

# The Path of Love

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Before going on with our subject, I would just like to say we have a few people from out of town here: First, Mr. and Mrs. Don Cross, from Vancouver, British Columbia. Won't you stand up? They're very loyal devotees, and come down about once a year isn't it? And help quite a lot at the Golden World Colony. Course we're glad to have them come anyway; but when they help us, they do, it makes it more wonderful.

Also, I notice some from Los Angeles here, who come to the Friday night class. I wish I could remember the names. Won't you stand? What is the name? Mr. Smith. There's one gentleman, and another one I see. That's the...Whitaker. They come down quite often. Very happy you have come.

Are there any others here that I have missed? Of course, those in San Diego, you come all the time, but those in Los Angeles are out of town and we're happy to have you come when you can. And so, all of Master's work, whether it's in San Diego, or Los Angeles, or British Columbia, and we all feel the same, that one great tide of his love.

And so, now a few words on our subject, "The Path of Love," "The Path of Love."

The most easiest path to follow, if you will but realize that in you is that Great, One Unconditional Love of God. Break the attachment to the body of that love, and to your family ties, worldly ties – merge in that – that's "The Path of Love."

God is what? God is Ever-conscious, Blissful, Eternal Existence, as our Master has said – Ever-conscious, Blissful, Eternal Existence. Do not think He's something far off; something strange, something unattainable. That's what God is. And if He is that Ever-conscious, Blissful, Eternal Existence, every aspect, every aspect of consciousness, or existence, or being, is in Him. And one of the greatest aspects, of course, is Love.

In God we find Cosmic Peace. These are just a few: Cosmic Calmness; Cosmic Wisdom; Cosmic Light; Cosmic Sound; and the Feeling Aspect of God, Cosmic

Love. So realize, everything is there; God is Love, because that's the Greatest Force in the Universe.

Now, the Power Aspect of God, so to speak, is Cosmic Energy. The Great Force which has created all things, and does create all things, and will continue to create all things – has created you, me, all things – world upon world. That's one Aspect of God – the Aspect of Cosmic Power. That's known as Cosmic Energy.

The other Aspect of God's Great Omniscient Consciousness, known as Cosmic Consciousness, everything comes from that One Eternal Substance, Cosmic Consciousness, you've heard it called, with its Power. And the other Aspect is the Feeling of it. And that Feeling is Love; that Feeling is God's Love. When it gets down into reality, into this worldly existence, it becomes love plus hate. Hate is the opposite. And with that hate comes fear and all sorts of things. If you will look within yourselves you will find the cause of your fear, as the psychologists say, is hate. Reduce that hate. Eliminate it. Replace it by God's Love – fear cannot exist, hate cannot exist. That's why the Force of God is Supreme, because that's His Feeling; the Feeling which accompanies the Cosmic Energy, which is the Power of God. Now you can understand why Love is the Greatest Force in the Universe, because it is that Great Power of Attraction, which is pulling everything back to God.

One Aspect of God's Cosmic Consciousness is the Power to go out. That's the Cosmic Energy, that's the Repulsion. And the other power is that which pulls back; the Power, which, as I said in the Bible reading, is holding the planets in their proper orbit, orbits – holding all things in suspension – but gradually pulling all things back to God. That's the Great Force of Attraction. That's the Feeling aspect of Cosmic Consciousness. That is Love – God is Love. Realize that. Realize that one thing – that God is Love. That Great Power to pull all things back into His Bosom, as we read in the scriptures, to take you, and to take me, back once more from where we have come. We came from that One Cosmic Consciousness, and we will return to that.

Now, in our Bible we have a wonderful reference to this Great Path of Love, and I want you to listen carefully as I read it, and you will find your answers as we go along in our own scriptures. "Master..." we read in St. Matthew, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chapter, 36<sup>th</sup> to 40<sup>th</sup> Verses: "Master, which is the great commandment of the law, in the law?"<sup>1</sup> (Sic) "And Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 22:36, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?"

God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all my, thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.<sup>2</sup>“ Can’t you see why the Power of Love is Supreme, and why we should follow “The Path of Love?” This is the first great commandment, that we know God and that we love Him, knowing Him. You cannot love something you do not know. So our first duty is to follow “The Path of Love,” which necessitates that we follow one who knew God, and left us the way whereby we can contact that One Love of God. That’s the first commandment. That’s why Jesus said “...seek first the kingdom of heaven...”<sup>3</sup> Know, know that One, Eternal Presence of God as Love, and follow the way that one who knew God, left that you follow, as our Master. He has given us the way, the techniques. It’s easy, if you will but do them, to fulfill the first and greatest commandment.

Then it goes on: “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”<sup>4</sup> How can you love one another unless you know that One Love which is in all, God’s Great Love, Unconditional Divine Love? That’s what has made each and every one of us. And when you see and know that, it’s easy to love your neighbor.

Now, this last verse is most important when it says: “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”<sup>5</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Everything! Everything hangs on those two commandments. Thou shalt love first, God with all thy strength, with all thy might, with all thy power; secondly, thou shalt love His children, who are one with that Love, and made from that Love, and we are all one in that Love. On these two commandments hangs everything – everything.

Now you can understand why “The Path of Love” is so important, because it’s the, really, the only path you can eventually follow back to God. God is Love. In God there is no fear; “perfect love casteth out all fear.”<sup>6</sup> Isn’t that wonderful? So simple – but what we make of it! We make a terrifically large and ponderous

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 22:37-38, “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” “This is the first and great commandment.”

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 6:33, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 22:39-40, “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> I John 4:18, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

thing out of it. How simple. God is Love. In God there is no fear. Perfect love casteth out all fear.

Now Jesus fulfilled these commandments, as we know. Otherwise, how could he have said, if one strikes you on one cheek, turn the other.<sup>7</sup> That's quite difficult. 'Tis for me, I know. But gradually, as you realize, the same Love is in that individual – although, he may be sleeping, he is sleeping – otherwise he wouldn't hit you. And, if you realize that, you can do it, otherwise, you cannot. Jesus understood this law, perfectly. And that's only one instance in the Bible where he speaks about "The Path of Love." And he also said, and this is his greatest testimony that he understood "The Path of Love" and realized that Love is the Supreme Force in the Universe, for he said, when they crucified him, and were going to take his life, which led to his crucifixion, Father, forgive them for they don't know what they do.<sup>8</sup> Forgive them. They don't realize that same Love which I have for you, and for them, is in them. And so Jesus could forgive them. Jesus knew perfectly "The Path of Love."

Now, we have the Master's words, wherein we find substantiated the necessity of following this Path of Love. The Master said, and I think these words are most wonderful, and those of you who are hot-tempered, and it's pretty easy to be that way, unless you've struggle for a long time to overcome it, realize the Master's words, and they're most wonderful and he says: "When people hate me..." and everybody get's hated, no matter how good you try to be, and how nice you try to be with people, the law of duality in this existence brings in that hate, so don't be too much alarmed. Just be concerned that you follow God, and God alone. So the Master says: "When people hate me, I don't retaliate. I just give them Love and wait for them to change."

Isn't that wonderful? How much trouble we will get out of. The minute you retaliate, then the fight begins, and the troubles start, and you don't do them any good. That's the worst thing. Because when you retaliate, you increase that fire of hate in them. Do you understand? And then, you augment their delusion. They're in delusion. If they weren't, they would not hate you; they wouldn't hate anybody; they wouldn't do anything to anybody. They're in delusion. And so, when you retaliate, you increase the hate in them, and that's a sin, in a higher sense of the world. Now, that doesn't mean that you let them walk all over you.

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<sup>7</sup> Matthew 5:39, "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

<sup>8</sup> Luke 23:34, "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."

Master often said, "You can hiss a little bit," or something like that. Don't let them walk all over you. Stand up for your rights, without any hate in your heart. That's the greatest thing. And so, that's what we have to do.

Realize that you're not helping your enemy, as he so calls himself, by retaliation, and you're not helping yourself. Because, unless you are very careful, you come down to that level, and hate engulfs you, and God's Love is pushed out of your heart, crowded out, because they cannot exist together. So, realize the Master's words, once more, when he says, most beautifully – and I try to remember them, because he has never told me a thing that did not come true. And everything he has said has come true and he will, and will come true, if you follow it 100 percent, without any mental reservation. So he says: "When people hate me, I don't retaliate. I just give them Love and wait for them to change."

Now, when a person is in that condition of hate, no matter what you say, even if it is the most prophetic saying, they will not listen. They can't listen. Isn't that strange? You may talk from now 'til next week to them. Tell them the Eternal Truths of God's Presence – all sorts of things. In the end there, it doesn't enter. So, what's the use? So the Master has hit it just right when he says, "I give them Love and wait for them to change." And when they change, then, when you talk to them, it'll do some good. And not only that, if you do not retaliate, and God's Love grows on you, and you will receive much more by your effort, because you have fulfilled the Spiritual law; as Jesus said, if one strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek. That means that, "do not retaliate." Give them Love and wait for them to change.

Realize this other thing, also. That when you see in others, when you see the opportunity to do good to others and help them, then you are realizing that it is the same Love in them that is in you. You cannot do it unless you feel that. But the work of the Master was to give us the ways and the means whereby we could not only know the One Eternal Divine Love of God, but see it in each and every one of His children.

Now going on just a little bit; we should follow "The Path of Love" for certain reasons. I have a few written down. I'll just give you one or two. We should follow this path of love because others love you for a little while – you look in your lives and you will find this is so – others love you for a little while, and then

forsake you.<sup>9</sup> How many times we have had that. We have thought, “Well, there’s a friend. There’s a friend I can trust. At last I’ve found a friend.” Wait! Wait a little bit. Wait a little bit. There’s only one sure path. Don’t put your faith in friends. Wait a little bit. So, the Master has said, “Others love you for a little while, then forsake you, but God does not...”<sup>10</sup> (*Sic*) That’s the greatest thing. And so, we can see that, if we are to be wise, as we should be, we do not put our faith in anything but God Alone.

Now, that doesn’t mean that there are not some real disciples and friends which will never forsake you. If there weren’t, then we’d hafta, we couldn’t stay here. Thank God there are a few. As Master said, “God loves us so wonderfully and silently, and through His devotees.”<sup>11</sup> (*Sic*) There are a few whom you can feel the Unconditional Love of God. If that’s there, those are exceptions. But the general rule is, “Others love you for awhile, and then forsake you.” I’ve had it happen so many times that it’s second nature now. But God does not. Realize that. God never forsakes you, because it is He who is in you. How can you forsake yourself? How can any of us forsake ourselves, if we know it is God in us? Don’t cha realize that’s the key? It’s so hard to understand it. When things go wrong, rejoice, because you know there’s only one place left for you to go, and that’s to God – and you’ll go sooner, when everything goes against you.

And so, “The Path of Love” is to realize God Alone is, and His Love is permanent. Others may forsake you, but God never forsakes us. Never! Never! The Master told me that many, many times. He said, “Leave all else but never God’s side<sup>12</sup>.” And that has sustained me when everything else has fallen apart, because God never forsakes the devotee. That’s the first thing we should realize, why we should follow “The Path of Love.”

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<sup>9</sup> The Master Said, Self-Realization Fellowship, First Release 1952, (Free on the Internet), Page 41, “Of God’s love the Master said, “God understands when everyone else misunderstands you. He is the Lover who loves you always, no matter what your mistakes are. Others love you for a while and then forsake you, but He never forsakes you. God is seeking your love. He won’t punish you if you don’t give Him your love, but you punish yourself. ‘All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.’”

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Treasures Against Time, by Brenda Lewis, Chapter 3, Letter from Yogananda in Encinitas to Doctor, 9/22/38, “God is most wonderful. He loves us so silently and wonderfully and thru the devotees.”

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, Letter from Yogananda at the Hotel Pennsylvania to Doctor, 2/8/26, “I miss you all very much. With my love to you, Brenda and Brad. How is your meditation? Remember 2 or 3 years of 1/24 hour of daily meditation is only little. Go deeper intensely. Always through strain and stress always remain by God’s Side.”

Another one is this, “God understands when everybody else misunderstands”<sup>13</sup> – and how true that is. Never mind if people misunderstand you. They will. But God understands you, completely, because it is He who is going through the experience which you are experiencing. Do you realize? God understands you when everybody else misunderstands you? Let ‘em misunderstand you. If God is with me, what do I care for others? What do you care? Nothing! That’s what we must realize. The Path of Wisdom means that when all others forsake us, and do not understand us, God understands us.

Then another reason why you should follow the Path of Wisdom is that God is in everybody. God is in each devotee, each human Soul, and we must treat them as such. That’s the second commandment. Thou shalt love them as you love yourself.<sup>14</sup> You shall treat them that way, because then you are not missing an opportunity to please God. Isn’t that wonderful? Those are the Master’s sayings. When you serve others, when your love others as yourself, you are using the opportunity to please God,<sup>15</sup> because He is in that other one, just as He is in you.

And finally, another reason that comes to my mind why we should follow the Path of Wisdom is in connection with love and friendship. Friendship with, with one another – very important. It must be based on love – nothing else. If you want a real friendship...and in this connection I have just a little from a letter the Master wrote, way back in 1924 to me, when he says this: “I have found the law of love and reciprocal goodness...” Isn’t that wonderful? Reciprocal, it has to be on both sides. “I have found the law of love and reciprocal goodness are the strongest ties, the greatest impelling forces that make us responsible to one another.”<sup>16</sup>

If you love an individual, won’t you be responsible to them? If you do not love them, you may not be. But, when you feel that Divine Love in that other

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<sup>13</sup> See Footnote 9

<sup>14</sup> See Footnote 4

<sup>15</sup> Op. Cit. The Master Said, Page 19, “One of the disciples was faithful and prompt in performing whatever tasks were given him by the Master. But for others he would do nothing. By way of correction the Master said, “You must serve others as you serve me. Remember, God dwells in all. Don’t neglect any opportunity for pleasing Him.”

<sup>16</sup> Op. Cit. Treasures Against Time, Letter from Multnomah Falls, “I have found the law of love and reciprocal goodness are the strongest ties, the greatest impelling forces, that make us responsible to one another. That’s why the material binding is futile and meaningless specially where there is a spiritual tie. The organization is greatly indebted to you materially and this it will repay a thousand-fold. And if perchance, if its fate is otherwise, still the goodwill that you have created in me, will forever cry in the Divine ether, for you, for your welfare and success and you shall see God will fulfill all your wants and the wants of your family, more than you expect.”

individual as yourself, then you'll be responsible to them. Gandhi called it, "There is an indissoluble bond between me and my wife...<sup>17</sup>" And so, that should be not only between man and wife, but between each and every devotee of God. An indissoluble bond based on what? Unconditional Divine Love.

And so, the Master has said it so wonderfully well, that it is this. I'll read it: "I have found the law of love and reciprocal goodness are the strongest ties, the greatest impelling forces that make us responsible to one another." "That's why," he says, "the material binding is futile and meaningless." Realize that, "the material binding is futile and meaningless especially where there is a spiritual tie."<sup>18</sup> Make that tie first. See God in your friend, and then, the relationship will be based on God's Unconditional Love. It will last, it will be permanent.

Now, finally, in following "The Path of Love," let us realize this one thing, which the Master has said, and so wonderful. He says as follows: "All souls are created equal." All Souls are equal. But he says, "The only difference between us is that I made the effort. I showed God that I love Him and He came to me...<sup>19</sup>" Realize that. Don't cha think we are bound to follow "The Path of Love?" We're all made equal. We're all from that One Love of God. What's the deficiency? The deficiency is, as the Master said, "I showed God that I loved him. I made God know that I love Him, and He came to me..."

Now, each and every one of us is a child of God, and we, too, can make God know we love Him. We can contact God through the path of Self-Realization. We have the ways and the means. We can attain that contact. As Jesus said, seek first contact with God. Seek first the kingdom of heaven. We can do it. If we can contact God, then we can make Him know that we love Him; and making Him know we love Him, He's bound to come. He's bound to come, because, as the Master says, "Love is the magnet from which God cannot escape."<sup>20</sup> Realize that. God can slip out from every other thing, because He has everything – except one thing. And that one thing is His Love in our heart.

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<sup>17</sup> Autobiography of a Yogi, by Paramhansa Yogananda, First Release 1946 (Free download on the Internet), Chapter 44, quoting a personal interview with Gandhi, "I can no more describe my feeling for Hinduism than for my own wife. She moves me as no other woman in the world can. Not that she has no faults; I daresay she has many more than I see myself. But the feeling of an indissoluble bond is there."

<sup>18</sup> See Footnote 11

<sup>19</sup> The Master Said, Self-Realization Fellowship, First Edition 1952 (Download Free on the Internet), Page 21, "And the Master said, "All souls are equal. The only difference between us is that I made the effort. I showed God that I love Him, and He came to me. Love is the magnet from which God cannot escape."

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

And so, the Great Ones and the Master found that out – “that Love is the magnet from which God cannot escape.” And so, “The Path of Love” is to contact God in all things. Take Him with you in every action. Make Him know that there’s not a thing that you will do in this life unless He is with you. Make Him feel there’s nothing you wanna do unless God goes with you. And if you do that, then He will know that you love Him; and from that magnet of your love, He cannot escape, He must come.

*End of Lecture Meditation and Prayer*

Let us meditate just a moment together.

Heavenly Father, Friend, Beloved God. Help me to keep my promise that there’s nothing I will do unless I take Thee with me, for I know, only in Thee, in Thine All-encompassing Love, am I safe and secure. Bless me, O Father, that I keep my promise to Thee. Aum, Peace, Amen

*Closing Prayer*

Raise the hands. Heavenly Father, Friend, Beloved God. We thank Thee for this communion wherein we have tasted Thy Great Peace and Joy and Thy Love. Keep us ever thus, united in Thy One Love. And may Thy Love shine forever on the sanctuary of our devotion, and may we be able to awaken Thy Love in all hearts. Make our souls Thy temple, make our hearts Thy altar, make our love Thy home. Be Thou the only King reigning on the throne of all our desires. We bow to Thee, O Father, we bow to Jesus, we bow to the Great Masters, and with our love and devotion, on the altar of our hearts, for his sacrifices for so many, and for each one of us, we bow to thee, beloved Master. Aum, Peace, Bliss, Amen.

God bless you all.