

“The Eternal War”, Good and Evil

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Hollywood, 6-1-58

Don't get a chance to play that organ very often. So I hafta take advantage of the opportunity.

We're very happy to be here this morning with you. I suppose you didn't expect to see me, but understand that Reverend Brother Kriyananda is out on missionary work for the Fellowship and it gives me an opportunity to be with you again. Very happy to be here.

I remember one of the ministers, when he first took over – I think it was this church – we used to have these curtains closed. And then they opened them, and whomever was the speaker, why they had to take that person as the speaker, because the Master usually came. But this time, this particular minister, they opened the curtains, and, of course, he was sitting there. And he told me, he says, “One fellow, right in the front row, he got up and went out.” And he said, he said, “Then came my turn in San Diego to take Master's place. And I tried to get out of it. But he said, ‘No. You have to do it.’ And so when the curtain opened, I quickly told them, that they were disappointed and so was I that I had to be here, but that I hoped that they would stay. And not one left. But I said it quickly so I didn't give them a chance to leave.” And that just goes to show that you shouldn't be involved in personality – rather in the Truth.

And one other little incident came to my mind that – about the ministers. You know there's always a story about the ministers. They always seem to come in for this, the jokes and so forth, by the situations; when this little girl asked her father, who was a minister, why that when he went to the pulpit he always put his head down. And he said, “Well,” he said, “I asked God to give me a good sermon that I can give to the people.” And the little girl says, “Why doesn't he ever do it?” So I'm here, I'm here to try to give you a good sermon, say a few words, which will help you, I'm sure.

I must tell you one other, so that we, so that we can get started in good shape. And the Master used to say, “Tell them one or two stories. Then everybody feels better.”

When I was speaking about, of course, this has nothing to do with Reverend Brother Kriyananda. When I was speaking about missionary work, this little story came to my mind that this missionary was in one of the dark countries, and he said to one of the folks there, he said, "Why is it," he said, "You mean to say that you don't know anything about religion? You never heard of religion?" "Well," the cannibal said, "We had a little taste of it the last time a missionary was here." But that has nothing to do with Brother Kriyananda on his missionary trip. I know he, he does a wonderful work for Master, and I, I'm sure I'm happy that, to be here with you this morning.

And now we take up our subject, which is, as you know, ""The Eternal War";" eternal war, which goes on. And that simply means, as I pointed out in the...when we read the scriptures, the war between good and evil – good and evil. But, realize one thing all things are created from the One Eternal Substance of God – One Eternal Substance – Truth, Reality. And in that Substance, can't you see there's no good, no evil. In your meditation, when you look, you see the Light of the Infinite and you feel His Peace flowing through your Soul, there's no good, nor evil. There's One Eternal Substance – God alone. And from that, all things have come. But in the Cosmic Dream Consciousness, in this worldly existence in which we find ourselves, then there's seems to be good and evil.

And so the answer is obvious. To win this battle – this eternal war which goes on – is to know the One Eternal Substance from which all things come. In that there is no good, nor evil. Evil is found in outward consciousness only. And we find ourselves in that consciousness. But, as we pass along this road, if we can keep tune with, and one with, the Eternal Substance, or God's Great Presence, then we can never go wrong. Then we are pointing, always, toward the good. And, if you point toward the good, the result is Harmony, Peace, and Bliss.

If you follow duality, realize that this Cosmic Dream had a beginning – it must have an ending. There's no security in it. There's no stability. It's always a oscillation. A pull this way, and a pull that way. That's the nature of it, because of the polarity of God's Great Consciousness – His Cosmic Energy. And so, in that, we seem to have good pulling us this way, and evil pulling us that. But, if we follow God's Plan, of which I'll speak of in a minute, we would understand that. We would see our position. We would see our Immortal Nature. We would not be subject to this pull toward good and toward evil. That's the greatest thing. If you can stabilize your consciousness in the Presence of God, and feel Him, no matter what you're doing, then you will not have this eternal

war going on within you, in a conscious way, in which you are affected. It's very important to realize that.

And so, understand that evil is a delusion. Evil is a delusion, and yet it is so real. Just like in the moving picture, the light and shadow on the screen are the delusion of the underlying reality, which is the light in the motion picture. Do you see that? As the beam comes down from the projection booth, on the screen we see light and shadow – good and evil, if you want to call it that. But that's the delusion of the Reality, which is the Light. Can the Light be sick? Can the Light be evil? Can the Light take on the characteristics of the hero, or the villain? No. No. It's very plain. If you wanna escape the delusion and the pull of the Forces of delusion, keep in the Beam. Keep in the Beam of God's Presence within you.

And so, in this Cosmic Dream, try and keep in the Beam. Try and see the Reality behind, which is God's Great Light, and not be taken up with the light and shadow, which is the delusion of the underlying Noumena, or Reality, or the Light of God. And you can contact that right within yourselves. You can contact the Vibration of His Holy Presence as the Word, which is one with the Light, or you can feel God's Great Love within your heart, which is the feeling aspect of God within you. Now any and all of those things are one. They are the Light of God. They are the underlying Reality. There's no good, nor evil in it. The good and evil are in the shadows – light and shadows of that underlying Beam. So that, in a few words, is the lesson which we learn from the subject this morning, ""The Eternal War"."

And the war goes on because we are engrossed in the play of light and shadow. In your meditation, as you sat here a few minutes ago, you felt the Peace of God's Presence. Was there any good nor evil there? No. There was Peace and Bliss. And yet you get outside, especially if it's a weekday, and it doesn't take long before the war is at it again. "The Eternal War" goes on, because we have brought over from a previous life, or whatever you believe in – it doesn't make any difference, the tendencies are there – the mental and discriminative tendencies within you and within me. The tendency, the mental tendencies are those which are pulling us toward matter and material things. The discriminative tendencies are those which are pulling us toward wisdom and toward God.

The battle is there. You will, you have brought those over, I have brought those over. Those tendencies, some have, as the Master used to say, "good samskaras," "tendencies," which, if you cultivate and water them, they will take you quickly

to God. Others do not have those. Others have more mental tendencies, and it's very easy for them to follow matter, and its pull. So the battle goes on. But that doesn't excuse us for the simple reason, if we follow the good, we will have a harmonious life. We will have security of God's Presence. If we follow the evil or mental tendencies, we will have material things, and the things that go with matter, which are insecure, and unstable, and unlasting. Realize this is the eternal battle that goes on with you.

In the Bhagavad Gita is a description of that psychological battle that goes on within each and every one of us, of which we spoke of in the Bible reading, or the Gita reading this morning. That battle goes on, but that does not excuse us for the simple reason: we want Peace and Bliss; we want freedom from insecurity – from delusion. We will get it, if we follow the discriminative tendencies, and feel the Presence of God – His Great Light, and His Love within us. This is the thing we must remember this morning in this eternal warfare which goes on.

And understand that God has given us free will. That's the worst. I wish He hadn't sometimes. He's given us free will to follow this thing, this Drama of Life, in order that it go on; in order that His manifestation of this Drama of Life go on. If we didn't follow, everybody wouldn't follow it, would cease. But for that reason the delusion goes on.

Now, one reference I'd like to read you at this time from Master's book, The Master Said, just to corroborate what few things I have said at this time. "The whole universe is made of Spirit. A star, a stone, a tree, a man are equally composed of the same soul substance, God. In the tree you find Him; in the animal, in the stones, in you, and in me." One Eternal Substance – but think how, through the agency of Light, and the variation of Vibration of that Light, these different things have come. And so, "God is quite clever," as Master has said, going on.

Now this idea, of this point, of Soul Substance, and God being in everything, to bring into being a diverse, a diversified creation; the Lord had to bestow on everything the appearance of Infinite Duality. You seem an individual. I seem an individual. So does the tree. So does the stone. Now that individuality brings on separation – the idea that we're separated from God, and that's the delusion.

If you can realize, right now, that God is in you, and realize in everyone here, there'll be no separation, will there? In your own dream you can have lots of

people. You can have many characters. And when you break the dream, there's one consciousness that has produced it; your own consciousness – so with God. He has produced this creation from His One Consciousness, and through the delusion of diversity, and individuality, we seem separated from Him. That's the whole delusion. That's the thing you overcome. How do you overcome it? By meditating regularly - keeping in the One Eternal Substance within, and the Power of that Substance will change you, so that you do not believe, or do not feel, one with this Cosmic Dream, but you look upon it as a Play that God has handed us to do.

And so, one more thing, "Life," says the Master, "has a bright side and a dark side, for the world of relativity is composed of light and shadow. But behind that is the Beam. Let us not lose sight of the Beam."

Now, going on just a little bit more – we know that evil is a Force. Some people say, well, they deny evil. That won't do. That is inadequate. Because evil is a Force. There's no question about it. In the Cosmic Dream, and when we're in the Cosmic Dream, we're subject to that Force.

In the Bible in Isaiah, 45th Chapter, it says these very words, "I formed the light and I create darkness. I make peace, I create evil." So God has made evil. "I the Lord do these things." And in the Bhagavad Gita, it says even, "I am Light, I am all things, I am the gambling of the cheat." How can you say that evil is not a Force. God created it. Jesus said, "Lead us not into temptation." He realized the Force of evil. So do not just say evil can be dismissed. It doesn't exist. It does exist when we're in the Cosmic Dream, and you cannot pass it away, pass over it lightly. It is a force, and when you're in the dream, it is a real Force, and we have to understand that's why we have to fight this battle. That's why we have to keep our consciousness headed toward, pointed toward, God and His Presence within us. Then that Force cannot keep us in the delusion. And when we get out of the, out of the delusion, we've won the ba...we've won the battle. We've won the battle of this eternal war, that's going on within us. And so these are important things to remember, the few things that we escape the enveloping darkness of this delusion. And it is engulfing.

Now, God had a certain Plan for us in this worldly existence in which we find ourselves. God's Plan was this: that He went out in the form of each one of us into this Cosmic Delusion, that He could enjoy it. These are the Master's words. "God has gone out from Himself in the form of each one of us that He could enjoy this play." But the other thing is this. He did not want us, as parts of

Himself, to forget our Immortal Nature, but to enjoy the Play, ever remembering that we are His children, rays of His Infinite Light, and thereby, we could enjoy the Play without being attached to it. That's God's Plan. But the devil came along. He had a different plan.

He, through desire, wants us to be attached to the Dream. Why? Because then, his kingdom goes on. Then this kingdom of this earthly existence goes on. And so, realize, that's why through desire, the conscious Force of evil, and it is a conscious Force, through desire, keeps us attached to this Drama of Life and, therefore, the Play goes on, and we're engrossed in it, and we have to keep coming back, and back again, until we get out of it. Why not do it now? Why not realize the Beam behind the Play, and get out of this duality, this delusion right now? And we can do that.

And so, "The Eternal War" goes on. But the purpose of life is, as Master has said, "To play the drama of life – to be in it, but not be attached to it," because when you're attached to it, then comes the suffering. Then comes the, everything, the inharmony, and the insecurity. But when the attachment is broken, by following the right techniques, and you know the Beam within you, the One Substance of God. Then the attachment is broken. Then you're free. Then the battle is won.

And so the purpose of life, remember, is not to be engrossed in this Cosmic Dream. It is to enjoy it, but to remember your Immortal Nature, which is behind it. Remember the light and the moving picture which produces it on the screen – the light and shadow. Realize that you are that Light. And so, in this Cosmic Dream, you are the Beam of God's Presence. You are not the light and shadow of this Cosmic Dream. That's the lesson which we have to learn.

And so, when man allies himself with the Forces of good, which means the Forces of Discrimination and Wisdom, then his life will be Harmonious and Peaceful. When, on the other hand, he allies himself with the Forces of evil, and that's simply delusion, that's all – the forces of this worldly existence – what can the end result be – nothing but inharmony, lack of fulfillment, no peace nor joy. So we can see, easily, which way we must go, and should go, toward the Forces of good, realizing ourselves as the Beam of God.

And one more reference from the, Master's book, The Master Said, substantiating what I have just said. "Those that dwell on evil hurt themselves..." because evil is delusion, and cannot give you anything in the end. Even though you have a million dollars, and you have not the Peace of God, you will not be satisfied. So

Master says, "Those that dwell on evil hurt themselves. Men that fill their minds with wisdom and their lives with constructive activities, spare themselves ignoble suffering."

We were not made to suffer no more than we were made to go to the moving picture and get so engrossed that we begin to cry, and bawl, and all sorts of things. We should see the Beam. Oh, that's it. The Beam cannot be sick, or sinful. The Beam cannot know good, nor evil. But in the play of light and shadow in this Cosmic Dream, then the Play goes on good and proper. We must understand that.

Oh, I have another reference from The Master Said. "Turn toward God..." and this is most beautiful, "and you will find yourself shaking off the chains, chains of habits and environment." "Turn toward God." Sri Yukteswarji says, in the AY, "The moment you turn toward God things begin to get better for you." Now it may not seem that way at first, but that's so. Because in Daniel, Daniel it says – I think I can remember the scripture – in Daniel, the 10th Chapter, the 12th Verse, it says, "Fear not Daniel, the moment you set your heart to understand." The moment you turn toward good, (*aside: stick to my brief*) "and then began to chasten..." yourself. That means to do something about it: meditate, search for God, try to be one with Him, "...your words were heard and I am come for your words."

That's a very comforting chapter, verse, and chapter in Daniel. Because the moment you, every one of us, set our hearts to understand God, and say, "Father I've had enough of it. I want Thee." And then do something about it. The channel is opened up into the Omniscience of God. The way is opened. His Force is flowing through you, and you will change from then on. It's a wonderful thing to remember. And this is true.

Sri Yukteswarji said just that, and in Daniel we find the same thing. "Fear not Daniel..." The moment you are fair with me, God might say, and mean business with me, and do something about it, I will open up the way, and you'll be taken care of. These are wonderful things to realize in this battle of good and evil.

Now in the Bible, we have a, a reference which shows what happens when we follow evil, and then I'll be through. It is this. It is in Ezekiel, 28th Chapter, 13th to 16th Verses. This is what happens when we follow evil. It isn't worth it. Realize that God wanted us to enjoy this Play without being attached to it. To real... remember our Immortal Nature. But we've forgotten our Immortal Nature, for it

says in this reference, it says, "Thou wast in the Garden of Eden...Thou wast also upon the holy mountain." That means in the Thousand-rayed Lotus of the Consciousness of God's Presence in us. That was dynamic to our consciousness. It also says, "Thou didst walk up and down amidst the stones of fire." Those are the Centers of the spine where the Spiritual Consciousness resides with the Great Supreme Center in the brain. We had that Consciousness, until something happened. Until we became attached to this worldly consciousness, and "until iniquity was upon us," which simply means delusion. In God's Light there is no iniquity.

And so we had those different states of consciousness. We had not had forgotten our Immortal Nature, and we were in the Play. But we had not forgotten that God was in us, and we were a part of Him, until this thing came about. We became attached to matter, and delusion set in upon us. What happened? As it says, "By the multitude of thy merchandise," you have lost the consciousness of the holy mountain and the stones of fire. You've been thrown out from those high states of consciousness. That's the gist of it.

Those things which we had, and our Immortal Nature, we lost. And because the increase of merchandise simply means "the law of following iniquity," it multiplies, and multiplies, and multiplies. You follow a desire, another one comes. Another one comes. Another one comes. There's no end to it. That's the law. That's what it means in Ezekiel by "the multitude of thy mercy." And by the multitude of delusion, we're getting in deeper, and deeper, and deeper until we lose, have lost, that Consciousness of God's Presence within. Now these things are true.

And so, we come to the final thing. Even though this has happened, realize one thing: evil cannot win in the end. Evil cannot win in the end, because this Cosmic Dream was created out of the Force of Repulsion; the Great Creative Power of God. But there's another Power that's Greater than that, and that's the Force of God's Love – the Great Force of Attraction, which is pulling everything back to Him. That's the greatest force. That's why Ramakrishna said, "All will be saved, because all will be drawn back into God." This creation will disappear, and by the pull of His Great Love, all things will be gone back unto Him. And so, evil, or delusion, cannot win in the end. Evil and delusion must melt away, and God's Presence, God's Power, is Supreme and must win.

And so, that brings us to the final point – the purpose of meditation is what? Is to give us, once more, the realization of our Immortal Nature, then we can view

this Cosmic Dream without being attached. Then we can enjoy it, without being submerged in its darkening quality. We can realize the Cosmic Dream as a Play, but we can remember we are children of God. He is in us. His Love is in us. His Power is in us. Nobody can shake us. We can realize that, understand that, is through meditation, scientific meditation we make the contact with God.

And the second thing is, when you make the contact, then comes perhaps the hardest thing – is to retain it; is to retain that; is to so cement yourself in God's Presence, that nobody can shake you from it. That's the hard thing.

I notice we were talking about it Friday night. We feel the Presence of God. How difficult it is to retain it, and keep it in our every day action. It can be done. I wouldn't stand up here and tell you unless, by the Grace of God the experience has been that it can be done. Now let's do it, and then let's win this battle which goes on of good and evil in us.

And, finally, remember Master's words. In your meditation, when you feel that Presence of God, as you do now – you feel that Peace of His Presence – hold it! For Master said, "All the saints, one thing, they never lose their peace."

So no matter what comes in the following week, and from now on – no matter if somebody does a certain thing to you, which is disgraceful, no matter what it is – don't lose your peace. Then God's Presence will be with – in you. You will know Him. He will never leave you. He will never forsake you – for Master has said many times, "God loves us so wonderfully and silently, most wonderfully, and through the hearts of His devotees."

He is in everything. He's created all things. "Leave all," he said, "but never God's side." Leave everything else. Even, there perhaps, will come a time when friends will forsake you. Perhaps your finances will be taken away, and your property. Never mind. Don't lose God's side, because if you have nothing – no place to lay your head; not a friend left in the world – nothing, not a cent, and you have God, you have won the battle. You have won this battle; this eternal war, which goes on within each one of us.