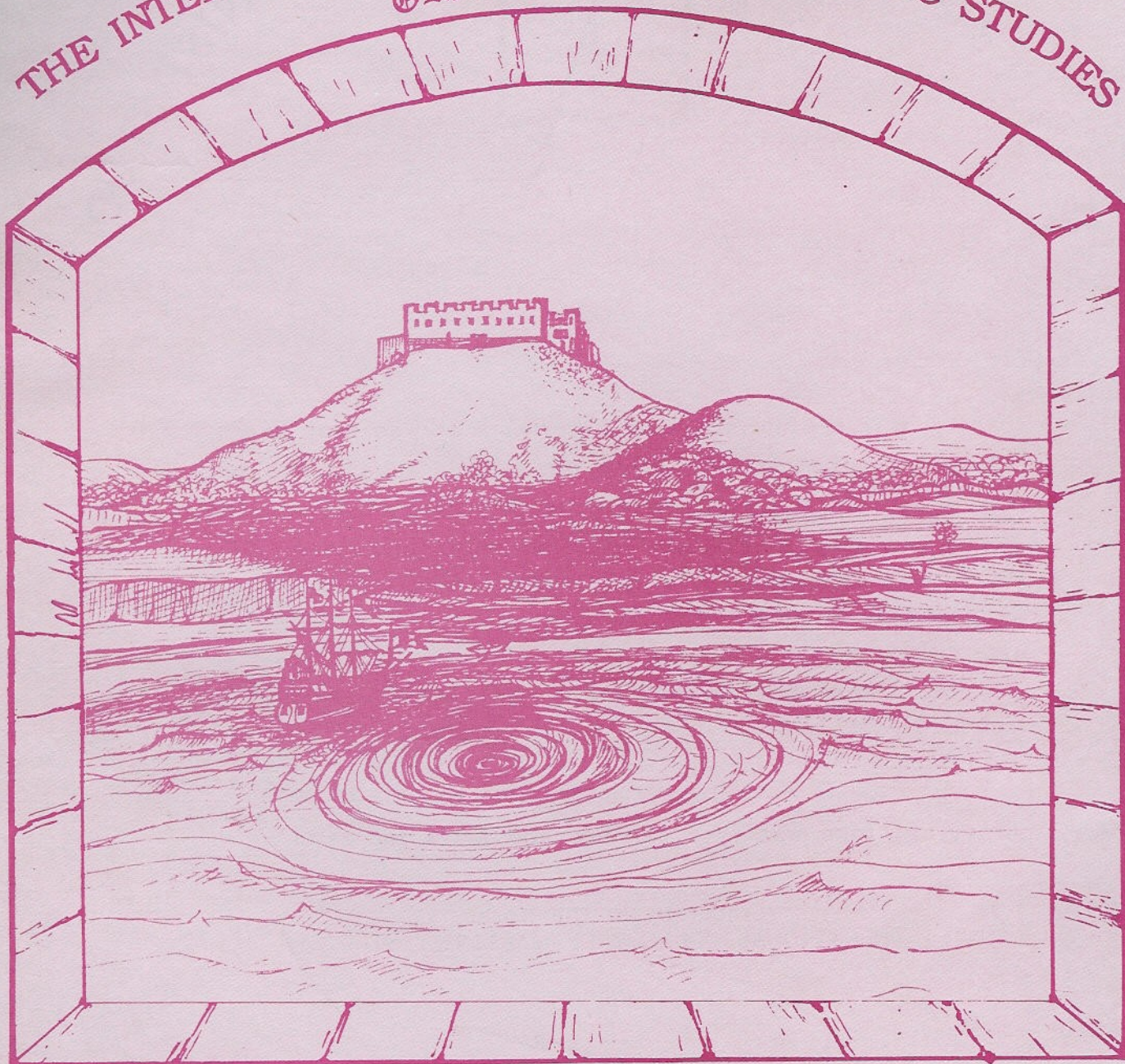


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THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF ESOTERIC STUDIES
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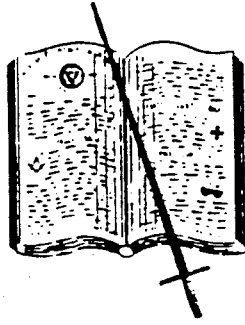
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SIXTH DEGREE

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DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND MYSTICAL ENLIGHTENMENT OF MAN

THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MARTINIST STUDIES



Dear Companions

This Liber contains material that was sent to students over the period of one year. While some of the lectures are a little wordy and show the personal bias of the writer (i.e. as against other organizations), there are nevertheless many diamonds, emeralds and opals in the sand and debris.

We suggest a *very careful reading and contemplation* of all 12 lectures.

As we have recommended all through our journeying, **take what you can use and leave the rest!**

Sincerely in the Works
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MARTINIST STUDIES

A large, stylized signature in cursive script, written in black ink. The signature is highly fluid and somewhat abstract, with long, sweeping lines. It is positioned below the typed name and is partially enclosed by a long, thin diagonal line that extends from the right side of the signature towards the bottom right of the page.

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An
Introduction
to
The New Church Universal

CLASSIFIED

Part 1

Many would agree that the idea of an organised church is obsolete because the adherence to set dogmas and creeds stifles the mind and prevents a natural approach to a loving union with nature.

There are those who argue that they are free from such attachments as "organisations" and narrow concepts but they forget that it was through the efforts of pioneers living out a true religion which made their seeking a success. Also, those who claim that they are free could be crystallised in their own idea of freedom itself!

Religions have come and gone throughout the history of mankind and the priesthood within these religions has preserved the highest thoughts and ideals on manuscripts, have helped many in their meditations and given solace in times of trouble.

At times in the history of religion there have been those who take stock of the old systems, revitalise them and present them in a new light to be of use to people in new situations and newly discovered technologies. The dream of the true priest is to present a world religion wherein all people can find a real sense of brotherhood with a philosophy so profound as to meet the needs of all races so that ethnic differences are overcome with wisdom. Such an achievement is possible when those who administer the large organisations are able to appreciate the fact that new revelations of truth are continually possible and are able to synthesis these new ideals into the already proven truths.

Because God or the First Cause is always in charge of human evolution and not man, this First Cause through its vehicles in time and space (hierarchy) moves certain individuals, who are sincere and honest seekers for truth, into action to cause a stirring in the dreamy systems of society and all kinds of seeming "disturbing" events occur. Man has to learn that he is not alone in the universe; that he is but a "cog in a wheel" in an ever changing cycle of events which drives him on to the creation of harmony and peace between all creatures and that his destiny is one of wholeness and perfection.

At this time mankind seems divided by its religions, politics and self set goals. There is division among the religions themselves and men argue and fight over their own interpretations of their own scriptures. The trouble is that everyone is under the illusion that their own concept is the only correct one and they fail to understand the magnitude of Cosmic Truth.

Why then should we have a New Religion? Have not the present ones caused enough wars and divisions and still do?

Whilst religion has been around for a long time and is not likely to go away, mankind still feels a need to enquire into his own make-up and to investigate his own personal relationship with the Universe. It has been the task of the Church (or Ekklesia) to help in this matter and it has been through the contribution in the lives and work of the True Priesthood that the stage wherein those "enlightened", or "free", people of today have reached their own conclusions - but life is never conclusive. Do we become set in our own concepts of enlightenment or freedom, or do we settle down in the satisfaction that we are one of those fortunate people who claim that they need religion no more? We should never "rest on our laurels" for the true priest is ever purifying him, or her, self so that new ideas from the inner levels can break through.

The True Priesthood, as we understand it, is not a priesthood bound with fixed dogmas but one wherein its doctrines are flexible, are modified along with the new revelations of truth and are adaptable to the ever-changing experiences in life.

Man is a 'spiritual' being and an organ or part of the Cosmic Intelligence or Life for the fulfilment of Its own purpose for us and Itself - therefore it can be only through teachers who are trained by this Intelligence that mankind as a whole, as well as individuals, can learn how to live in harmony with one another. It is one thing to receive beautiful revelations during periods of meditation but quite another to work our revelations out in the field of everyday chores and human contacts.

Events appearing in man's history are governed by the First Cause and mankind is able to use or misuse his new findings. He either uses his knowledge for his own good or inverts it through selfishness to his own destruction. Within the Cosmic Scheme of things man is like a child who is growing and learning by his mistakes; many fall by the wayside through their seeming inability to know what is going on and how to cope with the circumstances appearing in their immediate experiences.

In man's history great Leaders have arisen who have tried to impart to him the mystery of his own nature and have given the knowledge of the ways and means to make life more bearable, and information on how to live at peace with one another. Whilst this knowledge has been preserved by writing and is always available, man prefers to be like a "naughty child" and tries to bluff his way into Heaven.

From our own sources we have compiled a history of our former Gnostic Church and we felt that a similar idea with respect to this new venture would be of interest to students and to researchers at large.

First of all we would advise the reader that our change from institutionalised religion to a new approach should be a gentle and loving one. We have known many people who deliberately cut themselves off from organised groups because of their reaction against their historically unpleasant backgrounds. Later in life we find these same people creeping back because they have created a hiatus for themselves and find their interior life lacking. We should therefore approach a new situation with patience, honesty and sincerity--then all will be well. Bridges must be kept open.

It could be said that the arrival of Buddhism some 2,500 years ago heralded the later concept of the Christ - or the existence of the Divine Life, Light and Love in everyman.

However, as much of this knowledge was already understood during the early dynasties in ancient Egypt it was not publicly taught. It was the secret knowledge of the Priest Kings. It would also be of interest to mention here that both the Buddha and the Christ were Royal Princes. The Buddha, or enlightened one, being Prince Siddhartha and Jesus being of the Royal line of David. Later we shall mention the significance of this to enable us to prove that true Royalty is of a Divine Nature and that all who walk the royal path are considered to be of a special kind of nobility.

In this light we of our order take the attitude that we all belong to a Kingdom - not of the world with its striving and getting and exploitation of nature and people - but of a kingdom of Love, Peace, Harmony and Perfection and the laws that kingdom only do we follow. We have discovered that it is possible to externalise this kingdom in the lives of those who are prepared to turn away from all worldly philosophies and hypotheses. It is the work of the New Age Priest to externalize this concept.

Invocation of the Flame

"I call upon thee, O Living God, Radiant with illuminating fire. Overseer Parent of the Sun! Pour forth Thy light Giving Power and energise Thy Divine Spark. Enter into this Flame and let it be agitated by the Breaths of Thy Holy Spirit. Manifest Thy Power and open for me the temple of Almighty God which is within this Fire! Manifest Thy Light for my regeneration, and let The Breath, Height, Fullness and Crown of the Solar Radiance appear, and may the God within shine forth!"

From "Comte de Gabalis"

An
Introduction
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Part 2

The actual New-Age movement began at the beginning of this century. In the late Victorian era minds were stirring into new directions. Women began to feel their need to take more interest and to participate in religious and political affairs. They came up against much opposition from the male dominated society and this trend is now dying with useless struggles in the male dominated Priesthood. The arguments in favour of a solely male Priesthood are at least pedantic and indicate the fear people have of their own concepts of reality being disturbed.

In the book "Priesthood in the New Age" by Bishop Lewis S Keizer, Ph.D., he writes

"We know something was happening. After all, there was revolution everywhere. The ancient institutions of monarchy and male supremacy were suddenly toppling to democracy and women's suffrage. Ancient theology had no choice but to begin assimilating the discoveries of the fledgling sciences. Suddenly we found ourselves blessed as never before with the fruits of knowledge, nature opening her secrets for our use in medicine, machinery, foods, and all of daily life.

"But we also found ourselves carrying the awesome burden of responsibility no longer for just ourselves, but for the mineral, plant, and animal kingdoms - for the environment, and for the very survival of the planet. Our great blessings brought with them profound responsibilities that if unrecognised or not assumed, carried the curse of ultimate extinction.

"The institutions of medieval religion lost their relevance and began to crumble, giving way either to zealous, crystallised fundamentalism or the existential void of meaningless materialism tempered by heroic efforts to create a brave humanistic ethic - but an ethic based on the old humanity and on unenlightened and most limited materialism.

"In fact, all Reality is material, and materialism can be a philosophy that carries the human spirit into infinity. But we just don't understand enough about "matter" to properly conceive such a philosophy.

"The old age began to crack apart like the husk of a living seed, bringing forth its treasure into full manifestation."

The writer of this series found himself involved in many different fields of research, light energy, colour therapy, psychology and comparative religions. In 1958 he became a Gnostic Bishop of the Pre Nicene-Catholic Church which was the sacerdotal section of some long standing mystical orders. 1968 found him researching the facts behind the controversial Order of Melchisedek and later founding The Church of the Ascension which, after a short life, fulfilled its purpose in enabling other branch groups to come into being.

We have discovered also that some of the monarchical chivalric orders are now concentrating their efforts on the preservation of wildlife and plantlife where extinction of certain species seems possible.

So in every department of human endeavour, wherein the now outworn systems of masonry, esoteric orders and mystical teachings have been perpetuated, a new light and a new approach is being discovered. The New Age Priest needs no longer to be attached to several groups for his, or her, spiritual needs but rather they must stay with a closely knit cell so that a larger quantum of incoming energies might be possible. In fact one must learn from fellow travellers - share with them and discover a fellowship of like minds seeking the same goal.

Since most of the so-called "esoteric" teachings have now been "blown" - that is to say that one can find most systems in books and it is foolish to continue to name such things as tarot, astrology, numerology, magic and meditation 'esoteric' for it is obvious that now they are exoteric, if we must use those terms. What one can do now is buy a book on the rituals and teachings of an order and then start up on one's own without knowing the correct interpretation of the teachings, and this is what appears to be happening.

In this "New Age" we should establish an entirely new form of teaching which can point genuine ways to human enlightenment wherein one learns to control one's own inner energies and forms, rather than relying on some external ritual or system which fails to deliver the results.

Training for the New-Age Priesthood is already under way in America and ordinations to Deacon and Priest have taken place.

Over here we have a three year course. The first year being probationary in which we study basic subjects including "The Priesthood for the New Age" which sets the tone for the whole training. After a further two years of study which includes such subjects as the inner gnosis of the teachings of Jesus and Gautama, meditation and working with the

Hierarchy, and the secrets of the Sun, candidates are ready for the Diaconate wherein they learn the actual functions of becoming a channel for their own Divine Immortal Self and service to the whole of mankind.

Unlike the Priests of a closed order our work is out in the world cultivating a realisation of Oneness with the Cosmos. No task should be too trivial or responsibility too great.

Our study of Jesus' teachings differs from what is taught in institutional religion. We understand that Jesus never insisted on set dogmas or set forms of liturgy.

Here are some extracts from "The Wandering Bishops, Heralds of a New Christianity" by Dr Lewis Keizer.

"Observe how differently the words of Jesus appear when translated correctly in Mark's summary of his preaching 1:15 'The great cycle has been fulfilled and the Kingdom of God has drawn near. Submit and be faithful to the Message.'

"In the King James version the same passage is translated according to medieval protestant ideas of 'faith': 'The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent ye, and believe the Gospel.'

"In the same way the great Pauline revelation that it is through interior faithfulness of purified intent that people please or "are justified" by God, rather than by means of animal sacrifice and other works of Torah, has been terribly distorted by Luther and the rest of protestantism. The doctrine of Justification by Faith first promulgated by Luther means simply (as popularly understood) that no one needs to do good works to please God. One has simply to say the magical credal words, and one will be "saved". Luther, of course, was opposing such abuses of God's justice as the sale of plenary indulgences or divine pardons to the highest bidder by Roman prelates. He tried to make people understand that God's approval could not be bought or sold. In the process of what might be called the pejorification of spiritual teaching, however, his insight has come down history as the doctrine of Justification by Faith (i.e. Belief). The idea seems to be that if you 'believe' the right way, you are acceptable to God. If your theological opinions are orthodox, God Loves you."

"For this reason, "God's Simple Plan of Salvation" is theologically orthodox when it asserts that by simply repeating a magical phrase of contrition in the name of Jesus Christ, the reader can lay claim to "salvation". Spiritually, however, it is a monstrous lie."

Further on Dr Keizer writes:

"Christian theology undertook the blasphemous task of creating a "science of God". That which cannot be spoken about was the subject of semantic debates which often resulted in bloodshed and schism. From this mess of pottage comes the development of dogma and creed which has characterised Christianity ever since".

"We stated with Jesus, the God-like wise person who was the first-born of all the dead - the true victor over death, ignorance and evilWe ended with a white porcelain Christ hanging over the altar of a darkened church, oozing faded streams of red paint into representations of chalices. How subtly the meanings have changed!"

The New-Age Priesthood is working to restore that purity of the original spiritual teachings which have been distorted over the centuries. It has also restored the "Apostolic Succession" to its rightful place within the Hierarchical structure of passing on the pure undiluted forms of personal integration within their own spheres of experience. No longer do we need to enter "esoteric" lodges or seek a guru in the Himalayas - the "secret of life" is within oneself and as we run around looking hither and thither for answers we end in disappointment and unfulfilment. One needs to find a true teacher who will guide the candidate through the trials of his, or her, own uncontrolled nature and be helped and encouraged to enter the way of the ancient and revered discipline of the self. As an integrated Priesthood working with partners transmuting the lower passions into compassion and exercising one's inner energies towards the upliftment of all mankind. The Cosmos is a "wholeness" and everything is contained within It as a whole and perfect unit which comprises the "Whole". To seek possession of anything for ones-self therefore is to rob ones-self and no other. We must not fall for the modern supposed form of enlightenment wherein one justifies one's action by claiming that they are "experimenting" with spiritual forces. These people are, in the main, satisfying their own unrequited desires and using it as an excuse.

Spiritual Truths are already known by the true teachers and one does not need to "experiment" but simply to apply the keys. Unless one is pure there can be no depth of right experience.

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Part 3

Being aware that the key to the true gnosis of God is that everything works from within outwards, indicates to the Priest that the innate Sonship or Daughtership of God needs to be externalised into "worldly" realities. We transmute the lower nature of the mass subconscious into the Divine Nature. Note we never destroy anything: we uplift everything into a new dimension of a more beautiful and refined experience so that our external world becomes a real pattern of the inner "heavenly kingdom" in our everyday experience. No longer do we dream or hope for the manifestation of a Divine Pattern on earth - we actually project it into a three dimensional Reality. This can be achieved by complete submission to the Divine Will in each one of us - that our personal will be illumined by the Greater Light of Truth from within. No longer do we chase after rainbows or 'inner' states of peace and harmony; but bring these things into the whole range of human experience - the God made 'flesh'. "In Him (the Divine Reality) lies the fulness of the Godhead bodily", writes St Paul.

If you are already following a philosophy of life and you do not find fulfilment in it, or it does not help you to overcome your own weaknesses, then you should use your powers of discrimination and be honest with yourself that you are not really succeeding. Too many students of Truth - or whatever one calls it - fall by the wayside because they try to uplift themselves from the point of their own limited understanding and refuse to look at their blockages or limitations through the eyes of their teacher or elder brother. Although we are each personally responsible for our own rising and falling, the Hierarchy provides an Elder Brother or Sister to assist us when we reach "blind spots" in our own perception. Some students are afraid to face up to their own pitfalls and therefore remain unfulfilled and unhappy.

In this new society we have no personal life - this is given over to God who fills it in for us. The new age community functions as one whole unit and everyone shares each others experiences and become a closely knit Holy Family externalising the Inner Kingdom in their everyday life: in their minding of babies, household duties, wage-earning and everything over the whole gamut of human experience. In this kind of situation one discovers the Real Person within oneself and a sense of satisfaction and joy is the result.

We have met those who are afraid to take this step because they fear that they will lose their individuality and just exist like a "vegetable". This is only a concept maintained by the fear that they are going to lose the 'lower nature'

attachments. The truth regarding the situation is that one becomes more of an individual because one discovers one's own level and is able to express themselves more fully in contributing their personal gifts to the community. In fact in the sharing of joys and disappointments one is able to grow into a state of maturity in the very work of becoming a server of God. By "community" we do not mean a number of people settled in a kind of 'Campus' as is the usual practice. In our work we lead our lives where we are in our own homes serving our family, then at times come together with the other members to learn, share and refresh ourselves. This indicates that wherever we are the idea of community exists - even in the seemingly 'divided' world, we are living right where we are, yet knowing that we really belong to the Real Kingdom which manifests from within outwards. We subscribe only to that kingdom in philosophy and practice and regard the 'religio-political' state of the world as alien to the true nature of mankind. This Inner Kingdom will gradually emerge Principality by Principality in the outward area until the whole planet vibrates to the full power of Love.

What can we do to help ourselves further on the way to the Christos?

First, all we should ever keep in mind is that all there is in Reality and truth is God and God meted out in Its Creation. Thus God is the All-inclusive Principle in the Cosmos and This Principle is manifested in Its Wholeness and Completeness in each one of us. There are no favourites - not even with Saints or Priests, Bishops or Popes, or even Sun Priest Kings: God is no Respector of Persons but He/She emanates Its qualities and nature evenly throughout all space. Thus, as we mentioned earlier, in this knowledge (Divine Gnosis) it is possible to experience the fulness (Pleroma) of the Godhead bodily. When we are able to externalise this Life within to the full then we make a "Quantum" leap in our spiritual enlightenment. Because that which is Ever True and is the Reality of Being It can never be destroyed - for it is the Permanent Spirit of Life. All we have to do then is to remove all the dross of human supposition and conjecture about Life and Reality then must be in evidence for you. This is an individual task and therefore we follow Jesus' instruction when he taught, "Work out your own salvation".

Each of us has to be born again in the Light that each of us has, to clear away our own dark clouds which obscure the Inner Light (mentioned in St John's Gospel). As we clear away our clouds of doubt, fear and selfish pursuits the Light of Truth fills the areas which are purified by Love and Wisdom. The more practice we get at emptying ourselves, the more the Love and Wisdom of God shines forth. This is

not an easy path otherwise we would have the Kingdom of God realised on Earth in a very short time.

Because each one of us is unique to God it behoves us to unfold our own personal gifts which He/She will use within the whole community to that which is required to maintain harmony. Not one of us has to be lost because each of us is rather special inasmuch as we each represent a facet of God's own Life and therefore are needed to complete a wholeness of Divine Function here in the world. We are not here just for a "willy-nilly" existence!

Every effort you make towards your own Divine Self is met by help from God's own Hierarchy. This Hierarchy is made up of special 'people' who have trod this path before you and are in a special situation to help you - or offer you a brotherly or sisterly hand over the sticky patches through which you will often find yourself. God meets you at every level through one of His/Her representatives or Elders when you sincerely and honestly need help. In this light it is unwise to judge or formulate (pre-conceive) the way in which help will come to you. If you try to envisage how help might come - you will either keep it away or fail to recognise it when it comes your way. In all things then, live in contemplation of God's everpresence and get on with doing the things you have to do - to shoulder your everyday responsibilities to your family and those around you. God is realised in every situation no matter how trivial it might seem.

One might ask "Why do we need Priests in a New Age - since the institutionalised religions cannot provide effective spiritual teaching anyway?"

It seems that there is a need for a new type of Priesthood - the type envisaged by the Order of Melchisedek - where every person becomes a priest in their own right. This does mean, however, that they need to be trained at this point in the right Cosmic Laws wherein to bring up children and apply their energies to an upliftment of society in general. Unless we are aware of the right conditions we muddle along in ignorance of our calling. There are those who are claiming that they are being guided from within yet their lives show a different story. If one is still applying the current understanding of Truth as indicated by the establishment one is still in the dark for there is only a "false vestige of Truth" which is perpetuated by those tainted by worldly pursuits.

A practical working truth which can bring real changes in one's life is one which has to be learned at this time until one can discriminate between that which is designated as truth and that which constitutes the Reality of Being.

There is a vast difference. In fact the human concept of Truth is alien to that which Really Is. For some time yet people will need guidance from the Elder Brothers and Sisters sent out from the Hierarchy. Whilst we are all equal in the economy of the whole we still need guidance - for as we can see around us there are some people more experienced than others in all kinds of things. This same rule applies in Spiritual matters - although the Elders say Spirituality is really another human concept. We all need just to become our pure natural selves.

"It can be found that when people are allowed to live nearer to nature - the harmony it produces, enables them to acquire more accurate information about the Universe itself; whereas the minds that are following set doctrines and dogmas, when feeling the need to break free, find themselves revolving within a mental boundary beyond which they cannot pass. Our knowledge regarding the Universe and man can only equal that amount according to the limits we place upon it. Knowing, therefore, the precise area of investigation allowed us by our five senses, we should enquire into those areas of seeking which demonstrate that man is not limited by his senses and that other forces and energies, farther afield, are in operation."

The Ancient Patriarchs and Their Teachings

An
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Part 4

When we are speaking of a "New" Church what do we really mean?

There are many references in the Holy Scriptures about God making things "new". In Isaiah there are references to "a new name", "a new heaven and a new earth" and to being shown "new things". In Jeremiah there is reference to a "new covenant". In Ezekial a "new spirit" and a "new heart". In the New Testament in the Book of Revelation it speaks of a "new name" for the future.

It is with these indications in mind that the Hierarchy moves the teachers into new approaches and new concepts of religion: a new religion which does not allow the possibility of sectarianism because it does not allow the chance of uninitiated bishops gaining control. Whilst future divisions might appear among the students the Elder Brothers will maintain the Universal Church by virtue of its Dynastic powers.

Whilst we are speaking of New Things we should not forget that also, "There is nothing new under the Sun".

How often do we feel within our everyday lives that if only we could come into more knowledge we could cope better with the seeming paradox of life in general? or how often do we accept obstacles with the attitude "that's life" because we have never been brought up, even within an organised religious group, to believe that the answers to all our problems lie within ourselves.

In most systems we are taught to believe that it is the creator who is responsible for us and that some day He will put things right. However, it is good to realise that this idea is only an assumption and cannot be proved. The fact that circumstances can change when we change our attitudes and ideas about life can be proved. That a "newness" of life can be experienced is a truth and we find - when we seek for ourselves - that the great teachers taught this also. This "newness" gives an added sparkle to life - like a spring-clean of the whole being. When we come into true knowledge our life takes on a "new" meaning and we see "new" horizons ahead - new fields of venture - new friends and a fountain overflowing with "new" ideas.

For those who have exhausted the present systems, for we do eventually if we are growing up, a new synthesis of spiritual truths must evolve from the point at which the existing ones leave off. When leaving the old ideas behind we shall venture into new realms to discover really what lies behind the veil of human consciousness. In our journeying we discover that we are never alone. The Elder Brother or

Sister is always at hand to give guidance and give a plan of the way that lies ahead.

There is a fallacy around these days that everything relating to a "new-age" concept means indulging in alternative medicine, popular views on mysticism, occult sciences, "ascended" masters and the like, whilst rejecting the long established systems of medicines and religion. A new approach does not mean that in principal. Many of the new alternative healing systems will prove not to be permanent, but are "stepping stones" over a temporary area of change. These things indicate that the mass human specie is seeking new answers to the dilemmas which confront it today and this great "new-age" bubble and "occult" phenomena will last only until those who are seeking more substantial philosophies are able to understand the transience of this present-day phenomena. The pent-up unrequited desires of mankind have been released upon society as a whole and as the sparks of light disperse we have to take upon ourselves the responsibility of coming to understand the more enduring nature of the Universe of which the numerous systems of man are but the "crutches" of a faltering outlook. In any form of outside help we are free to choose that which helps us the most.

The "new" enlightenment then is not a discovery only of new 'things' - it is the discovery of the greater possibilities that lie within man himself. For example - the knowledge that it is possible to rely on no 'outside' medicines at all; to rely on no forms of astrology, ritualism or magical system whatsoever. This alone can prove to be a 'new' experience to those who believe that they are following the "mysteries of Life" by indulging in these things. In this light a Bach Remedy is no more "holy" or natural than an antibiotic drug - they are both "crutches" from the point of view of the Higher Priesthood. All religious, philosophical, magical or political systems are based upon the human concepts of Life and therefore need not necessarily be the Truth as respecting Life Itself. Only the one who has succeeded in attaining Christhood or Bodhisattva-ship can know what really lies beyond and our Elder Brothers and Sisters do know the way to this state and are able to guide disciples correctly on the way. To that believe can "go it alone" not only reveals spiritual pride but also, the one belief itself will act as a barrier. The "new" system and doctrine is that we go forward together as one family - the Elder ones instructing the younger. The "new birth" begins when one finds his or her "family" with whom to begin to integrate.

The "new" structure is composed of Priest and Priestess parents, whose children are instructed in the truths of being from birth and they, in turn, become Priest initiates. The out-working of the Spiritual Hierarchy then becomes externalised as 'physical' evidence of the Divine Reality manifest as an actuality and not an abstract meditational experience.

The basic Doctrine of the New Church is as follows:

"Just as the Buddha preceded the Christ in historical manifestation, so the Buddha has reigned as World Teacher for the advanced Arhats of humanity unto the end of the old age. Most of these have lived in, or been associated with, the East. The Himalaya Mountains of Nepal and Tibet have been their abode.

"The Buddha, like other Great Lives of planetary Hierarchy on the interface of Solar Hierarchy, synthesizes the individual souls of monads who no longer descend into flesh. It could be said that the Buddha is the Community of Buddhahood, or the Greater Spiritual Life of all Ascended Arhats.

"The work of the Buddha is to advance into higher and more universal initiations as the sacred link of our planetary life to the Greater Lives. Thus Buddhahood is an adventure into infinity by means of dis-incarnation.

"The Christ synthesizes the individual souls of saints whose Hearts lead them unto the work of the Bodhisattva, which is an adventure into infinity by means of full incarnation and the sanctification and perfectment of humanity, nature, the planet, and all worlds.

"The Christ-Bodhisattva is the Communio Sanctorum, the White Brotherhood (at this level there is no male or female) of incarnate and discarnate world servers, the Solar Angels and Guides of Humanity. Thus it is the Greater Spiritual Life of all Bodhisattvas in and out of flesh. Their intercommunion is a vital subjective network that is now becoming objective, as it was with the Master Jesus who communed and counselled with his spiritual brothers Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration in the gospel stories."

Dr L S Keizer

We can now see that the New Church goes onwards with the purest aspects of the teachings of the Buddha and the Christ. The difference is explained in the narrative. Together with the more recent additives of mental science the way is open for the journey forward to discovering, or uncovering, the deeper and lasting nature of that Life which flows within us. It is not necessary to absorb loads of outside material - especially of the so-called "spiritual" nature. We have to come to realise that we are, already, immortal "spiritual" beings. Knowledge of the arts and sciences are requisite to enhance our experience in the world. We alone decide the kind of atmosphere we will create around ourselves and our children: we can at all times project the beauty from within outwards.

A New Church means initiation into the living Reality of Life Itself and The Life Itself externalising becomes our religion.

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Part 5

Priesthood, as a personal calling, is not a matter of getting involved in social work, political reform or campaigning for certain causes: it behoves the priest to work silently purifying his, or her, own nature - to overcome one's own ills, worries, hates and fears and to gain a true perspective of the right place of everything within the Divine Economy.

In spite of all the latest technologies, latest healing techniques and scientific achievements - looking out into the world today one witnesses a contradiction of terms. The teachings of "the Kingdom" confirm that "heaven lies within a man", it cannot be accomplished by humanly contrived ideologies or ways and means. In most cases - mankind merely caters for the ills he has self-created. We have to be honest and turn to the teachings offered by the great spiritual teachers - such as Jesus and the Buddha before any kind of real brotherhood can exist among mankind. At present, world peace - if it can be called that - is propped up by political shows of power, commercial exploitation of the poorer classes and of the gambling with false monetary values. There exists only human self-deceit in these approaches. If mankind would but honestly turn to the real values of life he could have his dreams fulfilled right now. We can externalise the inner kingdom of peace and brotherhood by knocking down all our 'aunt sallies' erected by the illusory understandings of truth offered us by a self-seeking society. Priesthood then, in this light, must be a self-sacrifice of personal traits which cloud the vision of the Inner Sanctuary.

Spiritual advancement cannot be achieved in heaven, but be achieved and fulfilled in living a perfectly natural human existence. After all, what is the purpose of all human life? Surely, it is "the process of realising your Humanity, before you can realise your Divinity" (The Arcane Discipline by Richard Duc de Palatine).

The Order of Melchisedek is not an organised order like others existing in the world but rather it represents a certain state of spiritual awareness or mankind in his perfected or original state. L B Whitney, in his little book "The Way of Melchisedec" writes:

"The Order is not as we understand order in the Anglican or Roman ministry. Melchisedec stands alone, having neither predecessor nor successor, superior or inferior"

"The Order of Melchisedek is the great order of Elohim, God's own nature revealed in His creation. To man it is a way of maturity, responsibility and perfection as a Son of God - a way of absolute faith in the Divine Order of things without recourse to ritualism, sectarianism or coercion"

(The Order of Melchisedek by G W Boyer)

Our order having its roots in the most ancient of authorities does not follow speculative philosophies or hypotheses but is founded upon knowledge which can be proved to be true. We do not experiment with Life - we co-operate with It. There are things which can be proven to be the Reality of Life and things that are demonstrably illusions. Apart from the recovery of the Right of Succession (Apostolic Succession) we possess authorities from some of the well-known inner orders and one line of our authority can be traced back as far as the fourth century BC. Therefore our claims to a valid re-synthesis of planetary teachings can be proven by honest and sincere researchers. We believe that the validity of our historical connections should concur with the validity of the truth of our teachings.

We can speak with candour on the fact that it is only by re-introducing that which is known as "spiritual" values into society that families can be united, human problems solved, crime overcome and greater health of mind and body can be achieved. We can state also with the same honesty that without the living out of these principles in whatever other fields of activity one undertakes, that no lasting results nor fulfilment can be achieved, that all results will be only cosmetic; and, as stated by the great teachers, their methods alone can produce permanent results. This might seem dogmatic and court the displeasure of many but who will come forward to prove, or disprove our claims? We did not make the rules - they have been there since the beginning and will be until the end of the solar cycle. Jesus said "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word (the spirit of his teaching) shall not pass away". He was making a clear statement regarding the fixed Cosmic Law which even he could not change.

Another fact which is possible according to spiritual law is that eternal covenants by oaths can be set into motion at this level that are binding on a person or persons through the remainder of their immortal span. Cosmic Laws are as powerful as that.

The New Age School takes a look at controversial subjects such as re-incarnation, life after death, magic, occultism, clairvoyance and other subjects which students of mental science and psychologists investigate and directs the

student into channels wherein Cosmic Truths really operate. We also take an interest in the various branches of healing, especially psycho-somatics.

We also advise the student that in following the systems of any other organisation during study will disperse his, or her, energies, therefore making our own system ineffective. One should direct all personal efforts along one single channel which is called the 'razor edged path' in the east and the 'narrow way' in the Christos mysteries. Without this formulated tension the student cannot reach the goal.

We all are aware that without tension on the strings of a violin or guitar we will not be able to play correctly; without tension the piano wires will not be in tune; without tension the bow will not loose: so it is with the human soul. That is why the Pyramid, or house of fire, was used as initiation sanctuaries in the old days. The initiate has to be really 'cooked' under pressure. Unless the energies within the psyche are correctly attuned there will be no response from the higher levels - toil how we might.

"Initiation to Priesthood is a refinement - a transmutation of character. A discipline which cannot be achieved by meditation alone.

"That there are certain set principles existing in the Universe should be understood. There are also no other answers to man's problems than those answers provided by the nature of these principles themselves - no matter in what guise they are presented or in what manner of terminology their meanings are described. These principles will always remain the same."

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We have often heard it said that the idea of Royalty is no longer applicable to man's needs. As we have pointed out earlier, the same has been said about religion. However, when we, in our Order, speak of Royalty we imply its original spiritual meaning wherein the whole structure of the Cosmos is maintained. For example, Divine Love represents the absolute Sovereign in the whole Pleroma - or manifested world - and wisdom, harmony, etc are the Principalities or areas of expressed qualities requisite to externalise the "Kingdom of Heaven" on this plane of activity (Earth). We recognise, also, that these qualities are expressed in suitable human vehicles therefore, in that light, a kind of monarchical structure is relevant here in fleshly reality. A Sacred Royalty - a Divine Priesthood, with the Christ/Buddhic Principles as absolute Rulers and Directors of affairs. This is also the hidden structure, and was of the Inner Church throughout time and space no matter what has been written or claimed by writers of these things.

"One is aware of the influence of certain personalities within the 'mystery school' structure: we have had the Comte St Germain or Count Welldone and Comte de Gabalis as examples and, as Counts are equivalent to Earls in our English system, these represent divine principalities in a spiritual sense, or these personages represent areas of the work in progress and are really spiritual titles instead of secular ones. In reality, however, no difference exists between the spiritual and the secular; the latter is the externalisation of the former." (Count of Dobra)

In all the true mystery schools the Priest-Kings were the highest initiates on this planet - and such beings as Melchisedek and some of the Buddhas expressed this function and were a living Reality among those whom they served. The Incas, the Pharoahs, the Divine Kings of China, etc all were used by the Hierarchy to express harmony and peace amongst the people. The Priest-King being a suitable vehicle through which these higher energies could emanate. It was a Sacred Duty, or Divine Office, serving a specific function; an example of what mankind could achieve as a whole. This idea has never been lost: it has existed in the hearts of the Divine Initiates and some day, perhaps not too far away, will be restored in a new way when mankind has grown tired of his own little ideologies and dreams of a workable Democracy.

Democracy has to be understood in its inner sense for it to become really effective. It is not a matter of every one proclaiming equality in his own little world; but rather he, or she, has to see that they are but a part of the whole within which equality is already a reality. Equality in function but difference in expression is already a Truth, it needs to be externalised to become the right experience of it. The inner gnosis teaches that all things must be worked from within outwards. 'The Kingdom of Heaven is spread about on the Earth but men do not see it' (Jesus, Gospel of Thomas)

Whilst in the teachings of the Buddha such a concept does not appear to exist - Gautama had no need of specifics in the sense that the idea of a 'Kingdom' exists in the western teachings. Those to whom he gave the teachings were readily attuned to the abstract nature of inner teachings and it had only to be spelt out in more direct terms. For example, 'I reveal to you what causes your suffering and also how to overcome suffering'. The answer was clear, just get on with what one has to do to reach Nirvana or the Peaceful State.

The original idea of Royalty was based on the Hierarchical pattern of Cosmic outworking. Whilst every man, woman and child in the human phase are vital units of the Universal Mind we call God - not all are equal in capacity. For example, a finger can malfunction without serious effects on the whole body but a heart or lung, being major organs, affect the body when diseased. So we see that there are differences in function.

To become a greater 'organ' or 'part' of the Complete Organism one needs to follow the 'discipline of the self' to increase one's capacity. This process is linked with the former idea of Royalty inasmuch as this idea presents the correct understanding of nobility. Nobility is understood to mean quality of character, spiritually good and having dignity. The whole concept is operated to help people reach the highest good. If effort is confined to one overall level then there can be no "ascension" or real overcoming of illusions. If there is no mountain to climb we stay on the plains.

The Royalty structured society also presents a pyramidal structure for expression and one can ascend by the steps leading upwards within the building to the 'King's Chamber'. All people are the Sovereign - for it is the whole society which constitutes the Kingdom and the King represents their own highest level of achievement. The King and the Kingdom become, or actually are, one organism.

Thus the idea of Royalty is not based upon a materialistic philosophy. It is the pattern upon which the Hierarchy

functions to infuse the minds of the people with the noblest of aims. Culture is also associated with kingship and it can be observed from history that the finest art forms and most beautiful temples and other buildings were expressed during the reign of Kings.

Dictators, who represent the domination of the lower nature, seldom produce any constructive elements within society as a whole and in many areas where Democracy is supposed to be the theme we get a series of "muddled" situations which represent the muddled thinking of the masses.

Most of the beautiful music we have today was sponsored by Royalty or the Bishops and where a balanced relationship existed between Kings and their Religion people suffered less. The Sufferings which are experienced by people represent the areas of mankind's thinking and actions as a whole which need to be refined and worked at to perfection. It is not, as politically minded people think, one part of society existing on the backs of others. It may appear thus, but what is really going on?

Life is a manifestation of energies and forces and personalities appear according to the images we place upon the outworking of these forces. When we have learned how to externalise the Perfection and Wholeness latent within each one of us, then the world will appear different.

Priesthood is in itself Royal, as in the Priesthood of Melchisedek which is the true nature of everyman revealing nobility of spirit. Every department in the human experience must eventually bear a 'new name' - a newness of outlook and a hope that the 'human lot' can become one of peace and a real living brotherhood - the externalised dream of all.

"Finally, in the old age Priesthood was one of many social specializations, and the priests formed a special, privileged class or caste. Not so in the New Age, for all must become Priests and Priestesses. Priesthood is one name for the self-realizing soul who stands in flesh accumulating mastery over all ethers of the fully incarnate vehicle, over the powers of nature, over the forces of darkness and chaos, expanding the Heart in Hierarchical service to all humanity in the Great Work of planetary evolution. Thus Priesthood must belong to everyone."

The Most Rev Dr L Keizer

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The true spiritual schools on this planet teach the following basic principles:

The Parenthood of God

The Brotherhood of Man

The constant evolution of all living things towards the perfection within the consciousness of the Divine Parent

The Eternal Presence of the Living Christ

Knowing the difficulties arising from ignorance of Cosmic Laws, the Great Teachers left guidelines to follow for those who desired to align themselves with the truths of being or, in common language, to become disciples of The Way or Living Stream of Life.

Thus meditative systems and ceremonies were established and these proved to be great helps in keeping the mind fixed on its goal: we find by experience that the human phase of mind is very forgetful and unreliable as a means of understanding Divine Truth, therefore by these helpful systems we learn how to slowly integrate all departments of our life into the Cosmic Reality. In this process the human phase of mind becomes a tool rather than a faction with seemingly awkward tendencies. Also, to avoid crystallisation of ideas, the spiritual schools continually update their material to conform to the ever-awakening consciousness of mankind. Set rituals can very often stifle one's free expression and so these are kept to the minimum. Our own rituals and ceremonies must then contain the relevant material in line with that which we wish to achieve.

There can be some misunderstanding regarding the idea of keeping a discipline as well as allowing a free expression. One might say, "How can I express myself freely when the church requires a strict discipline to God?" What we are taught is that our way of life is not like other professions in the world because we seek to be 'unworldly' in the sense that we follow a different set of guidelines. What we are free in is the reality of being ourselves, and we come to learn that this freedom is the experience of being 'free' from the turmoils and cares which beset those following the dictates of the world. 'The Way' is the real and lasting way to freedom. Whilst we take on the responsibility of helping others we release our inner selves and discover a world within with lasting values which remain unaltered by the clamour of secular standards. The discipline is the way - or pathway - leading out of the transient joys and worries, the constant see-saw of a hectic life, to a more balanced understanding, giving an assurance of the things which constitute the reality of life.

There is a pattern of life which remains true to its nature known as Divine Love. From the Hierarchy down to the teachers of mankind this Love is held in deep respect and in all circumstances this Love is never known to fail. It never fails inasmuch as that which will occur when It is invoked will be right for the individual, or individuals, no matter what circumstances appear to the senses. The outcome of allowing this Love full sway gives rise to the opportunity to know and experience that which one really desires. "Trust in the Lord and He will give you your hearts desire" is the message of the Psalmist (Psalm 37). We really come to understand another kind of freedom.

What do we need to take a new look at in this day and age?

Marriage:

A new understanding of marital love needs to be taught. The Church dogma that "what God has put together let no man put asunder" has proved in many cases that a religious ceremony does not mean that God has joined the pair together. We understand that whatever God joins together cannot be put asunder. So a new teaching on love, sex and family is in need of being released to priests, then to responsible people.

Death:

"This is Life Eternal" taught Jesus. Thus in this eternal life we journey from experience to experience. When we understand the continuity of life we know that the person who appears to die is going on to new vistas. It is those who are left who need comfort and support in learning of the Love which binds people together forever.

The Christ:

The Anointed - referring to absolute Sovereignty as of the Kings of Old who were all "anointed Sons of God". The Christ represents the Perfected Soul - or the soul which has risen above all limitations of the flesh as taught by Jesus the Galilean. Jesus, the Greek form of Jehshuah, means 'Redeemer'. Therefore Jesus Christ refers to the fact that the discipline of Perfection releases us from human bondage and frees us as Sons of God. Jesus Christ being the keyword (Logos).

The Devil:

God Created no harmful thing, neither does God demand loyalty nor does He/She punish for sin. The Devil is no more than the active destructive forces set into motion by man himself. Man is responsible for his own selfish striving and exploitation of all things in nature.

On the Initiatic Path we should be prepared also to sacrifice all our "sacred cows" and be not dismayed by those who claim oneness with the Universe yet abhor those who come to true knowledge because these claimants say that one can never be too sure, or know, what is true and what is illusion for, they say, Truth is elusive. We admit that Truth is elusive but the Great Teachers assured us that It can be known and that we can come to prove for ourselves that a very deep understanding of Truth can be known - otherwise there could be no Illumination or Enlightenment or overcoming of human weakness or unreliability.

We also know, as we have mentioned, that we can set energies and forces for ourselves in the future, and we KNOW that there is a RIGHT way and a WRONG way of coming into this knowledge at a quicker rate than if we have to learn by trial and error. The Sacred Schools have always taught this way: they do not charge fees for the teachings or arrange costly seminars, you only pay for books and food, but they do select their pupils and turn away those who do not seek the right things. The ancient mystery schools were always run by the Priesthood, for Priesthood is in itself the path of service. However, in this day and age the subjects originally taught by the priests have become secular forms of study such as mathematics, medicine, hygiene, astronomy and the arts and inventive sciences; but any of these disciplines without priesthood usually results in their misuse as we can see from the over-commercialisation rampant today. The Priest King of old was an initiate of every school of thought and was expected to rule with compassion and justice. Sometimes human desires overcame those with earlier weaknesses and chaos resulted. What we should learn firstly is that we should be responsible persons and our human requirements come second being "Divine in our divinity and human in our humanity."

Let us give Dr Keizer the last words in this brief course of lectures on the New Age Church for he is a person of great insight into these matters.

"Jesus saw himself as a forerunner of a future, Christed humanity. He lived the life in the flesh, to which all human souls may aspire. The initiate Christi is the Gate, the Way, the pattern and template of the Higher Nature that lies dormant in most of humankind, yet must be awakened, practiced and refined in flesh

"Humanity is destined for spiritual maturity in which it serves as the fingers, hands, and voice of the Higher Nature. Humanity is indeed a divine heir of God, for it is emerging as from the state of puberty into the responsibility of full adult maturity as co-creator with God."

'Life in Flesh' by Dr Lewis Keizer
Bishop of the New Church Universal in the USA

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Let us remember that we have been taught to regard our bodies as Temples of the Living God. As a Living God can never truly die then that substance which constitutes the real body is Mind or Spirit.

In Sacred Science then the only True Substance is that which we call Mind. To us Life, Love, Peace, Wholeness and Truth are veritably the only real and true variable substances in the Cosmos. That which we call a "physical body" possesses no permanent reality and therefore could not be referred to even as a manifestation or expression of Mind or Spirit because Spirit and Its expression are One and the same thing. Spirit being imperishable and unchangeable could not ever appear to die or experience discordant situations.

In order to become aware of the ever-present Kingdom of Heaven or Nirvana - the eternal state of Peace, Wholeness and Harmony - our life has to be lived in line with those Principles. This kind of living is known to us as the Way, the Path, or the Discipline, and in order to bring those experiences into realities we should understand precisely what is it we are doing.

Because in Sacred Science we do not regard Matter as a Reality it behoves us to fully comprehend that, because we are children of another ilk, the standards and hypotheses which are accepted by the majority are not accepted by us.

Since we search for realities and not illusions our real Substances, as we have stated, are those things which to others are counted only as Principles. Because Principles, to us, are the only real and lasting evidence of a whole and perfect life - then they are the real substances of Heaven, or Nirvana, or the true state of Reality as It exists. These Substances are really substantial and not in a state of flux or continual change. The changes which we see are really the accidents occurring from our conceptions of what we believe is going on.

Love, for example, is a permanent 'substance' which - because of Its nature can be experienced every way, in real terms, by everyone if they allow It to enter into consciousness. We can feel and know Its power - Its effect because It gives us a lasting and uplifting experience - therefore It is a Permanent Reality - the same as Peace, Harmony and Wholeness. Not only then is It a Principle, but a Real and Living Form of Energy fulfilling Itself within the confines of each body yet without being confined itself.

In the interpretation of a new revelation of Truth we assert that just as the body, the spiritually formed one, is the

Temple of God - or the Universal Mind - so now the family becomes a Garden of Eden or an area within the Kingdom of Heaven, Nirvana, or abode of God. With each family forming a plot within the Kingdom or Garden we discover the whole planet as the complete area of Harmonic Manifestation. The Kingdom of God on Earth - the true purpose of the Divine in Man. The dividing lines then between each plot become dissolved revealing the wholeness of humanity as God's direct consciousness in manifestation or expression of Itself.

Because of man's ignorance of his origins and nature he invents ideas and, according to his own purposes moves these ideas to his own ends and they become crystallised and take form in his experiences - this he calls matter. When his eyes are open to Truth he sees the realities and knows the genuine things which can become eternal experiences - because of the nature of their substance. He can enjoy a variety of experiences - because of the continual expression of the true Principle - the essence cannot change because it is the Truth.

From the point of view of the higher sciences the "physical" body represents the area of crystallised thought and because it possesses no actual reality it dies leaving us in a less limited state.

Although this is a difficult subject to understand it is necessary to grapple with the mechanics of the more subtle energies if we wish to free ourselves entirely from the reaction to what we view in the crystallised area of thought. We find that in any work to bring about a change in one's experience one has to work with the Principles and not the so-called "physical" hypotheses. As one can see a period of understanding the keys to the mental sciences must be undergone and a discipline of re-programming the whole outlook must be lived through. We have mentioned in some of our other writings that one cannot play a concerto on a musical instrument until the basic fingerwork has been done - the same goes with the higher levels of consciousness.

The prophets and patriarchs of old have passed on the information that it is possible to experience the full presence of the Godhead at our level. Jesus also supported these claims, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect" - indicating that we can actually reflect the "fulness of the Godhead bodily", as St Paul puts it. The message in the Gospel of Truth (The Evangelium Veritatis) in the Nag Hammadi Library also discusses this prospect. The Eastern systems also claim the possibility of arriving at the peak of perfection whilst still abiding in this seemingly "fleshly" state. The key is in realising that we are not "fleshly" people but spiritual ones. By

linking our consciousness to the "Reality" of life instead of the "illusions" of life we make our transaction with the Eternal.

In an ordinary sense those following the teachings of the institutionalised religions will argue that God provides for all and that there is nothing held back from those that love Him. This of course is true at all levels but they fail to accept that by literally imitating the Christ or following Jesus we can attain the same state of overcoming the "world", the "flesh" and the "devil". That Jesus has overcome all these things for us and we just have to believe on him leaves many things open to question and the churches refuse to encourage any thinking away from this idea; thus their minds are closed to the honest investigation of the many phenomena in existence which appear not to fit in with orthodox outlooks and views of the universe.

The pathway to Light is always one of learning - never sitting still or resting on our laurels. Even when one reaches the sublime attainment of being the incarnation of the Christ/Boddhisattva it is never the end. There are in existence such Sublime Beings unto which the Christ/Boddhisattva are junior brothers and so on throughout the Hierarchy. Our own contacts with "Elohim" has proved this to us.

The doors are ever open to the sincere disciple to achieve his, or her, highest good; but in return he, or she, needs to work very hard. This is not a game - not just a way of "believing" in things - it is a path of devotion to one's calling - the Sacred Priesthood lived by all mankind.

Such is the sacredness and importance of the holy status of Priesthood in the New Age and here we will quote from the Priestly Vow kept by those whose lives are dedicated to help humanity:

"In the Divine Heart shall I strive to incarnate the Higher Nature, that my works in and out of the flesh may become the Hands and Fingers of God as Co-Creator and Christed World-Server."

By kind permission of Dr Lewis S Keizer
Bishop of the New Church Universal, USA

Let that same mind be in you.

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No. 9

From within the "mystical", chivalric and hidden orders comes the knowledge of some very unusual things. Such knowledge, you might think, could have nothing to do with 'New Church' ideas. However, it is very interesting to see that the work now being undertaken in The New Church brings to focus, and more to the public eye, the important message that members of The New Church really are on a level with the Cosmic 'masters' and adepts about which others speculate. Followers of The New Church philosophy can come into full knowledge and experience of the externalised heaven in actual location and manifest their own Sacred Area for themselves. They no longer need to dream about a "Shangri La", Shamballa or a specially located venue of the Great White Brotherhood. In truth those engaged in this work are really the externalisation of the 'Master Adepts'. These beings are the permutation of ourselves; thus we are all one and the same thing at Source, and base. The home of each Priest and Priestess is an externalised Sanctuary of the Cosmic Hierarchy.

Although in Great Britain we seem to be "struggling" to encourage a New Church idea, there have nevertheless been "New Age" groups for quite a few years but some of these groups appear to want to maintain their own concepts of New Age freedoms. There seems to be a barrier to any positive progress. The New Church idea would it seems, require certain disciplines which followers of their own concept of a New Age are reluctant to pursue. We see Dr Keizer's Church in the USA as the Head Quarters of the real work for the dispensation of genuine New Age teachings to the public.

Whilst we have had what is popularly called "Gnosticism", with its many shades of adherents the term itself is not favoured by our orthodox brethren although they recognise the importance of the fundamental aspects of the Gnosis. Perhaps in the New Age approach a more general terminology can be used. It is interesting to note that most disagreements come through misunderstood terminology.

For example, our Jewish brethren believe in the love and protection of God and of His forgiveness of sins, so what more does the Christian have? Why does one need to accept a vicarious atonement when God's love has never changed anyway? Also, in the gospels about Jesus it can be seen that he associated pain and suffering with "sinning" or living short of God's Laws, which many Christians seem to be afraid of accepting and prefer to follow the 'bug' theories of the medicos. It takes a load of responsibility off their shoulders! The extra support from the Bodhisattva teachings show clearly, with the evidence, that by following the Buddhist path, pain and suffering can be avoided and even

eliminated. By the same Truths we can externalise a "state within a state" as our "inner" brothers call it. We are, in fact, undergoing this process inside our work in The New Church today.

The actualising of the Kingdom principality by principality, until the planet is transformed by a kind of "spiritual takeover" is possible, and eventually the results will be obvious to all. The Kingdom will manifest Itself; it simply requires a greater awareness by the majority to recognise the fact that It has really always been here. The real work then is not to struggle to externalise that which is already here, in so doing one would be working against important metaphysical principles, for example:

"When it is said that a Bodhisattva enters Nirvana, therefore, this is merely a figure of speech. Nirvana is not a place, a state of mind, or a point in time; it is the unborn moment and as of this moment, all beings are completely liberated." (The Bodhisattva Path, Buddhist Publishing Group)

Nevertheless, whilst the Western concepts might appear to have nothing in common with the above idea, because the Westerner might be under the impression that by following the Bodhisattva path there could be no inventions like that of the aeroplane and washing machine - he could be correct. This is why the "middle path" of the Christ/Bodhisattva philosophy consummates the East and West by bringing about a "Sacred Marriage" of global truths.

The ancient Buddhist system wherein the monks need to carry their begging bowls is irrelevant in a modern Western city, this concept has become crystallised as part of the system. There are no crystallised ideas in the true spiritual state. Also, another interesting thing is that by blending the ideas of "East and West" we would discover new technologies: real, natural technologies wherein there are no hazards to people like petrol fumes, chemical poisons and atomic radiation. We could still fly and get our clothes mechanically cleaned by the "technologies of heaven". Scientific discoveries will not manifest in the present polluted forms when Heaven is externalised. What we have at present, in the main, is the externalisation of man's own "clouded" consciousness. Mankind has now the conditions on this planet for which it has 'worked' whether or not it likes what it sees. According to Buddhist philosophy can mankind Nirvana now by simply accepting it. Jesus also inferred this; but it appears that many still 'love' to suffer.

At the moment mankind sees the truth through a 'thousand eyes'. If we could but bring these 'thousand eyes' into a single focus we could have Illumination. This task is not

difficult if we cease trying to see through 'the thousand eyes' - the 'single eye' within each one of us perceives the 'formless' truth. Thus working in unison we allow the true ideas to take form without imposing our individual 'egos' to mar the operation. Thus the rhythmic dance of attuned souls produces the technologies for the New Age.

Let all the members of the New Church remember that after they have been admitted by the Bishop they no longer belong to the world of unrealities and wild speculations. The Cosmic Truth of Being has been taught through the ancient Rite of Succession (called the Apostolic Succession by the Christian Church) through which the New Church derives some of its authority; but more rightly so it works in full harmony with the Cosmic Hierarchy which has inspired many spiritual orders, East and West, in the past. Many of these orders now have exhausted their usefulness; orders such as many types of masonic lodges, Rose Cross, Illuminati, etc., owing to the crystallised states they now find themselves in cannot receive the new dispensations of Truth. It can be seen that such orders are not open to receive the change required for growth. They, like the established churches must fade away leaving the way open for progressive ideas. 'Middle Age' rituals are no longer valid.

"New channels will be opened up under the symbol of The Rose and a New Age Chivalry will blossom forth giving a new light on ancient truths. The new rose will be perfumed from above and a new nobility will administer the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth."
Count George Boyer

The Kingdom is now really beginning to manifest Itself in the lives of those who walk the way of the Christ/Bodhisattva. There will be those who have just come to us for instruction who, even though they find the path difficult at first, are able to glimpse with confidence the "rewards" of their work. Whilst we need to work with those brothers and sisters who still follow their own philosophies we should not judge for we can know that their illusions possess no reality - knowing this we can guide them more easily. Once they can change their way of living they are on the way to Reality. The priest of the New Church keeps every bridge open for communication. He or she does not indulge in confrontations with conflicting political opinions and ideologies, neither does he, or she, moralise. Either we are enlightened or we are not. There are no communists, Muslims, witches, Christians, socialists, capitalists, criminals or saints to the Christ/Bodhisattva - all are people with the equal will to live within the aura of Divine Love or chose their own misguided ways.

We are not moved by the good or bad of anything. We can trust the presence of the Eternal Reality with implicit faith because the Truth we teach is True.

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Part 10

During the last half century there have been several books relating to historical incidents and affairs which the religious and academic world have tried to keep from the public. It appears from the information referring to other teachings and groups imparted in these books that, if accepted by the populace, they would undermine the hold gained by the established institutions on the minds of the people which enables them to manipulate the masses in order to achieve whatever they wish at the expense of goodwill.

Such books as "The Myth of God Incarnate"; "The Legacy of the Gods"; "Holy Blood, Holy Grail" and "The Hidden Church of the Illuminati" plus many others, give sufficient proveable facts to indicate that those in charge of our affairs are trying to avoid or hide something. In spite of their claims of 'psuedo' history or 'false facts' the truth remains that there are other areas of the human psyche to be explored and that there are some beings of a higher calibre amongst us who can teach us how to make our lives more harmonious and happier. History can also prove that these people, who worked to enlighten mankind, were persecuted and even put to death by the so-called 'spiritual leaders' who were afraid of losing their power over the people and believed that Spiritual Truth was only as they saw it: this attitude still prevails today but they cannot murder anyone for it.

We will now give you some facts related in some of the aforementioned books which can be proved by anyone who wishes to take the necessary steps.

For example, there is an existent "Order of St Mary Magdalene" which traces its succession back to the Mary Legend which came from the ancient tradition of the feminine mysteries. The facts are that the Marian churches of old were dedicated to St Mary Magdalene and not the Virgin Mary as is now taught. The institutionalised church hoped to bury the Mary Magdalene legend but it has survived.

It is also a known fact that St Augustine did not bring Christianity to Great Britain. It was the Celtic Church from the first century onwards which actually evangelised Europe and such saints as Patrick and Columbus were never Roman Catholics but Celts. The Early Christianity of Europe stemmed from the Coptic Church whose first Patriarch was St Mark. Early Coptic Christianity mingled Greek Philosophy and healing in a balanced synthesis; therefore the Alexandrian mysteries were contained in early Christianity and this contained the true Gnosis of God. The evidence of this is found in archaeological evidence in County Donegal,

Ireland where ampuls with inscriptions of figures of Egyptian Martyr Menas were found.

It was not until the political church was founded by Constantine with headquarters in Rome that the Coptic Patriarch was condemned as a heretic for teaching the Gnosis, at the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD.

The institutionalised churches have deliberately given misdirecting evidence to historical researchers to hide what actually happened, but they can no longer hide the records of the atrocities they committed to bury the evidence.

Those people who are engaged in propping up the status quo with the aim of diverting evidence which would help people, have yet to learn that there is a greater power directing human affairs and that Truth cannot be hidden or destroyed. In our own private and individual affairs we have the lesson to learn.

That a law of Cause and Effect exists cannot be denied and it was Jesus and the Buddha who laid great stress on its importance. This law is the key to being able to balance our lives. Both Jesus and the Buddha gave us to understand that it was our wrong way of living which causes all our suffering. Argue as we may otherwise, the Truth is the Truth, we are foolish to ignore it. To go on believing that 'God' or that a person who died on a cross two thousand years ago 'redeem us', is acting like an ostrich which buries its head in the sand believing it can escape danger. The 'way' or 'path' is not in 'believing in' Christ or Buddha but in purifying our natures to eradicate hate, possessiveness, resentment and fear in order that Truth can manifest Itself within the Temple of the Body. Did not Paul say, "Work out your own Salvation?": this we can do effectively if we follow what Jesus taught and not the priests of the institutionalised church.

Gerald Massey claims that the Church at Rome remained Gnostic at the beginning of the second century and that Marcion did not separate it until about 136 A.D. The division was caused through the gradual materialising of the Christ mysteries and this came more or less complete during the 7th century. The Coptic Church today has also forsaken its heritage and has submitted to the requirements of the World Council of Churches.

As the Church began to exercise its political powers during the middle or dark ages by persecution and murder of spiritual reformers, the true teachers were forced to work 'underground'. The Church today by propaganda gives its members a false picture of history by claiming that it was fighting heresy to maintain the Truth. This is a blatant

misrepresentation of the facts and therefore, its members find themselves in utter confusion of disbelief, war, increase in crime, divided families and incurable diseases. As we have mentioned before this is the effect of erecting false 'causes'. What the people have, in the main, is a 'false vestige of Truth'. Man's wierd and wonderful opinions must finally be shown up for what they are. Man fool's himself: he cannot deceive Divine Law.

Eusebius, the bishop involved with Constantine in regulating the Christian dogmas in the fourth century, admits in his writings that the four Gospels came from the Essenes. Thus the present claim of those following the Gnosis today that the true Teachings of the Christos are "pre-Christian" as it relates to the institutionalised church, are founded on indisputable facts whether or not modern theologians wish to avoid the issue.

"In BC 120 to 70 Christ came to establish the 'Mysteries of Jesus' (Jesus being the Way of Truth) which was to blend with all the earlier mysteries. The successors of Christ were the Gnostics and the Essenes (Dead Sea Scrolls) from them came the Catholic Church which destroyed outwardly the Gnostic movement in the 3rd century."

The writer of the above then goes on to explain that Orders of Chivalry were formed and these were followed by the 'Illuminati' Orders such as the 'Brothers of Light', Rose Cross 14th century; 18th century brought 'Unknown Philosophers', Freemasonry, then Bavarian Illuminati which embodied all the former systems. These lines have all come together and are perpetuated within the Sanctuary of the Gnosis and are passed on to the New Church Universal which goes forward with an entirely new concept of Priesthood. A Priesthood which is acquainted with all traditions - East and West - and yet retains the recognised moral concepts so necessary before one can set foot on the path of Illumination.

Whilst there are many records of those who have worked to bring more Light to humanity there are also records to which the average researcher has no access which tell the story of the comings and goings of the Elder Brothers and Sisters of a Great Hierarchy of Beings linked throughout space by brotherly love and compassion. It is only when the disciple follows the true way can he or she become aware of the many inner dimensions available in our present Eternal Life.

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The Keys of the Kingdom

Most religions are founded on the assumption that there is some kind of God, or Being, in charge of everything including human affairs. Buddhism however has no conception of an individual God but achieves its success by its philosophy which is a practical and proveable way of experiencing peace of mind. Another reason why Buddhism is so successful is that the religion has never been used as a weapon in political warfare as has Christianity, Judaism and Mohammadism. The keys of attaining a balance of mind and body therefore have been preserved in Buddhism, mainly Tibetan, because there have been no attempts to force it upon people for political ends.

However, Christianity with which we are more directly influenced here in the west, has revealed throughout its history that the doctrines and dogmas preached bear little resemblance to the teachings of the supposed founder Jesus Christ and this is reflected in the turbulent history of those people who have embraced Christianity or come into conflict with it. In spite of this a person with a little effort on their part can still discover and keep to peace and harmony from Jesus teachings if they cease to rely upon information and interpretation given by the ministers and priests of institutionalised Christianity.

Let us look for the keys in Biblical teaching which can help us enter into a Life of Knowledge and Truth. By the keys we mean the ways of understanding correctly the real import of the message or good news contained therein.

To understand the deeper Truths of Universal Love as described in St Pauls Epistle to the Corinthians we need to get our "fundamentals" right. In no place in the New Testament did Jesus imply that "to be saved" one had to believe that He was dying on the cross to redeem the people. He was already teaching them to pray to their Father and that if they observed the moral commandments and sought first the Kingdom of Heaven, this was sufficient unto Salvation.

We do teach things for the more mature person in our Church but they are difficult to understand if one has been

following the 'heretical' dogmas of institutionalised religion. It takes a long time to unwind from error. One needs to take a long look at the history of organised Christianity with misplaced dogmas leading to the horrors of the Crusades, the Inquisitions and persecutions to see that the Church did not understand its own Teacher.

Jesus, in the Gospels, spoke to everyone; to no particular sect or group even though he had been brought up as a Jew. His teachings were not exclusive, as depicted in the account of his contacts with all sorts and conditions of people: men and women, Jew and Gentile, rich and poor.

To understand his teachings more fully we need to realise that he externalised the Love and Wisdom of the Divine Parent - being a Son - therefore, by logic, it follows that he sought to understand all types of people and would discuss matters of concern with them on every topic and we believe he intended this kind of understanding to extend to the Church following in his name. He taught, according to St Paul, that sectarianism is of no import to him for neither Greek, Jew or Gentile was excluded from God's Love - nor His.

In no place did Jesus say that we have to approach our Father through him like the Christians do. He taught the Prayer which sought help direct from the Father, we do not need to "weedle" our way in by dropping a hint to Mary, to put it to Jesus and then to the Father - this is typical human intrigue. Neither do we need to qualify to our Father that we are asking Him through His Son, for if this is implied in a personal way, it says, "Well, look God, I believe in your Son so you ought to do something about my plea". If Jesus taught that our bodies are the Temple of God - where else can we look? also, "The Kingdom is within you".

In following Jesus the Christ do we also need to remember that He was referred to as King of Israel and it was Israel only to whom He taught the "Good News" (Matthew 10 : 5-6 and Matthew 15:24). It was Paul who carried his version of the teaching to the Gentiles and through successive turn and overturn we have Christianity in the form it is today.

The Rites and Ceremonies of the present day have been borrowed from the ancient pagan religions who wore special clothing for their rituals. We do, however, wear our 'cassocks' in the church - not forgetting that Jesus never told his disciples to put on their cassocks and surplices before sharing communion with the people. The garb worn by Priests is the continuation of the priestly profession from pre-Christian times. So we are not opposed to this Priesthood which in its real sense exists in many forms and exists in the state of being a Shaman or Witch Doctor. These people

undergo rigorous training and live out the discipline relevant to their calling.

Basically the way to a freer and healthier life lies in observing natural morals, a pure outlook on life without self-seeking and a deep faith in the always imminent presence of Divine Protection and Inspiration. These are workable precepts.

The deeper mysteries of man's relationship to God or the Universal Mind or Spirit follows naturally by mankind desiring to express him or her self in a more fulfilling way. Mankind can become naturally attuned to its surroundings so that the environment becomes affected by its wise approach to all things. Man learns of his higher psychic qualities which can influence the plant and animal kingdoms alike and befit him as a guardian of earth's treasures. At the moment man has raped the earth for profitable ends and finds that his resources are running out. When he learns to co-operate with nature he can balance things up and have all he needs without starvation or privation for nature will respond to love and wisdom.

Jesus taught us to pray for the Kingdom of Heaven to be revealed on earth "as it is in Heaven". This dream can become true to all who follow the Truth of this statement. The state of wholeness, harmony and peace is already a fact in nature otherwise the teaching is untrue. The confidence of Jesus in the already established Kingdom enabled him to show us the way to externalise It. This Kingdom is not a place littered with priests and churches but a state of mind and a way of living in which harmony exists in all areas. Humanity being one family.

Jesus never set Himself up as being different from any one of us. "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in Heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." (Matthew 12 : 50)

We have the same situation today wherein the facts about Jesus' teaching are sidetracked. To those in charge we could still say "Woe unto you, lawyers, for ye have taken away the key of knowledge (gnosis) ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered (or forbade)" (Luke 11 : 52)

Jesus taught that we can "enter in" to the Heavenly state of mind revealed by Him if we seek this kingdom first above all else because we need to be totally dedicated to 'the Way' to get results. Firstly, we need to follow the moral code and act rightly to our fellows and obey community rules (Caesar). Secondly, we need to understand that Our Father resides in our Hearts and in the Heart of everyone - we find

Him equally there as in a temple or sanctuary for our bodies are living sanctuaries wherein we can each have communion with Him. By leading a dedicated and pure life we gradually experience His presence and times when we are troubled and uneasy about life slowly disappear.

The priests of the New Church are not here to force any creed or dogma upon you but rather show you ways of overcoming the barriers of your own nature which prevent the Light of Truth from entering your life. If we have been living according to standards set up by the masses in our society - or even by our own concepts - there is much that needs to be done in the manner of changing our way of life to enable us to be harmonised with the "Kingdom of God". When mankind has learned wisdom and understanding of God's Laws it can have heaven on earth. When mankind learns that to force issues in the external world is only like changing the ornaments around on the shelf, it can receive direct guidance from within to learn of the true way to harmony and peace for all

The Truth is that God's Kingdom is always 'at hand'. Let us open our eyes to see it.

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In our last talk we emphasised the importance of Jeshua's practical and simple teachings which are necessary for finding the Kingdom of Heaven within and "inheriting eternal life". These facts are based upon the recorded incidents in the Gospels wherein Jeshua was challenged or asked pertinent questions regarding 'salvation'. The interpretations of what he said can be understood, or misunderstood, in a variety of ways; but no matter what our personal opinions are there is a Truth existent which remains so whether we believe in it or not.

The answers which Jeshua gave to those asking serious questions about their own 'salvation' were based upon the eternal and fixed laws of the Universe. Therefore, in whatever guise these facts are presented - that is - in Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Mohamadism, Humanism, or whatever - the essence cannot be changed. Whatever terminologies we use to express our ideas, the unseen meaning behind all our efforts, adjectives and feelings must convey the Truth underlying all things. Whatever ideologies mankind invents the results for benefitting humanity will be only as helpful as the tenets of the ideology approximate the Truth. In this light, any wise Leader or Teacher, Politician or Bishop, will realise that his ideas are only cosmetic and be sincere in investigating the real issues. Otherwise, those seeking to dominate others will try to perpetuate their transient powers by stepping up their ruthless pressures. Any system not based upon Universal Truths must eventually collapse and we have much evidence in the history of mankind to confirm this view.

We have heard the old saying that what we learn from history is that mankind does not learn from history. It appears that those who place themselves in charge of human affairs fail to understand that the teachings given by the great spiritual teachers are "scientifically" based truths on the real nature of life and no matter what other ideas many humans have they need to be checked against Universal Realities.

In Truth the teachings of Jesus have nothing to do with the human view of morals, although to follow the teachings the disciple decides, by his or her own choice, to become 'moral' and follow the discipline - the word from which the term "disciple" is derived. What we are saying is that the

blessings of God cannot be withheld from any human being whether they be bank-robber, bishop, homosexual or heterosexual, king, dustman, theologian, saint or sinner - these are the transient labels placed upon people by other people. We could even coin a phrase as such with respect to the state of affairs in organised religion, "When does a theologian decide to become a Christian?" or "Is it better to be a Christian than a theologian". The implication being that being a theologian does not necessarily make us a Christian. It matters though that we need to follow the discipline of a perfect life if we want to really claim to be following "Christ". The speculative techniques of what is called "thoeology", by many, are usually the personal opinions of intellectuals who do not understand the real nature of God.

Dr Keizer in his Wandering Bishops says that "Christianity began as a heresy of Judaism. Perhaps today it might manifest once again as a heresy of Christianity."

In our efforts to explain the true nature of Gnosis it should be understood that "Gnosis" does not belong to any specific religion, society or group. It is the Heart Centre of all spiritual experience and although mankind segregates the search for "Gnosis" into separate churches and groups, the divisions are based only upon the different approaches and the previous programming of the organisations to which the new candidates have belonged. Thus we have a Roman Catholic approach, Protestant approach, Hindu, Buddhist and even magical approaches, we have the Masonic, Rose Cross, Illuminati and numerous other groups all separated by the original programming of their respective communities or groups. It appears that in spite of all their efforts they fail to recognise unity apart from the ways in which they have been informed to approach Truth - thus the separate groups still remain separate and the ultimate object of their exercise fails. They do not seem to be able to converge at the "grass roots" level by failing to tolerate the presence of other groups, that is, "If you do not belong to our group and see it our way, it cannot be correct."

In fact the "New Age" approach in any department of spiritual seeking is only a ploy to satisfy the masses that something is being done. The teachings for the 'New Age' are really the wisdom teachings for "All Ages". It is only in the departments of spiritual organisation wherein the inner truths have been suppressed in the past that the stirring is taking place to realise that they have missed out and therefore must move themselves to do something about it, or be left behind. The danger in this lies that in their zeal they are apt to forget that the Christ they really seek is just as much within as it always has been and not in the man who lived 2,000 years ago. We cannot take

the 'New Age' teaching out of context and graft it on to already outmoded beliefs, or beliefs not founded on Cosmic Truths. You cannot put new wine into old bottles.

In this light, the 'New Age' teachings are new to those from religions just discovering them but are not new to those teachers and hierophants who have come and gone silently, with risk of their lives, to pupils all along the way; that the inner "Right of Succession" has never been broken. This fact has remained so in what is now known as The Sanctuary of the Gnosis which is really the externalisation of the heart philosophy of man throughout the ages. This fact being true in its actual existence which traces its history back to the sixth century BC when the Christos teachings were being realised in a deeper way and were part of the inner doctrines of the Middle Eastern mystery schools of Egypt and Greece.

The Sanctuary of the Gnosis is the centre point for the instruction of teachers on the inner levels and it is not surprising that it is now situated in Great Britain which has been the heart or home for the mysteries of Jesus for thousands of years. In fact when the Hierophant of the Middle Eastern centre at Alexandria came to these Islands around two thousand years ago, the Celts synthesised the 'new' dispensations and the 'exoteric' teachings became available with the Culdees or Celtish traditional systems through which Colomba and Patrick came. The present day Catholic and Protestant claim to these people is false. The inner or mystical centre has still remained hidden from the public and can only be discovered by honest searchers. The Outer Sanctuary with its sections and other links represent only the Outer Court of the true and real centre and is maintained by 'inner level' teachers now 'in the flesh'.

The Sanctuary of the Gnosis is a modern 'mystery' school and teachings are given free to disciples. They pay only for books which they are recommended to read. The New Church Universal is now patterned on the church founded by Dr Lewis Keizer in California, although it takes on its own nature within the British Isles. It is felt that Dr Keizer's school is one of the few schools maintaining the true tradition: speaking of the 'Hermetic Philosophy' which is considered by some to be the mystery teaching, it is really another example of a written interpretation of the teachings as given in some schools.

The advanced disciple in this period need not join a group which operates a degree system for many of these groups move the member through "degrees" in which the relative quality is not awakened and thus gives the member a false sense of security believing him or her self to be at a level where they really are not. Proper degrees of Initiation are

another matter and are in very truth the sometimes painful process of growing into maturity as a person. To graduate into Hierarchical work with higher cosmic energies requires really special qualities which can be found only in the life of one who is continually in harmony with the Heart Centre - not only with him or herself but with the Heart of Humanity which is centred at the Core of Being.

The Baptism, Death and Resurrection story of Jesus in the exoteric Christian mysteries represent the processes undergone by the human soul seeking the Light and these stages are very often controlled by the 'belief' factor of the candidate. "We are what we think or believe ourselves to be" but by believing that we are clean or resurrected does not give proof of what is actually happening. The real facts can be understood only in the Light of the "Gnosis" - or Inner Knowledge of the real nature of God and Man. The New Testament can be said to be a text-book for the outer mysteries of Jesus. The Christos Doctrines are of the Heart and cannot be written down or ever have been written down. It is not in the repeating of Mantras, or even meditating upon human concepts of Love, Wholeness and Peace; but in allowing the Inner Christ of the individual to become externalised.

We should also make it clear that if a person truly desires to externalise the Christ within it is impossible to do so within the boundaries of orthodoxy.

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This is the final paper on the Introduction to The New Church Universal.

The Sanctuary of the Gnosis

LONDON WC1