

The Harvest Is Waiting

Dr. M.W. Lewis

San Diego, 1-11-59

The subject this morning, "The Harvest Is Waiting," "The Harvest Is Waiting."

As we, in this outward existence, search here and there, following false paths, in the search of happiness, there is something else that's always just eluding us. And that something else is the harvest which we are seeking. That something else is what the Soul is searching for. It is the Presence of God within.

And no matter what outward path you follow, what pseudo path, so to speak, in the end there'll always be that something else that remains just beyond your grasp. That is the harvest which we are waiting for. That is the Soul's desire to return home to God. In other words, to once more unite Itself with that from which it has come – the One Eternal Ocean of God's Presence.

And so, as we search for a consciousness of, or happiness, in this outward living, we want that something, that happiness, not to be of temporary nature, but to be permanent. That's the key to the situation. And that permanency comes in the Presence of God within us – the Spiritual Consciousness from which we have become separated. Through Cosmic Delusion, that spell is cast over us. We feel separated from it, and that's why it's always that "something else" for which we are searching. Just beyond, at the end of the rainbow, so to speak. And that something else is our own Self, reunited to God.

It is the fact that we feel separated, apart from Him. That's the delusion. That's the Cosmic Delusion, the spell, which has been cast over us, that this outward living, this Cosmic Dream go on. Let us realize that, that what we want, what we must have, that state of consciousness, which we must have, must be permanent. We must be free from pain permanently. We may have all the money that is necessary. We may have position, and lands, real estate, but unless you are permanently free of pain, it will not satisfy you. And that permanently free from pain, is the harvest, and that is found in God and God alone.

And so, what we all are searching, the harvest which we all want, and the harvest, which is waiting for each and every one of us, is God, or an Ever-conscious, Blissful, Eternal-existence – Ever-conscious. You don't want it just for

a week or two; for a year or two, and then lose it. You don't want it just sporadically, or spasmodically. It must be permanent, and it must be free from pain. That's what we are searching for, and that's the harvest which we can have, and the harvest which is waiting, and until we attain that, we will not be satisfied. We must have that Ever-conscious, Blissful, Eternal-existence, which is the Presence of God within us. The separation must be removed. Then we will be satisfied, and not until then.

And so, that harvest, which you and I want, is the nearest of the near to those who really want it. That harvest is your own consciousness. But not separated from God. It is the nearest of the near, for those who really want it; farthest of the far to those who search it out not. God is the nearest of the near. He's your own life; your own breath; your own thought; everything. But as long as the separation exists between you and your Father, it is the farthest of the far. Let us realize that. That harvest is very near to us, and yet, if we do not want it, because we have free will – God has given us free will to search Him out, or to reject Him – because of that, it is the farthest of the far to those who want it not. Now Master has said this. He has said, as he used Jesus' words, "The harvest is plenteous but the reapers are few." The harvest is Eternal. The harvest is everything. But those who will go after it, so to speak, the reapers, are very few.

Now in this, as we lay up Spiritual treasure, as we do that in this, it is not necessary to have social position, or financial acquaintances, and such things to amass a fortune of Spiritual Consciousness. In outward living it is necessary. That's the law. We have to prepare for it. We have to pull the strings, so to speak. We have to have certain paths which we follow to lay up material pleasures, and treasures. But, in Spiritual Treasures, this is not necessarily there. So it is there for you, it is there for me, instantaneously, if we fulfill the law. And the law is not that of acquiring material treasure, or harvest. It is different. The moment you know it, it is there, because that harvest is God's Consciousness in you. But it is simply the delusion that makes you feel apart from it. The minute you can grasp it, it is yours, and it is yours, eternally, if you once have it.

In outward living, this is not so. You have to follow the laws of amassing fortunes, and so forth, and harvest the material things. But in acquiring the Spiritual harvest, all we have to do, is to know it. It's already there. It's not something we have to build up. God is there. He always was, and will be, and His Consciousness is our consciousness. We have to know it, that's all. And the knowing can be done as soon as you make up your mind you are going to know God within you.

Now, going on just a bit from this point; what is the trouble? Why is it, why is it that this heritage, this harvest is so hard to attain? It is simply because, as I have pointed out, this Cosmic Delusion, as the [Bhagavad] Gita says, "All men walk the earth wholly deluded." This Cosmic Delusion makes us feel apart from the harvest of God's Consciousness. That's all. That's all that stands in the way, is this Cosmic Delusion, which makes us feel separated from God, apart from Him. That we have to eradicate, but that can be done. And it can be done easily.

For instance, if we feel apart from God, that's not the harvest we should have. In Psalms, the 82nd Psalm, 6th Verse, it says, "I say ye are gods, all of you, children of the most High." Is that what...is this the harvest we should have – separation from God? "I say ye are...all" God's "...children of the most High," and we feel so helpless, so apart from God, so insufficient. This is not becoming to us. This is not our natural heritage. This is not our state of consciousness. We should realize that. That's the harvest which is waiting for us, and for all who will search it out.

Now, our Souls, and our heritage, is not to be in that state of consciousness where there is unfulfillment, lack of satisfaction, no solace. That's not natural for us as children of God. But that other Consciousness, wherein we realize our oneness with Him is what we should have, and is what we must have, and is what we can have, if we will. If you're satisfied to go on with this unfulfillment – lack of security, lack of peace, restlessness, and not know where you are going – all right, we can go on, because we have free will. But that's not becoming to us as children of God. "I say ye are gods; all of you, children of the most High." We must know this harvest which is waiting for us. Because we are not living as God's children; naturally we are the prodigal sons and daughters, and we must return home to that natural harvest of God's Consciousness.

The Master has stated it nicely in one his references in the Autobiography [of a Yogi]. He says, "When a man ceases to be a prodigal child of God," – when he ceases to be that – "engrossed in a physical world, indeed a dream, baseless as a bubble, he reinherits his eternal realm¹." So we do not need to stay as a prodigal son. And as long as we do, it is not becoming to our nature as children of God.

So now comes the question – is this harvest, is this Presence of God – His Great Consciousness and Power within us – is it tangible, and is it knowable? We are

¹ Autobiography of a Yogi, Chapter 22, Paramhansa Yogananda

sensible people. We do not like to be fooled. We want to know. Yes. It is. It is there. It is tangible, and it is absolutely knowable. How? By speeding up your vibration; by speeding up the vibration of your own mind and consciousness so that instead of registering this outward consciousness of insufficiency and unfulfillment, you'll register God's Presence within you of fulfillment in all things. That's what we have to do, and that's how we should do it. Speedup, speed up, speed up the vibration of your mind. Get it out of its rut, so that it registers – registers, that's all, God's Presence within us. If there is One Eternal Father, which there is, He must be all things. He must be our consciousness. But we're vibrating Him too low. One part of Him is vibrating as the earth, of course, or the world. But the other part is vibrating at a higher rate of vibration. We have to elevate our consciousness so we can perceive that – so that we can merge in that, and be one with that.

And so, the way to do it is, as I have said – and this is not done in imagination – who wants to be fooled? Who wants to imagine you're one with God. That won't do. I think most of us do not want to be fooled. If we do, we're hypocrites. We must know God. Not in imagination, but actually. And it all comes by being in tune with God; being of such a nature – your consciousness being of such a nature – that you vibrate with God's Great Holy Presence within you. That's all that is necessary, and that's how it is done. It is done by raising your consciousness so that you perceive your oneness with God. Not that you feel separated from Him. And it can be done. It can be done through the science of yoga.

So we should learn, we should learn this science of yoga – ancient science – given to us from India. Learn that. Speed up your vibration. Do not be satisfied by going willy-nilly on the slow boat to China. We're through with that. Let us practice Self-Realization techniques. Let's practice yoga, Kriya Yoga – that's the jet way to freedom in God. It is the jet way. How these planes are going so fast now, I don't know where it's gonna end. But as you do your Kriya, especially Kriya Yoga, you, too, will speed up your evolution. Speed it up, speed up your evolution, so that you register the higher vibration of God's Presence.

The science of yoga is the greatest thing. It's the greatest science there is, because it's the science of knowing God. Yoga means union; union with the Eternal Presence of God within us. So let us speed up our evolution – not be satisfied to be pushed around any longer – but to demand our heritage as children of God; to reap that harvest of oneness with Him.

Now, in St. John [4:35], quoting part of the Bible reference this morning, when it says, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white all ready to harvest." "Lift up your eyes," let us take that first. By the practice of yoga you learn to lift your eyes so that you do not register outward consciousness, but you register the Presence of God within you at this point [Doctor points to the point between the eyebrows]. That's all it means. And there, right in our Bible, we have a reference to the practice of yoga. "Lift up your eyes," as you do in meditation.

And then it goes on to say, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields." Fields – fields of what? Fields of consciousness – the fields of consciousness, the White fields of consciousness refers to the White Christ Consciousness, which is within each and every one of us, and which can be seen, and entered into, if you lift up your eyes to the point, through the right practice of yoga. The fields are there. The fields of Superconsciousness are there, and they are White. The lower vibration of consciousness is of a lower color, or a lower vibration, or grosser color. But the consciousness within you as the Christ within is a White Consciousness – really White. Not just figuratively speaking. It is White, and those who meditate, and look here [at the Spiritual Eye] will see that White Cloud there of Christ Consciousness.

Now going on a little further with the reference, "For they are white all ready to harvest." When you, by the right practice of Kriya Yoga, and the techniques of yoga, can enter into the little star in the Spiritual Eye, then, then you know the Consciousness of God the Father – the Great billowy White Consciousness – spread all over. This White Cloud, which you see here [at the Spiritual Eye], Cloud of Christ Consciousness, is the same as the other. But when you penetrate through, when you so speed up your vibrations that they vibrate with the Presence of God within, then you will see the White Fields of Cosmic Consciousness, or God the Father. Now this is not imagination. It is real. And there are those in this room, here, who can attest to what I am saying. That's the real harvest. That's the harvest we are waiting for. That's the harvest that is ours, if we will but do yoga, and, finally, surrender fully to God.

Yoga will take you to the White Cloud of Christ Consciousness. Yoga will take you to the little star, whereby you enter into the Cosmic Consciousness of God. But it is the Grace of God that will take you through that star – nothing else. "Thou shall have no other gods before me." There is One Eternal Father, and when you want Him, and want Him and nothing else, He and His Grace alone

will take you into that great harvest of White Cosmic Consciousness. These are facts. These are not imaginations.

And so, as Patanjali has said, "Get rid of the mental cancer that you are the body." Get rid of this idea. Every time we wake up, we look in the mirror. There you are, there I am; big as life, amounting to nothing – same body. We have to get rid of that. Yet I can't help looking at myself in the morning in the mirror. That's the first thing I do. I don't know why. I know, now, because it's that idea that I am the body that says you better look at yourself to see if you're there. But that's it. Patanjali says get rid of that. But still, I can't go out in the street with a dirty face. I have to do that. But behind that is the idea that we are not the body, but one with God. Get rid of that idea that you are the body. Realize that you are the Infinite Presence of God. That's why Patanjali said that. Get rid of the idea that you are the body – this limited, perishable body – and know that Imperishable Presence of God within you, and know the freedom of His Presence.

As long as we're attached to this body, we have no freedom. We are limited. But when we supersede this bodily consciousness, and gather the real harvest, which is our own – the harvest of God's Presence within – then we'll have freedom, and it can be attained right in this life. That's the important point I want to make. You do not have to wait til you pass away. Thank goodness for that. You can, right now, while living, you can reap the harvest of oneness with God's Consciousness within. But you have to work for it. God can be known. He can be realized, and you can know that you and God are one. You cannot know, of course, the great saints say all that God knows, but you can know as the great Shankara said, "All I can say is that God is." But when we can know that, and can say that, that "God is," then we've got something. Then we reap the harvest which we are searching for.

So, "Know the storekeeper," Master used to say, "Know the storekeeper. He can give you the whole universe." But we're satisfied with knowing a little something by the aid of our mental powers. That's not it. God is the Storekeeper. Know Him. He can give you everything.

And so, as we travel along, trying to find this harvest, or reap this harvest, this waiting harvest, there a few things to remember, which I have jotted down here. First is environment. If you mix wholly in a worldly environment, the delusion will stay with you. The delusion will stay with you, and it will even deepen. This is very important. If you mix with a worldly environment all the time, your

delusion is gonna stay with you, and even become darker. But, on the other hand, on the other hand, if by meditation, you attain that environment of contact with God and His great saints. If you establish that environment, then instead of the delusion increasing, it will pass away, and you'll find freedom in the Presence of God.

And so, we must establish that environment of company with God and the great saints. They're all in the Omniscience of God. They're all there, because all people – and saints are people – come from the One Omniscient Consciousness of God. So, if we know that, establish that within us, then we have all the saints of ages, including our Master, and Jesus, and all of them are there, because they all come from God's One Consciousness. So we must establish that environment – company with God and His great ones – and it's not difficult at all. You have to do, and follow, certain laws – laws of yoga; the science of yoga.

And then, secondly, by meditation, you enter into this company of the great One and the Omniscient Presence of God. Then by "The washing and regeneration" of that Presence – not by anything else – by "the washing and regeneration" of the Presence of God, then you are changed. Then you are saved entirely, fully, completely, from this delusion. As it says in Titus², "Not by works of righteousness are ye saved, but by the washing and regeneration of the Holy Ghost." The Holy Ghost is the Presence of God within you, within me. It is the Great Word, the Great Cosmic Vibration – The Comforter of which Jesus spoke. By being in that, according to the law of environment, you are changed, and you become that. If you mix with worldly people, you stay in delusion. If you mix with God-like people, or the Presence of God within you, you become likewise – One with Him. You become gods, as was spoken of in the scripture, "I say ye are gods; all of you, children of the most High³." You have to know it, that's all. That's the harvest, to know it, and we all can do that.

In the Bhagavad Gita it says the same thing, as about I've just spoken in Titus. It says those who merge in the Presence of God within, become Him. Now that doesn't mean that we can say, "I am God." We know better than that. But we can say that, "I know God is in me and with me and I feel one with Him." That's all right.

² Titus 3:5

³ Psalm 82:6

And in the Bhagavad Gita, in the 18th Discourse, the 73rd Line, this is what we read. One who had merged in the Presence of God, one who had practiced yoga, one who had been washed and regenerated by the Holy Ghost within, the Great Word, the Cosmic Vibration, this is what he says: "Destroyed is my delusion. I have gained knowledge through Thy Grace, O Immutable One, I am firm, my doubts have fled away. I will do according to Thy word." Now you cannot do according to the word of God unless you merge in the Word and become one with it. Then you can carry out His Will. Then there'll be no delusion. Then you will have reached, reaped the harvest of Oneness with God. That's what we want.

And the great Kabir, Kabir, one of the great saints, medieval saints, had this to say: "Through his own powers man cannot attain knowledge of God." Don't you see why it's so important that the Grace of God come upon us? "Through his own powers man cannot attain the knowledge of God, but God will reveal Himself to those who listen to His voice. He alone overcomes doubts and truly lives who has welcomed this message in his heart."

By yoga you can hear the Voice of God. You can hear the Cosmic Sound, which is God's Voice. "He took me by the way," it says in Ezekiel, "of the east gate, the gate which looketh toward the east, and the glory of God came by the way of the east, and His sound," or His Voice, "was like the sound of many waters." A direct reference to what we must do to reap this harvest of God's Presence. His Voice was like the sound of many waters, "...and the whole earth shined with His glory." There's One Eternal Substance. That's God. That's our her...heritage. That's the harvest which we must reap.

And so, lastly, when not in meditation, let every thought be of God. Everything you do. You cannot fail, if you do this simple thing. When you're not meditating, when you are directly contacting God through the Great Word, think of God. Take Him with you in everything you do. You can do that by wanting to please God in everything you do. That's all. It's as simple as that. But you must be sincere with yourself, and honest with yourself. You must wanna please God. And this way, you cannot get away from Him, nor He from you.

And so, when you're not in meditation, whatever you are doing, do to please God. And then, the Master says, "Whisper constantly, whisper constantly to God. In everything you do, whisper to Him." If you shout loud to the Lord, that takes you outward; but if you silently whisper, in the deep recesses of your Soul, He will hear you, because He is your own Soul. He is your own consciousness.

This is so, because, as Master said, "God loves us more than we can imagine." Well, if He loves us that much, He's gonna hear our whispering. "He loves us more than we" love, "can imagine." "More than we love Him. God is crying for us," he said, "more than we are crying for Him." That's why, if you whisper in the deep recesses of your Soul, He will hear you, and He will answer. Whisper to God as you go along, as you perform your daily duties. Whisper to Him, and He will answer, and you will reap the harvest of His Presence while here on earth.

And I'll close by reading just a part of Master's wonderful little poem, "When I Am But A Dream." It's so appropriate for this occasion, and about whispering to God, which is a very important thing. As you go about, no matter what you're doing, just talk to God, whisper to Him. If He has everything, which He has, universe upon universe, He doesn't need anything, but He does need one thing which we have – He needs our love. Whisper that to Him. That's the key to the whole business. And so Master has this to say, "When I Am Only A Dream," the last part.

"When you are no longer able to talk to me, read my Whispers From Eternity."

Such as, "I will reason, I will will, but guide Thou my reason, will, and activity to do the right thing." If you whispered that to God in the silence of your Soul, He will respond. He will lead you to do the right thing. Then he says, "Eternally through that," through the whispers, "I will talk to you. Unknown I will walk by your side and guard you with invisible arms. And as soon as you know my Beloved, and hear His voice in silence," through the intuition of your soul, "You will know me again, more tangibly than you knew me on this earth plane," because in the Omniscience of God everything is there – all friends, everything – even our Master. It's all there, because God is One.

And, finally, he says, "When I am only a dream to you, I will come to remind you that you, too, are naught but a dream of my Heavenly Beloveds. And when you know you are a dream, as I now know, we will be ever awake in Him." When you know the One Consciousness, then the dreams pass away, and we will be eternally awake in Him – in our one home of Cosmic Light – in that Great White Field of Cosmic Light and Consciousness. That's our home. That's where we belong. That's the harvest which we are seeking.

When I am Only a Dream

by Paramhansa Yogananda
Inner Culture, March 1940

I come to tell you all of Him,
And the way to encase Him in your bosom,
And of the discipline which brings His grace.
To those of you who have asked me
To guide you to my Beloved's silently talking mind,
Or speak to you through a gentle significant glance,
Or whisper to you through my love,
Or loudly dissuade you when you stray away from Him.
But when I shall become only a memory or a mental image,
Or silently speaking voice,
When no earthly call will ever reveal
My whereabouts in unplumbed space
When no shallow entreaty or stern stentorian command
Will bring an answer from me,
I will smile in your mind when you are right,
And when you are wrong, I will weep through my eyes,
Dimly peering at you in the dark,
And weep through your eyes, perchance;
And I will whisper to you through your conscience,
And I will reason with you through your reason,
And I will love through your love.
When you are able no longer to talk to me,
Read my Whispers of Eternity.
Eternally through that I will talk to you.
Unknown I will walk by your side
And guard you with invisible arms.
And as soon as you know my Beloved
And hear His voice in silence,
You will know me again more tangibly
Than you knew me in this earth plane.
And yet when I am only a dream to you
I will come to remind you that you too are naught
But a dream of my Heavenly Beloved,
And when you know you are a dream, as I know now,
We all will be ever awake in Him.