

# Regaining Paradise Lost

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The subject this morning, "Regaining Paradise Lost." "Regaining Paradise Lost."

The words of John Milton express the problem that confronts us and gives the answer most beautifully: "Man's disobedience, and the loss thereupon of paradise wherein he was placed, brought death unto the world, and all our woes with the loss of Eden, till one greater man restoreth, and regained our blissful peace." And so there you have the whole problem.

Man has disobeyed, has followed Satan and delusion, and as Milton says, has lost paradise, where he was placed in the beginning by God. With the result of death, and delusion, and darkness in the world, the loss of Eden ". . .until one greater man. . ." Until we lift up the son of man, and it becomes, and he becomes a son of God. And then we will regain our state of bliss ". . .our blissful peace." And so, "paradise lost" is simply that we have lost our birthright. Our heritage is to have the spiritual consciousness of God. To utilize it, be one with it, be one with Him, but through delusion, we have lost that, and we must once more regain it.

Now we have some references. First historical, about what happened. Going back to the original rebellion of Satan, then the people followed that. They followed Satan with the result of disturbances, many disturbances, throughout the ages. If you look back through the Bible and the ancient writings, you will find that periodically, when delusion increased, and darkness increased, there were great cataclysms in nature: upheavals, earthquakes, disturbances by fire, water, flood, and even, as it says in the Bible, hail from heaven. Why is this? It is because the spiritual consciousness at certain times is weak.

In the dark ages spiritual consciousness can be perceived only by a few. And then as our world returns once more back toward the great spiritual center, then the spiritual consciousness can be perceived easy. These ages go on, and these cycles go on, throughout the ages, as those of you who have read the Master Sri Yukteswarji's book, The Holy Science. There he describes these periods of 24,000 years when we come away for 12,000 [years] from the spiritual center, and it's difficult to understand things spiritual.

Then we start up again. Pass through the dark ages. Start up again, so that spiritual things can be perceived. And we have passed through one of those dark ages not too long ago, and now we are on the upswing. But, nevertheless, just as the summer lags when the days shorten, so spiritual consciousness is not perceived for some time after, even [as] we start back towards the spiritual center. The great spiritual center.

And so these things have gone on. And we have various instances. Just one or two for your interest: that of Lemuria, Atlantis, the great flood, and of earthquakes. Now as far as can be understood, Lemuria disappeared some time between 10,000 and 25,000 years ago. Disappeared into the sea. It may have been earlier than that, but the chances are it was at one of the end of these cycles, which would be just about that time ago, if we consider Sri Yukteswarji's yugas in his book, The Holy Science.

We are now on the upswing again after 12,000 years coming down. So sometime within those limits, this continent disappeared. And, I understand, that on Easter Island in the Pacific, there is a wall there. On this small little island, 30 by 5 miles in size. There is a wall that evidently was built at that time when that continent was above the ocean. And it goes down on the side of the island, and disappears clear down in the Pacific Ocean. And so although in our time, we're here a few years, these things do not seem to enter our consciousness. Still, over a period of ages, there are natural circumstances, which come from the disobeying of God's law, and the following of Satanic influence.

We also have the instance of the flood 3,000 years ago - 3,000, rather, BC. And there are writings - the Chinese have writings describing it - and in the Bible we find the story about the flood. And in Central Asia, what is known as the Tarim Basin in Mongolia, there are definite flood marks showing where some great flood took place. And so these things, although seemingly untrue to us at this point, where we see only a little part of God's great play, no doubt these things have happened. And so we have those records of the Chinese and the Bible, depicting this great flood which took place 3,000 years, BC.

Then we have the story of Atlantis. Atlantis, 1300, 1400 BC. And the Greeks have written about Atlantis. And no doubt that that, that continent disappeared due to the pain causes of following Satan, producing these great disturbances in nature.

And not too long ago, perhaps some of you saw it in Life Magazine, less than two years ago. There was a tremendous earthquake in Tibet, and one - along the southern boundary of Tibet - and one of the sub-ranges of the Himalayan mountains was completely obliterated. But we didn't hear much about it. And I understand that it. . .the force of that explosion, which was necessary to obliterate that great range, was equal to two million atomic bombs.

So imagine. Imagine, the power of God. But it goes on without our notice. But if we are calm, and introspect, and meditate, and just get a few key points, we can see that these things are true as Milton spoke about. That we have lost paradise; brought death unto the world; and all of our woes by following the forces of iniquity; the forces of Satan; and forgetting our birthright - paradise - oneness with God's great Consciousness.

And then just speaking about the hail. It speaks about devastation in the Bible from hail. That's not ordinary hail. No. Hail like meteorites. There was a complete village wiped out by a meteorite - a shower of meteorites - that landed. And so, we can see the tremendous force that is accumulated. The force of destruction by the following of delusion, and the power of Satan. But, as it says in the scripture I read this morning, this is as it is to be. It is God's play, but we, as His children - thank God - can get out of it, and rise above it, as is our subject this morning: "Regaining Paradise Lost."

Now going on with a few more references: scriptural, and metaphysical. We read in Genesis, 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, the 8<sup>th</sup> verse, "And so the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed." Now, if this refers to physical Eden - which some seem to think it does - we will find that Eden was either in Ethiopia, in Africa, or Afghanistan, or Asia. If you read the subsequent verses from this one I just read, you will see it will have to be there. We have to go there to find it. The only thing I can tell you, as I said a moment ago, that in the Tarim Basin there, you will find a flood mark of perhaps where the physical Eden existed. But these are conjectures, and it seems to me that the greatest thing, the greatest point is to realize the metaphysical aspect. Or consider Eden, or paradise, a state of spiritual consciousness, which we have lost.

And so in Ezekiel the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter, the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> verses, this is what I want to read to you, and which seems in keeping with what paradise really is. "Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God." Well now the house of God, the kingdom of God, is found here [Doctor to the top of the head]. As it says in Revelations, and many other places in the Bible - spoken of Zion, Jerusalem, the Holy City -

that's the kingdom of God. That's paradise. And so it says, "Thou hast been in Eden, thou wast upon the holy mountain of God, and thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." This seems to point more to the metaphysical aspect of paradise rather than to the physical. Because the Holy Mountain, as you know, is the brain, or the thousand-rayed lotus - the brain is the physical aspect, of the thousand-rayed lotus - where spiritual consciousness is perceived. "Thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire" means that thou didst have the spiritual consciousness of the centers of the spine - the spiritual centers of the spine. That, to me, seems to be the paradise talked about, and the Eden which we have lost.

Then going on. "Thou wast perfect in thy ways. . ." We had the spiritual consciousness. We had paradise. "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created till, till iniquity was found in you." Till delusion came in. And take most of the people nowadays. You cannot talk to them about spiritual things. So dark is the darkness. So we had that spiritual consciousness ". . .till delusion was found in thee."

Then it goes on to say, "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned." That is, delusion upon delusion, multiplied so that the spiritual consciousness cannot get in through the darkness of delusion. And what happens? "Therefore, I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God, and from the midst of the stones of fire." Because we have been engulfed in delusion, and iniquity, we have lost paradise. We have lost the spiritual consciousness of the thousand-rayed lotus, and the centers of the spine.

And so it seems to me that the paradise we're interested in is not a physical paradise, which may have been - Eden may have been - they're not sure, those people who dig up the earth, and find the different ruins. They're not sure. But one thing we are sure of. That we exist, and have a consciousness. And that if we act right, do right, meditate right, that we will feel the presence of God. That's what we want. That's the paradise, which we want once more to regain.

And so going on, as I read in Matthew about "the abomination that maketh desolate," when through the assaults of Satan, which is a conscious force, things are the darkest, then, then, God sends through His law, Christ Consciousness to lift us once more out of the darkness back into His Light. Now most people at that time cannot comprehend things spiritual. Just take right now even. And remember we're on the upswing now, according to the records. Right now very

few. They don't know what you're talking about [when] you talk about these things, so dark is the darkness. So very few are able to comprehend these things. But, there were a few through all those dark ages that kept alive the Christ Consciousness so that gradually, once more, it would come into Light and lift people back into that paradise, which they have lost. So there are certain people, even through these dark times, which have been able to keep alive that Christ Consciousness.

So, after the flood, after the flood there were such people. And there was that man, Abraham, who was such a man. Abraham had Christ Consciousness, no doubt. And those who came after him, the twelve tribes, they kept alive the seed of Abraham kept alive the Christ Consciousness until the coming of Christ, who manifested so completely the Christ Consciousness, or the Consciousness of Paradise. So Abraham, remember, Abraham was, no doubt, a man who manifested Christ Consciousness. So Jesus said, himself, Jesus said in St. John, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter, the 56<sup>th</sup> verse, he said this, "Your father, Abraham, rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it was and was glad."

In other words, Abraham rejoiced just as Jesus did, when he was talking to his disciples and the people. He felt the spirit of Christ Consciousness. He felt the joy. And so, he said, Abraham had the same thing. They were asking him, you remember, "Well, how could this be? Abraham is dead." No. Abraham manifested and spoke as Christ Consciousness, which always was, and always will be. And so, Abraham rejoiced in the same day of realization of Christ Consciousness as Jesus did. This is a most interesting point to see that even in those dark times after the flood. But still God manifested to certain ones who kept alive the Consciousness of Paradise.

There was one interesting point, as I go along, which I'd like to tell you at this time. Abraham, you know, was born, or his city of birth, was Ur in Chaldea. And in excavating that old city, which they have found, there they found the remains of one of the temples. And that temple, when it was reconstructed, had on upon. . . on its top the parapet. Just like the Master has the parapets on his buildings, and like William the Conqueror had parapets on his buildings. And those parapets were of gold, pure gold. And the sides of the buildings were of blue tile. Strange things. How, in William the Conqueror's time, those were his colors. And now the Master has had his architecture to conform with that. It seems to me that it points to the same spirit of Christ Consciousness was manifesting through certain people all the time.

And so Christ Consciousness, the Blissful Matrix of Paradise, was kept alive until Jesus came, as I have said, and manifested so completely the Christ Consciousness. But, perhaps, through the dark ages, as we pointed out, many people were unable, were unable, and only a certain few could perceive and manifest Christ Consciousness until Jesus came. But from that time on, it was easier. And as the lines of Milton say, so refreshing and reassuring, "For from that day. . ." from the day when Christ came, one of the link of the great Masters, ". . .from that day, not only to the sons of Abraham's loins. . ." that is, not only to his direct descendants, ". . .salvation shall be free, but to the sons of Abraham, faith." "Faith" is an aspect, an attribute of Christ Consciousness. So it is not limited not only to the sons of Abraham's loins, salvation shall be free, "but to the sons of Abraham's faith" wherever through the world. See how beautiful it is now? People sometimes point out there's certain sides only who are able to perceive the Christ Consciousness. That is not so. Because everyone who will, everyone who will, can gain paradise lost. Everyone who will, can come as it says in the scriptures.

And so, even though we are on the upswing now, towards the spiritual consciousness, and even though that fact is so. Still the darkness is real dark. The delusion is strong. But we can, through the special dispensation, which has come in our time through the link of the Masters, we can find, and regain that paradise lost, that spiritual consciousness, because it is much easier. And everyone that I have met in my short time, irrespective of color, race, or creed, can perceive, and see the Light of Christ Consciousness, if they meditate, and carry on with their meditations, and devotions. There's been no exclusion of anyone. The only exclusion is to those who will not do. Everyone who will, can once more regain paradise lost.

And the path is, as it says in our scriptures, to lift up once more the son of man. When, when ye have lifted up the son of man, as it says in St. John, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter, then ye shall know that I am He. Then ye shall know that it is the Father who manifests through me as the Christ Consciousness. And so in these dark times we shouldn't be too discouraged. But remember the words of scripture. That for the elect, the time shall be shortened. And everyone who will, irrespective of race, and creed, because it is the will of God, everyone can regain paradise, which was lost, and once more have that spiritual consciousness.

Now the path leads through the spinal region and the thousand-rayed lotus, the Holy Mountain, and the Stones of Fire. Life force is the vehicle, that power within us, which moves our muscles, which we use in the different techniques of

Self-Realization [Fellowship]. It is that life force that plays the important role. Because in that life force is the consciousness of God. His great Love, and His Omniscience. And remember one thing, as the Master has said, "Environment is stronger than will power." If you want to regain paradise lost, keep in the right environment. And you have that right environment right with you. What is it? It is the environment of the spiritual eye, the Christ Center. There, is the presence of Christ. There, is the presence of God. There, is the spiritual consciousness of paradise lost. Therefore, keep in it. Keep in it. Merge in it, and you will change into that consciousness Itself.

That's why the Master has said these words in his Autobiography [of a Yogi]." long concentration, "Long, continued concentration on the liberating spiritual eye. . ." has shown the yogi that matter is a delusion, that gravity is a delusion, and that ". . . everything is undifferentiated light." "Long continued concentration on the liberating spiritual eye. . ." That's the environment you must keep in, if you want to regain paradise lost. You must keep in that. And as you merge in it, you will once more regain oneness with the Omniscience of God. The great Cosmic Light. The great Cosmic Energy, which the old patriarchs, as Abraham, manifested. We have it right within us, if we follow that path. If we keep in the proper environment, we will be liberated from the darkness and delusion, which is here with us now.

And finally, as Milton says, we will be liberated - how? We will restore paradise lost - how? By ". . .the one greater man restoreth and regain our blissful peace." Those are the most beautiful words. The greater man is what? The son of man lifted up to become a son of God. Paradise lost is what? The regaining of the spiritual consciousness within. The presence of God within us in the centers of the spine, and greatest of all, in the thousand-rayed, rayed lotus. The Hill. The Holy Hill.