the blissful state of conscious union with God - God-Realization. This human life has been given to us for that very purpose, and it is up to us to make the best use of it. That is the talent which we all have to account for when we leave this earth.

And mere physical death is not the answer; in fact, suicide or despair is one of the sins against the Holy Ghost and is definitely an unforgivable sin. We are here to learn to control the energies through a body of resistance, in conscious actions and reactions. What is really meant is the overcoming of the deadly vices of lust, anger, greed, attachment and egotism. These are tools of the lower mind and desire body. They can be sublimated only by the practice of CHASTITY, FORGIVENESS, CHARITY, DETACHMENT AND HUMILITY, under the guidance of a living, True Mystic or Master.

The Holy Word is the One Power which can overcome human weakness, by linking the consciousness to the Inner Life Stream of the Holy Spirit of Shabd. By lifting up the attention to this "living Redeemer" of the Holy Sound Current, all lower obstacles are automatically left behind and forgotten; much the same as children grow up and automatically give up their babyhood toys.

The tendencies of the lower self or animal nature in man can only be slain or overcome by **diverting** our **attention from** them to the higher, spiritual tendencies and developing them according to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, under the guidance of a living Mystic, Saint or Master. It is not a matter of suppression, but of exchanging the lesser for the greater. If a child is playing with a dangerous weapon which it does not understand, a wise parent does not frighten the child by quickly snatching the weapon away, but rather diverts the child's attention from the weapon to a more attractive but harmless object. So with the Great Mystics and Saints; They never compel, but through love and mercy point out the higher potentialities in such a way that we automatically abandon the lower and make an effort to reach the Highest. First, man must convince himself that he wants to let go of the lesser values, like a seed which dies unto itself to bring forth new fruit. So is the soul reborn in the Nectar of Inner Life, out of the shell of matter.

Every parent knows that it takes many years and tears to develop a human body to the age of maturity; but only God can make a soul, which is the inhabitant and the very life of that body, as it is a particle of the Supreme Being Himself. The human body is a great gift and opportunity for the soul to work out its deep seated desires and cravings, through the protection of form as a media and as a measure for sensory indications of action and reaction.

Only in a realm where all planes and forces are fully represented can man work out his own ideas, emotions, desires and impulses, and reap the fruits of his previous

acts. The earth is specially fitted for this purpose, like a Kindergarten or preparatory school. Only by sublimating the lower energies and using them wisely, as a skilled master craftsman uses tools, can man ever hope to become a Master Builder like the Grand Architect of the Universe.

A child must learn in order to grow up to the stature of his father. Jesus said:

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.'" (MAT. 5 : 48)

"The Lord is of Great Eminence, exalted is His Name. He who would know His height, must in stature be the same." (JAPJI-Verse 24)

Human emotions are young and immature and love to wallow in the indulgences of infancy. Even when they try to overcome one single item of weakness or pleasure, instead of realizing that they are being relieved of an impediment, they feel that they are making a great sacrifice, and expect immediate reward and praise. Wise parents know this trait of childhood. Mere years of body age do not spell growth or maturity of the mind or the emotions. Many a big man is but a child to the wife who loves him, and many a grownup lady is but a child to the man who loves her. Through love and opposites in qualities they learn forbearance, wisdom, patience and service in Love. It is not always strength that is the best teacher. Weakness in one usually brings out the strength of character in the other, if they make a success of their marriage. "A hard and a soft stone grind **best**" is an

old proverb. That is why the earth itself is in such a muddle all the time, like loose and broken toys in a nursery. Mere perfection in external things has a way of deteriorating that is surprising. It takes constant care, time and thought to keep fit and in balance with the surroundings. Love and Patience are the real teachers in life. Earth is a nursery for mankind. It was never intended as a heaven nor even as a permanent dwelling. The Saints refer to this earth as a wilderness. The record of the Children of Israel passing through such a wilderness is the key to the Books of Moses.

It is by this same process of obstacles and resistance, difficulties and problems in life on earth that souls grow gradually mature by seeking depth and purpose in life; and not mere physical indulgences as a pastime, and the material success which makes this waste of time possible.

Jesus said:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' (MAT. 6: 33) "And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. Then Peter began to say unto him, lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundred fold now in this time, in houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come, eternal life. But many that are first **shall be last; and the last first.**" (MARK 10:23-31)

Souls, like children, must learn from life and grow up, or remain in the background among other struggling souls until they can apply the talents given them by the Father. How can we expect to enter the kingdom of God while we are attached to and long for worldly possessions and relationships. It is such attachments which prevent us from attaining God-realization. Severe physical handicaps in life have many a time been turned into a stimulus for greater effort in achievement and for a deeper understanding and appreciation of all the gifts which have been given to man

to work out his Salvation. One who is endowed with the qualities of Love and Creativeness, searches for and finds a Teacher of Spiritual Wisdom, much the same as one would search for a teacher in the realms of art and science if one desired to become proficient in a given field.
