

Where is Paradise

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San Diego, 6-14-53

On the audio file Mrs. Kennel and Mrs. Gonsullus play a violin and organ duet of one of Schubert's Lieder.

"Where Is Paradise" is the subject this morning.

Where is paradise? Before discussing the subject, "Where is Paradise," I think, if we discuss for a few moments, what is paradise, *what* is paradise – because we think of paradise as a beautiful garden somewhere – you can be in the most beautiful garden in the United States, but inside your mind and consciousness can be a, in a turmoil, and surely that isn't paradise – so, paradise is something else besides just a location. And so, if we discuss for a few moments what paradise is, then perhaps we will be able to determine its location.

In the dictionary we read that: "paradise is the Garden of Eden," and then also, "paradise is Heaven." In the various religious books, and the different religions, we also find definitions, or we can find ideas, as to just what paradise is.

For instance, Buddha – paradise to Buddha was Nirvana; the cessation of all suffering. When Nirvana came, when one passed from duality of consciousness, into the Unity of God's Presence and His Love, that was Buddha's paradise.

And then we find in our own Bible, paradise is taken to be the Kingdom of Heaven; the Kingdom of Heaven. Now the Kingdom of Heaven is not in duality of consciousness, for Jesus said: "My kingdom is not of this world."¹

In the Vedas, and especially in the Bhagavad Gita, there we have the idea of what paradise is. Paradise, according to the Hindu scriptures, or the goal of life, is to attain Union with God. And what is God – Ever-conscious, Blissful, Eternal, Existence; God is Omniscience and Love. And so, in the Bhagavad Gita we read in the 18th Discourse, the 64th Line: "Listen thou again to my supreme words, most secret of all, and because thou hast been steadfast of heart, I will speak for thy benefit." Then it says, "Merge thy mind in me. Be my devotee. Sacrifice to me. Surrender thyself before me, and thou shall surely come even to me." And

¹ St. John 18:36

so you see, in the Vedas, of which the Bhagavad Gita is the textbook, so to speak, we find paradise is stressed as being one with God – Union with God.

Now we find, also, in other religions, in Zoroastrianism, practically the same thing; the same idea of paradise as we find in the Vedas. And there we read in one of it, its holiest book: "The goal of life is union with God Himself."² That's what paradise is.

In the Bible we find the same thing. Jesus said what? "I and my Father are one."³ Now when he said "I," he meant the Christ Consciousness within him, not the ego. "I and my Father are one."

And in the Koran, we read the same thing. Paradise is described as the "garden of bliss." Now bliss does not come, or is not perceived, in outward consciousness, in duality of consciousness. But it is perceived in the Unity of God's Presence – His Omniscience and His Love.

And so, you can see, in the various religions – in the Bible, in Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Muhammadanism, Hinduism – the same thing. Paradise is what? Paradise is Union with God. And what is God? God is His Great Omniscience, His Great Love. That's what paradise is. And that is found, not in outward conscious, consciousness. Not in duality of consciousness, but in Oneness within, and the Unity of God's Presence. Now in that hymn which we sing, "Brahmananda Hindu Spirit," most beautiful, speaking about God as the Guru of all Gurus, Great Guru, "who is pure, above all duality..." So that's what paradise really is. Paradise then, is a phase of consciousness, a state rather, of consciousness.

The Master summed it up this way: "Paradise is the realm of spiritual, or transcendental consciousness, where God and His angels dwell." Well now, surely, God and His angels do not dwell in outward consciousness. But they are above duality in the Unity of Conscious, Consciousness within – in God Alone. That's the important thing. There we find paradise. There we find that state of Consciousness, which we all desire. We look for it in outward things. We do not find it. But, if we sit quietly, and still the waves of the mind, and look within in the Unity of God's Presence, in His Light, in His Love within, we will find paradise, without question.

² Avesta. Similar wording in several translations.

³ St. John 10:30

In Indian philosophy, in the Hindu philosophy, we find it spoken of this way: "If monism, monism, is a truth then no path of duality can be the ultimate."⁴ That should give us the key. Monism means simply God Alone. We believe that, here in the Christian churches. We know it in Self-Realization, because we follow the techniques of Self-Realization, which give us contact with God within, with paradise within, with His Omniscience and Love. And so, those who follow that, those who follow that, and realize the Unity of God's Consciousness, God Alone, it goes on to say: that they, in them the sense of diversity as the ultimate is replaced. It disappears and is replaced by an All-comprehensive Reality, which is essentially identical with one's own Self. And so deep within in our quiet moments, especially in the state of deep sleep, and as I said in the Bible reading, in the shadow of death state, there the sense of duality disappears and that All-encompassing Reality takes its place, and we find that that is our own Soul.

And so paradise is this. Paradise, finally reduced, is one's own Soul; the Christ Consciousness within; God Alone; His Omniscience, and His Great Love. That is what paradise is.

And so, having established that firmly in our minds, just what paradise is, let us go on now, and discover, if we can, where, where this paradise is. We Americans want to know where, not just what. We wanna know where God's Love is; where we can feel His Protection; where we are safe from all things, including atomic bombs; and all sorts of disturbances of outward consciousness. Where is this paradise?

Now, to answer that question I wanna first give you just one or two Bible references. For in those references, is the key as to where paradise is. In Revelation, 2nd Chapter, the 7th Verse we read this: "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." So, there is the key as to where paradise is. It is in the Tree of Life. And what is the Tree of Life? The Tree of Life is the concentration of God's Great Omniscience and Love; the Great Spiritual Energy and Force known as the "spinal tree" with the roots above in the brain, and the trunk in the branches, beneath. That's the Tree of Life. That's where paradise is.

⁴ Bhagavad Gita, Unknown Discourse and Verse

In the brain, where the roots are formed, is the greatest concentration of God's Energy, and Power, and Love. It is known as the "holy of holies." In the spine, we have the six Centers of the spine. Those are concentrations of God's Great Energy and Love. Sometimes you'll feel the spine cool, and filled with Bliss. Why? Because that's part of the Tree of Life; that's where paradise is; and the Centers of the spine are the holy places.

And so, we have in the Tree of Life; the holy of holies, or the brain; the Thousand-rayed Lotus; the roots above; and in the spine, we have the six centers, concentrations of God's Great Love. And that's why your whole being will be filled with Him, when His song flows through you. And these places in the spine are holy places, and the Tree of Life can be perceived.

And now, in Ezekiel – in Ezekiel, the 28th Verse, the 13th and 14th Verses we find there the same thing in reference to where paradise is. It says: "Thou [hast been] ~~wast in the Garden of Eden~~ [garden of God]...; thou wast upon the holy mountain of God." That's the holy of holies, the Thousand-rayed Lotus. That's where you perceive the Great Love of God. And also, it goes on to refer about the other holy places in the spine, where it says, thou didst have the consciousness of the holy of holies, the mountain of God, the Thousand-rayed Lotus, and we did have the consciousness of the holy places in the spine, concentrations of God's Great Energy, for it says: "thou didst walk up and down midst the stones of fire." Those are in the Tree of Life, right within us. And that's where paradise is found.

Now going on – Self-Realization Yoga, Self-Realization Fellowship Yoga, takes one to paradise, without question, Self-Realization Fellowship Yoga, because it was given by one who was in paradise while here on earth. Unless we know paradise while we're here on earth, it will not do us any good afterwards. But we can feel and know paradise, God's Great Love and Consciousness right here and now. And the path of Self-Realization has been given by one of God's Saints, Great Saints. And those who follow, will, without doubt, receive, and know paradise, right here on earth. Self-Realization Fellowship Yoga takes one to paradise. Now, if we follow this Self-Realization Fellowship Yoga, it will give us the consciousness of deep sleep, the consciousness of the shadow of death, of which I have spoken. It will take us right there. In that state of deep sleep, then we perceive visions. Then we perceive intuitional experiences. Then we live in paradise.

Now, this is not in imagination. It's not an idea of mine. Those of you who will follow the techniques, will perceive these things, and will live in paradise, without question. Self-Realization gives us life in paradise in a conscious way. That's the important thing – in a conscious way. We go to paradise every night in sleep. But who wants that? I don't remember half of it. We want to remember paradise, and have it dynamic to our consciousness. And so, Self-Realization Yoga gives us the state of deep sleep, in a conscious way. That's what people do not realize. Now, this state of deep sleep was spoken of in the Bible many times, as I have told you, in Daniel, in Zachariah, in Ezekiel, in Isaiah. There it speaks about being in the state of deep sleep when the visions came. Now Self-Realization will give you that state in a conscious way.

And so, in conclusion, paradise, where God and His angels dwell, is not far off. It is right within us, right within us, and it can be contacted, because it is the Tree of Life. The Tree of Life, remember, is the Presence of God right within you, His Love, and His Omniscience. Because, it says in 1st John, the 1st Chapter, the 1st Verse: "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God." When you perceive and contact that Tree of Life through Self-Realization Fellowship techniques, you contact the Word, the Holy Vibration, and in that is God's Omniscience and Love. God Alone is there. And remember, I have said that paradise is the Tree of Life, God Alone.

Now, this Tree of Life, which is paradise, can be contacted through the Heavenly Gates. This is important. Paradise can be entered into through the Heavenly Gates, the East Gate, spoken of in the Bible. God came by the way of the East. This is the East Gate, the Christ Center [Doctor points to the Spiritual Eye between the eyebrows]. You cannot perceive God in outward consciousness and paradise, but through the Heavenly Gates spoken of in Ezekiel. And there, there you will perceive the Effulgent Light of Paradise, of God's Omniscience from that way of the East.

And remember, Self-Realization Yoga gives you the technique whereby you can perceive, not only the Gate, the Heavenly Gate in the East – this is the East of the body [the Spiritual Eye], North [top of the head], and South [coccyx], West, behind [Medulla Center]. Self-Realization not only gives you the techniques to perceive the Gate, the East Gate, the reflection of the Mouth of God, but it gives you the technique to enter through the Gate into paradise. There you'll be one with His Infinite Light, and His Great Love.

And so, we read in Ezekiel about the East Gate. Remember, we can contact paradise through that East Gate – but few, few will give the labor. Few will labor a little to get what – to get paradise; which is Eternity with God’s Omniscience, and Love. And so, in Ezekiel⁵ we read: "He brought me to the east gate, and behold the glory of God came from the way of the East." You perceive the Glory of God at this point [Spiritual Eye], His Omniscient Light. You perceive it and you can merge in it. And then it goes on to say: "I perceived the glory of God," the Glory of paradise, the Light of paradise, and God’s Omniscience spoke to me through that Light as "the voice of many waters." And finally, he ends by saying, "...and my being shined with His glory."

We are children of God, made in His image. We are His children. And when we merge in His Presence, then we shine with His Glory, because we are living with God in paradise, and it can be done right here on earth. If it is not done here on earth, it will not be done afterwards. So we must get busy. We must get busy. As the Master said, "There is little time. Get busy now."

Jesus said, "The harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few."⁶ Harvest of what – life in paradise – eternally with God. Whether we have to come back and work out things or not, that’s the harvest. The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few.

But, those who live in paradise, as the saints, and set the example, if we follow them, we, too, can be in paradise, right here on this earth, for Jesus said to the thief that was on the cross beside him – because that thief had surrendered completely outward consciousness of delusion – he said to him, because he really wanted God and God Alone, as exemplified by Jesus himself, he said, "This [Today] day thou shall be with me in paradise."⁷

And so each one of us, this day, if we make this the starting point, we can absolutely contact paradise, because it is right within us, as the Tree of Life. And so we must be busy. We must realize, now is the time. Unless we get it now, in this life, how can we have it afterwards? No. We must be busy right now.

And I wanna close by reading a little of one of the Master’s letters to me about the importance of getting busy now. Now is the time to make paradise dynamic to our consciousness, because we can contact it. We know where it is, right

⁵ A composite of Ezekiel 11:1, and Ezekiel 43:1-4

⁶ Matthew 9:37

⁷ Luke 23:43

within us in the Tree of Life. And through Self-Realization Yoga we can absolutely enter into paradise. The Master says this. This letter came from Cuba.

"Meditation is friendship with God in paradise." These are wonderful letters. You think in meditation as you sit quietly, and you feel that Peace. That's the Presence of God within you. That's friendship with Him in paradise, right there. But we're so attached to matter we cannot realize it.

And so, he says, "Meditation is friendship with God in paradise. In meditation alone, you hear his voice of peace. His loud talk of infinite assurance." You don't hear it otherwise; in the beginning, especially. But when you sit quietly in meditation, then you feel His Peace, and you hear His Great Voice, the Om vibration.

Then he goes on to say: "Last of all, remember, now is the time or never." We cannot attain paradise except through this vehicle. That's what we don't understand. People say, "Oh, the dickens with the body." Now that won't go. It's the only vehicle we can know God with. And so he says: "Last of all, remember, now is the time, now or never. Meditate deeply at night. Throw yourself at the feet of God. Steady coaxing is necessary, sincere heart calls, to make Him speak." We come from God. We are one with His Infinite Light. Why not throw this body there? It's nothing. If we have the Master of the Universe, that's the greatest thing. Then he goes on to say:

"Forget this dream of life. Lo, in the chamber of imagination," God's imagination, imagine it, "Lo in the chamber of imagination, life is already filmed and finished. Don't wait. Pray unceasingly for illumination and God's Love." That's the important thing. "Lose not a minute. Do not be fed up by waiting with hopes of this and that. Eat God now, nourish yourself on eternity." The most wonderful letter.

So it's up to us now, right now. We know what paradise is. We know where paradise is. And by the Grace of God, we have the ways and the means through Self-Realization Fellowship Yoga, to be one with God, His Great Peace and His Love in paradise.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we humbly pray, through Thy Grace, Thou will take us, consciously, into paradise. We did not realize, Thy Omniscience and Love,

which is right within us, is paradise itself. Be with each one of us. Help us to feel Thy Great Love for us. Keep us steadfast, along the path, till finally by Thy Grace, we will consciously, merge in Thee. Om, Peace, Amen.