

Why Death Steals Our Loved Ones

Dr. M.W. Lewis

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Our subject this morning, "Why Death Steals Our Loved Ones," "Why Death Steals Our Loved Ones," or, as I notice, the subject is death.

Well, that seems a gruesome subject. So, rather than emphasize that aspect of it, let us emphasize the real aspect of living, and knowing that we will see and understand why death seems to steal our loved ones away. It's only a seeming; just like the ocean. The waves come upon the bosom of the ocean. They pass away, but does the ocean pass away? And so, we must realize that our only safety is in knowing the Ocean, the Bosom of God's Great Love. If we can realize that, there'll be no death.

Now, our Master has taught us that, God who is the beginning and end of all things, is in all of us, and in our loved ones. And it is because of Him that we have them. If we will but realize that one thing, it is because of God that we have our loved ones, His Presence in them, and in all of us. If we know that Presence, and realize it fully, and unite ourselves with that One Unending Eternal Love of the One Father, which gives us everything, and is in all, and especially in our loved ones; if we realize that, and merge in it, and know it, how can we ever lose them? That's the important lesson this morning, is to realize that.

And so, God wants us not to forget the Giver, and be taken up with His gifts alone. There's the whole trouble. He wants us to set an example to those – especially our loved ones – that we take Him with us in every action, and that His Love is the motivating power of our life, here on this earth. And finally, He wants us – and this is most important – to see Him in those near and dear to us – in our loved ones. He wants us not to forget the Giver.

We have those near and dear to us, and loved ones. We enjoy them, and unless we are careful, we are apt to forget Him who gives us them. He wants us not to do that, that's all. And not only will you please Him, but remember this, you will never lose those near and dear to you. But, if you do not do that, just as the wave on the ocean's bosom passes away – rises and falls and disappears – so, that love, which you have for those near to you, will pass away just the same. But, if you know the underlying Ocean of God's Love, you will not lose them.

And so, let us approach the subject from that side, rather than from the gloomy side of death.

And so, as Light and Love of the One Father is Eternal and Ever-existing, realize that. The Light and Love of the One Father is Eternal, Ever-existing, and so, if you know that, if you see Him, and His Light and His Love in yourself and in all, and especially in those near and dear to you, how can you ever lose them? It's the most simple thing, the most practical thing, the most difficult thing to accomplish. Yet, it can be done by meditation and regularly communing with God, so that you and He are one, and His Love is in you, and you know it, and you know it's in all, and you know it's in those, especially, whom God has entrusted to you to take care of.

God is a just God. He would not give you somebody to take care of, unless He would let you know, also, that you will not lose them, if you do not forget the Giver, that's all. And so let us understand that. We must see the underlying reality. And because we do not see the unreal, underlying reality, we seem to lose our dear ones. That's the lesson; realize that. But, if you can see the underlying reality of life, and in all people you can see that One Eternal Love of God, you will never lose them, but you will go on, in another realm, in a conscious way, and know them. That's the most comforting thing to remember.

Of course, everyone dies. If anyone says, "We will live forever," and think of the body. That's foolishness. We see it all the time. People come and go. But love does not die. Love is eternal. We must know that Love. We must realize our oneness with that Love, and we will not lose one another.

And so, especially to married people, where the bond is very close, realize that God is in your mate. Realize it is His Love that has drawn you together and helps you to live in this worldly existence, working out, and playing your part. Realize that, and then, not living wholly on the physical plane, God will naturally draw both of you up to Him, into His Bosom of Light and Love.

If you start that way, it'll be much easier to live this life. And, if you have not started – start now! It is never too late to start. In a moment, some of the saints have said, "in the twinkling of an eye," you can realize the Presence of God in you, as the Eternal Light and Love. Start now. Do not wait and suffer the sorrowful change of attachment to this body, known as death.

Now, this, from Master's, some of his writings, to substantiate what I have said in a few words, from The Master Said: "Death teaches us not to place our reliance on the flesh, but on God."¹ (*Sic*) We do not have to be very bright to see what happens to this fleshly vehicle. It's happening all the time, and in world wars it happens in a, on a mass scale. Therefore, as Master says: "Death is a friend. We should not grieve unduly for those gone, but try and rejoice that they have been summoned toward soul freedom in a new and better world."

That's all right to say that, isn't it? But, unless you realize the Presence of God in you and His Love, you cannot say it with *joy*. Only when you have the realization that God is the one underlying reality, and His Love is all there is, this delusion passes away and the coming in of God's Love. That's the answer to the problem this morning, why our dear ones seem to pass away, or death steals them away from us. He'll never steal them away, if you know the underlying reality which is in your friend. It cannot be done.

And so, Divine Love is expanding. It is not limited. This is one lesson we have to learn. God wants us not to love only one or two, or a few, because why? He knows you're gonna suffer. He wants us to love all. And when you do that, when you see His Presence in all, you do not lose any of the love for your loved ones – those near and dear to you – you gain, because Love is Eternal, Ever-existing.

Now, of course, that does not mean that there are certain children of God who are drawn together and feel the Power of His Love, and are drawn to one another, or each other. They do that, not because of human selfish love, but they do that because of the completeness of their mutual love in God. Many people make the mistake, thinking it's personality when two souls are drawn together. It is not. It is the completeness of their love in the one Infinite Father. And that's why certain ones, well...you will be drawn to them, because the bond is mutual in God's Great Love.

¹ The Master Said, SRF, 1952, Page 15, Explaining death the Master said, "Death teaches us to be in love with Divine Love only, and not to be attached to the caravanserai of flesh in which Divine Love temporarily resides. If we love souls, we must not try to keep them near us for our pleasure and comfort. If we really love them, we will continue to love them, particularly when they are taken away from us to advance on their path toward soul freedom, or when they are called to rest in the bosom of the Father. "In the sorrow of separation from their loved ones, fools cry for awhile and then forget, but the wise find the impulse to seek their lost love in the heart of the Eternal. What we lose in finite life we must seek in the chamber of Infinity."

But ordinarily, ordinarily, in ordinary existence, God wants us not to be confined to one, or a few, through human love, but to see His Presence in all. And remember when that happens, when the bond is God's Love between people – they are drawn together and there's no narrowness in it – there's the completeness of understanding, and friendship and love in the one Father. So, when you see two real souls drawn together, do not judge that it's personality worship, or that it is narrow human love. It may be, complete love of the One Father, expressing mutually, in each of those devotees. Let us understand this one point.

And so, everyone, everyone has his, or her, part to play in this Drama of Life. And everyone has his, or her, part of God's Love. God doesn't make any exceptions. We have a part to play. But the main part is to see and know His Love, and that we have Him fully and completely.

I know, one time, I was leaving Los Angeles to return to Boston after having visited the Master, and naturally there was some attraction there – attachment, a little bit. And he said, “when I,” or rather I said, “You're fine. You have all the people here with you, and I have to go and leave it all.” He says, “Listen,” he says, “The hand has five fingers, and each one has its part to play.” And so, that taught me a great lesson. The attachment went – a little personal attachment. But that greater thing came in, the completeness of God's Love between us. So, let us remember this one thing. Love all; but you cannot do it until you see God in them, in yourself, in all, and in your loved ones.

I see I have another reference to give you at this time. I love Master's way, he says things. So, I like to substantiate the things I say by his words. From the same little book, [The] Master Said: “When you truly love God you will see Him in each face and you will know what it means to love all.”² (*Sic*) You have to go to the Fountainhead of Love, then you can love anybody – from a criminal to the most saintly person – makes no difference. God is in each and every one of us. “It is not the forms and egos we should adore, but the indwelling Lord in everyone. He alone informs His creatures with life and charm and individuality.”³ (*Sic*)

² Ibid, Page 43, “Then the Master said, ‘You love the personality of people, and that is bad. But if you truly love God you will see Him in every face, and then you will know what it is to love all. Do you see that it is not the forms we must adore but the God who is within everyone?’”

³ Ibid.

Now, death is not the existence, end of existence, as I understand it. I have very little experience, but we can all read the words of saints, and our Master's words that the Other Land is counterpart to this place, this world here. I also understand it's better; understand there isn't so much trouble there; and if you have any difficulty, you can easily repair the body if it's broken or hurt in any way. And so, that's good news, at least. We're going to a better place; a place where we can not have so much trouble; and a place of rest, and of freedom from the travails of this ordinary existence. That is something to look forward to.

But, I notice in Sri Yukteswarji says this: "The astral body is a counterpart of the last physical form. The astral being retains the same appearance which they possessed in youth of their previous earthly sojourn."⁴ Then he goes to say: "Occasionally an astral being chooses, like myself, to retain his old age appearance. Master emanated the very essence of youth chuckled merrily."⁵

So, we're not getting into a worse condition, we're getting into a better place. And those who have meditated deeply enough to supersede this bodily consciousness, and this worldly consciousness, will testify, that on the other side in the Astral realm, it's very peaceful and beautiful.

Then he goes on to say: "Man's physical body is exposed to countless dangers and is easily hurt and maimed. The ethereal astral body may occasionally be cut or bruised but is healed at once by mere willing."⁶ This part, that I am reading now, is coming, impressed me very much, because in this earthly existence it doesn't go at all. Then he says: "Beauty in the astral world is known to be a spiritual quality and not an outward confirmation. Astral beings attach little importance to facial features." That is, it is that spiritual quality that counts on the other side, and, I'm sure, and you're sure, it doesn't count sometimes very much here. But in the other realm, if you adhere to the Presence of God within you and His Love, then you will be recognized there – otherwise, not.

And so, we have, we should not view death by being afraid. It's a better existence – a better existence. And it should be looked forward to, also, for other reasons which I will come to.

⁴ The Autobiography of a Yogi, by Paramhansa Yogananda, 1946, Chapter 43, "The astral body is an exact counterpart of the last physical form. Astral beings retain the same appearance which they possessed in youth in their previous earthly sojourn; occasionally an astral being chooses, like myself, to retain his old age appearance." Master, emanating the very essence of youth, chuckled merrily."

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

Now, seek God's Love above all else. This is the answer to the problem this morning. Overcome! Overcome, overcome the conditions which give you trouble here – in your own character, in your own life. You know the things that you do, you shouldn't do. Overcome and don't do them.

Then the next thing is meditate. Meditate is very important. Why? Because it gives you personal contact with God and His Love. Unless you have that, you're gonna suffer – especially when death takes your loved ones. Meditate.

And thirdly, and the greatest thing is to merge, merge in God's Love. And in that, there is no death for no one. Realize those three important things. Overcome. You must make the beginning. Meditate is the greatest thing. Meditation means concentration on God. Make the personal contact with the Presence of God within. You will feel His Love. You will know that which is Eternal within you. Knowing that, you will not be bothered by these expressions of duality in this outward living, and especially death, for in God in His Love; it is Eternal. There is no death. It is Ever-existing. And so, that brings us to this wonderful part here. We shall then be able to consciously renew, to renew our past incarnations, and go together with those whom you loved here, and those who loved God, to a greater future in His ever-ending, Unending Existence of Love.

And so, that is a wonderful thing to look forward to. We will be able, to be able to renew our past associations. You know, in this world you have met saintly people and your own dear ones. It doesn't seem like a just God not to take it up again, does it? And there, I have found in the Autobiography just those words which Sri Yukteswarji has said. And to those who have lost those, some near and dear to you, realize this wonderful thing: "Friends of our other lives easily recognize one another in the astral world. Rejoicing at the immortality of friendship..." (Sic)

Friendship cannot be immortal unless it's based on the Love of God. Ordinary human friendship, which is based on "What can I get from this person," "What can they do for me," "They're a nice person," but unless you know the Love of God, and know it in them, feel it in them, it will not last. But, if you do know that as he says: "Rejoicing at the immortality of friendship, they realize the

⁷ Ibid, "Friends of other lives easily recognize one another in the astral world,' Sri Yukteswar went on in his beautiful, flutelike voice. 'Rejoicing at the immortality of friendship, they realize the indestructibility of love, often doubted at the time of the sad, delusive partings of earthly life.'"

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So, isn't that a wonderful thing? Those who are near and dear to you, and those devotees, whom you are drawn to and feel the Love of God, realize that will go on in the next existence. And those who do not feel that which you feel, give them love – wait, wait for them to change. As Master said, "If anyone dislikes me, I give them love and wait for them to change." Why does he say that? Because, that's what God does, and I will come to that in just a minute.

Now another reference from the Autobiography: "The sorrow of separation causes most men to weep for a little while. Then they forget. But the wise feel impelled to seek their vanished dear ones in the heart of the Eternal." Nothing is ever lost. Nothing is ever lost. The indestructibility of matter is known, and also the conservation of energy. Nothing is lost. Do you think that love which you have for your dear ones is lost? Do not be deceived. "They seek their vanished dear ones in the heart of the Eternal. What devotees lose in the finite life, they find again in the Infinite."

Such is the Mercy of God. But we must not accept the other duality, which causes us to be sorrowful. Naturally we will be sorrowful, but we will soon realize the underlying truth behind the sorrow, which is indestructible and does not pass away.

In Master's poem, "When I am But a Dream:"⁸ (*Sic*) when you cannot contact me in unplumbed space and you cannot hear, or command my voice,⁹ he says, "...Read my Whispers of Eternity..." That is, read them, and see the underlying truth. And then he says, when you realize, as I now realize, that you are but a dream of the Cosmic Beloved, we will be together eternally.¹⁰

And another thing he said, one of his letters to me he said, "I came alone, I will bring, have brought nothing to India or America, and I will take nothing from America or India when I leave. I came with God, and I will go with God, and I will wait there for you all, where there'll be no condition to our existence."

⁸ "When I Am Only a Dream" Inner Culter, 1940

⁹ Ibid, "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,"

¹⁰ Ibid, "And when you know you are a dream, as I know now,
We all will be ever awake in Him."

And so, we should not think anymore about death. If God is waiting for us, as His Omnipresence expressed in the Master, is what he means, we have nothing to worry about. We have to keep faith, and we have to be steadfast in our meditations, and in our desire never to wander from the path, which leads home to God. That is what we must realize.

And so, let us close by quoting from Master's writings, the little book, The Master Said, once more. Realizing we're not gonna lose at all; we're going to gain. And we should follow the example that I spoke of, that the Master follows. When people do not like him, he doesn't criticize them. He gives them love and waits for them to change. Why should we do that? Because that's what God does.

One of His greatest aspects is written in the little book, The Master Said, which I'm going to read for you as a last reference. The most wonderful aspect of God, and we have nothing to fear, because He is going to wait for us. When we are ready, He'll be there just the same, "...his mercy endureth for ever."¹¹ God's mercy endureth for ever. You cannot exhaust it. And so, this is what we read in The Master Said, in one of God's aspects, a very touching aspect, God is said to be a Master, a beggar.¹² Just think of it. He who has everything, universe upon universe He owns, and yet he is of, is a beggar, hoping we'll take notice of Him. What a wonderful, a wonderful aspect of God to close this talk this morning. And so, the Lord may be said to be a beggar. He yearns for our attention. The Master of the Universe, at whose glance all the stars, moons, planets quiver, is running after man – running after us.

Master often told me that. "He's crying for you more than you ever think of crying for Him." He is running after man saying "Won't you give Me your love? Won't you seek Me?" "Don't you love Me the Giver, more than the things that I have made for you?" But man says, "Oh, I'm too busy now. I have work to do. I can't take time to look for You, Lord." "And the Lord says, 'I will wait.'¹³"

¹¹ Psalm 136:1-26, "...for his mercy endureth for ever."

¹² The Master Said, Page 31, "Speaking of God's love for man the Master said: "God is just as much a beggar as we are. He is begging for our attention. The Master of the Universe, who has everything – suns, moons, stars, worlds – quivering at the glance of His being, is begging for our love. He is running after the devotee and He is begging for the devotee's love. He is saying, 'Won't you give Me your love? Will you seek Me? Do you like Me better than all the things I have made for you?'"

"But the devotee says, 'I am too busy now. I have work to do. I can't look after You.'

"And the Lord says, 'I will wait.'"

¹³ Ibid.

Now with such a Father, with such a Father filled with such Love, have we anything to worry about. We should welcome any of His changes, which He gives us, even the change of death.

So let us realize the illustration of the ocean. The waves come up and they fall. Life comes up and it dies and passes away. But if we know the bosom of the ocean, if we know God in His Infinite Love, then to us and to those we love, there will be no death.