

Is Life Just?  
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Subject this morning: "Is Life Just?" "Is Life Just?"

Course this subject deals with the Law of Karma, the law of action. In asking this question, we simply inquire about the Law of Karma. Karma means action. That is all. And the law of action, the Law of Karma, must operate as we dwell in this Cosmic Dream Consciousness. As I raise my hand, it is bound to fall, according to law, after I remove the cause that lifted it. And so, the same law operates in the Astral Plane and on the Causal Plane, because desire is behind the operation of that law. I raise my hand because there's a desire there to raise it. And so, realize that, whenever you utilize a desire, a cause is laid up, and the effect must follow. You cannot escape it.

Understand, that as long as you are in this Cosmic Dream Consciousness, there's a little catch there, and the catch is a good thing for us. Because, although the law is bound to operate, whatever causes we have laid up in the past, or in the early part of this life, those effects will take place. But, if we supersede this Cosmic Dream Consciousness, and know the One Eternal Presence of God's Consciousness within us, that Law of Karma does not operate there.

And so you can see, to outwit karma we must be able, at will, to supersede this worldly consciousness, and know the Consciousness of the One Father – His Presence within us. The law will operate here, but when you are safe in His Presence, it cannot touch you; it cannot reach you, because it does not operate in the Unity of God's Consciousness. It operates in duality – cause and effect – and the duality is in this worldly consciousness.

So, do not be afraid of karma at all. Do not be afraid of it. Why should you be? In a moment, you can supersede the action of karma and be safe and peaceful in the Bliss of God; body, or no body; health, or no health; money, or no money. You are God's child, and in His Presence there is no fruit of action, fruit of the Law of Karma. So we should remember that and not be afraid. People are always saying, "I wonder what karma's laid up for me?" Or, something happens, "Oh, a little bad karma." How about the good karma you have? How 'bout the fact you're sitting here in the Presence of God and receiving His

Blessings? Isn't that a good karma? We forget those things. We must not always think that karma is on the side of bad. It is not, it works both ways.

Now, in this life, this life gives us daily examples of injustices and paradoxes. There's no question about that. And we wonder, "Where is God?" "What is He doing?" "What is He sleeping, forgetting us?" No. We do not see the whole of life. That's the trouble. For instance, many go to jail, many go to prison for crimes they did not commit. These are facts, we must realize them. And also, good people struggle and they do not seem to be able to make ends meet; or they do good in the world, and nobody seems to recognize it. They do not receive credit – not in this world – but they do receive credit, without question of a doubt. The law is exact. And you can realize if you have a little faith in God to your satisfaction, that "God is not mocked."<sup>1</sup> And whatever you do, the action, the reaction will come. And if it is good, the reaction will be according to your liking. These things must be understood.

And on the other hand, we see dishonest people reaping in lots of money, getting all things, because there's a seemingly injustice there, there's a paradox there. But this is not so, because when we see the whole picture, then we understand that right is right, wrong is wrong, and God is in His Heaven, and He will take care of it. So we ask the question, "Is there no justice, is there no justice?" Yes, there is, but from the standpoint of truth, in this worldly consciousness, there seemingly is no justice. And we can, all of us, point out things, and paradoxes, which prove this point. But from the standpoint of truth, there is absolute justice.

I know Master told us many times, he said, "Welcome truth and you will always find me there with you." Welcome truth. In this worldly living, we see that truth is relegated to the discard. But don't pay attention to that. Welcome truth because truth will last, this other business will not last. It must pass away. These seemingly injustices and paradoxes are not truth. But, when you know truth you can see that the paradoxes and injustices are in the Cosmic Dream Consciousness. And the wonderful thing is, we can get out of it – we can get out of it. Master said, "When things crowd in upon you, close your eyes, lift your consciousness to this point [the Spiritual Eye between the eyebrows], feel the Presence of God, and the injustices do not exist." Now these are facts, but as long as you stay in the Dream Consciousness, and follow desire, and have to

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<sup>1</sup> Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

come back, again and again, you have to put up with that, until, when you've been "thoroughly pummeled," as the Master used to say, you'll turn toward God where we all belong. Truly that's our home. Not here in this consciousness.

And so, Emerson, Emerson puts it nicely. Every time, I get kinda down a little bit, which isn't too often, now, thank goodness – but everybody gets down, ya know, once in awhile – I just read this little passage. Then I take heart, because I know, I know my Father will not let me down; and I know, even though, seemingly, I am abused, or people say things they shouldn't, my Father never says those things, and He will never let me down, and in the end, they'll be gone, and I'll be with Him. Now that is not a selfish motive, it's a necessary motive. What're we gonna do, be pushed around in this world with injustices on every side? Or are we gonna turn toward God, and feel His Love, and let the injustices roll by? We must do that, because we are His children. He wants us to do that. We are made in His Image.

Now Emerson says this following thing: "The world looks like a mathematical equation, which, turn it how you will balances itself." It's gotta balance itself. These things that are done, which are not right in the world, have gotta balance themselves; and they will, because, he goes on to say, and I hope you'll remember this part of the quotation: "Every secret is told, every crime punished, every virtue rewarded, every wrong redressed, in silence and certainty."<sup>2</sup> Now those are the words of truth. Those are the words of God given through the mouth of Emerson, the great Emerson, who thought so much of India, because India represented truth.

Also, in our Bible, we have the same quotation, said in a little different way, from Galatians, 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter the 7<sup>th</sup> Verse. This one you are familiar with, especially if you went to church when you were young, or were driven to church when you were young, and you waited for the Amen, so you could run out and be free again. In Galatians: "...Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."<sup>3</sup> Is there any difference between that and what Emerson said? And then in Ecclesiastes, the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter the 14<sup>th</sup> Verse; this I especially like, because it puts

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<sup>2</sup> "Compensation: An Essay", by Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The world looks like a multiplication-table, or a mathematical equation, which, turn it how you will, balances itself. Take what figure you will, its exact value, nor more nor less, still returns to you. Every secret is told, every crime is punished, every virtue rewarded, every wrong redressed, in silence and certainty."

<sup>3</sup> See Footnote 1

God behind the whole business: "For God shall bring every work unto (sic) judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."<sup>4</sup>

So why, why should we, why should we worry? We worry because we haven't done what we should. We haven't made God our own, and our Loving Father as a reality in our lives, that's all. Karma has to be paid. And when something happens to you which you dislike, just remember, that sometime you laid it up. Perhaps, you did the same to somebody else. What of it? Don't, don't stay in it. Get out of it into God's Presence.

Master used to tell the story of a young man who was innocently standing looking through a fence, through a hole in the fence, and watching what was going on inside. And suddenly, a young, a couple young men, came up and gave him a good kick, ya know, and knocked him over. Well, he, he, he felt badly. So he said, "Lord," he says, "where, where is the justice?" "Here I was innocently looking through the hole in the fence at the ball game, and look what happened to me." "Where is the justice?" But that fellow forgot that in a previous life he did the same thing to somebody else. So he, it was simply cause and effect. He was getting his just due. We mustn't forget that. So that's an illustration of bad karma. Karma must be paid. That is, we call it bad karma, but if you accepted it right it would be good karma, because it would turn you to God where you'd find the answer.

Another little story comes to my mind. I hope I haven't told it before, if I have forgive me, but there was this, this boy was, he went to the uh, Jose his name is. Jose. He went to the ball game. They had one in Los Angeles not long ago. You know, one of those real, real ball games. So he went and he tried to get a seat, there was no seat. So somebody hoisted him up on the pole, on the flagpole, and he saw the game and he was, he said, "Well, I guess my karma's good. And he went home and he was telling them about, "You know those people at the ball game, they're fine, he says. They gave me a seat, they hoisted me up on the flagpole," and there's then he says, "not only that, they all stood up and said, 'Jose, can you see?'" So that was a case of good karma. I'm glad his name, well I lost, that's the heat this morning, isn't it? Jose is Spanish, isn't it? Good his name was Jose.

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<sup>4</sup> Ecclesiastes 12:14, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

So, we've got Jose taken care of, and now some die without justice being done. Some do. We, we read about great men, I was reading about one the other day, who was not recognized until later when he was given the acclaim which was due him. These things happen. They happen, that is injustice seems to remain, because we do not see the whole of existence. We do not see of a, of life. And so, the karma works out and is fulfilled. We find fulfillment either in a future life, or, and I say this hesitantly, in reincarnation. That's a subject I do not like to discuss, because you can really not prove it. But, nevertheless, there are great signs which point to the fact that reincarnation is a fact, and only through that can we account for the certain things that happen in this life, the injustices and the paradoxes, and due to the Law of Karma. If we could see all of life, but we see just a portion of it, but in the future in whatever phase of existence we find ourselves, that effect will be there. The cause has been laid up, the effect will be there, whether it be in a future life in another plane, Astral Plane, or in this plane here where we come back to fulfill our desires and work out our karma, so to speak.

And so, realize if you cannot understand an injustice, that if you could see the whole of life, then you would realize it. If you can know the Presence of God, in which there is no time and space, then you will understand that the karma takes place in this outward consciousness, this Cosmic Dream Consciousness. And so, according to the life, or rather according to the great scriptures, especially the Indian scriptures, we read that man lives on earth many times, and comes again and again, until his karma is worked out. Until those causes he has laid up are worked out. If that Law of Karma is exact on the Physical Plane, it must be exact on every plane, wherever there is desire is the case, and desire motivates action on the Physical Plane, on the Astral Plane, and on the Causal Plane. Only in God's realm do we escape the Law of Karma.

And so, let us understand that even though we have to come back again and again, as Ramakrishna says, "All will be saved." All will be saved because all come out of God's Light and Love, all must eventually go there. But in the meantime the causes we have set up, the reaction must take place. What of it? What of it? We, right this moment, can supersede this worldly consciousness and know the Presence of God within us and be free from the effects of karma. That's why it is so important to follow yoga, meditate regularly, know the Presence of God, as an escape from the laws of this worldly existence. We have broken them, so to speak. We have to pay. Who cares, if you know your Father is with you? Who cares? You won't care a snap when you feel the Love of God flowing through you, you know. Let the karma come. What of it? "I am safe in

Thine Omnipresence, O Father, nothing else matters.” These are facts. That’s why the Lord sends the saints, once in awhile, to show us the way whereby we can escape these laws of God in His Cosmic Dream Consciousness.

A little reference at this time perhaps to substantiate what I have said, from our Master’s Autobiography.<sup>5</sup> He says: “Reincarnational cycles are a more reasonable explanation for the different states of evolution in which mankind is found, than is the common Western theory which assumes that something (consciousness of egoity) came out of nothing, existed with varying degrees of lustihood thirty or ninety years, and then returned to the original void.”<sup>6</sup> That does not strike the right note within our consciousness. But when we see the tendencies of people – the different tendencies, and the inherited tendencies – and such things, we see that there must be a coming back to this place to work those things out. Some people feel differently than others. Some it is easy to be good; some it is quite difficult to be good. Why? Because of those inherent tendencies. And so, we must realize, we must be reasonable, and I’ll try and give you in a few moments some more concrete examples pointing to the validity of the law of reincarnation.

But first, let us say the effects, or talk about the effects of the Law of Karma. When we ask the question, “Is Life Just?,” let us realize that whatever latent inherent tendencies which we have, or habits, must bear fruit. They must bear fruit, because we have laid up the cause. And let us also realize this second thing. That whatever karma we have laid up, or whatever inherited tendencies, or latent tendencies we have, they are due to no one but ourselves. If we can swallow that pill, then the rest will be easy. These are facts.

Whatever latent tendencies you have are the results of some previous cause which you have laid up, and they will be worked out in two ways. They will bear fruit in this life, and you will suffer or enjoy from those fruits; or if you practice – especially Kriya Yoga – you can burn out the seeds of those tendencies before they bear fruit. That is worth considering. Before those seeds have a chance to bear fruit, because we’re made in the Image of God, we can burn out

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<sup>5</sup> Autobiography of a Yogi, by Paramhansa Yogananda, First Edition, (Released 1946, available Free on the Internet).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, Chapter 35, Footnote 3, “Many Biblical passages reveal that the law of reincarnation was understood and accepted. Reincarnational cycles are a more reasonable explanation for the different states of evolution in which mankind is found, than the common Western theory which assumes that something (consciousness of egoity) came out of nothing, existed with varying degrees of lustihood for thirty or ninety years, and then returned to the original void. The inconceivable nature of such a void is a problem to delight the heart of a medieval Schoolman.”

those seeds before they come into the soil of this worldly existence and bear fruit, because in the spine they are located. And by the practice of yoga, especially Kriya Yoga, we can burn those seeds out – they cannot germinate. The Master used to say, “Roasted seeds do not germinate.” So, don’t be discouraged. Don’t think what karma’s laid up. Take right where you are, and go from there, and know God, and find Him. In Him there is no karma. In Him there is justice.

And so, about these tendencies, which we find in people and in ourselves, which we have laid up somewhere, sometime – they are good or bad. Why is it that some people are born in a family of good people – people who find it easy to toe the mark, so to speak, and keep in line? Others are born in families where there’s confusion and turmoil, it seems – eternally. Why is it? Because within certain people are certain tendencies – inherited seeds of karma – which have to bear fruit. And to bear certain kinds of fruit, they are born in that environment where the fruit will be given off.

Like those in the bad family, or family with evil tendencies, they have within their Soul those tendencies, and to bear fruit they are born in that family. As the Gita<sup>7</sup> says, even though you are a yogi, practicing yoga, and do not attain what you really would like to attain, you will be born into a family where it will be easy for you to follow yoga and complete your path. So these are eternal truths from these great scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita, which cannot be laid aside lightly. They must be considered.

And so, going on just a little bit; because God has given us free will, if we stop doing those things we should not do; if we are restless of mind, and we stop being restless and make the effort, then we will not lay up that karma which will produce in us tendencies which will determine, determine our future existence; which will, as they say, predestine us to live, once more, here on this Cosmic Dream Plane, so that those fruits of action can bear, can be born out; so that those tendencies can bear the right fruit. If we stop laying up, or doing those actions which lay up causes, which will produce the wrong kind of fruit; if we stop doing that, at least we’ve stopped that much. But, if we keep on doing those things, we are bound by the Law of Karma to be born, once more, in this realm, so that those causes can bear fruit, so the reaction can take place; and it surely will take place. Why? Because God gave us free will. We can accept His Laws, or we can reject Him. We can remember the Giver, or we can forget the Giver. We can lay up causes of undesirable karma, or we can stop laying them up –

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<sup>7</sup> The Bhagavad Gita or The Lord’s Song, Translated by Dr. Annie Besant, 1939.

right now – by doing right action, from this time on. What karma we have laid up, what of it? It will bear fruit. But it can be alleviated through the Grace of God. And especially if we can rise to His Omnipresence, then the karma will not bother us; it cannot bear fruit. Let us understand these things. And finally, when the karma is worked, when the Law of Karma has been satisfied – you cannot escape – then we will be free. And as Jesus said, free indeed, free in the Omnipresence of the One Father.

Now just a word or two about the difference types of karma, and then we'll be through. There are many different types of karma: "Individual Karma," "Mass Karma," "World Karma," "Racial Karma," "Social Karma," all those causes have been laid up.

In America we have certain karmas laid up. As our Master said, "The two karmas which we should try to undo and rectify are the karma of the Red Indian and the karma of the Colored question." Those are about the only two karmas, at that time when he talked to me, that America had to worry about. That's, you see, the National Karma. But America has Spiritual qualities which offset those things, and I will not elaborate those at this time.

"Individual Karma:" just take for instance the case of Elijah and Elisha. It is too long a subject to delve into this morning, but I will just say that Elijah came as John the Baptist. If you investigate the scriptures, you will see the corresponding characteristic, characteristics which point this out. Elisha came as Jesus. They were the same Soul. And they came because a cause had been laid up, and the effect was that they came as John and Jesus. I know, sometime, we have a lecture on reincarnation, and at that time, we will take it up, definitely and fully.

Now, about "National Karma," for instance "World Karma;" when Atlantis, when that part of the world sunk beneath the waters, 80 million people were wiped out. In the time of the flood, there are certain marks which point out it definitely happened. Why? Because of the thoughts of people, and the action of people, that cause was laid up, and the effect had to come. That's "Mass Karma." But, as Master used to say, "Do not be afraid. God is you Father. No matter what karma happens, He is with you. He will take care of you, if you but trust Him."

And so, these things, if we are, go within, meditate, and develop our intuition, we will understand the Law of Karma, and these great catastrophes, which have taken place – and I hope will not take place from now on. That's why in our

services we pray for what? We pray for peace. Because it just takes the prayer of noble devotees of God to sway the balance from one side to the other. If they allow to it go on – what’s going on now, the production of hydrogen and atomic bombs – they can blow this place to smithereens, wipe out this continent, without question. Not this continent, this planet. So pray for peace. And that’s why we pray for peace in our mm, er, meetings; that God’s Grace descend upon us, because the cause is laid there, the cause is being laid up. It’s up to us to do what we can by being fit instruments of God, to nullify that cause, by allowing His Great Love to flow through us and all of His devotees, and change the hearts of men. Then alone will lasting peace come.

And so, the ultimate purpose of the Law of Karma is what? Sometimes we dislike it, ‘specially when it affects us. But the ultimate purpose is to drive us back home to God; to drive us back home to God. As long as we lay up these causes from desire, we’ll have to come, and, into this realm of existence, until we get fed up with it. Master used to say, “pummeled.” And that’s so we turn back home to God. That’s the ultimate use of the Law of Karma, because the goal of life is for us to return home to where we belong. “We do not belong,” our Master says, “in this world.” There’s no, this is a nest of trouble. Don’t try to tell me isn’t, you know it is. It is a nest of trouble. There’s no, there’ll be no peace here but there will be peace when we turn and go to where we belong, in our Cosmic Home of Light with our Father.

Master has said it better than I can say, I’ll read you his words. He says: “This world is a nest of trouble. Our home is not here. God does not want us to seek happiness here. We belong with Him. Get out of this jail.” How wonderful and how much to the point, straight to the point are our Master’s words. But we think, “Oh, here it is, I’m gonna die, where am I goin’?” What of it? Know God and you won’t care where you’re goin’. You will know that He will never, He will never desert you. Master once told me, he said, “God will never cast you into oblivion.” I felt better, and I felt better ever since, because it was the truth. The truth strikes home, the truth is reality. Let us understand it.

And so, finally, by a life of meditation and God-contact – by a life of meditation and God-contact – just those things, or that one thing, karma can be alleviated, because in the first place you can overcome pain. You can overcome any physical distress, or mental distress, by lifting your consciousness into the Presence of God. Pain or mental distress cannot exist, if you will meditate and make contact with God and make Him your friend. That’s the first thing to realize. Meditation will give you that. And then by following the right

techniques, especially Kriya Yoga, even though you have a bad karma, what of it? Forget it. Deny it! Deny it, but do right from now on. That's the important thing. Deny it, but do right from now on. Realize these things.

Repent, but then don't do it over again. Repent, and do right from now on. And then, by Kriya Yoga, those seeds of karma, which have, you have unfortunately laid up, they will be burned out, and they cannot bear fruit. And then you will attain what you should be, you should attain, freedom in the Infinite Father's Love – freedom in God's Love. But you cannot get there while there is karma to be wiped out. You can get there, temporarily, but not fully and completely, until all karma has been played out. As Master used to say, "Desires are too heavy to go by the way of the Astral airplane." The baggage is too heavy. The baggage of desires cannot go in the Astral airplane.

And I'll close by just another word from Master's Autobiography. Let us realize and remember this last reference. "Even he with the worst karma, who ceaselessly meditates on Me, quickly loses the effects of his past bad action."<sup>8</sup> I'll read that a little again. "Even he with the worst of karma, who ceaselessly meditates on Me, quickly loses the effects of his bad, past bad action. Becoming a high-souled being, he soon attains perennial peace. ...know this for certain:" know this for certain, "the devotee who puts his trust in Me never perishes."

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<sup>8</sup> Krishna's immortal words rose to my lips in reply: "Even he with the worst of karma who ceaselessly meditates on Me quickly loses the effects of his past bad actions. Becoming a high-souled being, he soon attains perennial peace. Arjuna, know this for certain: the devotee who puts his trust in Me never perishes!" Bhagavad Gita 9<sup>th</sup> Discourse 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Lines.