



WHITHER MAN?

An article by Norman Gregor,
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The purpose of this article is to suggest to intelligent men and women that there is a plan and purpose behind the turmoil of world events, the knowledge of which should do away with much pessimism and give purpose and direction to many lives at present lived without either.

This brief survey cannot attempt to cover the whole expanse of what is a vast philosophy; the most it can do is to pick out in staccato form certain fundamentals and guideposts so that those who wish can make their own deeper investigations.

Let every man remember that the destiny of mankind is incomparable; and that his own dignity, his nobility as a human being, emerges from his own efforts to liberate himself from his bondage and to obey his deepest aspirations.

Human Destiny, by Lecomte du Nouy

WHITHER MAN?

By **NORMAN GREGOR**

It is natural that many thinkers take a somewhat gloomy view of life and its seeming purposelessness, and ask whether pain, hunger, strife, anxiety, suffering and want are all that life has to offer. Has life no better object, no higher goal? Is man only a pawn? Will peace, goodwill and loving kindness never be his lot? Does God really exist? If so, is He a God of Love and has He a plan for us? What is that plan? How can we know something about it? These are some of the questions in the minds of harassed humanity today.

Recorded history takes us back a mere 6,000 years or so, representing only a tiny page in the full history of mankind. But there *is* an answer to this planetary riddle for those who will take the trouble to search for it. It is to be found in what is called the Wisdom Teaching presented by the torch-bearers of Truth throughout the ages (other names include, the Ageless Wisdom, and it is sometimes called, the Perennial Philosophy).

The subject is vast, consequently it is only possible to give here a very broad outline leaving the reader who is sufficiently interested to make his own investigation. This is a search well worth making, for when we understand the reasons behind the outer world events, we are in a much better position to play our part in bringing in a new and better age; the frustrations, sufferings and difficulties of life become a great deal easier to bear and are recognized as opportunities for growth.

Man's Mental Progress

If man has demonstrated any progress at all during the past centuries, it has been more obvious in physical plane living. Outwardly at least it seems that humanity has transferred its allegiance from faith in Spirit to faith in the material universe, and has increasingly given the impression of self-sufficiency. Mankind has allowed most spiritual values to be swamped by the ever rising tide of materialism. In other words, man has lost his true purpose and forgotten that, as Arnold Toynbee puts it, "Man's goal is to seek communion with the presence behind the phenomena, and to seek it with the aim of bringing his self into harmony with the absolute spiritual reality. A human self cannot be brought into harmony with Absolute Reality unless it can get rid of its innate self-centeredness."

Omar Bradley expressed it this way: "We have too many men of science, too few men of God. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom and power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living." (And he was a general...).

For centuries, man with the aid of the telescope, microscope, and other scientific apparatus, has made remarkable discoveries in the world of matter and energy. Now there are signs from many quarters that people are beginning to feel that in this world of physical manifestation there is some vitalizing force, some coherent purpose which cannot be accounted for in terms of matter alone. For example, Sir James Jeans, a physicist, in his book "Physics and Philosophy" says; "The accumulative evidence of various pieces of probable reasoning makes it seem more and more likely that reality is better described as *mental* than as material." He

goes on to suggest that our consciousnesses, which in time and space are separate individual existences, are in a deeper reality beyond time and space all members of one body. This agrees with the wisdom teachings that matter represents only one part of life, the part however with which scientists have been occupied for so long. Let us call their findings *objective knowledge*.

The Dualities of Life

All through life we are faced with dualities, or pairs of opposites. Our very existence is poised as it were between them. There are night and day, love and hate, heat and cold, male and female, plus and minus, good and evil, visible and invisible, noise and silence. These can be repeated indefinitely. But the all-embracing duality is Spirit-Matter which constitutes the two opposite polarities of the one Divinity.

The world of matter has been fairly well explored, while the realm of spirit has been neglected; yet as the universe is subject to the law of balance, as exemplified by the dualities, it seems reasonable that what can be done in one sphere can be done in another. A vast realm of knowledge therefore lies open to us if we will but turn our attention to it. This is the world of *subjective* or *inner knowledge*.

It should be made clear at this point that this article is not advocating any special "ism." Certain aspects of the Wisdom Teaching (by no means all) have been taught by schools of thought for generations and the subject is daily receiving more and more attention from thinking people the world over.

We have to realize that there is no hard and fast dividing line between the dualities, for, just as there are degrees of night and day, heat and cold, and no one can say where one stops and the other begins, so the Teaching emphasizes that

- (1) all is one unbroken line of knowledge from science to religion in its highest sense
- (2) matter is the lowest manifestation or expression of Spirit, and Spirit is the highest manifestation or expression of matter
- (3) consciousness, in infinitely varying degrees, pervades the whole.

The East has much to say about this vast inner knowledge. In fact, it has as much to say on this *inner* side of life as we Occidentals have to say on the *objective* side. In this we have another example of the dualities: the West, with its practical materialism, believing in nothing that it cannot see, touch or prove, and the East, with an outlook almost completely the opposite, so that its very language has been built around the abstract.

It is into this realm of Inner Knowledge that this article attempts to go. It is hoped that it will become apparent to the student as he delves deeper into the subject that the spiritual or super-physical world is the realm of CAUSES, that the outer objective world is the world of EFFECTS, and that the two are inextricably bound together. In fact we live in both worlds simultaneously. Only by understanding the *laws* governing both, and therefore the laws governing life as a whole, can we begin to understand the meaning of present day events.

The Inner Knowledge

The *inner* knowledge has preceded modern *objective* science by a very long time. It has been handed down, enriched by new facets presented through the ages, and only now is it being realized that this teaching holds within it a key to the Scheme and Purpose of Life. As a result, schools under various names, but teaching fundamentally the same thing, are springing up all

over the world and giving spiritual food to many who have been unable to find it in the orthodox presentations, whether scientific or religious.

Whilst the thinking capacity of man has grown considerably, his understanding has not kept pace. Let us try, then, to put something of this inner knowledge, this understanding, into simple language, and demonstrate that mankind is not following a haphazard, uncharted course; rather, there is a plan for Humanity lying behind and working out through the outer conflicts of the world.

The following are just some of the laws that can serve us as guideposts to the Divine Plan underlying creation:

(1) The Law of Synthesis	The unifying law of all the One Life
(2) The Law of Evolution	This law points to a progressive unfoldment of latent divine potentialities throughout all nature
(3) The Law of Cause and Effect	Called by some the Law of Karma, by others the Law of Perfect Adjustment. “Every action sets up an opposite reaction.” “Whatever you sow, that you reap” are examples.
(4) The Law of Periodicity	An inherent law of progressive development, it includes the Law of Rebirth. Man, the Soul, in the process of evolutionary perfection, pursues the method of reincarnation through periodical physical birth and human experience
(5) The Law of Harmony through Conflict	Implies the way that progressive attainment of perfection comes about through struggle
(6) The Law of Analogy or of Correspondence	An interpretive law which helps to explain the Universe to man and indicates man's place and purpose within it
(7) The Law of Sacrifice	This points to how each grade of life sacrifices itself to the one above it "He that findeth his life shall lose it and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." Matthew 39:10

1. The Law of Synthesis

(The Unifying Law of all Life.)

This Law teaches that there is an underlying unity of the vast variety of forms we see in life around us. Every unit, large or small, visible or invisible, is an integral part of the whole. In other words, all things exist as one. The Soul and Spirit of creation, including man, are as much a part of the Whole of Life as is the physical.

In the process of creative evolution, the ONE became differentiated into the myriad diverse forms of life seen on this planet. All these forms of life are evolving towards a vast unimaginably glorious WHOLE – towards awareness of the Unity which we call God.

2. The Law of Evolution

(Unfoldment of latent divine potentialities throughout nature.)

This Law refers not merely to evolution as understood by the biological scientists, but to evolution in the widest possible sense of the word; namely, the unfolding of the latent divine potentialities within all kingdoms or departments of nature - mineral, vegetable, animal, human (the physical, emotional, mental aspects) and the superhuman realms. The Wisdom Teaching, however, lays particular stress upon the unfolding of the divine potentialities in Man.

The evolutionary process concerns every aspect of life, not only the kingdoms of nature referred to above (from an atom to God), but *every* form of manifestation, whether it be the arts, the social systems, or the economic systems in which Man finds himself immersed and through which he expresses himself and grows.

The question immediately arises, what is it that is evolving? The answer is *consciousness*, whether it be ‘consciousness’ within a chemical atom, human ‘atom’ (man) or a group of men. As consciousness evolves, so with it evolves the form or body through which it manifests or expresses itself. This applies as much to groups of individuals as it does to each one of us, or to animals and plants.

It is difficult to relate ‘consciousness’ to anything not human, such as metal, but that is only because we think of consciousness in animals, plants and minerals in terms of our own ideas and feelings about them.

Fundamentally, consciousness can be said to be ability for “response to stimuli”; to *outer* stimuli only in the case of little evolved man, and *both outer and "inner" stimuli* in more evolved man.

In considering ‘consciousness’ in relation to the lower kingdoms (mineral, vegetable and animal), one first sees it *as attraction and repulsion*.

The mineral evidences the faculty of ‘choice’ when, for example, one atom of chlorine ‘chooses’ one atom of sodium in combining to make sodium chloride or common salt.

The vegetable evidences the added quality of *sensation or feeling*.

In the animal kingdom there is the added quality of *instinct or embryonic mind*. This is seen in the elephant, dog, horse, cat and monkey.

Finally, in Man, developed ‘mind’ appears (though by no means fully developed as yet), demonstrating as *intelligent self-consciousness and embryonic intuition*, one of the principal qualities of the higher self or the soul. These degrees of consciousness have been expressed picturesquely in the following words:

"God sleeps in the mineral, Dreams in the vegetable, Stirs in the animal, and Awakes in Man."

It will be appreciated that vast intervals of time existed during the evolutionary process between the development of ‘consciousness’ of the atom and that of man. The process will be continued on and upward until man becomes a God, for man is a potential God.

From the standpoint of man, the evolution of consciousness can best be described as a perpetual dawning, an ever growing awareness of wider horizons which have literally no limits. For example, as man progresses, that awareness will very likely embrace a state of being of which we have no conception today because our receptivity and sensitivity are still relatively primitive. Yet there are people today who can record happenings over long distances. In other cases this increased awareness registers as telepathy, clairvoyance and clairaudience, though these faculties in the early stages are often very unreliable and misinterpreted. Our present level of consciousness would not have been thought possible to our very early ancestors.

It can be said that consciousness is the highway to immortality, and there is no escape from it. Life *is* the manifestation of gradual growth in consciousness, which amounts to continuous recognition of ever wider horizons leading to new fields of experience, eventually penetrating deeper and deeper into the world of spiritual realities - the *subjective* world of meaning, causes and purpose.

3. The Law of Cause and Effect

(Called by some The Law of Karma, by others the Law of Perfect Adjustment. "Whatever you sow, that shall you reap.")

This profoundly important law is closely bound up with the Law of Rebirth. It is perhaps the simplest of all to understand, for everybody knows that every action (cause) has its own reaction (effect). According to this teaching, every *thought* as well as every action is like a boomerang which goes out into the Universe as CAUSE and returns to the sender at some later date (perhaps even in another life) in the form of an EFFECT. As we go through each day we are building up, through our thinking and our acting, a chain of causes with their consequent effects. Some of the effects will be good and some will be bad as a result of either unselfish or selfish motive and action. It is easy, therefore, to understand that we have only one enemy in the world, namely ourselves, and that *it is ourselves that we are encountering day by day* through the reactions met with in our environment. Each time we are re-born here we bring with us a 'balance sheet' showing certain debits and credits, which have to be adjusted during that life. We owe to some. Others owe to us. As the days go by we find these adjustments being made, and we find ourselves placed nearest to those we owe the most or who are most indebted to us, so that the adjustments can be made.

It is important not only to understand this Law, but to work with it so that we shall at all times endeavor to set in motion *good* CAUSES. It is the *motive* behind our thoughts and acts which is the deciding factor in producing good or had *effects*. It is possible to 'generate good karma' – that is, to produce good effects, by understanding this law. It is not only about retribution for harmful thoughts and actions.

In fact it is this law which can be thought of as the mind of God *lovingly* guiding us towards ultimate expression of the best in us.

4. The Law of Periodicity

There is an eternal Law of Rebirth - a cyclic, never varying law in nature. The idea of reincarnation is sometimes disliked by people because they have a wrong idea of it. Some confuse reincarnation with transmigration, which teaches that a person can be reborn at a future time as an animal. This is absurd, if we believe that man is progressing. Also, many people are under the impression that, having died, they will immediately be reborn and have to

start undergoing again all those things which they so heartily dislike. That again is a misconception of the Ageless Wisdom teaching about this.

In order to understand the Law of Reincarnation it is necessary to realize two fundamental points:

- (1) From the larger standpoint, life on the physical plane is only part of life as a whole. Man does not wholly belong here; his true home is on the inner, higher, spiritual planes. This physical plane is purely and simply a school of experience, even if at times a hard one, through which each of us has to journey at intervals in order to undergo a further unfoldment of the divine potentialities latent within us. Only in this way can we build into ourselves the great human qualities, our only permanent assets. It is only as man acts inhumanly that he goes wrong and delays his progress.
- (2) Our circumstances, the length of time we spend here, and the periods between our reappearance on this outer sphere will, generally speaking, depend upon our stage in evolutionary growth; in other words, on how far we have progressed; i.e., where we stand upon the ladder of evolution.

Once people realize that this is a hard school of experience and that each life here represents 'one day' in that school, the idea of reincarnation takes on a very different meaning. Furthermore, when it is realized that we have only been 'lent,' so to speak, to a race or a nation for a period of years for the sake of the particular experience that environment can offer, one is less inclined to look at world problems from the selfish nationalistic or separatist racial viewpoint.

One often hears it said, "If reincarnation is a fact, why is it not part of the Christian doctrine?" Reincarnation was the belief of the early Christian Church and was only made "anathema" about the year 553 A.D. In the East, the idea of reincarnation is so widely accepted that nobody bothers to discuss it. To Easterners it is as certain as the sun rising in the morning. Similarly, at the time of Christ, the same viewpoint prevailed, and there are several instances in the Gospels showing that belief, for example:

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am? And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist; some Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets." (Matthew XVI: 13, 14)

"His disciples asked Him, saying, Why then say the Scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, that Elias is come already, and they knew him not . . . Then the disciples understood that He spake unto them of John the Baptist." (Matthew XVII: 10-13)

"Now Herod . . . was perplexed because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead; and of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again." (Luke IX: 7, 8).

Some people say, "If reincarnation is a fact, why is it we cannot remember our former lives?" There are several answers to this question. Perhaps one of the soundest is that although we may have much good to our credit, most of us would be unable to endure a vivid memory of some of the misdeeds we committed in the dim past. Our natures, rendered more sensitive as a result of evolutionary development since that time, would probably react in such a way that we would become psychological wrecks through years of such thoughts preying on our minds. Our progress would, in consequence, be greatly hindered. It seems more than probable that this is one of the reasons why a kindly Providence has temporarily drawn a veil over the past.

There are three further arguments which support the idea of reincarnation:

- (a) How could there be any justice in the Universe without it? Would it be fair, for example, for one person to live in comfort and riches whilst another is dogged all his life by poverty, bad health (perhaps being even crippled or blinded) and experiences one disaster after another?
- (b) How can the genius, the great artist, be explained except through this doctrine? If you read the stories of the great, in nine cases out of ten you will find that genius, in whatever form it took, began to appear early in life - sometimes at the age of 3 or 4, and that the parents, as often as not, exhibited no such tendencies. This supports the teaching that ability is the result of the *stored* experience of former lives of endeavor.
- (c) If this world is a 'school of experience' for the building up of all the human qualities in each of us, how can one life in time and space of about "three score years and ten" accomplish this?

We are here in this world for the purpose of building into ourselves qualities, capacities and faculties. These are the only things which we can take away with us at the end of each life cycle.

In short then, we return to earth experience at intervals to undergo an intensive course of training in the building of character and capacity and each time we return here we bring with us the sum total of our past experiences stored as latent faculty. Through contact with matter and life's daily problems and experiences, we gradually distill wisdom into the permanent part of our being, building in more qualities and so growing in stature.

Alice A. Bailey, a well-known writer on such subjects said:

"The immortality of the human soul and the innate ability of the spiritual inner man to work out his own salvation under the Law of Rebirth, in response to the Law of Cause and Effect, are the underlying factors governing all human conflict and all human aspiration. These two laws no man can evade. They condition him at all times until he has achieved the desired and the designed perfection and can manifest on earth as a rightly functioning Son of God."

and-

"We have to learn to bring the magical power of the Soul to bear on our daily living."

5. The Law of Harmony Through Conflict

(The means by which we progress and attain knowledge.)

At first sight this may seem a surprising law and yet, if it did not exist, how could each of us grow? The consciousness of man grows through tension, crisis, struggle and achievement; in short, *by overcoming*.

The kindest and wisest people in this world are usually those who had to strive and struggle. They suffered much and in their striving they delved deep into the hard school of experience, developing, as they did so, the latent faculties in each of them, including the greatest faculty of all - that of thought (mind). When this development of the mind is paralleled by a loving heart and wide compassion they are forging the tool which will later carry them on to conscious immortality.

If we could suddenly have thrust upon us everything we wanted, life would soon lose its savor and most of us would become lazy and indolent. Unless we were exceptional characters we should deteriorate.

Although conflict is for man *a spiritual necessity*, this does not imply that conflict must always be expressed by men in physical terms. As man progresses he will war only in the realm of ideas and cease to express his differences in physical combat.

In his early stages man is controlled by the needs of his physical body. At later stages in his growth he develops strong emotions and these become the governing factor in his life. Much later on things of the mind begins to come to the fore, and the two lower aspects of his being assume less importance to him.

Then a new element enters into the arena, his Soul, which, as far as he has been concerned, has been largely dormant up to this time. When the Soul begins to make its presence felt, a man becomes acutely conscious of the dualities – certainly of right and wrong, because the Soul is inclusive or group-conscious. Here he enters a ‘field of conflict.’ There arises internally a series of conflicts of values, for example,

- between short term goals and long term goals,
- between the good of the individual and the good of the larger whole or group,
- between immediate gratification for self-pleasure and sacrifice of that for greater good or better health in the future,
- between exploitation of nature and being a good steward for its sustainable conservation,
- between the desire to win at competition and the desire for cooperation,
- and many other pairs of opposites.

This is a very uncomfortable stage in the evolutionary growth not only for man, but for humanity as a whole, for at this point he finds himself increasingly a battleground for these opposing forces. He gets no rest until the battle has been won and his Soul has become the dominant factor of his thoughts and his actions, in fact of his life. In other words, until he has become a soul-infused personality. When he has reached this point he is aware of many things he never dreamed of previously; a new realm of knowledge and a new field of experience and of relationships are opened to him and he becomes a powerful factor in the planetary scheme for good.

Through conflict we develop the power of discrimination between right and wrong, the true and the false, the real and the unreal, wise action and unwise action, and once we have become aware of the basic dualism of the manifested world we are free to make our choice from day to day.

On the physical plane among mankind as a whole we see conflict still raging, and through it humanity will awaken to better understanding. It will lead to growth of a universal spirit of goodwill, which is the basis of *right human relations*, and acceptance of the principle of *sharing*.

People everywhere are becoming so weary of conflict - which rages on every level of consciousness – and so aware of its essential wastefulness, that they are beginning to long for right human relations. They are beginning to realize that only by basic changes in outlook can the much desired world peace be obtained and survival be ensured. Alice A. Bailey in one of her books writes:

"As a result of conflict the complete harmonizing of our nature will be brought about, the fusion of Soul and Personality will be consummated. We should see in all world conflicts the needed steps towards an eventual harmony - harmony based on true mental perception and sound idealism. It is the struggle between emotional control and a steadily developing mind control which is conditioning mankind at this time."

The Law of Conflict is bound up with the purpose and meaning of *pain*. We all resent suffering, but if we can get a better understanding of it, suffering will be easier to bear. One writer has expressed the purpose of suffering (the 'uses' of pain) in these words:

"Pain is that upward struggle through matter which lands a man at the Feet of the Logos; pain is the following of the line of the greatest resistance and thereby reaching the summit of the mountain; pain is the smashing of the form and the reaching of the inner fire; pain is the cold of isolation which leads to the warmth of the central sun; pain is the burning in the furnace in order finally to know the coolness of the water of life; pain is the journeying into the far country, resulting in the welcome to the Father's Home; pain is the illusion of the Father's disowning, which drives the prodigal straight to the Father's heart; pain is the cross of utter loss that renders back the riches of the eternal bounty; pain is the whip that drives the struggling builder to carry to utter perfection the building of the Temple.

"The uses of pain are many, and they lead the human soul out of darkness into light, out of bondage into liberation, out of agony into peace. That peace, that light and that liberation, within the ordered harmony of the cosmos are for all the sons of men."

6. *The Law of Correspondence or Analogy*

(The Law which interprets God to Man.)

In the Bible this Law is referred to in the words, "as in heaven so on earth," and in the Eastern philosophies, "as above, so below." These phrases, "as above, so below," "as in the Great, so in the small," indicate a method that can be followed to ascertain Truth. We cannot understand the Macrocosm until we understand ourselves, the microcosm. The ancient philosophers taught that no man could live intelligently who did not have a fundamental knowledge of Nature and her laws and that before man could obey he must understand himself. Some writers express the same idea, saying that man must proceed from "the particular to the universal."

This Law covers all phases of human experience, for evolution proceeds on the laws of analogy in the cosmos as in the formation of the smallest globe. As Science avers, the structure of the atom is *analogous* to the structure of a solar system. Occultism draws the *analogy* between the nucleus of the atom and the soul of man, holding in its 'sphere of influence' the threefold personality.

The evolution of man is *analogous* to that of the universe. His evolution stands between that of the Macrocosm and that of the subhuman kingdoms in nature for which man is, in his turn, the macrocosm.

The first law in nature is unity in diversity; the second is *analogy*.

The Macrocosm and the microcosm are one in their *essential* constitution, evolution and mode of operation, as the law of the macrocosm is likewise the law of the microcosm.

Everything in manifestation can be seen as being *related* to every other thing, and everything can be found to have a *correspondence* to everything else, including on the *inner or subjective* levels also.

7. *The Law of Sacrifice*

(Whereby each grade of life sacrifices itself to those "above" it.)

As with the other Laws, there is a deep esoteric meaning underlying this Law. In this article we are concerned only with the 'sacrifice' of each kingdom in nature (mineral, plant, animal and man) to the one above it. We know that plants and vegetables depend on minerals for their

existence and that they convert minerals into a form more easily assimilated by man. We know also that animals, directly or indirectly, depend upon plant life for their existence.

Man, at his present stage in evolution, takes his nourishment from all the lower kingdoms. It will be seen then that each kingdom is dependent on those below it, but 'serves through sacrifice' those above it. In every case the sacrifice is obligatory; i.e., enforced by natural law.

Man's sacrifice is, however, voluntary because man has a measure of free will. His sacrifice commences only when he reaches a point where he begins to come under the influence of his Soul. It begins with little acts of unselfishness which, after much human experience, lead to a complete dedication of the entire personality life, to that of the Soul. Man then forgets himself entirely in his service to God, which means service to his fellows.

There are many people today who live lives of sacrifice and service to humanity in one form or another, but who would not claim to have any knowledge of the Plan for mankind. They act thus, simply because they are fulfilling the highest urge in their being, the Will of their souls.

The Divine Plan

This Plan is in the custody of the inner Spiritual Government of the planet - those Custodians of the Plan who watch over human evolution and guide the destinies of man.

The world structure *emerges from and is built upon certain inner thought patterns.*

The attentive minds of the age are constantly being made sensitive to those patterns, so that an individual mind here and there can recognize them and wrest them out of the darkness into the light of day. Thus are the true patterns made available and play their part in leading the race towards its destiny, towards those deeper realizations which mould the racial types, and towards that synthesis of understanding which will result in a realization of Brotherhood.

The immediate objectives of the Plan might be stated as:

1. Raising the level of the human consciousness so that intelligent thinking men and women will be in conscious touch with the world of ideas and the realms of intuitive perception. Average men and women will then be led definitely to shift their attention from the world of the emotions in which they have hitherto lived, and will begin to live more in their mental natures and to think more clearly and wisely. They will find their living conditions so ameliorated and wisely ordered that the present state of fear and of intense competitive struggle for existence will be superseded by a real measure of stability and security. A more leisurely life, wisely used, will enable men to unfold their powers - mental and spiritual - normally.
2. The clarifying of the international situation. It is necessary that each nation should realize two things:
 - First, the importance of attending to its own business and its own internal problems which are those of *beautifying* the national life by the production of order, stabilization and, above all, freedom.
 - Second, the prime importance of each nation *realizing its responsibility to all other nations, and the interrelation of all aspects of life in our world.* This realization will bring about a reciprocal interplay in the field of economics, which is the basis of practically all world problems and differences.
3. The growth of the group idea, with a consequent general emphasis upon group good, group understanding, group interrelation and group goodwill. These are the ideals of 'the new group of world servers.' These are those who seek to reveal to humanity the

true and underlying *inner* synthesis, which leads to universal goodwill, enabling a man in any country to identify himself with his brothers and sisters anywhere in the world.

Such is the broad and general idea of the objectives of the divine Plan and the aim of its Custodians.

The Spiritual Hierarchy - Fact or Fiction?

The existence of these Custodians of the Plan, the Elder Brothers of Humanity, has little or no part in Western Christianity, in spite of the continual mention in all the Scriptures of Angels, Archangels and Saints, so it is understandable that mention of them may cause surprise. Yet there are logical reasons why They should exist. Is it sensible to assume that there are *no* grades of intelligence between the Creator of this stupendous Cosmos and the teeming millions of little evolved human beings on this planet? Is man the highest intelligence extant and the next one to God?

Does the Prime Minister of a country, or the Chairman of an industrial corporation, do all the departmental work as well as carry the responsibility for the over-all plan, or does he delegate to highly experienced executives what they can well do? It is surely illogical to imagine that there is no *stratum of intelligent life* between God and Man.

Members of the Hierarchy are really a graded body of skilled spiritual executives who constitute the invisible government of the world. They are the intelligent Forces of the planet expressing, because of Their expanded consciousness, the Mind of God. They are the torch bearers of Truth, the Spiritual Guides of the race, the Illuminati Who work silently behind the scenes in world affairs seeking to find men who can be channels of illumined thought and thus help to guide humanity.

They have trodden the selfsame path as we now tread. They have undergone the same experiences and sufferings and demonstrated the same failings common to all of us. Having conquered by overcoming, They have reached a higher state of consciousness and achieved an inclusive love, which gives Them the power to heal and lift humanity nearer to the destined next step. Intelligent and sincere men and women can fit themselves, through self-discipline, service, meditation and study, for conscious cooperation with these great Exponents of Love-Wisdom and take their place as serving disciples in working out God's Plan.

What Is Happening Today

The Law of Evolution is the principle governing all life and growth. It is the cause of the breaking down which we see going on around us. This breaking down, a modern cycle of which began in 1914, will go on until those things which have been hindering the spiritual progress of man have been removed and the ground is ready for building the new structure (the social, educational, religious, and economic systems) through which man will, in time to come, express himself and progress.

This has been well expressed in the following words:

"Present day conditions are in truth nothing but a cosmic housecleaning, necessary for remodeling the home of Mankind in order that he may function more adequately during this Aquarian Age in which he is to realize, in deeds as well as in ideals, what up to the present era has been wishful thinking – true Brotherhood, with all that Brotherhood entails. And so the habitat of "homo sapiens" is now undergoing the tearing down process in order that the remodeling may proceed. How long this process will take depends on Man himself."

The main objects behind the world-wide human distress can be summed up under the following seven headings:

1. The freeing of man from those things to which he has been consciously or unconsciously bound, whether they be his possessions, his habits, or his fixed ideas.
2. The forcing of his mental equipment to deeper thinking on life generally, a matter to which he probably gave little attention hitherto, his life having been one of acceptance of things as they are.
3. The breaking down of cherished outworn ideas, outgrown creeds, outdated traditions-economic, political and cultural.
4. A general stimulation towards improved forms of service, and greater sacrifice for the good of all (which is the basis of right living for all of us without exception).
5. A general hastening of the Divine Plan of Evolution, brought by a quickening of man's consciousness.
6. The rebuilding of all aspects of life more in line with man's spiritual *need* so that the life of the race will be allowed freer and better spiritual expression through expansion in all spheres, as against the largely material progress which has characterized human life to date.
7. The living awakened spirit of man demands a new external world pattern through which to express itself.

This concludes what is a sketchy outline of the causes underlying the events of today. No attempt has been made to touch on the techniques or the practical side of the Wisdom Teaching, such as, for example, the great Science of Meditation. These are matters which are fully dealt with in many of the books listed at the end. It is hoped, however, that enough has been said, not only to encourage readers to work on behalf of suffering mankind, but also to implant within them new hope and encouragement, and the determination to undertake that spiritual self-discipline which will fit them for cooperation with the Hierarchy, functioning under its great Leader, the Christ.

The Great Invocation

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.

Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God

Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.

May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known

Let purpose guide the little wills of men -

The purpose which the Master knows and serves.

From the centre which we call the race of men

Let the Plan of Love and Light work out
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

RECOMMENDED READING

Jacob's Ladder *Michal I. Eastcott*
The Silent Path *Michal I. Eastcott*
The Glorious Presence; Secret Doctrine Digest, and other titles *Ernest W. Wood*
The Secret Path; The Quest of the Overself; and other titles *Paul Brunton*
From Intellect to Intuition; Initiation, Human and Solar; The Reappearance of the Christ;
A Treatise on White Magic; Esoteric Psychology Vols. I & II: Telepathy and the
Ethereic Vehicle; Esoteric Healing; Glamour, a World Problem; The Problems of
Humanity; The Externalization of the Hierarchy; and other titles *Alice A. Bailey*
An Outline of Modern Occultism; and other titles *Cyril Scott*
The Finding of the Third Eye; and other titles *Vera Stanley Alder*
Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception *Max Heindel*
Buddhism *Christmas Humphries*
A Study in Consciousness; and other titles *A. Besant*
Knowledge of the Higher Worlds; and other titles *Rudolf Steiner*
Raja Yoga *Swami Vivekananda*
Training for the Life of the Spirit; and other titles *Gerald Heard*
Man the Unknown *Alexis Carrel*
Modern Man in Search of His Soul *C. G. Jung*
The Secret of the Golden Flower – *transl. by Richard Wilhelm – Commentary by C. G. Jung*
The Ways and Power of Love *P. A. Sorokin*
The Mature Mind; and other titles *Harry Overstreet*
Man in Evolution *G. de Purucker*
The Imprisoned Splendor *Raynor C. Johnson*
The Golden Hoard *Francis Merchant*
Journeys on the Razor-Edged Path *Simons Roof*

Novels Along Similar Lines:

Winged Pharaoh; and other titles *Joan Grant*
The Initiate; and other titles *Cyril Scott*
Life Marches On *Magor & Woods*
OM.; Jimgrim; Old Ugly Face; and other titles *Talbot Mundy*

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