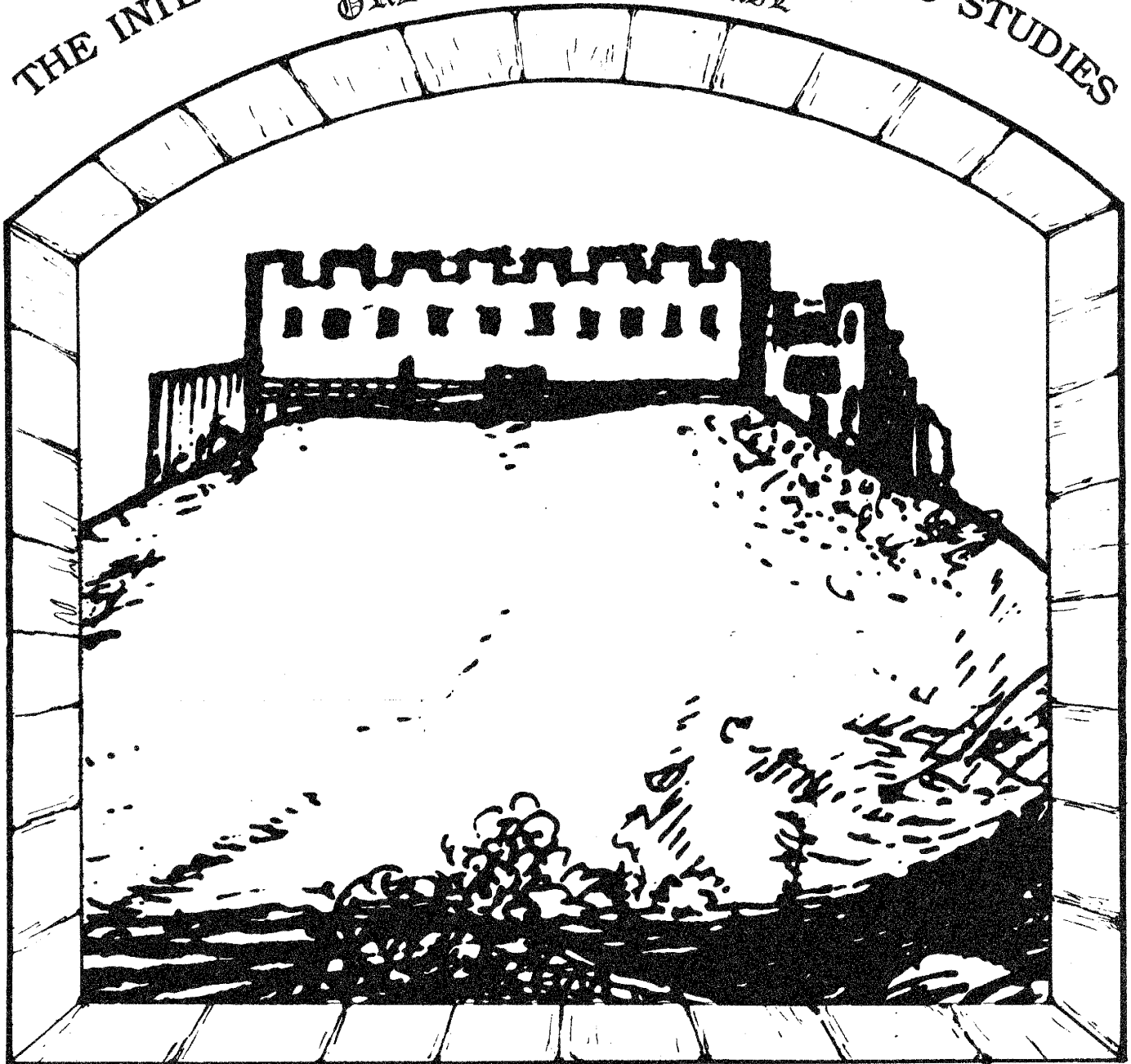


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THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF ESOTERIC STUDIES
ORDER OF THE GRAIL



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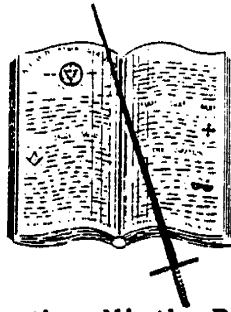
NINTH DEGREE

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DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND MYSTICAL ENLIGHTENMENT OF MAN

International College of Esoteric Studies

Incorporated as a non-profit educational institution devoted to the advancement and mystical enlightenment of Man.



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West Indies

Dear Companion

Here we are at the Ninth Degree! Over the past eight Degrees we have tried to present a broad cross section of papers from the heritage of material in our archives — the question now is — what shall we do in this and the last Degree? !

Well, we have decided to make this Eight Degree something of a 'potpourri' and simply include a variety of information which we hope will be helpful to sojourners ... and the last Degree — the 10th — will be confined strictly to material from our Martinist heritage.

During our travels, at many points along the way, we have stated over and over again that the material we are presenting is not authored by us ... ICES is simply a small organization operated by volunteer workers, in whose hands has been placed an archive of documents, and who are trying to do a service for the Light by making some of it available to pilgrims on the spiritual quest. We have no favourites! We do not try to push Hermetic lectures over Gnostic, or R+C over Alchemic, etc.. And again, as we have said, we are happy to share what we have with those who want it ... and just as happy not to share it with those who do not want it!!!

The fact is, that after some six years of operation (this is being written in 1991 and we started in 1985) we have received less than half a dozen sour letters! Of course some jumped ship before we made landfall and many wandered off into the wilderness, but of these, some were curiosity seekers, some became disillusioned when they found out that the road to spiritual heights has to be trod and that you don't get there by flying on a magic carpet ... and some dropped out because they don't like to know the truth! They just wandered off without saying anything. (It's not that it came as a surprise because we always know when one is going to go ... he seems disoriented, his face gets flat and his eyes are unfocussed.) We bear no grudge against them of course, we gladly welcome them back if or when they come to themselves ... and we are happy that many have.)

Anyhow... we have been at rest for sufficient time, the moment is here for us to make the final assault of the steepening slopes! So lets roll up our blankets, pack the bags ... and Adventurous Castle, here we come!

With all good wishes for a safe journey.

Sincerely

Disciplina Arcani

LONDON WC1N

Dear Friend

One can only come to fully realise the importance of Divine Love when he, or she, has trod the path of overcoming the dictates of the lower self - or the human way of looking at things.

During our efforts to see beyond our fears, hatreds, false images of ourself and others, and seeking to possess rather than sharing, we should keep our trust uppermost and without wavering on that quality of Divine Love within.

The path of Love is the way of the Christ and the Bodhisattva - a way of compassion to all creatures and a forgetting of one's own seeking - even for the light of Love.

When we speak of the Inner Light we mean this Love - for Divine Love (Agape) transcends all powers and contains all powers. Since Love is the only English word that we can use to describe It - it really means, in our terms, the Ultimate Nature of that Life and Light Intelligence from which all the visible or externalised world proceeds and It is capable of achieving anything when allowed to come into our personal experiences.

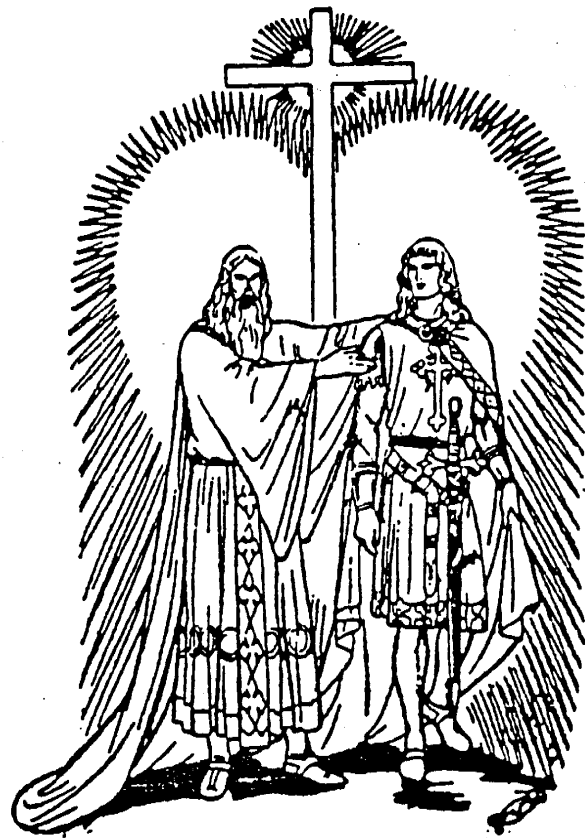
Whatever we call that Life Energy within us we should trust It ultimately with all our affairs and then witness It working out all our inners wishes for us.

When we can face our 'images of menace' with Love - for Love turns the tables on all harmful influences - then we can be free and learn that this great Power dissolves all that which is unlike Its own nature and It keeps us pure and free from all harm.

With all good wishes
Yours sincerely in the Light

Disciplina Arcani

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION



THE ULTIMATE LOVE

THE ULTIMATE LOVE

In the Ecclesia Spiritualis, we recognise that God is not a being in our ordinary sense of the word but is a generic term denoting Collective Humanity. In this light we adhere to the Pantheistic doctrine that God and Man are one and the same Being, that man must in the fulness of time become God and at the same time God shall become fully man. If we look at this subject from a different standpoint: the universe is a vast Synchronised Clock and each cog (human Souls) plays their part in the smooth running of this Clock; therefore, the Power which enables this vast Universal Clock to tick along is the Power or Love of God within humanity. This would infer that somebody or something wound up the Clock at the beginning of manifestation and the Clock will have unwound at the end of manifestation when the Power has been transmuted into energy.

This Power, mentioned by all the Adepts and Mystics, is the Love or Purpose of Humanity in its determination to fulfil its destiny. You may well ask: if God and Man are one and the same Being, why is it that man has no conscious awareness of his Godship? The essence which enables man to become God and God to become man is the instinctive recognition by man that he possesses a spiritual nature, and which shows itself in the effort he makes to realise this Nature, which is revealed in the mystic yearning of man to become one with that Love - the Life-Force of God within man himself.

The student must bear in mind the definition of the term "mysticism", for, unless this is clearly understood, confusion will be inevitable. Mysticism in its correct meaning refers to man as overcoming, changing and transcending the limitations of his finite self through the Power of his Divine Nature - The Christ Within. Those who have achieved this Union of the human with the Divine are granted superhuman powers and abilities. This granting and attaining of the Divine Power overcomes the mundane life of the body and renders the individual a conscious organ of the Deity or Collective Humanity.

Therefore, the barrier which apparently separates man from the Deity is his human nature and the images of menace which are generated, created and sustained by him through his morbid thinking. Professor William James, when dealing with the barriers which stop man from realising this Spiritual Nature, says: "This overcoming of all the usual barriers between the individual and the Absolute is the great mystic achievement. In mystic states we both become one with the Absolute and we become aware of our oneness. This is the everlasting and triumphant mystical tradition, hardly altered by differences of clime or creed Perpetually telling of the Unity of man with God".

So practical mysticism as against theoretical mysticism is the absolute conquest of the animal nature by the Power of the Indwelling Spirit - the "Christ in You" of St. Paul. Sin, pain, frustration, suffering and even death are conquered here and now, whilst still in the mortal body, in this very material world. We have every proof from modern records that this Knowledge and Power can be achieved, without the need to retrace our steps to ancient times. So, in Mystic Experience, we seek to bring the Spiritual Nature down into the confines of the mortal body.

It is said that many people are called to enjoy the benefits of this Union with the Light of Humanity, but very few succeed. The reason for this failure lies in their human conceit, pride which is being constantly egged on by their created images of menace within the subconscious mind, and their ignorance of the true nature and purpose of this Science of Regeneration. Such an opportunity can only be given to an individual once in a life-time, for such is the stern Law of Life. In other words, the eternal statement made by the Adepts of Life is that many are called, but few succeed. Why? - because they will put their self-importance and preconceived ideas in the way of the Divine becoming manifest within themselves.

Again you may ask: what is this Power of God within man and Nature? We will reply that this Power is the Ultimate Love of Collective Humanity, that force or power which drives Nature's species to fulfil their destinies. It is this Love which ensouls every visible and invisible atom in the universe. This means that all men and creatures have spirituality and physically the same origin; this being so, then mankind is essentially of one and the same essence, which essence is the One -infinite, uncreated, and eternal, whether you name it God or Nature. Therefore, nothing can affect one person without affecting all other men.

This power which binds and links all men and creatures into ONE Being is the Power or Love of Collective Humanity. We believe in a Universal Principle, which is the Root of All, and from which all proceeds, and within which all men and creatures shall be absorbed at the end of manifestation. This means that Nature is God or the One God - Collective Humanity - bearing in mind that man is the beginning and end of all manifestation. The Deity of the Ecclesia is neither in a paradise or in a tree, stone or building; it is everywhere, in every atom of the visible and invisible cosmos, it is in, over, and around every invisible atom and divisible molecule; for IT is the mysterious Power of Evolution and Involution, it is the omnipresent, omnipotent and even the omniscient creative potentiality.

Therefore, in our teachings - God is the Supreme Creator of all forms in Nature; God is also the Supreme Intelligence which drives the vast organism of the cosmos on its appointed path and finally, God is the Supreme Love which ensouls and draws all Nature's creatures toward its ultimate Source. Christ is made to say: "Know ye not that ye are the Temple of God and that the Spirit of God (the Absolute Love) dwelleth in you?" This being so, then the following statement of the Christ becomes logical: "It is not I who do these things, but the Power (God-Love) within me."

In the Science of Life as shown in the Western world, is the mystical consciousness as the Fountain of all Love, both human as well as divine. It has been well established that mystic consciousness is the only source of true moral activity, and brings the realisation that this Ultimate Love makes man know that his brother and himself are one, therefore his brother's sufferings are his own sufferings, and his brother's happiness is his own. This resolves itself into the

manifestation of True Love. Therefore, it becomes obvious that all cruelty, self-seeking, pain and frustration result from the separateness of one human being from another. Men treat themselves as islands and have separated themselves from the main stream - Collective Humanity.

This Ultimate Love, then, is the Will of Collective Humanity in action within the universe both visible and invisible, and which manifests itself within the nature of things. Therefore, we teach in the Ecclesia that man must free himself from all inward and outward restraint before he can experience this Ultimate Love within himself. Once this Love has manifested itself fully within each member of the Ecclesia, then the Ecclesia will become a faithful instrument in the hands of the Deity both within the members and within humanity.

Before the Ultimate Love can fully manifest, it must first manifest itself within the individual member. To those upon whom the Ultimate Love will bestow its blessings, many things will happen before this can become possible. Many students who have returned to birth have voluntarily agreed to be reborn at this time to work with the present Archon of the Ecclesia Spiritualis, to assist him to re-establish an instrument on earth in another effort to assist mankind to take the next step forward. Many of the students who have decided to return have various kinds of Karmic debts to be repaid whilst they work for the Ecclesia.

The moment the twelve chosen members of the present Ecclesia entered the Conclave, their Karmic debts began to be brought forward, and at the same time the ever-pressing Power of the Soul begins its work of eradicating the images of menace within each individual. Thus begins a process of real purgation of each member. Most students try to stem this pressure from the Soul and thus create within and around themselves pain and frustration, and in many cases the members lose faith both in themselves and in the Ecclesia. The more this process is pushed forward the greater will be the chance that they will reach the required standard of inward unfoldment. Each member of the Ecclesia must become the embodiment of this Ultimate Love.

This means that the members of the Ecclesia are either Adepts or are nearing the Adept-stage of their development, and therefore it becomes possible that this Ultimate Love will show itself as a complete and unrestricted giving of themselves for the others of the Conclave. Normally, when a person is called to play his part in the Ecclesia, his past Help-Mate is duly brought back into incarnation with him; it is only a matter of time when the two are caused to meet. At first, the two human Souls just accept each other as being there, in fact they take each other for granted, and this acceptance continues for some time, perhaps years, but eventually this taking for granted must be changed into a new form of association and the two Souls begin a process of re-orientation.

Generally, within the Ecclesia is to be found an unconscious Judas, one whose work it is to stir the deep waters of the association in one

way or another. The two parties begin to fear that they will lose each other and then begins the normal process of recriminations, accusations, suspicion, all of which is being egged on by the respective set of artificially created vital images of menace, who are activated and perpetuated by former associations and whose work it is to test the loyalty and love of the individuals to the limit of their endurance.

Sooner or later, the two human Souls come to the conclusion that they are being used by certain forces over which they apparently have no control. One of the human Souls is likely to be more experienced in this respect than the other, gets the first glimpse of this age-old process, and begins to stop the activities of the images of menace. Once this activity is diminished, the two human Souls begin the process of purgation of the human nature, this is slowly accomplished, all barriers are slowly dissolved, and the way becomes clear for the Ultimate Love within each to draw together - then is born a deep and abiding Love which no man can tear asunder.

The fear and suspicion which causes this friction between the two Souls stems from the past, either in former lives or in this life. Each one has allowed himself to create those images of menace through resentment, fear and distrust, but as the barriers are slowly dissolved, the two Souls begin to give each other for the other, so that they consume each other to such an extent that they become one and not two people. By this action they are reflecting within themselves and their union the ultimate pattern and purpose of the Universe. As we have stated, this stage of human relationships is very rare indeed, it can only be possible for those who have transmuted as far as possible all selfishness, and self-seeking seems to be eradicated and dissolves itself into a series of sacrifices for the other.

Experience has shown that when this Ultimate Love begins to manifest in two people, the danger lies in the appearance that this Love-Force may swamp both, if they are not sufficiently purified and controlled. But this cannot happen in reality, since this Ultimate Love cannot swamp anybody. The tremendous Power which surges through the bodies of the parties concerned seems to flow down the trunk of the spinal cord from the head, it then rushes into the nerves and then into the various glands of the body, causing them to revolve with a terrific whirling motion. By this action it allows the Divine Love from the Soul to rush into the body and causes a magnetic attraction between the two persons concerned.

Let us remember that this Ultimate Love of God is the Creative Force of God, which manifests within every level of man's being. Once the human Souls have purified themselves to a certain extent of their images of menace, then one finds little or no barrier to the untrammelled flow of the Creative Power of the Universe. This then flows through the two people concerned, true love is born, so that the Union is affected in the Divine Souls and is reflected in the human Souls. This union will continue until the Elder or more experienced Soul delivers the Younger to the Hierarchy of Light for Initiation.

Within the Ecclesia Spiritualis, this same process must take place, but in a slightly different manner. The two Souls mentioned have had many lives together, first drawn together by hate and fear, and as each life proceeded, this hate resolved itself into a deep love for each other. This takes place within the lives of every member of the Ecclesia Spiritualis in somewhat different ways: in some it will be the union between the human and Divine Souls, while in others it will take place in their association with another member of the Ecclesia; but in all, the same outline will occur.

It must be clearly understood that this Ultimate Love of God ignores social conventions or national customs, it is a Law unto Itself, it will not be restricted in any way, it demands that the individual upon whom she bestows her great boon be free both inwardly and outwardly. She will dictate her Laws to the individuals concerned in many subtle ways. This Love is the most wonderful and beautiful of all forms of Love - in fact it is the Love of God manifested in the flesh. Just as God gives of Himself for the joy and happiness of His Fragments within human creatures and asks for nothing in return, so will the man or woman who feels this Ultimate Love surging through their veins - gives all to the other and asks for nothing in return.

This Ultimate Love is the Supreme Sacrifice of one human for the other, thus in the Ecclesia, this Love creates in each member the desire to sacrifice himself for the rest. By this way, all barriers are swept aside between the member, there is created a tremendous Unity of Love and Purpose, then descends the embodiment of this Love within their hearts, they act with one Will, one Mind and with one Purpose. By this unified process they are able to perform the Science of Divine Theurgy, when each Divine Soul can manifest objectively in each member.

Laugh and mock as you wish - history stands as a living witness to this Mystic Love which transforms human life from one of fear and frustration into one of love and joy. Fear not that we speak from hearsay, we have found this Ultimate Love, and to clearly give a definition of this Love would be utterly impossible - but we can say - our life has taken on a new purpose, a new vista, no longer do we labour in the half-darkness of belief, but in the absolute surety that God has manifested within the object of our love and in ourselves. This now becomes the driving force within the Ecclesia Spiritualis.

In a small Gnostic manuscript, destroyed by the monks of the Christian Church, entitled: Confession of John", it is stated: "I loved Jeshu with all my being, from him came my help and strength, for I know that Jeshu returned that love. My heart burned with fire in his presence, he fired my mind and quickened my spirit, he lifted me into the heaven of his own Light and in that Light of Him I write of my experiences. In his Light I saw myself as a Pilgrim and knew that through his Divine Love I would also achieve. He quickened my spirit to know, even at his death, he stood beside me to comfort me and fired my pen to write what I have learnt. Truly, the Love which flowed forth from Jeshu is an ennobling Love and can and does change our lives from one

of gloom and despair to one of determination and purpose. I knew that he was overshadowed by the Nous and became my hope of future success." (This manuscript was shown in Illumination, we have made a recension of the Aramaic rendering.)

It is said that there is a Love which passeth all understanding. This Ultimate Love, gained through mystic Union either with one's Divine Self or within the heart of another, is past all understanding. How many students talking about this Love of God manifested within the human heart really knows what it is? How many have received a glimpse of this Over-riding Love and yet have pushed it aside as being imagination? How many have clouded this Love with the baleful influence of their self-created images of menace? Perhaps, and we can only hope, in the Ecclesia Spiritualis there will emerge a group of people who will be fired by this Ultimate Love of God, so that the destinies of mankind may be directed into more constructive and co-operative channels.

The Ultimate Love shows itself in individuals in this wise: when the Indwelling God within a person reaches out for union with the Indwelling God in another, Union of the two becomes possible. The Creative Power of the Deity flows forth in its pristine purity, the two individuals are transformed, their lives are changed from uncertainty into surety, the hearts beat with pure Sacrificing Love, their minds are fired by the Creative Power of the Deity, no longer do they walk the half-light of human existence in fear and uncertainty, they look straight ahead with the absolute conviction that Man is God. They know that when they have transformed themselves into the Image of God, so shall humanity be changed into that Image and happiness shall once again reign upon the earth. They will seek to quicken others with the same Fire which has quickened them. For thus is the purpose of the Ecclesia Spiritualis.

Disciplina Arcani

LONDON WC1N

Dear Friend

The whole secret of the mystery of life is revealed in the second paragraph of this lecture. "The procedure of the Ecclesia does not follow the contemplative avenues of spiritual work, such as meditation and the various exercises which are now advocated by the pseudo-spiritual societies and orders." Without Divine Love (Agape) all else is like an empty shell.

Many students of the mysteries waste valuable time in trying to plumb the depths of astrology, invent awe-inspiring rituals and many other things, claiming these to be the wisdom of the ancients. Mainly those ideas are gained from the many books which are to be bought on the market. What one tends to forget now is that all our present-day sciences and spiritual knowledge have come down to us through a successive Priesthood. It was the priests of old who were the guardians of all-knowledge. Therefore without a valid priesthood all the claims of those who have jumped on the 'Ancient Wisdom' band-wagon have nothing really worthwhile to offer - only the husks of the truth which give temporary satisfaction. So, too, it is by a valid Priesthood in this age that new revelation will be made for mankind's future spiritual evolution.

The real work is on one's own stubborn nature. When the traits of wrong thinking and acting are overcome the Inner Light of Divine Love shines forth in our hearts and it is this Power which takes complete control of our life. No longer do we chase after straws for we then live in complete knowledge of our purpose here and as living flames in a world of dross we slowly purify the planet and become co-workers with the Hierarchy.

Yours sincerely in the Light

THE ULTIMATE LOVE IN ACTION

Mystics, at least those who have truly experienced the state of mystic consciousness, have been accused of being hard and barren and devoid of any human love, but they are accused by the uninformed of being dreamers because they themselves have not experienced this Ultimate Love in their lives. Even the members of the present Disciplina Arcani have not as yet experienced this very wonderful Love in their lives. Although this may take some time, on the other hand, it may take little or no time for this Love to manifest. Unless this Love does manifest in their daily lives, the progression and direction of the Ecclesia Spiritualis will take longer.

The procedure of the Ecclesia does not follow the contemplative avenues of spiritual work, such as meditation and the various exercises which are now advocated by the present pseudo-spiritual societies and orders. The Ecclesia is fundamentally and primarily a body of action; the field of action takes place within the very human nature of all members, whether they be Lay Members or a Member of the Twelve. meditation and spiritual exercises tend to accentuate the phenomena of spiritual things, instead of the spiritual thing itself. Man, being endowed with divine powers, and slowly feeling within him his Inner God, gradually feels that he is in very truth - a God-Man in his dual nature, though he may be conscious that he is still an animal in his physical self.

The moment the individual becomes spiritually linked with the Ecclesia, either as an Adept, or a Full Member or even as a Lay Member, the struggle between the two natures - divine and animal - which began from the very moment he tasted of the desire to enjoy and use the fruit of the Tree of Wisdom, this struggle begins the fight for life between the spiritual man and the psychic man, and then between the psychic and physical man. Therefore, the student must have fulfilled and completed the object of meditation and spiritual exercises whilst he was still a member of the Outer Bodies before he dares to seek admission to the Ecclesia. To the tyro, meditation is simply a practice or discipline of steadying and control of the mind in its three aspects, namely, the super-conscious, conscious and sub-conscious mind.

It is only when the student for the Ecclesia has eradicated from his animal or subconscious mind all traces, images of menace and their morbid thoughts, the relics of his nursery credulity, that his three-fold personality will become pure and holy for the final descent of the embodiment of this Ultimate Love - the Divine Soul. You will note that we have restored the original mystic name for the Divine Soul of Man as used by the Christian Mystics for the past two thousand years. This term 'Love' (Divine Soul) was a technical term used by the various schools of religious philosophy to denote the object of their enquiry. This science was known in the West as "Mysticism" and in the East as the "Atma Vidya", the two terms being interchangeable.

This manifestation of the Ultimate Love within the human person-

ality of the Mystics, was evolved by the Love-Power of their own Souls in close unison with their Spirits; by the superhuman morality and sanctity of their lives, and aided by conscious awareness of their own Man-God dwelling within their human temple. Therefore, such persons are temples in which dwells the Love of the Living God; but if the human temple is defiled by the admission of any evil passion, images of menace or morbid thoughts or desires, the mystic falls into the sphere of sorcery. This means that the door is opened; the pure Love of the Soul retires and the evil nature of the animal rushes in, which manifests as phenomena which are cloudy, noisesome, mephitic and nauseating to the pure Love inherent within the nature of the Soul; such a condition will attract only those foul beings, traces and images of menace who delight in these vibrations, as does an eel delight in the turbid waters of a back-water.

It is only those that have allowed the ever-abiding Presence of Love within their heart, which makes for pure emotions and mind, who can repel unconsciously, by the purity of their inner nature, the dark spirits which lurk in the animal hell of the body. Once realising the nature of the subconscious mind, we can readily see that any form of meditation or spiritual exercise does not in any way tend to purify the human nature, but effects only the conscious mind of man and overlooks the real cause of our human pains, troubles and miseries - namely, the sub-conscious mind.

Therefore, it is the work of the Ecclesia to assist its members or purify the human personality of all forms of evil, once this is effected, then the aspirant is granted the "mystic password" which can carry him from one order of spiritual beings to another, higher and higher, until he arrives at the Absolute Divine - the Man-God of every human being. This password gives to the aspirant the power and authority to command the terrestrial and elementary powers to obey him, and through this Power, he could become a pure instrument in the hands of the Ecclesia Spiritualis.

Therefore, the only method whereby a man can enter into the Sacred Conclave of the Ecclesia was and is by personal effort, the struggle to bring the lower nature into harmony with his Divine Nature. Then shall the Spirit of Ultimate Love through our Souls descend upon each member of the Ecclesia, he shall then perform wonders, and at the same time be transmuted into another man - this other man becomes a Mediator wherein the divine and human are merged and the man so blessed becomes in very truth an embodiment of the highest ideals of Collective Humanity. Personal effort and discipline is the keynote of the Ecclesia, whereas, meditation and spiritual exercises are the keynotes of the pseudo-spiritualists.

Our scientists and philosophers consider that the claims made by the mystics are unscientific and unphilosophical, and therefore unworthy of deep thought. But history clearly shows that this secret doctrine of the Ecclesia contains the Alpha and Omega of universal science; and therein lies the corner and the keystone of

all ancient and modern knowledge, which alone can unravel the dark problems of life and death. "As God (Collective Humanity) creates, so man can create. Given a certain intensity of will, and the shapes created by the mind become subjective. Hallucinations, they are called, although to their creator they are real as any visible object is to anyone else. Given a more intense and intelligent concentration of this will, and the form becomes concrete, visible, objective; the man has learned the secret of sciences; he is a Magician" - ISIS UNVEILED.

Therefore, the aim and objective of the Ecclesia is to make magicians or Technicians of Life. No man can perform the higher phenomena in the Ecclesia if his human nature is not purged and disciplined of all images of menace, traces of selfishness or the results of morbid thinking which act as a tempter of the man from the Path to the Self and directs and concentrates his attention upon the exaltation and perpetuation of the baleful powers of the animal self. This latter process tends to delude the aspirant that he can give lip-service to the Laws of the Ecclesia and yet at the same time pursue his old way of life and thinking. "But in the case of each who is pledged to the Higher Self is quite another matter. You cannot invoke the Divine Witness (of the Collective Ecclesia - the Supreme Soul) with impunity, and once you have put yourselves under its tutelage (the Ecclesia), you have asked the Radiant Light to shine and search through all the dark corners of your being; consciously you have invoked the Divine Justice of Karma to take note of your motive, to scrutinise your actions, and to enter all up in your account".

The first responsibility of all aspirants for the Ecclesia is to see to it that their personal lives are as pure as possible and that their minds are controlled and directed into avenues of trust, love and justice. Purity in motive and action will assist the aspirant to prepare the personality for the descent of the Soul, and upon which descent, the man becomes the embodiment of Ultimate Love, and through this Love-Power he can do all things. Man, being a God in chains, still has the ability to generate and manipulate the Love-Force on all the regions upon which he functions, and which brings about effects upon himself and others on the respective regions: for instance, all mental energies bring their results upon the mental region; the desire energies upon the emotional; and physical energies work themselves out on the physical region.

Therefore, every combination or octave of this Love-Force carries itself to completion upon the region on which it was generated, and reacts on those regions below it in proportion to its intensity. This means, that man by his thoughts and acts generates certain currents of force which inevitably react upon the originating centre for good or evil. This means, that once a man has become the embodiment of this Ultimate Love of God through the awakened Soul, he becomes a Technician of Life, with the power and knowledge of the inherent power, energies and potentials

within Nature. This Love now becomes the guiding intelligence which moves a man towards the Ultimate Good or God.

If we remember: society is but the numerical extension of the individual; therefore, if we purify the individual's animal nature, we will automatically purify society, the further, if we purify the sensational, emotional and mental nature of the individual, we shall purify the corresponding collective principles of society. This process of the advancement and re-orientation of Collective Humanity into the position to be able to take the next step along the path of progressive unfoldment is skillfully guided by this Ultimate Love inherent in Nature, and Nature uses her superior creatures to act as her instruments in affecting this advance.

Thus, the Omniscient Love of Nature carefully selects certain human beings to act on her behalf, they are drawn together into a Conclave for the express purpose of acting upon each other to form an atmosphere of friction, it is by this friction that the dross of the member's natures may be stirred into activity, and finally transmuted by Love and Trust blended with impersonal co-operation. By this intimate and personal process such individuals become endowed with the Ultimate Creative Power of Collective Humanity by which they can collectively direct Nature's energies in and around humanity towards man's chosen destiny.

This Ultimate Creative Power is directed by the Ultimate Intelligence, and such Intelligence becomes the divine gift to man in order to give him reason and knowledge to know by first-hand experience the Will of Collective Humanity. But, this Intelligence and Creativeness is ensouled by the Ultimate Love of the God-Man. Thus, within the Ecclesia there will be formed a group of human Souls who will become the embodiment of these Three Powers of the Logos (Collective Humanity) - Love and Intelligence functioning as the wise Power to Create.

Let us imagine a smooth pool of water. If we drop a stone into the centre of the pool, we will witness a series of ripples beginning with the centre and rolling towards and outwards to the bank, then they will turn upon themselves and roll back to the centre. In the Conclave, which could be likened to a smooth pool of human atmosphere, the Archon acts as the stone being dropped into the atmosphere. Since he is the embodiment of Love, Intelligence and Creative Power, he begins to cause a series of vibratory emanations to flow from himself; these magnetic rays flow into each member, which has the effect of quickening the latent powers of which he is the active embodiment. It is by the continual bathing in the atmosphere of the Archon, that each member is slowly stirred in his Soul, this then grants the Soul the experience and power to descend into the human Soul fully.

The Archon has already been awakened by his two Soul-Friends from the past. His influence awakens their own Love-Power by their personal association with him, the three then become the embodiment

of the Three Powers of the God-Man, and in the Ecclesia they become respectively the Director, the Hierophant and Male-Female Priest. The Priest collects the magnetic force from the members, this energy is now passed to the Director who blends all the combinations of this energy into One Force, then the Hierophant sends it through his concentrated Will to whatever purpose the Ecclesia intends it to be used.

The Three are bound into a common Entity and act as the Directors of the Ecclesia. They first met in past lives through hatred for each other, but through Karma were brought together in each succeeding life until this hatred was transmuted into pure Love for each other. From this Love shall the other Twelve be imbued with this same Love, and from these the rest of the Lay Members are linked to the Three by lines of magnetic force, along which this Ultimate Love-Force flows into each member, performing and recapitulating the initial process within the Conclave itself, within their own natures.

Slowly but surely, the influence of the Archon spiritualises the vital, emotional and mental vestures of the Director and Male-Female Priest, and then through them the rest of the Conclave are influenced to imitate the Archon. Then, radiating from the three Principal Officials of the Conclave, their influence flows forth to the Lay Members. The intention is to gradually awaken and unfold the Divine Nature within each member, distance is of no account, such influence is always affecting each member and influencing them to undertake the superhuman task of purification of the animal self, and to undergo the purgation of the subconscious mind of all images of menace, morbid thoughts, doubts and fears so that the barriers within his mind will be eradicated to allow the descent of his own Divine Nature within the human Soul.

This process, apparently vague and unprovable by scientific methods, is being accomplished by the Power of this Ultimate Love within the Conclave, and the results of this pressure are very noticeable in the individual lives of the members. Naturally, such a Force which we call the Ultimate Love wreaks havoc within the turbid waters of the human nature of the member. This Love becomes a scourger of man and a spur to force him out of his turbid state of mind into activity, which intensifies the activity and influence of the artificial images of menace within his vital vesture, and he will react against the Archon and upon the other members of the Conclave. This process reacts violently upon the two Helpers of the Archon, friction, anger, incriminations and jealousy flares forth between them, this friction creates a corresponding atmosphere around the other members, thus assisting to bring up to the conscious mind of each the images of menace so that they can deal with them with the influence of the Three Officials.

As the magnetic atmosphere of the Conclave is stepped up in vibration, the Three in their subtle natures become acutely aware of each other; there is not one thought, action or motive which is

not registered in each nature, therefore any form of deceit, jealousy, lying or any base act performed against each other is known to the others. This knowledge forces each one of the Trinity to make sure that his motives, thoughts and actions do not cause any friction to occur between them and this builds for harmony and co-operation between the Three. The harmony and co-operation begins to influence the rest of the Conclave and they will follow the pattern of the Three; this established pattern of morality and ethical behaviour is then directed through the others to the Lay Members who will gradually begin to imitate the pattern of the Conclave.

Therefore it is the universal testimony of those who have experienced this Ultimate Love in their lives that mystical experience transforms human life and alters character, aye, more so, a mean and deceitful person becomes a noble and selfless individual. We have the living witness of a long line of great Saints, Mystics, Adepts and Occultists who have been carried to great heights of knowledge and spiritual powers. The annals of European spiritual history teem with accounts of such Souls who have come and gone, leaving behind them a legacy of knowledge and wonders, ignored by modern science, mocked by our modern philosophers, condemned by the modern Church and spurned by our modern so-called occultists.

Thus, in the final analysis - to which science, philosophy and religion has no answer - this Ultimate Love has been the driving power and force behind all the major changes we have seen in human activity, there is not one department of human endeavour where there it has not been seen the guiding influence of a band of unseen and unknown Group of Superior Intellects, who have unceasingly worked and planned for the ultimate good and advancement of Collective Humanity, inspired by the Ultimate Love of and for Humanity. We know not their real indentities, but they have left a legacy in their labours. They were content to remain in the shadows of human activity, free from any restraint or interference from the credulous world, but they have laboured in the Name of Love - Collective Humanity.

We would like to repeat here a paragraph we gave in our last talk - The Ultimate Love shows itself in individuals in this wise: when the Indwelling God within a person reaches out for Union with the Indwelling God in another Union becomes possible. The creative Power from the Deity flows forth in its pristine purity, the individuals (and ultimately the whole Ecclesia) are transformed, their lives are changed from uncertainty into surety, the heart beats with pure Sacrificing Love, their minds are fired by the Creative Power of the Deity, no longer do they walk the half-light of human existence in fear and uncertainty, they look straight ahead with the absolute conviction that MAN IS GOD. They know that when they have transformed themselves into the Image of God, so shall humanity be changed into the Image and happiness shall once again reign upon the earth. They will seek to quicken others with the same fire which has quickened them. For thus is the purpose of the Ecclesia Spiritualis.

Disciplina Arcani

LONDON WC1N

Dear Friend

The greatest expression of Love is to be found in service to mankind - in the Christ and in the Bodhisattva.

A life of sacrifice is also one within the higher priesthood wherein a person forgets himself, or herself, in the everyday "chores" and sees the hidden beauty in things where others see but a life of "humdrum" and boredom.

The Cosmic Hierarchy has already opened its doors to admit initiate priests into its ranks and fellowship is offered to those who are priests by virtue of their sacrifice to others and not necessarily ordained officially by a living bishop.

Now is the time to take one's initiation into a living priesthood - the priesthood foretold by the ancient patriarchs and consummated by Jesus who, when he became Christed, became the first High Priest for this age. Wherever we are, whatever our station in life we can serve at the Altar within. Our bodies are the Temples of the living Christ and we each serve by way of the pure life that the Kingdom of Heaven becomes externalised in the place where we live. Such is the Sacrifice for us each to take in this age.

Yours sincerely in the Light

THE LAW OF SACRIFICE

To understand this Law of Sacrifice as shown in the Nature of things, we must love Nature and all her creatures, and the student who does not know or want to know her, cannot love Nature or her many creatures, he then knows that God does not love him; for his belly and genital organs are his God. The more knowledge we obtain through Nature, the stronger will our Love become and the greater will our power become, and coming from these two is born the will to sacrifice our very life to God through His instrument - Nature. Therefore, he that knows the Father, has faith in the Father; but he that does not know the Father within himself can have no true faith in himself to manipulate the power of Nature and to employ her forces for his own happiness.

If a man is amorous in nature, and all men should have this element in their human make-up, it does not indicate that his spermatic vessels are overloaded, but because the Love for God within his beloved is in a state of exaltation, in such conditions a conjunction of the combative and amorous elements takes place in his nature, which will result from an ebullition of jealousy, and unless there comes to the fore a harmonious acceptance of the respective roles, they may create a serious set of consequences unless counteracted by the superior power of reason and will.

Mankind will accuse God (Collective Humanity), of being a cold and callous God who would allow his people to suffer, sometimes needlessly, but God does not inflict. It is we who inflict upon ourselves the pain and sufferings which come our way, simply because we refuse to obey the Laws of Nature when we come up against them, we refuse because we have built up a philosophy of life which is wrapped around ourselves and therefore the welfare and happiness of others is of no consequence. Very few individuals realise that

in forming an association with another, which has been decreed by Nature to survive all through their lives, it takes wisdom, understanding and above all sacrifice to make such an association work for both parties concerned and from this association the Will of God within themselves will be accomplished.

The Key to the teachings of the Disciplina Arcani is simply this: Man is Nature, and Nature is God, therefore, all men are the one universal Heaven and this Heaven is only the one Universal God-Man. Individual man is a part, if not the whole, of the Universal Man, and has his own individual heaven, which is a part of the Universal Heaven. We must realise that there are many points in a circle, and each point constitutes a circle of its own, yet they all belong to the Great Circle, and as each little circle may expand so as to encompass the whole, so the heaven in man will grow and will expand towards the whole or contract into his own centre and finally disappear.

Again, and we must stress this vital fact: most students of Life do not know the real meaning of Sacrifice, Love or Brotherhood, since they seek to condition these three states by their previous knowledge and experience; for a student to experience these three conditions, he must do either of two things: surrender his own individual life to the centre from whence come the qualities he seeks, then will begin the development of his own nature into that of the God-Man. Or - on the other hand, a man has the opportunity of being blessed with a Help-Mate who will help him or her through his life, but because of the artificial thought-creatures created by people through stress, resentment or frustration, they try to use the embodiment of the Love which they ever seek for the perpetuation of their own images of menace, by this means they fail to achieve their cherished desires and

happiness.

Therefore, our advice to all students who desire to become unified with their Immortal Self is to take heed of the commands of Nature, resist her not, but just try to flow along with her directions and all happiness and success shall be yours. If you seek to resist the changes which she decrees must take place within your nature, environment, profession, love and social spheres, and you tell her that you will not obey her, she, being far stronger than you are, will punish you by drying up the channels through which you may hope to achieve or make something of your life, this means that you isolate yourself from the Great Circle of Life. Man cannot hope to succeed in life in the secular activities without losing his humanity, and no man can hope to succeed in spiritual work unless he is prepared to sacrifice his manhood for the Love of God within humanity.

We feel sure that when you read this lesson you will accuse us of either making big things about something, or trying to stir things, or trying to play politics with you in order to achieve our own ends. This is absolutely false, the accusations thrown at us are derived from your images of menace and not from the Real Self. Nature is the Mistress of us all, either we work with her or we try to eliminate her out of our life. To obey the latter premise leads invariably to pain and suffering and obeying the impulses coming from the images of menace. Or you follow the former premise: that you follow and obey Nature as and when she decides to change your life, and you direct your energies into another channel which will ultimately benefit you.

It is obvious that we have only touched upon a few aspects of human life where Nature institutes certain changes, but there are many instances, both personal and impersonal wherein we see the hand of God at work, but always to our benefit.

The last word on this aspect of life is this: whenever men or women find that life has apparently treated them badly, they are the first to accuse God of treating them badly, and in order to justify this accusation they will formulate a system of morality and ethics which allows them to continue the status quo in their lives, but when True Love comes their way, they are apt to misunderstand the substance of this Love and ignore it in order to follow their previous understanding of Life. This coming of Love whether it be through the Self or through the personality of another, will always act as a spur to you to change your life, and if you flow along with the dynamic force of the lover or the beloved, then and only then will you achieve your cherished hopes and aspirations in this life. Fear not, for God (Nature) is not mocked by the undeveloped and selfish mind of man. God forces these illogical arguments aside and will implement His will within ourselves even in spite of our resistance to this natural change.

Love, then, in its ultimate sense is the Will of God in action within the universe both visible and invisible, which manifests itself within the Nature of Things. Nature follows this Law of Sacrifice within every one of her species, and also in man as *Human Love*. Therefore, Love is the constructor and destroyer of forms, wherein the Ultimate Life finds expression.

Within Nature, we find that each one of the species sacrifices itself for the other, there is no thought of self, except in its instinctive urge to protect the form, but otherwise, the various species have no conscious will as to whether they sacrifice themselves or not, but simply obey the natural Law of Evolution, namely, that one form is destroyed so that the Ultimate Life may gain a better means of expressing its characteristics and experiences.

Men, on the other hand, possess a conscious

Soul Vehicle by which man receives the power of freewill to chose his actions and future whether for good or ill according to the development of the human Soul. The human Soul, that individual consciousness called the 'I', is a ray from the Soul which is clothed for each incarnation in a new physical, vital, emotional and concrete mental form, but our Immortal Soul is retained throughout the whole period of the many incarnations of its human fragment. Within the Soul Vesture, therefore, persists the memory of all our previous incarnations.

Unlike the instinctive species of Nature, the conscious nature of man allows him freewill of choice within the limits of his own experiences from the past, man generates force-matters by his own conscious will, but the animal species, on the other hand, generate force-matters by their own inherent instinctive will. Man can either live for himself and thus shut himself off from the stream of progressive evolution, or he may forget his own individuality in sacrifice for his brothers, and is thus carried along and within the progressive stream of evolution, gaining by his own efforts greater and greater extensions of life, and greater power over the Forces of Nature.

The Soul Vesture of the average man is a fairly colourless sheath, through which the power of Ultimate Love can just barely manifest within the human Soul, but in the more experienced Soul, one will see many flashes of colour appearing within the sheath, which, as its development proceeds, will blend into a harmony of radiant splendour, which will reflect the Ultimate Splendour of the Man-God. The colours seen in the human and divine aura of the man, indicates the qualities, capacities and character which he derives from the wise choice of his freewill in this and past incarnations.

Thus, the more the man forgets himself in

the devotion to the welfare of his brothers, the greater will the inherent and latent qualities of the Soul become manifest within the human Soul. The more vivid and tinted the colours are shown in the human aura, the more is indicated the strength and extent to which the Ultimate Love can penetrate and express itself within man. The animal species having no conscious Soul vesture, have a Group Soul wherein the multitude of experiences gained by the Spark, are stored against the day when that Spark is able to break away from the Group and continue its evolutionary journey as an individual Soul.

Therefore, the driving force behind all manifestation is the Love and Will of Collective Humanity in its desire to express itself and unfold its own collective nature. The Man-God, or Collective Humanity as the Spiritual Man, becomes the quintessence of this Ultimate Love on its own level, and in order to give life and consciousness to its lower aspect - the Divine Soul - it must die to its own level and become reborn within the Divine Soul, and the Divine in order to become conscious within the human, must recapitulate the action of the Spiritual Man, dying to its own level to be reborn within the human.

The average man in the street, having little or no conscious experience of his Immortal Self, lives in a world of cause and effect, his own consciousness is directed inwards to himself, and therefore his love and idea of sacrifice is conditioned by his desire to satisfy his own existence and preservation, his love becomes selfish and animal, his actions, thoughts and emotions are expended in order to perpetuate his individual self. Whereas, in the cultured man, this expression of Love shows itself in social and humanitarian work, but always with the view of perpetuating his own status quo and position within society he lives, his sacrifice becomes

easy for him, because it is conditioned by the common welfare of the society or nation with which he fully identifies himself. This form of love and sacrifice is still fundamentally based upon selfish or individual survival.

The member of the Ecclesia Spiritualis and possibly the Pleroma looks at this Law of Sacrifice from the opposite angle - he knows, through his own experience, that the more he seeks to perpetuate his own status quo in society, this society-image will restrict him in all spheres where the impulse of the Soul guides him, therefore, his desire to live and sacrifice is coloured by the love for the welfare of his brothers. In this light, the Law of Sacrifice becomes a living force in his life, the more he lets himself go as an individual the greater will his consciousness become.

The Love-Force of this individual becomes the motive for his sacrifice, he knows, born from the memory of his Soul, that his Father - *who is Himself*, first began the pattern of self-sacrifice in order that He may be reborn within mankind, and that in order to restore Himself back to His pristine state of Glory, he must let go of the individual man and emerge within the Soul, and which Soul shall, in due time, let go of its own identity and emerge within the Spirit, and which Spirit shall, in countless ages hence, let go of its own identity and emerge within the Man-God, and finally which Man-God - the Ultimate Man, shall in countless systems hence, let go of its own identity and emerge Himself within the God-Man, upon which consummation shall the universe be destroyed in its present form by the very Power which gave it form - namely Man.

In man, this Ultimate Love shows itself as a complete and unrestricted giving of itself for the other, if he or she be nearing Adeptship, shall in turn give of itself to the other, by this means the two human Souls consume each

other to such an extent that they become one and not two people, by this action, they are reflecting within their union the ultimate pattern and purpose of the Universe - those who are able to express and appreciate this Ultimate Love are rare indeed - for all selfishness and self-seeking seems to be transmuted into a series of sacrifices for the other. They cannot bear to be apart for more than 24 hours, but, it must be realised that this Love, beautiful and splendid as it is, can destroy each other unless the two parties have realised the greatest gift man has ever received - it must be regulated and directed into impartial channels which ultimately benefit the whole of mankind.

It is this Ultimate Love, which first manifests within a few, which becomes the basic drive within the Ecclesia Spiritualis, the impartial desire of people to sacrifice their individuality for the Group, and which Group collectively sacrifices itself for the progression of humanity as a Whole. Just as the Ultimate Love as expressed by the God-Man gives all of Itself without any reservation for the welfare and consummation of Itself within mankind, so we find in the manifestation of this Love between two people that there follows the same pattern and manifests the same results. For such a Union of Sacrifice motivated by the Power of the Ultimate Love there occurs one of the greatest blessings mankind can ever expect whilst still within the confines of a physical body.

Finally, those of you who have earned the right to enjoy this Ultimate Love are duly warned in advance - Love will not tolerate any form of domination, restriction or the exaltation of one over the other party, nor will it allow either party to lay down conditions for the expression of this Love. Love, being the ensouling Power within Nature, demands of those upon whom she grants her greatest boon, that each

party treat the other as an equal; age, to Nature, is of no consequence, but to the limited vision of man, it becomes the ogre to all love benefits. This Love and the manner in which it expresses the Law of Sacrifice is perhaps one of the most mystical and human experiences man can ever experience, granted mainly to Adepts of all stages of unfoldment, but can and is destroyed by the self-seeking attitude of the average man in the street.

In the human sexual act, this Love finds its highest expression, wherein the Creative action of the Man-God is focussed within the lovers, here, all forms of restraint, prejudice, social morality are brushed aside, the lovers are free to allow the Love of God to lift them up into Itself. Humanity, whose minds are warped by many unhealthy attitudes towards the fundamental act of Nature, deny themselves the beauty and benefit of a natural and wholesome attitude on sexual matters. This sex act recapitulates itself within the mind, emotions, sensations and finally in the physical act, but so long as man divorces this act from the three subtler aspects of his nature, then he will never experience the Good and Beauty of his own Soul within the human body. This Soul then, becomes for man, the quintessence of Love and Sacrifice - happy are the lovers upon whom Nature has bestowed her greatest gift, woe be to those who scorn this gift and seek to restrict it according to their limited vision of the Love of God.

We are, A Brother of Light,

F. Richard

Grand Archon.