

Death – What Is It?

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The subject this morning: "Death – What Is It?"

Death – What is it? I looked in the dictionary, and I found a definition of death: "extinction or end." Now anything that ends must have a beginning. Remember that. Anything that ends must have had a beginning. And so, we should realize the first axiom, the greatest axiom, is that death occurs in that realm of Maya, or creation. Death means the end of something that had a beginning. And that means the Creation of God, the Dream of God, and the outward consciousness in that dream, of which we are a part. This body is a part of the Maya. The Creation of God. It is made from His Consciousness. And the consciousness in our bodies is God's Consciousness attached to the vehicle, as human consciousness. It is that which has the beginning. And it is that which has the end, and, therefore, it is that human consciousness, as well as our bodies as a part of the Creation of God, which passes away, which dies. Not the underlying consciousness.

And so in the Cosmic aspect, that which dies is the Creation of God, of which our body is a part, and the consciousness in His Creation, as duality of consciousness. That is what passes away. When we consider the Cosmic aspect. When we consider the individual aspect, it is the consciousness of God attached to the vehicle as our own human consciousness that passes away. Our human consciousness is God's Consciousness. But because He's sleeping rather soundly in His Creation, He becomes attached to the various parts. And that's why we feel separated from God. It is still His Consciousness in us as the ego: The human consciousness. And as the body is born, so that human consciousness is born with it. But the sad part is that it becomes so attached to the body, and becomes so much one with it, that when the body dies, the human consciousness feels itself finished – ended.

And so you can see, it behooves us to know something besides human consciousness, because that having a beginning must have an ending. Remember that one thing; that your human consciousness, with which you are listening to me, and looking at me, is God's Consciousness. But it is attached to the vehicle. And remember, it is that which is attached that passes away. It is that which is attached to the human vehicle that passes away. Not the Reality behind.

So remember, that is what death is. Death is God's Consciousness in each and every one of us, attached to the vehicle, which passes away. As far as consciousness is concerned, consciousness passes away. That entity within each and every one of us, as Dr. Lewis, or Mr. and Mrs. So-and-So, or Mr. So-and-So, that passes away. That is still God's Consciousness. But, sad to say, it is attached to the imperishable, to the perishable vehicle, the changing body. That is what death is – death of that which was created. Not death of that which always was and always will be - the Eternal Soul within.

Now, going on just a little bit, to make it a little more understandable, is this one point which the Master stressed so much. If you will try and understand your dream consciousness, and then apply it to God's Great Consciousness, you will understand easily what death is. Now when we dream, a part of our consciousness is segregated, so to speak, and produces a little drama within us. But please remember, it is still your consciousness. Now in that drama you have various parts that are played. Now your consciousness becomes attached to that part of it is playing. Now when the dream is resolved, that consciousness, which was attached to that part, which you are playing in your dream, what happens to it? It vanishes, because it had a beginning with your dream. It has an ending with the dream. You understand? Now what is left? Your consciousness, which was the consciousness in the dream, but it was attached to the dream. You understand?

Just like a cake of ice. A cake of ice has shape, size, weight, mass, temperature. But when you change the conditions and the ice melts – where is the cake of ice? That which had a beginning, must have an ending. So that consciousness in you, which had a beginning, and became an entity with the formation of this body, that passes away. Just like the cake of ice passes away. And the thing from which it was made, the reality stays. And so, with us; that which produced this body, and that which produced the consciousness in the body, which became identified as the reality, that stays.

And so, with God's Great Dream; this creation is produced the same way. A part of Him was set aside. It says so in the Gita. I haven't time to read it. It said, a portion of Myself was set aside and produced creation, and the Consciousness in that creation is a part of the Maya, the delusion. Now when God resolves this

creation, that Maya, that creation, dies, and the Consciousness attached to that creation dies also. As in God's dream; so in ours.

And so, remember, that which passes away, in the Great Dream of God, and in our own dream, is the part played. You understand? And, if you are attached to this part, which you are playing, no matter what part it is, when it passes away, that consciousness will pass away. That is what death is. Death is the passing away; the end of that which had a beginning.

Now within us, there is a consciousness which does not pass away; the underlying consciousness from which everything is produced. In us it is the Soul. In God's Great Consciousness it is His Maya. It is His Eternal Presence, His Spirit. And we are rays with that one Great Spirit.

And so, as we look about creation, even in the mineral kingdom, if you examine them, you will see the crystalline form. You will see the Intelligence there, and in the stones, you'll see the shining Light of Spirit, in those sparkling rays. That's the part of the mineral that doesn't pass away; the external part. The various chemicals, they dissolve. They are taken back into that from whence they came. But that Presence of God in the mineral kingdom, even though it seems to be covered up and obscure, that does not pass away. That's Eternal.

Stepping up just a little bit into the vegetable kingdom, and the trees, and the flowers, and the shrubs; we take the flowers. The flower dies, but the Presence of God, which produced the flower, and gives off that aroma, and the beauty, that is Eternal. That does not die. The form dies, because it had a beginning. It must have an ending. But underneath that flower is the unending Presence of God.

Take the trees. The same way; even in the trees. They have a heart which pumps – like ours – pumps the sap up and down, produces the tree from the seed. Now, that eternal part in the seed, which produces that huge tree with all its functions, that's the Presence of God. That's the underlying consciousness. That does not pass away.

And so, within us, there is that Soul which was never born, and will never end. Always was, and always will be. But how far away it seems; it seems separated from us. We seem separated from something, and that something is the Reality. Why? Because our consciousness is God within us is attached to this vehicle. We must break that attachment. And the moment you break the attachment, you'll understand what death is – nothing. Death is an unreality. Life is the real thing. We must understand it.

Now we read in the Bhagavad Gita, just to explain this a little bit more for you, in the 2nd Discourse, 16th to the 22nd Line: “The unreal hath no being.” This table, this altar, which seems so real, is not the Reality. It is not the real thing. So it says, “The unreal hath no being. The real never ceases to be. The truth about both hath been perceived by the seers of the essence of things.”

That essence we must know. If we do not know that, we’ll be engulfed in death, which is simply change. And it goes on. “Know that essence...” know that indestructible part, “by whom all this creation is pervaded. Nor can anyone work the destruction of the Imperishable One as God is and always will be.” Those of us, who merge in that, and know that, who can touch us, who can change us? Death is not in His Consciousness. Death is in the duality of consciousness; the creation; the Maya, which He has produced.

In the Bible we also have a reference which says the same thing, practically. First Corinthians, 6th Chapter, the 19th Verse. “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and which ye are not your own.” This body is not yours. It is a product of God’s Great Holy Ghost, through His Drama of Life – through the Creation. The Holy Ghost is the Reality. And that’s within each and every one of us. That never dies. It always was, and always will be. And from that Holy Ghost comes all things. Everything comes from that. The trouble is that we become attached to the vehicle, attached to the body. That attachment must pass away. Therefore, death means the passing away of that which was born, and must end. God’s Consciousness in us as the Holy Ghost, being always His Consciousness, will never pass away.

So the truth about it is, as I have said, the only thing that dies is that which becomes attached. When God’s Consciousness becomes attached to our body, it is a distinct entity. Do you see? But it’s not a reality. Just like the ice. Remember the illustration of the cube of ice? The ice is a distinct entity. You try to push it. If it’s heavy, and see, keep your hand on it. See what it does to you. It’s an entity. And yet when you change the conditions of temperature, where is it?

And so, this body, which seems so solid, sometimes feels good, sometimes feels bad, it’s a reality. It’s an entity while you are subject to its law. But in

meditation, where is it? Where is it? Where is your consciousness that is attached to it so strongly? In meditation I don’t know who I am, where I came from. No birth, no death, no caste have I. Father, mother, I have none. . .,” but I do know one thing. “I am He, I am He, blessed Spirit, I am He.” That’s the reality. Death is in outward consciousness. Not in inward consciousness.

And so, in conclusion, let us realize this one thing. That there is one, one thing, one instance when death, instead of producing oblivion, produces life, produces Eternal Life. Now isn't that wonderful? This death which seems so severe and so horrible at times, there is one case of that very death, which produces life and life eternal. And we have it said so, spoken so, right in the scripture.

I'll give you these two scripture references. Revelation, the 2nd Chapter, the 11th Verse, and then the 10th Verse: "He that over-cometh death..." there is one case of death which gives life, "He that over-cometh death," it says, "shall not be hurt of the second death." Once overcome, this outward attachment, which produces death, and you will actually die – once consciously die. What's the result? Eternal life, it says so in Revelation. "...shall not be hurt of the second death." It says so further in the 10th Verse: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Such a paradox, but that is an absolute truth.

If you overcome, as St. Paul did, the outward consciousness – rise above it, supersede it – you inherit eternal life, which is your birthright. And so, St. Paul says that very thing in Corinthians, 15th Chapter, 1st Corinthians, 15th Chapter, 31st Verse, "I protest by the rejoicing that I have in Christ..." Consciousness within me; by the bliss I feel, I realize that because, "...I die daily."

So he experiences death. What's the result? Eternal life! How? St. Paul died daily to outward consciousness. St. Paul died daily to this human consciousness. St. Paul died daily to the delusion, which God has created. He lifted his consciousness. He superseded this outward consciousness by the Presence of God within. I protest by the Bliss I feel in Christ Consciousness, I die to outward consciousness daily. So there is one, one heartening condition of death – death to this outward consciousness which produces all the trouble. Rise above that. Supersede that, and you will have, as St. Paul had, all those who do it have life eternal. So death isn't so bad after all.

And so, finally, in conclusion, it is the death of outward consciousness, and that's God's Consciousness. It doesn't seem possible, does it, attached to the body? It is the death of that consciousness, which gives us life eternal. If we make the effort, follow the techniques which the Master has sent to you, and given to you, it is not difficult. But you have to do it. Isn't God worth one hour a day in your life to have eternal life? We are so deluded we can't see that. But it is absolutely so.

Even one hour a day of intense meditation will liberate you from this death, which is bound to come, if you keep attached to outward consciousness. Self-Realization techniques simply lift one from attachment to outward consciousness. That's all. There's nothing mysterious about Self-Realization. It is very simple. But you have to do it! You have to make the effort! You have to devote yourself to God through its techniques, and through the channel, which God has sent. If you do that, there'll be no death for you, because death is found in outward consciousness, and you're gonna supersede that consciousness with the One Consciousness of God.

And so, this is the case when death should be welcomed. You should welcome it. Death to this outward consciousness of delusion, which causes us all the trouble; rise above that, and you will feel one with the Eternal Presence of God within you. That is above death, beyond death.

And I have one more reference, and then I'm through. Revelation, the 14th Chapter, 13th verse, most beautiful: "Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord from henceforth." Blessed are those who die to outward consciousness, and merge in Christ Consciousness. That's what it means. Death is not a reality. It's real while we're in outward consciousness. But blessed are those who make the effort to get out of it into the One Eternal Consciousness of God.

And lastly, in St. John, the 5th Chapter, the 25th Verse: "The hour is coming and now is..." now is the time, whenever you make up your mind to do it. "The hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live."

Now the Voice of the Son of God is the Holy Vibration of God, and "those who hear it," and merge in it, have overcome death "...and they shall live." Because when you hear the Voice of God and merge in it, you're not in outward consciousness. You're in His Consciousness within you. You're in His Great Word, His Holy Vibration. That's the most beautiful reference. Remember it. "The hour is coming and now is when the dead..." those dead to outward consciousness "...shall hear the Voice of the Son of God, "and they that hear shall live." There is no death. There is no death, when you realize what you are.

I'll close with the Master's beautiful words. "Life is sweet and death is sweet, when Thy song flows through me." When that Holy Vibration flows through you, that's God; that's His Word in us. What is life? What is death? They're all one, in the Presence of God.