

LIBER 10

Special Summary Lecture

INTRODUCTION

Dear Associate:

PEACE BE WITH YOU!

Here we are at Liber 10! As you have learned, the numerical series 1 - 10 marks the completion of a cycle. In the onward march, a new cycle begins at 1 again, but on a higher level. Finding ourselves at this particular spot therefore, it is a most natural place to pause for refreshment. This we will do then, so we may review some of the important matters that concern us mutually, expand a little on what we have just touched on, and answer some questions.

We begin with the mundane! Our College, as we told you, is registered under the laws of our country as a non-profit Institution and is governed by a Board of Directors. Neither the Directors, nor the brethren who help produce and distribute the Libers are paid. They all give of their time willingly and freely. Regarding our monetary position, again, as we have already said, the stated monthly contribution alone is NOT sufficient to cover our expenses. We leave it to members who understand to help us with the occasional donation in addition to the fixed monthly due. Thankfully, many members respond and we are managing.

The greater number of members have been prompt in sending their contributions but a small number have been neglectful. We have sent these first 10 Libers, however, to almost everyone who has affiliated, irrespective of whether they have maintained an active status or not. We have done this because we know that some people coming into esoteric work for the first time become frustrated. The ideas are new, sometimes they conflict with old beliefs and superstitions, more questions arise than they can find answers for, and the experience is bewildering. As a token of our understanding and encouragement we have therefore lent a helping hand to this point.

We say "to this point" because these 10 Libers comprise the First Phase of our curriculum, they contain 32 very excellent lectures which were specially chosen to convey both theoretical and practical steps. If this series is carefully studied, most of the questions which arise in the beginning can be answered reasonably well by the student himself, in the light of later lectures.

Regarding this question of finding answers. In our life we are confronted with issues and matters that constantly come up and in the world of philosophy and religion, it is much better to try to build an overall concept, and gradually "fill in" the details, than it is to try to settle each little question. Remember there is no answer that is going to resolve or settle a particular question "once and for all" as they say. Things change! And as you grow in wisdom and understanding, your horizon will widen, your conceptions enlarge, the clothes you wear today become outworn and outgrown tomorrow, so there must be a continual re-adjustment. Never be afraid to widen your perspective; it may cause some disconcertment at the time, but remember the chick in the egg - unless he breaks the shell his further growth will be choked, and yet he may wonder if he is doing the "right thing", after all it is so comfortable and reassuring inside his little world, why should he break out - the shell will be destroyed, what will mother say?

So, from here onward we will have to proceed on strict principles. We live in a work-a-day world where everything costs money and our operation is not exempt! We have to pay for everything from paper clips and postage stamps to printing presses and electricity! This is the fact of life we have to

face and deal with. *As we move into the next Cycle therefore, we will send Libers only to members who have an active status.* We deeply appreciate everyone's cooperation in maintaining their active status as much in advance as possible; having to send out reminders requires much extra time and 'work for your brethren who are giving their time freely FOR YOU and in addition is an added expense for the College.

We have been asked: "What is your biggest problem?" After the ever present one of "balancing the budget" we would probably say: Promotion. Getting the word of our existence and purpose out and about. *There are many people looking for greater light who do not know where to find it! There are many people who do not even know that esoteric instruction is available!* We are trying to reach as many as our resources allow; this is why we deeply appreciate the help we receive from brethren who continue to tell their friends and acquaintances about us. We have received many applications with brethrens' key numbers affixed. We graciously thank you all.

The letters we have received from members have been very encouraging and we thank you again. Yes, we know there are other "schools" who charge up to five times the monthly dues we ask and that their lessons are not as substantial as ours. However, all organizations endeavoring to push back the darkness are helping. Our main "*beef*" is that some of them make the most unfounded claims, irrational statements and dogmatic proclamations which insult the educated and intelligent mind and in so doing have, in the past, thrown a very dubious light on the whole metaphysical scene. Do we need to remind our members that chicanery, deception and fraud are to be found in every department of human endeavor and that there are as many charlatans and crooks to be found in the chambers and hallways of religion and philosophy, as there are to be found elsewhere? The advice we offer our students who read extraneous literature is: *Learn to think for yourself! Do not be credulous or gullible! Learn to discriminate, and keep your feet on the ground!*

"What about the lectures by Saint-Martin and the papers written in John Yarker's Notebook?" The lectures by Saint-Martin are far too deep to be presented as yet. Quite a lot of ground work still has to be laid down before they can be presented. The papers in John Yarker's Notebook: These range from the general to the specific and we can begin to use some of them. There is quite a lot of material which will be of great interest to our members who are also Freemasons. Beginning with the next Liber (#11) we will commence our study of the *Book of Nature* and shortly after that we will start the papers from the J. Y. Notebook. We have also been sent the prayers of the Elus Cohen, the original manuscripts of which are in the Jean-Baptiste Willermoz collection in the municipal library of Lyons, and these will be forthcoming shortly.

We would now like to invite your participation in these two projects:

(1) *Monthly Report.* If you can spare the time, we would like to receive from you a brief monthly report. We are not asking you to write us long letters! A very short note briefly jotting down what for you are the important points of the material you are receiving will be fine. Also any comments or questions. Your report will enable us to detect what the major interests of the brethren are and we in turn will be able to accentuate the areas of greatest interest in the up-coming Libers. Regarding questions, we are glad to answer questions, we endeavor to answer all the mail we receive, but questions you ask are probably in the minds of other students as well, and by answering them in the Libers, everyone benefits.

(2) *Morning Attunement.* The procedure is: on awakening, first say the Lord's Prayer, then send out thoughts of Peace, Brotherliness and Love to your fellow College students, and then to the world. This is a very simple exercise and one which we hope you will make a daily ritual.

Now, I have asked our Chancellor to address you at this significant point in your progress and he has gladly obliged. This address is of such importance and has such a tremendous amount of “food for thought” that I would like to exhort you to study it, *daily*, for the rest of this month.

In closing, I thank you for all your considerations and helps. God bless you, may He make His face to shine upon you and give you Peace. I salute you as a Postulant on the Path. Fear knocked, faith answered ... no one was there. Brothers & Sisters: Take Courage.

Sincerely yours in the Work,

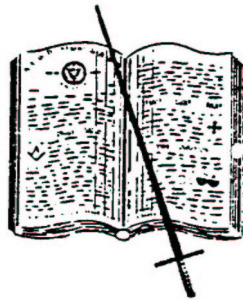
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*Custodes
Morum
Sacrorum*

I.C.E.S.

International College of Esoteric Studies

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



*Worthing 31W
Barbados
West Indies*

**LECTURE
Address by Chancellor**

Dear Brethren of the International College of Martinists:

SALUTATIONS!

I welcome the invitation of your Principal, Sâr Saccas, to address you at this significant point in your progress. Generally speaking, I will confine my talk with you to points already touched upon, and perhaps see if I can shed a little more light in some areas.

For most people, death is a fearsome occurrence, a dark and seemingly unfathomable mystery. Every one knows that the end of all his efforts in this world will be the grave. Yet, I ask you: Isn't

it strange that this hard and inexorable reality which confronts everyone without exception, makes only a few people ask, “Why is this so, Where do I go after the death of the body?”

Most people try to ignore the occurrence of death which for them is so fraught with fear and suffering, that they try to silence it. The majority would rather not speak about it. And yet, if they only knew: ***there is no death***, at least not in an abrupt, definite end; for death in the physical world is at the same time birth in the “hereafter.” Let us try to clarify this further.

There is indeed a “hereafter” (to use the popular term), with its numerous spheres, but these are not regions of eternal bliss or eternal doom. The realm of the “dead” belongs entirely to that part of the world known to us. It is simply the invisible half, the invisible reflection. That is why mystics often speak of the “reflection sphere” when referring to the “hereafter”. Do see it clearly before you: this earth and the hereafter are the two halves of our field of existence. The etheric and astral regions of the hereafter are definitely not the Kingdom of Heaven, but the invisible half of our material world, and, just like the physical world, these regions are subject to the law of constant change. Therefore, on entering the “hereafter,” one is definitely not entering the Eternal Home. Perhaps the accompanying diagrams will illustrate this even better than words. Please study them carefully.

Many people have an image of this world and think they know all about it, and about this life, but we are constantly forced to alter this image and our ideas to make them fit in with new scientific discoveries. Our world-image is therefore always changing, and in fact depends greatly on our age, our character and even our mood.

That is why so many ideologies exist, why there are so many religious, philosophical and political points of view. And everyone is convinced that the point of view he has chosen is the only right one!

These conflicting opinions alone make it, clear that what is being argued about cannot be anything imperishable, anything unchangeable. ***Only what is above this world and its laws can be Absolute and Unchangeable, and these things are above discussion and argument.***

Let us not go too fast. Perhaps it will help to make matters more lucid if we use an analogy and observe the daily cycle of the sun. To us, the sun appears to rise in the east at dawn, to reach its zenith at noon, and to set in the west at night. If we applied this sequence to human life, then the death of the body, like the setting sun, would seem to be a definite end. Yet we know that the sun continues on its way during the night, that sunset in one place is sunrise somewhere else. By analogy, therefore, we can deduce that material death is not a real end. Just as the sun rises again at the end of the night and becomes visible once more as a logical consequence of its unseen, nocturnal journey, so too does human life not end with “death”, but carries on unseen.

Death in the earthly sphere (the Elemental World) is at the same time birth in the “hereafter”, the lower section of the World of Orbs to use the Martinist terminology, or the Realm of letzirah, or Formation, to say it Qabalistically. The day of human existence is followed by the night, and just as the night is followed by the day, so the sojourn of the human system, after sufficient time, is followed by a new physical birth in the earthly sphere. As a result of this re-birth, the human system has a new personality, but the Inner Self remains the same, and on it is engraved its fate, or karma, (both “good” & “bad”) and the experiences that have to be lived through. This sequence of birth - maturity — decline death — and re-birth — takes place systematically and is inescapable. ***It is a Law of Nature..*** All things in the physical world follow this sequence of birth, maturity, decline, death & rebirth, even Solar Systems and Galaxies conform to this pattern.

Now, as you know, Martinism divides the constitution of Man and the Universe into ***three main divisions***, but you were told ***there are subdivisions***. Let us examine the structure of the earth itself. It is known that a number of clearly defined spheres envelop our globe, including: the

troposphere, the stratosphere, the ionosphere and. the atmosphere. These are all enclosed by the Van Allen belt.

Similarly, man is, himself, a miniature cosmos, a microcosm, and is composed in exactly the same way. He consists of various “bodies” and forces which, together, form a sphere. The body of flesh and blood is in fact only the visible part of the whole human system.

So, then, what really happens after the death of the physical body? At physical death, as we have already noted, the physical body begins to disintegrate and to dissolve into its basic elements. It becomes “dust” again, just like the fallen leaf. This dead body therefore remains in the physical sphere. The Plastic Envelope, with its various sub-divisions, eventually arrives in the so-called “heavenly” spheres, or the “hereafter”, and there too they eventually dissolve, or almost completely dissolve, after a while. Nothing is left but the focal points of experience, the *essence* of the former personality, in the human system, and these constitute our karma. Memory becomes submerged in that part of the mind which psychologists call subconscious, subliminal, etc.

When our path of development in the “hereafter” has reached its lawful end, we, (the Inner Self, the Man, the microcosm, the Individual, the Ame, or whatever name you favor for the imperishable part of yourself), is compelled by Laws that govern this world, to again link our self with a new physical vehicle. In accordance with the all-embracing law of congruity, the reincarnating human system becomes linked with parents most closely in agreement with the forces of accumulated destiny. The new-born child will have to bear its own karma and the karma of all those who have inhabited its microcosm before it, and here we find the account for the diversity of mankind’s predisposition, constitution, fate, “good luck” and “bad luck”, for the fate of every human being is the fruit, the result of the karma accumulated by his/her microcosm, in keeping with the law of cause and effect, which we find expressed in scripture at Galatians 6: 5 & 7.

The Scriptures are replete with references to this law. The Master himself taught it and when you have time you may like to check these readings:

Matthew 5:18
Matthew 7:1 & 2.
John 9:1-3.

So, each new earthly life begins in total subjection to the earth and its laws of transience. The wheel of life, the wheel of birth and death begins a new rotation, and the road from the cradle to the grave is begun once again.

Eventually, however, after countless revolutions of the wheel of life, the nostalgia for *true freedom* wells up from the depths of one’s Inner Being so intensely that this nostalgia manifests itself to the earthly consciousness *as a concrete desire*. Then one begins to want for an answer to the question posed at the beginning of my talk, and to others too, such as: “What is the true meaning of life?” “Does life really have a deeper meaning?” “How should we live our life?” etc. The answers one finds to these questions make one recognize the fact that *man’s fate on earth is the result of Natural Laws* and this brings one logically to ask: “Can this cycle of continual rebirth be brought to a halt?” “Is it possible to free oneself from the wheel of birth and death?” And if so, *“how”?*

The Esoteric Arcana of the Ageless Wisdom, which is the heart of all true religions, teaches that liberation from this rotating cycle is only possible if we really fulfill the true reason for our material existence and resolve to return to the original Fatherland through the process of transfiguration, leading to Re-integration.

This means that we must change! And this so-essential change is not an automatic process; it requires active cooperation and participation!

As a result of the Divine Spark as yet latent within him, man has always been conscious, albeit vaguely, of the idea that life is in fact a mission, and he has always tried, in one way or another, to discover what that mission might be. As long as man has been on this earth he has sought true happiness and eternal freedom, without ever having been able to find them. And in fact he never will be able to achieve these aims, as long as he looks within this earthly nature, for here, in this earthly nature, they **cannot** be achieved! And that is why so many content themselves with the belief that the meaning of life is the preservation of the human race, while others devote themselves to humanitarian, political or theological ideals. The majority, however, simply follow the line of least resistance and habit, **living automatically**, living for the gratification of the senses, until death ends it all.

Yet there are some who seriously seek and strive for true and absolute fulfillment, who are never content with this state of affairs. They feel, time and time again, that something is lacking. These feelings, this longing, emanates from the *mathematical center* of the microcosmic system. This point is known by many names, including: “the Rose of the heart”, “The Pearl of Great Price”, “the Precious Jewel in the Lotus”, “the Divine Spark”, “the Philosopher’s Stone”, and so on. ***It is the last remnant of the original, divine Man.***

Many, unaware of the true source of their longing, are drawn into church communities and the like, where they may try to “cam” their way back to the Lost Paradise by forcing themselves to do good deeds and by cultivation of their personalities.

There is but one way that Leads to Liberation, one possibility of return to our First Estate: transfiguration on the basis of the last remnant of the divine in man, leading to Re-generation and Re-integration! Although other methods may be very alluring, they cannot lead to liberation.

Let us look a little more closely. Legends have handed down to us the knowledge that part of mankind misused its freewill and thereby placed itself outside the divine world. In this way, out of the harmonious, unified divine man, a being came into existence that is tossed about between opposites, and thrust from one extreme to the other. In the Bible, this is described as “the expulsion from paradise.” However, the paradise referred to in the Bible was already outside the divine world, although on a higher level than the world as we know it today.

Having once called forth the world of antitheses, or opposites, or what is sometimes also called the “world of dialectics”, Adamic man sank further and further. As man has robbed forests of their trees, poisoned rivers and seas, and polluted the air with toxic gases, so has he tainted the originally pure ether of his thought-world with the filth of modern civilization. He has become the captive of his own ambitions.

The primary characteristic of dialectics is that nothing in it is permanent. In this world of opposites, every beginning inevitable and irrevocably leads to an ending, and every ending to a new beginning, in a never-ending and apparently inescapable cycle. This is true of the entire material creation and of all therein. As we are primarily concerned with Man in this talk, however, we must note that for countless ages, he has been coming and going in this dialectical world, from birth to death and from death to birth and between these two poles of birth and death, he often goes through indescribable suffering with only comparatively brief moments of joy and rapture.

The great world religions teach that, in the beginning, man had a perfect tie with his Origin, with the Absolute, with God. When he lost this tie he became a twofold being who could neither live in this heart of man is restless until it rests in you, O God.”

This has made many people think that behind everything that happens is a wrathful God who punishes. Many people expect to be punished after “death” for transgressions of divine laws, because from childhood on they are told after death they will be called to account for their deeds here on earth and that they will then receive their eternal reward or eternal punishment, depending on how God judges them.

Yet, what really happens in the “hereafter?” This region is certainly not the Fatherland, the original **Kingdom of God! It is simply the other half of this world.** Here, after the death of the dense physical body, man spends a certain amount of time, and here in this world which is popularly called the “hereafter”, the subtle bodies themselves “die” and partially dissolve. These subtle bodies are not normally visible to the human eye but are nevertheless of an unmistakable material nature. Only when the subtle bodies have dissolved, or almost dissolved, is the microcosm able to take up a new personality through re-birth in the physical sphere.

In this world man goes through many painful experiences before he recognizes his true state of being. He lives, but in reality he merely exists in an emergency order which was created to make it possible for him to find, through experience, the way back to the divine House of the Father, his original field of life.

In his nature-born state, however, man is not able to find this way by himself, and that is why helpers come to him from the Divine Realm, where only one law applies: **Love and service of God.** And from time to time a teacher arises from among the helpers, a teacher who testifies to fallen mankind of the Kingdom not of this world, a world not inheritable by flesh and blood (i.e., material constituents) and who tells man what conditions he will need to fulfill if he is to be able to walk the Path of Return.

But you might well ask: Does mankind actually **want** to walk the Path of Return to the Father’s House? Does man understand the **necessity** of doing so? For most of mankind the answer is undoubtedly **no!** Yet there are countless people who are experiencing an overwhelming inner disquiet, despite present day affluence, and are seeking fulfillment of their lives in all imaginable ways, and many of these, in their quest, arrive at schools such as ours, where they are given directions.

Let us turn our attention to what we mean when we speak of “man.” Above the entrance to the Temple of the Greek Mysteries at Delphi are the words: “Man, know yourself.” Man needs self-knowledge in order to restore the link with the Divine.

But what does man actually know of himself? Medical science can give us an exhaustive explanation of every organ in our body of flesh and blood, but there are other questions about our human state that it does not answer. Let me see if I can throw some light on this.

First of all, it needs to be said that when we speak of “man,” we are referring to an entire system. Beyond the visible body, **invisible bodies also exist.** These bodies, which are sub-divisions of the Plastic Envelope, include the **etheric body**, which has varying degrees of density and diverse functions, and the **astral body.** In addition, there is a **mental body** which is still in the initial stage of its development. The entire spherical system is bounded by what mystics call the “aural field,” which encloses the visible as well as the invisible bodies. The essence of all experiences, thoughts, and deeds of former periods of existence is etched into this aural field. The aural field could be compared with a star-encrusted night sky, with the focal points of experience forming the stars, and that is why mystics sometimes speak of an “aural firmament.” As mentioned already, this is why one person’s “fate” can be so different from another’s. And since this “fate” is created by man himself, it is clear that man himself is responsible for his own fate and for that of his successors in the microcosm. Whatever he sows he will reap.

This is the Law of Karma, the law of Cause and Effect. Whatever one invokes makes itself felt in the whole system, so it is rather short-sighted to say: "What do I care about an afterlife? I will live my life now, and what comes afterwards doesn't interest me." Only an unknowing person speaks like that; someone who does not know how things are connected and sees his present earthly life as a totality, as something that stands by itself.

When we examine the human system more closely, we are compelled to acknowledge that the physical body, which we perceive with our senses, is only a part of the whole system. The physical body is not just a lump of matter: it is animated, vivified. It is built up according to a deliberate plan and will continue to exist in its vivified state until death occurs. This vivification of the physical body is ensured by man's etheric body, also known as the vital body. It extends somewhat beyond the physical body, but at the same time it interpenetrates it.

Man, however, consists not only of animated matter, but in addition has inner perceptions, and is also able to think. For these activities he possesses two other bodies: the *astral* or *desire* body and the *mental* or *thought* body. The structure of the astral body is more tenuous than that of the etheric body, and the mental body, in turn, is even more tenuous still. These tenuous material bodies are sometimes called the "*subtle bodies*" and it is these that clairvoyants are able to see.

These tenuous material bodies naturally need to be fed by a tenuous material substance. We call this substance "*ether*." Four etheric forces are active in present-day mankind. These are: *the chemical ether, the life ether, the light ether* and *the reflecting ether*.

The chemical ether and the life ether are concerned with the maintenance and vivification of the material body; the light ether is necessary for the activity of the senses, and also for our feelings; the reflecting ether nourishes our thinking activity.

So, aided by the activity of the etheric body, let me try to explain its existence. I shall use an analogy drawn from natural science: we know from physics that an electromagnetic field is generated around a wire through which an electric current is passing. One of the practical effects of this phenomenon alongside each other if they are sheathed with insulating material, because the force-fields of the two is that two different electric cables, such as a lighting cable and a telephone cable, can only run alongside each other if they are sheathed with insulating material, because the force-fields of the two conductors would otherwise give rise to induction currents which would have an adverse effect on each other.

Medical science tells us that the nerve fibers in the human body closely resemble electric cables. The brain gives its commands via the nerves by means of minute electrical impulses. So it is logical that each of us is surrounded by a magnetic field, with our own attracting and repelling effects, which among other things, account for our feelings of sympathy and antipathy.

The existence of this magnetic field means that there is always a process of mutual give and take going on in human society, for the electromagnetic field assimilates and emits life-forces. Here, too, each human being is responsible for shaping his or her own life becomes apparent. *One attracts whatever corresponds to one's own electromagnetic system, and repels whatever is in disharmony with it.*

"But who is conscious of these laws?" one might ask. And even more importantly: "Who is able say that only very few succeed in this. The inter-relationships of natural phenomena are generally consciously to direct these phenomena along the right lines within himself?" It is no exaggeration to not known to the "nature-born" human being, and that is why we are sometimes driven to actions that we really did not wish to do at all.

As we have observed, this world consists of "this side and the other side of the threshold." The

“other side” is not in fact very far from us, but is in exactly the same place as the visible part, *it is separated only by a difference in vibration*. Recall the image of the earth given earlier, of the earth with its various spheres, the cosmos, so that we can carry our comparison with the human life-system (the microcosm), a little further.

You know that our planet is surrounded by various layers, each of which has its own special task. However, the atmosphere contains much more than these. Just as the air is polluted by chemical and industrial waste-gases, so our atmosphere is tainted with the thoughts, ideas and desires of human beings. It also contains concentrations of thoughts and desires which have collected together because they are similar in nature. For example: we can consider the field of technology, science and research. Many people are involved in these activities, and they are continually thinking and thereby using reflecting ether. So the used reflecting ether and its mental creations are also present in our atmosphere. We can find another example in the field of art. People engaged in the arts also think and feel. Streams of thoughts and feelings are produced and emitted into the atmosphere in various vibrations.

Etheric force is also necessary for feelings of love and hate, joy and sorrow, fear and desire, and this ethenc force, transmuted by the feelings, is also left behind in the atmosphere. There are religious feeling too, of course, thoughts about God, Christ, Buddha and so on, and the etheric “byproducts” of these also remain behind in the atmosphere.

The fact is: everything that is felt and thought is present in the tenuous material spheres, and even more than that. As stated earlier, everyone emits an electromagnetic radiation. And just as this applies to one individual, so it also applies to groups of people, which is radiated back in its totality to each individual, these individuals form a group. A group, then, also has an attracting and a repelling power.

So man is surrounded by a complex of forces, all of which influence him. In this way man lives, *and is lived*. He thinks he acts independently, *but more often his actions are only reactions to the self-maintaining forces that surround and pervade him*. Since people do not see, hear or perceive these forces, they think that they do not exist. One cannot see radio and television waves either, but one hears and sees their effects. It is just the same with man himself. He cannot see the forces that surround and pervade him, but their effects can certainly be perceived. Just pause for a moment and think, in this context, of how certain atmospheres and surroundings can and do shape the individual, and how in fact they surround and affect *you!*

It has been said we all live in one great prison, and this is true. Many, especially the young, cry out for freedom, but they do not know the primary reason. They do not know that their cry for freedom comes from one’s innermost being, from the last remnant of the divine in man, as a cry for deliverance, for liberation from the iron grip of this world, a cry born out of an incense longing for another, better world. Yet so many are seeking their liberation within the framework of *this* world, with the help of innumerable ideals aimed at its improvement. They want to refine and improve *this* world, even though the Holy Language states quite clearly: “My Kingdom is not of this world.”

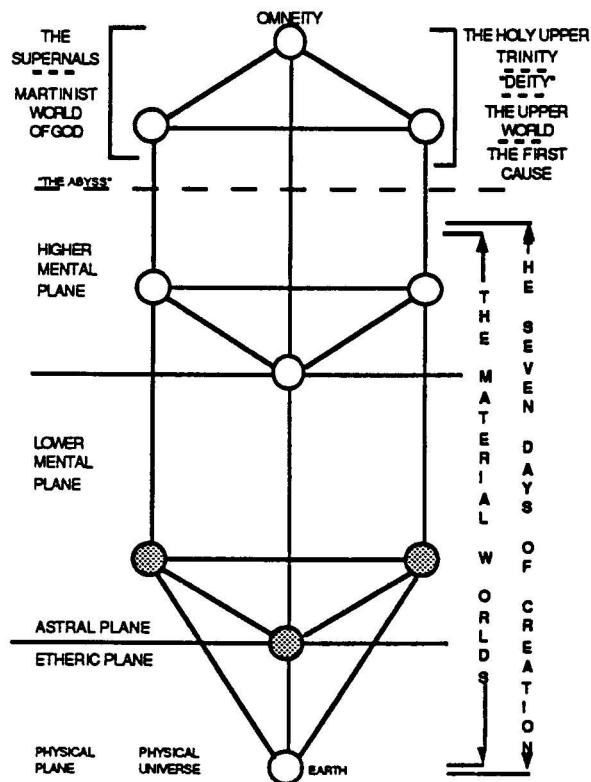
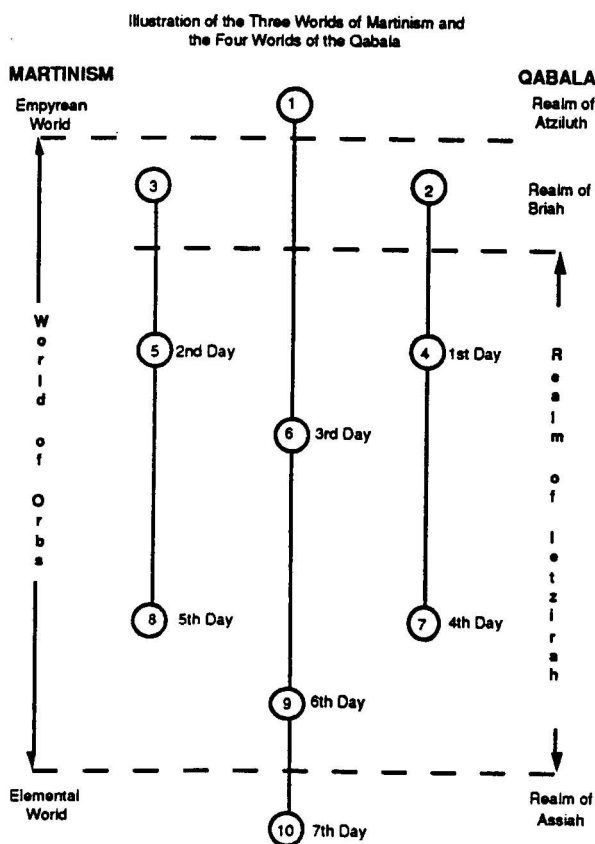
The “nature-religious” person, on the other hand, sets his hopes on a life after death. He hopes he will be released from the chains of this world. But the physical body remains here in the visible sphere at death and disintegrates into its elemental constituents, and the tenuous material bodies remain in the regions of the “hereafter” and there they too undergo their dissolution, then the cycle of the re-birth of the Self begins again. *Man is therefore imprisoned within a circular course*. But there *is* a way to break out of this circular course and this will concern us in the time ahead, however I submit to you that *the first step must be a return to an attitude of life which corresponds to the question: “Lord, what will you have me do?”* By setting aside the personal ego and all I-centeredness, we open the door to a higher state of consciousness, one in which all the glory of God’s Wisdom comes to light again. Let us pause for some clarifying

illustrations for one picture is worth ten thousand words.

“In my Father’s house are many mansions,” said Jesus. (John 14:2). Our “Father’s house” is the finite and infinite, the completeness of existence, and this is depicted by the symbol called the Tree of Life. The “mansions” are the spheres on the Tree called *Sephiroth*. (Sephirah, singular). The Sephiroth represent and depict many different things which we will study later, but at this point, think of them as *Levels of Consciousness*, or *Planes of Being*. Because of the limitations of a two dimensional drawing they must be shown as illustrated; however, one sphere is not in fact “above” or “below” the other, they all exist in the “same space”; the difference is frequency of vibration. Using an analogy, radio waves do not exist “above” or “below” each other, like shelves do in a bookcase. Long waves, short waves, medium waves, microwaves, low waves, high waves, TV waves, etc., all exist in the same “place” - their difference is their frequency of vibration.

The *Physical Plane* is visible to the naked eye. The subtle *Material Worlds* are visible to clairvoyant sight.

“Days” 4, 5, & 6 which are in the Etheric and Astral Planes are the levels commonly called “the hereafter” and are the “other half” of this (physical) world. Students should meditate on where the “Kingdom of God” would be located on the Tree of Life.



Let me re-capitulate, are you ready? Let’s go!

Man hunts after riches, fame, honor, health, happiness, power. Or, on a different level, for cultural, social, religious or scientific advantages, often with the noblest intentions. Yet it is of no

use, for everything is transitory. Whatever man attempts meets with a determined end. The things he strives for are but shadows. They come, they go, they slip away. They loom up out of nothingness and they return to nothingness. Everything is subject to rising, shining and fading. This is the nature of things, and the nature of man himself. The result is that world and mankind remain imprisoned in darkness, sorrow and ignorance. ***Man is completely deprived of firsthand knowledge through direct perception and experience, of knowing the world of God, the world of one light, in which the ALL is contained*** (Sephiroth 1, 2 & 3 on the Tree).

Every seeker knows the state of helplessness and ignorance in which he finds himself when confronted by the great problems of life. He is tortured by all sorts of questions which force themselves upon him. Even though he may think he has found an answer, he discovers sooner or later that it can be contradicted by another. All his experiences show him that anything he tries to keep hold of, passes away and is replaced by something else, which in turn also passes away. In principle then, nothing of Eternity can be found in this world. Everything changes. Nothing is permanent.

“This world” i.e., the Material World, or the Seven Days of Creation, comprises a duality. One half we call the Physical World is visible, dense, tangible; the other half popularly called “the hereafter” is tenuous, ethereal and more or less invisible.

The Human System alternates between the visible and invisible spheres. At “death” in the visible sphere, the physical body decomposes and its elements remain in the physical sphere, and the Human System is “born” in the Hereafter. In due time it “dies” in the Hereafter, the elements composing the invisible bodies disintegrate likewise, and the Self is “born” in the visible realm once again, and the cycle continues.

The “Hereafter” which man enters at “death” are the invisible regions of ***this*** world, the “hereafter” is ***not*** the “Kingdom of God.” The ***Kingdom of God*** exists beyond the boundary of the Circular Course.

The material realms (visible and invisible) are subject to impermanence and change. The Kingdom of God is not subject to change in the same way.

The Holy Language reminds us: “My Kingdom is not of ***this*** world.” “Flesh and blood (physical elements) cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.” etc..

Man’s task is to free himself from the wheel of birth & rebirth in this world, and return to the Eternal Home, on the basis of the Spark of God within him, which is his ***True Self***.

The Human System is composed of congeries of bodies: Physical, Etheric, Astral and Mental. The Physical is the most dense and the Mental is the most tenuous. Our True Self is not of the Material World, it sojourns in the Material Realms encapsulated in the material vestments we call “bodies”, “vehicles”, “garments” etc.

Man, for the most part, ***is lived***. He acts automatically, unconsciously, instinctively. Although he possesses a degree of free-will, he does not possess the total freedom he longs for. In general, man does not know what he really is. Nor does he know how he is composed and constituted. Nor does he know his true condition. He is even unaware of his lack of real freedom.

Thinking, feeling, desiring and willing always precede action, and the ***result*** of such action always instigates the will to new activity via the thoughts and feelings. Generally, we are not aware of this in ourselves, but the feelings and desires are, without exception, the stimuli that give rise to thinking. After thinking, one harnesses one’s will to translate into action what has been thought and desired.

This “unconscious” way of thinking and acting results in man’s confinement in a circular course. Thus, he vacillates between the visible and invisible halves of this world, unable to enter the Eternal Home.

Brothers & Sisters: Do you begin to see the problem?

The unconscious, automatic, instinctive way of thinking, feeling and willing results in a cycle which is the circular course of life in this world through which man is kept tightly bound to this earth, and jailed in the Circular Prison, unable to enter the Kingdom of God.

In order to commence his journey out of the Forest of Errors, the would-be Aspirant must possess Self-knowledge. “Man, know thyself” is one of the oldest requirements for attaining universal knowledge. To attain to Self-knowledge, it is necessary to see through:

1. our own being,
2. the world in which we exist,
3. our situation in the world, and
4. the fundamental causes of the darkness, sorrow, misery and ignorance in which we find ourselves.

We must endeavor to dwell on the second level of consciousness, whereby we cease to live automatically. Instead, we must become conscious of the way we are thinking and acting and aware of the consequences thereof. We must subjugate the egotistical self and stop misusing the powers at our disposal in I-centeredness for arbitrary earth-centered and vain-glorious purposes. We must go back to an attitude of life which corresponds to the question: “Lord what will you have me do?”

My loved ones, it is my sincere hope the information we are able to share with you will encourage you and give you the keys you need to unlock the gates that open unto the Perfect Day.

May the Peace that passeth all human understanding abide with you.

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ESSAY As a Man Thinketh

From the very beginning of his sojourn on earth, man has been a restless, curious, questioning being. He has pondered the mystery of the stars above him and the world around him. Like David of old, he has asked the question of himself and of life: “What is man?”

Witness the gradual progress of the mind of a little baby, and you see a miracle. What is the golden ladder on which the baby climbs out of mere consciousness into intelligence? Curiosity! As the child grows and matures it is confronted with a factor that comes into conflict with the innate spirit of curiosity: laziness and mental lethargy. Some people climb a little way up that ladder and then are satisfied. They would not open a new book or stretch their minds in wonder at what lies even beyond the next desk above them, to say nothing of what lies beyond the stars or what lies within themselves. Ceasing to be curious, they cease to grow as persons. They begin to gravitate to a religious philosophy that provides them with a comfortable creed to accept and a religious life that is all worked out.

It’s a great day in a man’s life when he truly begins to discover himself. History is full of the acts of

men who discovered something of their capacities. But history has yet to record the man who fully discovered all that he might have been. As Emerson said, "Man is an inlet and may become an outlet for all there is in God."

Our lives and affairs are completely influenced and shaped by the character of our thoughts. Man is not limited by God's will or by heredity or environment or by fate or circumstance, but by his own dominant state of mind. As Shakespeare voices through one of his characters: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in the stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." The Unity writer, Imelda Shanklin, wrote: "Your mind is your world. Your thoughts are the tools with which you carve your life story on the substance of the Universe. When you rule your mind you rule your world. When you choose your thoughts you choose results. Your life is what you think: Think straight, and life will become straight for you."

Do you find this to be a startling idea? You might say, "But this is some strange notion of psychology or metaphysics. How do I know it is the truth? If thought is so important, why doesn't the Bible teach the power of constructive thinking?" That's just the point! The Bible teaches nothing else. It is not until we catch this underlying theme that the Bible begins to make sense.

Throughout the entire Old Testament, through the teaching of the prophets and the beauty of the Psalms, we find the intimation of that which Proverbs expresses tersely: "As [man] thinketh in himself, so is he." Through parable and direct teaching, Jesus stresses the importance of thought. "Whatsoever ye sow (in thought), that shall ye also reap [in your affairs]." Jesus realized that the mind is the bridge between man and the Infinite, and that, even more than fervency and feeling in religion, man's thought is the important element. He said: "A man's enemies are of his own household (the thoughts of his own mind)." And Paul gave the *raison d'être* of all religion when he said: "Be ye not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

All too many of us think that being possessed by any thought that chances to come along is unavoidable. It may be a matter of regret that we have been awake all night worrying about some problem in our lives, but we tell about it as if it were something over which we had no control. We have yet to discover that we have the power to determine whether or not we are going to be kept awake, whether or not we are going to worry. We may not realize it, but we worry because we make the decision that this is the way we determine to face our problem. Always, there is a choice. "Choose ye this day whom you will serve."

Man is a thinking being. The very word "man" comes from the Sanskrit word which literally means "to think." Through thinking, he has the great possibility of knowing God and expressing the wisdom of Divine Mind. Thought can make man great. Wrongly used, thought can make man weak and ineffective. There is no substitute for good, creative, positive thinking.

It is the absence of positive thinking that is at the root of the dilemma of the religious person: "Why should a good person suffer so?" You may support your church, keep its holy days, and give assent to all of its theology. But this is not enough. The truly spiritual person lets "that same mind that was in Christ Jesus be in [him]." He thinks in tune with God in the same positive and constructive way that Jesus did. The purpose of religion should not be to convert someone to a particular creed, but to help him to be "transformed by the renewing of [his] mind."

The best possible method of thought training is prayer. Yet prayer is the most misunderstood facet of religion. Prayer is thought of as intrinsically invariable. It is often a plea to a superman sort of God somewhere off in the skies. It is usually a wordy and emotional plea to God to have mercy, along with a reminder that He is supposed to be omnipotent. In many cases, prayer is simply a form of ritual to be followed - that which usually involves outer practice and ceremony rather than inner feeling and sincerity.

When we think of God as Spirit, and man as the expression of God, then we can understand what Jesus meant when He said: “The Father knoweth what things ye have need of even before ye ask.” Prayer, then, is not for God at all. It is for us. Startling as it may sound, it really doesn’t make any difference to God whether or not you pray, but it makes a lot of difference to you! Prayer is not a matter of conquering God’s reluctance, but of attuning yourself to His eternal willingness.

One thing is certain: When we pray, we do not stop thinking. The mind is the connecting link between man and God. If prayer is anything, it is high-level, creative thinking. And all the powers of heaven and earth cannot help us unless they help us to change or control our thought. Change the direction of your thought, and you will change your experience!

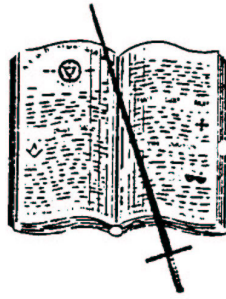
I stress the prayer of affirmation. This is not begging or asking, but claiming and accepting; it is not “I want,” “I wish,” “I hope,” or “I desire,” but “***I am***”; it is not “help me,” “guide me,” “heal me,” “prosper me,” but “*I am* now helped and guided and healed and prospered!” The prophet Joel once declared: “Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’” This is the secret of affirmative prayer. If there is a need, instead of dwelling in the thought on the need, claim the Truth; speak the word. All that you need or desire is already yours in the kingdom of your inner potential. Jesus said: “It is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

The entire new insight in Truth that we are outlining might well be summed up under the headings of “prayer” and “right thinking.” This is quite a discipline. Jesus said: “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” This implies the discipline of ***knowing*** the Truth and not just ***knowing about it***.

Many have thought of Jesus’ life as providing a means of being “saved” for all time through joining a church. Actually, there is no final salvation. It is a day-by-day process of discipline of thought and action. Every time you meet life with a positive thought, you are “saved” from the inevitable effect of negative thought. There is no intermediary between God and you but your mind. There is no way into the kingdom of a happy, healthy, and prosperous life except through disciplined effort.

Our new insight presents many workable techniques, but we must forewarn you — they require faithful and disciplined practice. Attending lectures and reading essays will not create for you that good golfer. How much time should one spend on the “practice of the presence of God”? All the intangible thing called “consciousness” any more than reading a book about golf will make you a time! We can’t help thinking, and our thoughts are constantly influencing our lives for good or ill. So you might as well learn to think right, and right thinking is prayer. Become a positive thinker, and “pray without ceasing.”

THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MARTINIST STUDIES



Dear Apprentice:

A few months ago you affiliated with our College and it has been our privilege to have you travel with us through Plane One. If you have inculcated the Work there, you should be very well aware that each person, endowed with a free will, is responsible for his own destiny. . . and that what is popularly called “good luck” and “bad luck” is simply the fruition of the seeds we have planted, **consciously** or **unconsciously**, for as it has been pointed out, the earth will grow what ever seed it receives, it does not differentiate between the plants we call “weeds” and those we call “fruit trees” or “garden shrubs” etc. .

You also have an insight into the techniques of visualization and mental creation, the spiritual constitution of Man and the Universe, dreams ... and many other mystical and practical principles which, **if you will utilize the knowledge**, will enable you to do what the profane regards as “miracles”.

It is necessary for me to call your attention to a very significant matter. I wish I could be sitting and chatting with you in person about this, because it is of the greatest importance. **All spiritual work has to do with the raising of one’s consciousness, of becoming MORE AWARE of yourself, and this means not only of your personality and character traits, but also of your “inner” self as well. YOU WILL FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT, IN FACT ... ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ... TO MAINTAIN ANY LEVEL OF UPLIFTED CONSCIOUSNESS UNLESS YOU PARTICIPATE DAILY IN SPIRITUAL OPERATIONS . . .** such as in prayer, meditation, studying these Libers, reflection, retrospection Exercise #1, etc. etc.. The amount of time you devote to this work can be minimal, fifteen minutes is fine, but be sure you devote it **EVERYDAY**. *Give a little of your time to yourself!!!* Tell the family you want to be alone for a short period and ask that you not **BE** disturbed. Take the phone off the hook! Get the realization that this work, (which you are doing for **yourself**) is every bit as important as all the other things you do: like eating, drinking, exercise, sleep

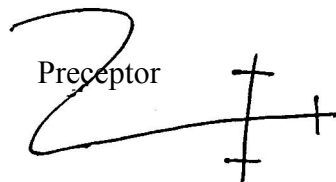
And remember too: the daily listening to proper music, and by this I mean, quiet music of the classical or sacred type, vocal or instrumental ... goes hand in hand with the above.

There is another important point that I wish to emphasize as well: It is demonstrated scientifically through applied kinesiology that the practices previously outlined **POSITIVELY DO** strengthen the Life Force in the body, resulting in better health and well being on all levels. I take the trouble of mentioning this because, although there are a great

number of people on the spiritual path, many of them, in spite of their salutary experiences ... still have a lingering shadow in the back of their mind that perhaps it may all be superstition or hocus pocus. Let me assure you, dear Apprentice, (if it is necessary) that the teachings and techniques being shared with you in these Libers, which have been utilized and employed by our mystic brethren for thousands of years, are now in therapeutic use in hospitals, prisons, rehabilitation centers and clinics and are in daily use by taxi drivers, university professors, members of the medical profession, businessmen, "preachers" ... and in fact by all people in all walks of life. The principles work ... if you work them!

Your further progress now lies in your hands. As interesting and useful as the Work you have received has been, it is, nonetheless, only introductory. You are like a bird that has broken out of its shell, and is standing poised on a branch ... waiting to soar into the sky. It is my distinct pleasure to issue you an invitation to continue with us on Plane Two, which contains 12 Libers, to be sent you over eight months. You will find this invitation on the following page, kindly detach it and return it to me, following the directions carefully. I look forward to welcoming you there.

Sincerely yours in the Work
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MARTINIST STUDIES

Preceptor 

**OUTLINE OF LIBER 10
Special Summary Lecture**

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