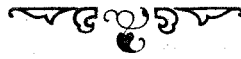


The Crucifixion



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We ask you to consider with us the last moments of Jesus' physical life and the last words He spoke on the cross.

While this was the crucifixion of our Saviour's mortal body, yet those who know realize that it was far more than that. Jesus came here not only to fulfill a prophecy, but to perform a mission and to be an example for all humanity to follow—to portray an ideal and at the same time be the way-shower for all who are able to follow Him. And you must not forget that He knew from the beginning what the ending would be, knew that He would be crucified and yet He willingly and fearlessly gave Himself to His enemies.

To the world it seems the supreme sacrifice. And it was that, but in a different way from what the world understands. For if He is our Exemplar and Way-Shower then that means we and all men must go the way He went—even unto the crucifixion of our mortal selves.

But the world does not comprehend that, and could not believe it. It is only those who become His true disciples that understand, and they gladly go on to the end, even as He went, actually offering themselves to be crucified. For do they not know that self must be utterly destroyed; that it and it alone prevents the coming forth of the living Christ from the tomb of the mortal body?

Not let us go back to the cross. It is stated that Jesus' last words were, "*It is finished*," and then "*He gave up the ghost*." These, His words, and the ones following, are so significant that we want you to understand fully their hidden meaning.

Remember, Jesus being our Exemplar and Way-Shower, His life is the life we, His followers, must live. And we have shown how the Christ must be born in our souls; must grow and thrive there and bring the outer Jesus part of us to maturity, which part must be taught by the "Wise Men of the East" in preparation for our baptism in the Jordan, when the Holy Ghost, instead of descending on us as a dove, will actually as the Christ come forth from within us and take possession of our human personalities. From then on, He, the Christ of us, begins His mission of preaching and of calling to Him and teaching His disciples, but teaching chiefly His "beloved son," our human minds—which we will now liken to Jesus' human self with its mortal body (and which you must remember was what was crucified). For think you that Christ, the Son of God, Jesus' Higher Self, was not always guiding and teaching Jesus—even as your Higher Self He is ever guiding and teaching you?

The only difference between Him and us is that Jesus almost from His birth knew His Father in Heaven—His Higher Self—as God Himself, and sought always to obey Him; and as a result He was always able to receive direct from His Father's Consciousness whatever He needed to know, to have and to do. But with us there has been so much to unlearn and get rid of first, and in many of

us the birth of the Christ does not take place until maturity or later, and then there is so much teaching and preparation before He can get us ready for His use.

But this will give you an idea of what is going on and how it will gradually lead us to the crucifixion of self—the release from the sense of separation, the culmination and goal of the Christ Life on earth.

This brings us again to Jesus' words, "*It is finished*." If you who have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Christ is now in possession (we know there are very few of such), and even if you who are aware of Him in your hearts, can conceive of the many weary steps there are yet to take, carrying the cross of self, climbing the hill of Golgotha, and then being nailed on that cross, where you must suffer all that Jesus did, you can partially realize the agony of pain that Jesus endured.

For the consciousness of the flesh makes up the consciousness of the soul, yet Jesus' soul endured willingly, gladly, because He knew that so long as there was left in His human mind any consciousness that could feel pain or suffering, it was still separate in consciousness from its Higher Self, His Christ Consciousness, and was not ready for release and had not reached the goal of Oneness. Therefore, when Jesus said, "*It is finished*," He knew His human mind had finally conquered, and it then "gave up the ghost."

In other words, His mind fully realized that the body was an illusion, that the world without was an illusion, and they could hurt or hold its consciousness no longer; for it now knew it was pure Spirit, was conscious of its Divine Nature, of being always in the Consciousness of Divine Mind; it remembered then perfectly Whose mind it was and of What it was a part, even as the Christ of Jesus always knew. And if you will always remember that the Christ was the Higher Self of Jesus, even as the Christ within you—the Comforter—is your Higher Self, it will make plain many things in Jesus' life and His sayings that otherwise are impossible to understand.

When Jesus' mind had actually freed itself from its sense of separation and its consciousness was fully one with its Christ Consciousness, then you can see there could no longer be any consciousness of a physical body, anything to feel pain and anything to die. So it was but natural in the morning when they came to get His body, there was none there—it had dissolved and had disappeared from sight. For when we no longer hold in our consciousness a picture belief of a physical body, and know such to be a false concept of our real body, which is pure Spirit, that picture of a physical body will disappear from our minds, which means from manifestation.

Remember the law: "Whatever we think and hold in our consciousness as being so, outmanifests itself;" and the obverse that when we stop believing a thing to be true and thus no longer feed it and keep it alive, it will disappear from our consciousness and consequently

from physical expression; for it can then no longer exist. For all is consciousness, and what is no longer in consciousness naturally just is not.

So that when Jesus was finally able altogether to transcend the torture and agony as well as the mental effects of His bodily suffering, thus releasing His consciousness from it all, He knew He had conquered the "Great Illusion" of separateness—had given up the "ghost" of that belief, and of course then there was no longer a separate outer body—its **existence was "finished"**—there was now only His invisible and immortal soul body left.

But through the conquering and mastering of His body consciousness thus by His mind, He did not "die," but **consciously** transcended His body consciousness, entering the higher vibration of His soul consciousness, apparently leaving His physical body behind. And because of His leaving none of His consciousness in the body, there was no longer any life force to hold it together; so it just dissolved into the mental and etheric substance from which it had been created.

The fact that He thus mastered the **idea** of a physical body, wresting from it all power over His mind, indeed concluded or "finished" all need of a physical form. For His mind now being master of the **idea**, He could always by merely thinking and feeling himself again in a physical body cause the body to become visible, and He could thus manifest Himself in it at will, or He could dissolve it in His consciousness and it would instantly disappear. Why would that result? Because by transferring completely His center of consciousness from the idea of His physical body to the idea of His soul body, or vice versa, **seeing** and **feeling** Himself in either, He would be in either, as He wished; and on whatever plane of consciousness He was He would of course be visible to those on that plane.

For remember where His consciousness was, there He was; for His Consciousness is His soul, and He could now be conscious of being in His soul body or in His physical body at will, being fully master of the body idea. In other words, by focusing His thought upon either, He thus entered the consciousness either of the idea of His soul body or of His physical body, thereby raising or lowering His consciousness to the vibration of either, and becoming one with and therefore being in that body in which He wished to manifest, even as we have shown you is possible in the last few Papers.

This explains how Jesus was able to appear and disappear in the midst of His disciples before His ascension in His glorified body.

What do we mean by mastering an idea? Suppose you want to appear before a friend in New York and to deliver to him a message. That is an idea. If you could first see yourself standing in front of your friend, and then could **feel** yourself there delivering to him your message, clearly seeing him hearing and receiving your words, you will catch our meaning. For just to the extent that you are fully conscious of being there, having left behind all sense of everything else, will you have **mastered** that idea, and your friend, if psychic, will actually see you and hear you speak the words; or if he is at all sensitive he will feel or get the strong impression of your presence and of the words, almost as if he heard them.

Remember, everything is consciousness. You are an idea in consciousness. The above is an idea in consciousness. Every idea that is, is in consciousness. But there

are many different planes of expression in consciousness, each having its own rate of vibration or wave length, and everything on a particular plane being visible to all else there, when contacted.

But every idea has also its own individual vibration and all you have to do to contact any particular idea is to tune into its vibration and in a way you instantly become one with that idea. When Jesus conceived the idea of wanting to be with His disciples, He simply entered the consciousness of His old physical body idea; that is, He saw and felt Himself in it among them again, or in other words He tuned into that idea's vibration, and He was there. When He wanted to leave them He just withdrew His consciousness from the idea, and instantly He disappeared and was back again in His soul body on the **soul plane**.

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The spiritual significance of this all is that Jesus' mind had mastered its consciousness so that He could by thinking raise or lower it to whatever plane He wished, in order to connect up with the consciousness of any particular idea on that plane. By thus connecting up with an idea He became one with its consciousness and could either enter the idea and express through it or could receive from the idea anything about it He wished to know.

Remember the idea of a thing is the soul of that thing, as taught in "*The Impersonal Life*;" and the soul of anything is the consciousness which animates and constitutes its nature. Therefore when you master an idea, you master its consciousness, and thus can compel it to serve you in any way you will.

And of course as disciples and followers of Jesus, intending to follow Him unto the end, even unto the crucifixion of the mortal self, its burial and the resurrection from the tomb of matter, we must necessarily learn to master perfectly the ideas of self, of separation and of mortal flesh.

Only by studying carefully Jesus' life and teachings and faithfully patterning our lives after His, can we hope to accomplish what He did. But fear not that you cannot accomplish all that He accomplished, for did He not promise that all these things and even greater we would do, now that He has shown us the way? And remember we have within us the same power—that of the Holy Spirit—which enabled Him to meet and conquer in all of His trials and testings. And because He conquered so can we, for He promised also that the Father will enable us to do all things, as we push forward fearlessly trusting Him perfectly at all times and under all circumstances.

You will note that we make a very careful distinction between Jesus and his human mind, and also between Jesus and the Christ, his Higher Self. Until you clearly perceive the reason for and meaning of this distinction, you cannot understand the deep truths we have tried to convey.

It is our **minds** that must be required to do all those things that Jesus did, if we would follow Him. It is our minds that must give up all this sense of self and of separation. It is the Jesus part of us—our souls who know—which must require it, so that our minds of their own free will, will gladly and actually give up their consciousness and unite it with our soul consciousness, which is now one with our Christ Consciousness.

Now see if you can get this: It was the **Christ** who within Jesus was the inspirer and director of all that

Jesus said and did. It was He Who spoke in that highly significant way when saying, "*I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.*" He was the Holy Spirit in Jesus, the Son of God.

It was the **soul** of Jesus that was the vehicle or abiding place of the Christ Spirit, making Him the purified man whom the world saw and knew as Jesus, and whom Jesus Himself called the Son of **Man**.

And then there was the **mind** of Jesus, which had been so perfectly trained and disciplined and consequently so cleansed and purified of self that there resulted a perfect co-operation of its consciousness with that of the soul, permitting the Christ within to do the Father's will on earth even as in Heaven, and thereby manifesting in Jesus' human personality the perfect "image and likeness" of the Father which He had created in the beginning.

But the Christ, Jesus, and the human mind and personality were really one, for they were but the consciousness of God manifesting now freely for the first time through a perfected channel containing no limitations whatever. The crucifixion was but the final and conclusive proof for all the world to see and recognize that God's Spirit had visited the earth in all the fullness of Its Splendor in human form, and had left with us Its Light until the end of time which would light the way for all of God's children so that they could know how to return to Him, even as Jesus had returned.

In the above, hidden beneath the words, are given some very definite and vital instructions. Those of you who are ready will perceive them and will strive to prove them, and will thus become prepared and enabled to go through the crucifixion when you are "betrayed" by the Judas faculty of your nature. But remember that that very Judas faculty is employed by the Christ of you to deliver self over to your Initiators.

What follows will prove if you have fully attained the mastery of mind over matter, thereby enabling it to rise out of its "ghost" (the illusion of separateness) into its true consciousness, and become one with Jesus and all your Brothers in Spirit—a **risen** Christ.

THE SOUL LIFE OF A DISCIPLE

Here is another illuminating letter from our friend of the "Garden of the Soul."

Dear Friends:

"It is truly glorious to know that we as our Higher Selves are Sons of God, having descended to earth willingly and gladly under Christ's leadership to do our work of redemption. What a joy! In my realization of this I am so conscious of having taken possession of my soul—of being my Higher and Real Self, living in God's consciousness, where we are all so happy, where we have no desire for anything, for we have and are everything—all. I do not seem to be conscious of seeing a thing that is in manifestation; rather I seem to know I am the manifestation as well as the manifestor—or am as God Himself, and of course I just have and am everything—eternally.

"To look at my outer conditions would seem to deny this great truth, but I'm not abiding in the outer appearances; they cannot touch me—I'm a Son of God, abiding in my real home in a consciousness of perfect peace where there is no inharmony, disease, lack or limitation. These do not exist there, nor do they exist anywhere. For all that is, is God.

"Would there were words that could describe my garden now. I wish every one could share it with me.

It could not be recognized as the same garden I described to you some months ago. It is a thousand times lovelier than the loveliest garden you've ever seen in the outer world; the flowers, so superbly perfect and beautiful, radiating love and trust as they happily give of their heavenly perfume! Won't you come into my garden? All ye that are weary and heavy laden—won't you come? There is peace here, and God's voice can easily be heard—maybe through the rustle of the leaves. Listen! It might be through the rippling of the brook, or when yon robin speaks to you. Look! The flowers give you nods of greeting, welcoming you into God's dwelling place. You are welcome—everyone. Won't you come in and abide in Me?

"I shall be glad to relate my meeting with you on the soul plane that I mentioned in my last letter. I was walking with several women; I do not know where we were going, but we were laughing and chatting quite happily. In the distance we saw a small group of men coming towards us. We knew they were from a very high plane because of the light they radiated. We commented on that and were quite eager to meet them. When we met, quite naturally we all spoke. Then you stepped up to me and began talking. It might seem odd that I knew you instantly, but it wasn't to me then. It was the most natural thing in the world that we knew each other—we are like that on the soul plane.

"You talked with me about things in the Papers that were not quite clear to me, and you did it without my asking a single question—you just seemed to know. As we were talking the others went on their way. When we finished we very casually did likewise. It was most helpful to me and I deemed it a privilege to talk with a Brother from such a high plane.

"Since then, however, a group of us from the earth plane (and I believe we are all students of the Sun Papers) have assembled many times in a temple-like building, and are being taught as well as being given very definite instructions about our work. You are one of the Teachers or Brothers of Light who are instructing us.

"I was quite familiar with parts of the last Paper before it was sent me, and was surprised when I read it to find it what had been taught in the Temple on the soul plane. I am very grateful to know all this; it is so helpful.

"This is how I 'got it': First I became conscious of being on a higher plane and in this Temple; then, I was conscious of only a few souls there. Later, however, I saw all the crowd of us. Presently I knew I was being taught some wonderful truths, though at first I knew not what they were; then I became conscious of you Brothers teaching us. The vibrations were wonderful, like soft music; then little by little that part of your Paper on 'Bringing the Kingdom down to earth' unfolded to me. It was marvelous having received it first from there.

"There is such a difference in being taught from the soul plane than being taught on the material plane. Everything there is truth and we feel so at one with everything that is being said, and oh, everything is so different; there we know, while here we are hampered learners, struggling with ignorance. So naturally when I read it all in the Paper I was very happy to know I had already received the instructions.

"Regarding the Paper previous to this one and that article on 'Vibrations,' well, an entirely different group or kind of Brothers taught that. Such power they had!

They were Oriental looking, yet they were advanced souls. They just seemed strange to me because they were different from the ones I am used to contacting. What they taught is becoming very clear and practical to me. They were marvelous souls."

In our reply to her we told her she had truly entered the Kingdom consciousness and had learned of its wonderful reality; that all in the without is pure illusion and exists only in the "separate" mortal mind as distorted concepts of such reality.

The beautiful appearance of her "garden" was because of the kind and loving thoughts, words and acts she had been sowing for so long and which had now grown and thrived under her loving care until all were in full bloom.

You must remember she sees these things in broad daylight—not in sleep and not strictly as visions; for she is actually conscious of living on the soul plane and the physical plane simultaneously—that is, while going about her daily activities she sees with her inner eyes another world of activity in the soul realm that is not separate from but is intimately related to her life and its problems in the outer world.

The meeting on the soul plane that she described was most interesting and was not at all improbable, for you must realize that our real life is in the soul realm and that the physical is but a sorry reflection of the perfect life there of all disciples of Christ. So what was more natural than that there should be such a meeting and discussing of the truths that are the most important things in our life there, even as here—that and the spreading of those truths and the teaching of them to our younger brothers.

What is also more natural than that all earnest students of the Sun Papers should meet regularly on the soul plane and receive the teachings there before they come to them on the outer plane? Remember all things take place first in the inner planes of being before they manifest on the outer; which accounts for the prophetic dreams and visions coming to many people before the things seen actually happen in the outer. It also accounts for many of our students writing us that somehow they seemed to have gotten what was in the Papers before they arrived, or that the deep truths they contained seemed not to be new when read the first time.

The explanation of our knowing each other, although neither had previously seen the other in the physical, is that we have had much correspondence, and long ago had learned to know each others' vibrations. And as on the soul plane one unconsciously puts one's soul vibrations into everything one gives out or expresses and cannot hide them, it is but natural that our souls had long since learned to know each other and had become well acquainted; even if her brain mind had never registered the fact of a previous meeting such as she was this time permitted to see.

Try to realize that you are always engaged in your true vocation on the soul plane, and if a student's chief thought is to find the Kingdom, then he is ever helped by Brothers of Light to find it, and goes to the schools where all he is capable of receiving is taught him. This is the case on all the different planes of consciousness of the soul realms, even as it is in the physical world. For as all the different grades in our public schools, colleges and universities represent and are intended to teach those on different planes of consciousness, so is it in the soul realms, although there each plane is apart and separate, as if in a different city or country.

On the lower planes there are always Brothers of Light from the higher planes teaching and helping those seeking the light; and then in whatever vocation one is engaged—in the soul realms all seem to be ideal vocations, what one is doing in the physical being but an imperfect and sadly limited reflection of such vocation—one is doing his work happily and contentedly, because of the fancied ideal conditions surrounding him. For you must remember deep down in the soul of every worker on the physical plane there is the desire to be able to do all things perfectly, and the longing to have the perfect conditions exist which somehow he knows should be. It is so because, according to his degree of unfoldment, on whatever soul plane he is, he is there doing it perfectly as he conceives it, and in what he considers ideal conditions; and the soul is ever trying to prepare and develop the human mind so that it—the soul or real man—can bring forth into perfect expression man's real work and in such ideal conditions as are possible on the physical plane.

Try to realize that on the soul planes a soul is limited in his comprehension in the same degree as he is on the physical plane, for the human mind is but an outer extension of the soul's consciousness; but the comprehension pertains to and is concerned with what is expressing on the particular soul plane. There it is perfect, according to the degree of spiritual unfoldment of the consciousness of that plane, but the outer is a distorted reflection of such necessarily limited "perfection."

Let us illustrate. As a child your estimate of certain things being ideal and perfect, as held before you went to school, would be greatly changed after you had been in school a few years and had gained wider knowledge of those and other things. Again high school knowledge would change your ideas about many of the things you admired and longed for when younger. And many of you remember how as a senior in college you looked down upon your freshman ideas and ideals.

Thus would your ideals be ever changing, expanding and unfolding, and at each stage of spiritual growth would you gradually advance in your soul life to a higher plane of consciousness; for always on that plane would there be an ideal that would lead you on to the attainment of the perfection glimpsed. And so on to the highest soul plane—the first realm of the Kingdom.

This highest soul plane, the plane of truly perfect forms, where the highest ideals are out-pictured in forms of superlative beauty, quality and perfection, is therefore called the causal plane, and it is the first stage of out-manifestation in which a sense of separation in consciousness is felt. For here the mind first builds its mental pictures as outer expressions of the ideas perceived in its Spiritual or Christ Consciousness in its effort to understand and enjoy more fully those ideas. You might say that the causal plane is the **manifest** plane of the Kingdom or Christ Consciousness; while the **unmanifest** planes are those higher realms of consciousness where only pure ideas exist and there is no need for forms or pictures.

More will be given about the inner planes of being and especially the Kingdom in later Papers, for it is our desire that our students become so acquainted with their soul home in the inner world that when the great change comes it will be a natural and easy transference of their centers of consciousness. In fact we hope to enable many to enter the consciousness of the real world at will before the change takes place.