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New Lamps for Old

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(Condensed form a lecture given largely to Theosophical groups and especially revised for A.R.E. Members)

My friends, we are here today to discuss progressive living—of what it consists and what some of the new lamps are that light the paths to its achievement. Certainly, advancement in our evolutionary progress is something we all want; but how to go about obtaining it depends upon our understanding of what we are supposed to do with our present sojourn on the earth-planet, and how to accomplish its purpose through a conscious use of the ways and means put at our disposal by our Creative Principle, which we call God.

Our interpretation of effectual living depends on just where we are on the path of soul-development. To those dwelling completely in material consciousness effectual living means physical health, plenty of money, and personal power. To the more enlightened or more highly evolved a successful life is the one that fulfills the purpose of the incarnation in which we find ourselves—consciously advancing our own spiritual development and holding high the lamp of what knowledge and understanding we have gained thus far, to light the path for others.

We are living today in times of great import. These days are referred to in the third verse of the 24th Chapter of

Matthew as "the end of the world" or, as recorded in the alternate translation in the revised version, "the consummation of an age." In fact, the word *world* is nowhere used in the original manuscript of the Bible, nor did Jesus or His disciples ever speak of the "end of the world"; but of the "end of an age."

Before taking a look at some of the new Lamps the past half century has lighted, I think it might be well to define the consummation of an age. This is the conclusion of the period of years the sun takes to pass from one sign of the Zodiac to another. The Zodiac is that belt of the heavens through which the *apparent* path of the sun passes, having its point of commencement in the Vernal Equinox. It is divided into twelve equal portions of thirty degrees each, corresponding loosely to the twelve constellations, the totality of which represents the series of Life Principles; commencing with Aries the symbol of creation, and terminating with Pisces, the principle of decay and dissolution. The Zodiac, then, in its correct Interpretation and understandings is a collective symbol of Life Processes.

Let us bear this in mind as we consider the fact that the Piscean Age or Cycle ended some fifty years ago when we entered the Zodiacal sign of Aquarius. Aquarius is referred to as "The

Water Bearer", symbolized by a man holding an inverted vase from which he is pouring healing waters over the earth. Please note the word *healing* for we are going to find some remarkable demonstrations of this astrological characteristic a little later on.

The sign Pisces, which me but recently left, symbolizes death as the great Resolvent; followed by Aries symbol of the Resurrection to a new life, a higher vibration freed of many Piscean limitations. Despite its limiting influence, Pisces is a sign of service. It is a water sign and it represents mercy, charity and compassion. The Piscean Age was the inevitable Cycle for the reincarnation of Jesus of Nazareth, as the entire history of His ministry, crucifixion and resurrection indicates; for Pisces germinates the seed that is brought to flower by Aries, the April sign of resurrection into new life.

In Aries, a fire sign, we have the commencement of the series of Life Principles which reach fruition in Aquarius, the last of the Air Signs. In Pisces, the water sign, we mastered that element. In Aquarius, the Air Sign, we have started our conquest of the air and are pressing forward to the mastery of space - one of the exciting greater freedoms promised by the Aquarian Age.

The outpouring of the healing water, symbolizing the Aquarian Principle, is falling on fallow soil; for this New Age into which we already have a good start is governed by the Zodiacal sign most capable of feeding the desperate hunger of humanity - for greater understanding of man's destiny and greater knowledge of how to collaborate with the Hierarchies in bringing about its achievement. For Aquarius also represents the cooperative idea. It stands for Universal

Brotherhood and a new concept of love; for Universal Intelligence, movement and culture in the final idea of *association*. Not only has the Aquarian Age produced and developed man's freedom in the air, aided science in numerous ways to free us from 3 dimensional limitations, but in so doing has greatly changed the thinking of the world.

The writers of scripture and the Wise Men of all Eastern countries were well versed in the science of Astrology and the symbolic value of the Zodiac. They recognized God as omnipotent throughout His Universe, and the planetary relationship and influence in the lives of all peoples throughout our whole solar system. To them, an astrological chart and its delineation opened a vital path to the purpose and fulfillment of the earth experience.

The horoscope is a map of the heavens indicating the positions of the planets at the moment of birth, It is symbolic; and correctly interpreted reveals the many forces that make an individual what he is, gives indications of the purpose of his present incarnation and how to fulfill that purpose.

The symbol is the oldest form of written expression and, in its basic origin, can be interpreted by all peoples, regardless of age, creed or color. The Ancients traced in the Heavens certain figures of constellations and ascribed to them characteristics and influences that they discovered to be closely associated with life on this planet. The outer circle, or wheel, of the horoscope indicates the limitations of physical life. The Cross which cuts the circle signifies the struggles of an earth life. The signs of the Zodiac which surround the wheel represent the influences from the Hierarchies who seek to bring about the development and evolution of our re-

incarnated ego. To us in this Western world, astrology is of less importance than it is to the Oriental because, in our inadequate knowledge of the science, it is a lamp we have hid under the bushel of ignorance.

Now let's take a look at what has actually transpired in the way of freedom from 3-dimensional boundaries under the influence of the Aquarian Age. The most phenomenal of these lies in the field of psychical reattach. In the early days of American history, people found possessing extra-sensory perception were burned as witches. Today such people are welcomed as guinea pigs in parapsychology laboratories, where distinguished scientists are making tremendous strides in a field they hitherto scorned. This is the field of our hidden powers and potentialities generally referred to as psychic phenomena. The word psychic is defined in the American College Dictionary as "of or pertaining to the human soul or mind; mental as opposed to physical; pertaining to extra-sensory mental functioning such as clairvoyance and telepathy; exerted by or proceeding from a non-physical agency."

While our ability to function is beyond the reaches of the five physical senses has always existed. In some degree, it has increased within the last decade to such an extent that people possessing extrasensory perception no longer hide their light under a bushel for fear of meeting incredulity and ridicule. Although a couple of centuries wiped out such violent demonstrations of ignorance and intolerance as witch-burning; it has only been since we entered the Aquarian Age that mental telepathy, clairvoyance, clairaudience and psychokinesis (the power of mind over matter) have crawled out of the

shadow of superstition into some degree of real light and understanding.

Scientific research and experiment on this fascinating front, begun by Dr. Joe B. Rhine at Duke University, in 1930, who lit a bright new lamp which has wrought radical changes in our thinking and greatly altered the popular concepts of man's latent powers and possibilities. Investigation of these, as members know, is one of the main objects of the A.R.E.

Dr Rhine's far-reaching experiments and findings are supported by numerous other distinguished scientists, some of whom have gone far beyond him. Among the latter is Dr. Ian Stevenson, Head of the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry at the University of Virginia. Dr. Stevenson has conducted many experiments dealing with the frontiers of the mind and has written numerous revealing articles covering his findings and excoriating "Scientists with Half Closed Minds." That is the title of a most courageous article published under his by-line by Harper's Magazine in November of 1958. Speaking of such scientists, he wrote: "A surprise number are scared to death of new ideas. They have attacked man for discoveries without even glancing at the evidence. And their distrust of unconventional experiments may now be hampering scientific progress." Who but a sincere pioneer would have the courage thus to spank his conferees?

But Dr. Stevenson has done much more than encourage other scientists to follow his example. He has gone outside mere extra sensory investigation. In the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, for May 1960 and the following July, Dr. Stevenson's winning essay of the contest in honor of William James was published in two

installments. The title of this exhaustive research and investigation is "The Evidence for Survival from Claimed Memories of Former Incarnations," giving not only a review of all the data he had accumulated but also an analysis of same, with suggestions for further investigation.

In the course of his investigations, Dr. Stevenson made a long study of the "readings" of Edgar Cayce and, more recently, of Peggy Birdsong, from the Akashic Records. These records tell the story of the human race as we have evolved through successive reincarnations. It is contact with them that furnishes mankind the most conclusive proof of consecutive re-embodiment until the soul reaches a point in its development where it no longer craves to don the rags of personality for material expression of thought, emotion and action.

There is ever increasing documentary evidence to substantiate the conviction of two-thirds of the human race, that akasha is a vital ether charged with every thought form which has ever existed. Since all life is primarily the thought-structure of Cosmic Mind, its highest form (generically called man) starts his *differentiated* record on the sensitized plate of the ether the instant he is projected from Undifferentiated Mind, or God. Thus man becomes "The Expressed image of God" as the Bible puts it, or *God in Expression* but endowed with free will to utilize his descent into matter to further his evolution, if he has the wisdom and understanding to do so. If he neglects to profit by his unique earth opportunity, he must continue to go through the process of birth and death on a material plane until his lessons are learned and he thus graduates from the necessity.

This process we call reincarnation, and the history of each entity's countless lives is impressed on the radioactive ether, leaving an indelible record into which it is quite possible to tune.

Since we entered the Aquarian Age, proof of this has been established in many directions, largely through gifted psychics in a trance state induced by hypnotism. Dr. Stevenson is in fact, the first and only distinguished leader in psychiatry and medicine (as far as I know) who has had the temerity to argue the case for survival of death through the evidence gained from claimed memories of former incarnations, *without benefit of hypnotism or trance*.

In his introduction to the second part of his published essay, Dr. Stevenson writes: "Part One of this essay provided an analysis of various kinds of data adduced as evidence of reincarnation and hence of survival. The major portion of this part consists of a summary of 44 cases of claimed memories of former incarnations in which it was possible to identify the apparently remembered person, and to show that the facts allegedly remembered matched in six or more items the corresponding facts of the life of the deceased person."

One of the cases cited is that of a Japanese boy called Katsugoro. When about 8 years old, he stated that he had been called Tozo in a preceding life a few years earlier. He claimed to have been the son of a farmer called Kyubei and his wife Shidzu; and to have lived in a village called Hodokubo. He stated that his father had died and his mother had then married a man called Hanshiro; that he himself, Tozo, had died of smallpox at the age of six, a year after his father had died. He gave details of his burial and described the appearance

of his former parents and their house.

Katsugoro was eventually taken to the village he named, and the persons he named were found or identified as having lived there. In the village, he led the way (unaccompanied by anyone from the village) to his former home; pointed to a shop and a tree which he said had not been there before, and this was proved true. Altogether, Katsugoro's statements provided 16 items correctly matched with the verified facts. Responsible witnesses made numerous affidavits about the facts in this case. The children grandmother accompanied him to the village of Hodokubo and testified to his statements about the house and its surroundings.

Although the majority of the cases investigated by Dr. Stevenson were those of children, many were of adults. Take that of Laura Raynoud, for instance. Dr. Stevenson wrote: "The percipient in this case was a French medium who reportedly possessed definite clairvoyant powers which she exhibited from time to time to the satisfaction of Dr. Gaston Durville with whom she worked as an assistant in the early years of this century. Madame Raynoud claimed to have experienced from childhood vivid but partial recollections of a former life in which she lived on a country estate in a sunny climate, She said she had been wealthy but consumptive, and died young. She possessed a peculiarly clear Image of the house in which she claimed to have lived.

"On a trip to Northern Italy (her first) when she was 45 years old Madame Raynoud believed she recognized the countryside between Turin and Genoa, She provided a friend in Genoa with a full description of the house she claimed to recall. He tentatively identified it as a house with

which he was familiar in the area, and they went to it. However, Madame Raynoud stated that this was not the house in question which was, she believed, not far off. They followed her directions until they came to a house exactly answering her description. After this, she added further recollections of the previous life She said: 'I am sure that I was not buried, like the generality, in the cemetery. My body rests in the church.'

"Inquiries regarding the family to whom the house belonged uncovered records of the deaths of its members. Among these records occurred one of which the following is a translation (Family names being omitted):

"23d October, 1809, the Lady Jean S widow of B who lived for a number of years in her house in Albaro, for a long time an invalid, and whose state of health was aggravated during her last days by a severe chill. Died on the 21st instant, fortified by the sacraments of the Church, and now, with our permission in writing and with the authorization of the Mayor, also in writing, her body has been removed privately and buried in the Church of Notre Dame du Mont." Signatures of the officials concerned followed this statement.

Of this case, Dr. Stevenson commented: "The description of the lady in question, the conditions under which she lived, the circumstances of her illness and death, and also the approximate date, correspond accurately with the recollections of Madame R. with regard to her past life."

None of the memories of past incarnations investigated by Dr. Stevenson were induced by hypnotism or reported in a trance state. All of the percipients recalled their past lives in a physical body while in a normal state of

consciousness The fact that so many of the cases investigated were those of children would indicate that memories of the past are easier for them because they are nearer to them Dr. Stevenson deplores the incredulity of parents which too often blocks the development of the hidden powers and potentialities of children.

Some of you may have heard Robert Huffman and Irene Specht report their experience in a nation-wide talk a couple of years ago. Mr. Huffman told of regressing Mrs. Specht - when in an hypnotic trance - back to an experience *between* earth lives. This sojourn she called a "Heavenly Recess", where her uninterrupted consciousness declared itself as "I am I"; explaining that it was the "God part of her" or what we understand as soul. From this God-level she gave the world an amazing message of selfless love, as well as valuable information concerning the true nature of man and his evolutionary processes.

While the Huffman-Specht age regression was achieved through hypnotism, the purpose of the revelation was to establish the stupendous fact that *we are God in expression* or as their book "Many Wonderful Things" states it: "God has placed a part of Himself in you." That is God's witness of Himself and is as eternal as He is.

All the bright new lamps I have briefly discussed have been lighted by Aquarius, the New Age in which we will be functioning for the next 26,000 years; that being the length of time our whole solar system requires to revolve 360 degrees through the twelve signs of the Zodiac.

Keeping largely to the expansion of our spiritual horizons - since that is the main concern of our present incarnation - we find many beautiful

manifestations of the 'healing waters' Aquarius is pouring over the earth. One such center of healing is that conducted by Dr. Alfred Price, Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Dr. Price not only holds healing services in his own diocese but has similar ones in Washington, D. C. at St. John's Episcopal Church on the first Sunday in every month. In September, 1960, he conducted the Fifth International Conference on Spiritual Healing in Philadelphia; introducing prominent psychiatrists, religionists and lecturers on numerous related subjects. Dr. Price also held healing services with remarkable results at the A.R.E. Summer School at Virginia Beach last Summer.

I rarely speak along these lines without mentioning an Aquarian statement by the late Thomas Edison shortly before his death. He said: "Spiritual power is the greatest undeveloped power, and has the greatest future." Through it, he predicted, 'miracles will be done.' And the power to which he referred is that of love.

Without love, which is the Law of Attraction, the universe would inevitably fall to pieces. There would be no order, no cohesion. There would simply be utter and unimaginable chaos. Hence Jesus, the greatest of all Teachers said: "God is Love"; not as a mere poetical expression as it is so often interpreted, but as the most concise way of expressing an undeniable, philosophical and scientific truth.

What Jesus meant and what Mr. Edison referred to as spiritual power - is entirely spiritual and far removed from the human emotions we erroneously call love. In human relationships, many *demands* are made in the name of love many dominations and shackles are imposed. To none of these did Jesus of

Nazareth refer; but to that selfless and Christly relationship which we do sometimes find: which can enable us honestly and truly to "love enemies" and "pray for those who despitefully use" us. It gives all and asks nothing. It is not restricted to family and friends but embraces the universe. Those who achieve it are so near the door of their Fathers House that they can see its open portals and hear the welcoming voice.

The cultivation of this incomparable spiritual power which "has the greatest future" and will "perform miracles" is the purpose of our

schooling in the earth life. Its cultivation is the most perfect collaboration we can give the Hierarchies in forwarding our own spiritual progress and the spiritual awakening of a world in which we are all of one substance. This sort of love is the bulwark of character and the guiding light on the human path, in this Aquarian Age.

In conclusion let me quote most of a poem by Louise Cook Hovanian which beautifully and forcefully describes the evolution of the human concept of love toward the Godlike love we wish to achieved Here it is:

Teach Me To Love

There was a time when in my daily prayer
I asked for all the things I deemed most fair
And necessary to my life - success, Riches,
of course, and ease and happiness;
A host of friends, a home without alloy;
A primrose path of luxury and joy,
Social distinction, and enough of fame
To leave behind a well-remembered name.

Ambition ruled my life, I longed to do
Great things, that all my little world might view
And whisper, "Wonderful!"

Ah, patient God,.
How blind we are, until Thy shepherds rod
Of tender chastening gently leads us on
To better things! Today I have but one
Petition, Lord—Teach me to love.
Indeed It is my greatest and my only need.

Teach me to love, not those who first love me,
But all the world, with that rare purifier
Of broad, outreaching thought which bears no trace
Or earthly taint, but holds in its embrace
Humanity, and only seems to see
The good in all, reflected, Lord, from Thee.

Ah Love divine, how empty was that prayer
Of other days!
That which was once so fair—

Those flimsy baubles which the world calls joys
Are nothing to me now but broken toys, .
Outlived, outgrown. I thank Thee that I know
Time much desired dreams of long ago,
Like butterflies, have had their summers day
Of brief enchantment and have gone.
I pray For better things.

Thou knowest, God above, one desire now—
Teach me to love.

—Louise Cook Hovanian.

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