

What is Man?

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Our subject this morning: "What is Man?" Sometimes I wonder.

I read the newspapers and I think I'm gonna be like Swami Ram. He said, "Blessed are those who do not read the newspapers." But still, in spite of that, man is made in the Image of God. For in Genesis we read, "Let us make man in our image."¹ In other words, God the Father – with His Great Forces which have built this creation, this Universal Cosmos with its Causal Creation, Astral Creation, or Creation of Energy, and finally, this Material Creation – that Great Father gathered together those forces and said, "Let us make man in our image."

And so, we are made in the Image of God. We are God in miniature. Do not forget that. And these great universes are in us, in miniature. We have the Causal Universe as our own consciousness, its part of God's Great Consciousness. We have our Astral body, as the Universe of Energy; and we have the Physical body, the counterpart to the Great Physical Universe. Surely we are made in the Image of God.

Now, Spirit has two aspects: Manifested and Unmanifested aspects. The Manifested aspect is God the Father, in His Creation. And we are a part of that creation. God the Father became all these things – the Manifested aspect of creation. The Unmanifested aspect remains apart from this creation. Just like in your own consciousness, when you dream, a part of yourself remains aside and can watch the dream. And so, that's the Unmanifested part of Spirit. The Manifested part, remember, is God the Father, in His Creation. We have to know a little about Hindu Cosmology to know what man is, because he's a part of that.

In the Bhagavad Gita² we read as follows: "By me," in the-4th 9th Discourse of the Gita, "By Me all this world is pervaded by My unmanifested aspect..."³ Spirit is behind this great creation, permeates it, and yet is unattached. Then it goes on:

¹ Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

² The Bhagavad Gita or The Lord's Song, Translated by Annie Besant, 1939

³ Ibid, 9th Discourse, 4th Line, "By Me all this world is pervaded in My unmanifested aspect; all beings have root in Me, I am not rooted in them."

“all beings have root in Me, I am not rooted in them.” “As the mighty air everywhere (*sic*) is rooted in the ether, so all beings rest rooted in Me – thus know thou.⁴” And so we are, just as God is. That’s what man is. We must realize that. We have this substantiated right in the scriptures, and we have it substantiated right within ourselves.

First, in the scriptures, 1st John, the 5th Chapter, 6th, 7th, and 8th Verses; first about Spirit: “...And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.⁵” Spirit, with its Manifested part and Unmanifested part, spoken of right in our own scripture, as well as in the Hindu scriptures.

Then we read: “For there are three...⁶” in the Cosmos, the Causal Universe, the Astral Universe, or God’s Great Cosmic Energy, and finally, the Material Universe, we read right in this reference; “...and (*sic*) there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost...” Those three are in the Great Macrocosm. And those three are right within us; for it goes on to say: “And there are three that bear witness in earth...⁷” in this little body of ours. Sometimes, “earth” means the physical body of man, as Master pointed out one time to me. So we read: “And there are three that bear witness in earth, Spirit and the water and the blood:⁸”

Our consciousness of God the Father, and the Cosmic Energy within us, and the gross material body made from the Holy Ghost, those are the three. I’ll read it once more: “And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit and the water and the blood and these three agree in one.” And so, in the Macrocosm, we read “...and these three are one.” And in the Microcosm, which we are, “...and these three agree in one.”

That’s what man is. Although man is separated from the Great Cosmos, still he is always connected with it. You and I are always connected with God the Father’s Great Creation, because those who meditate and look within will see the Single Eye of Spirit, the Great Beam coming from the Cosmos, from God the

⁴ Ibid, 6th Line, “As the might air everywhere moving is rooted in the ether, so all beings rest rooted in Me – thus know thou.”

⁵ I John 5:6, “This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.”

⁶ I John 5:7, “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

⁷ I John 5:8, “And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”

⁸ Ibid.

Father's Creation which had made us and sustains us. And that Great Beam, the Medulla Center, the reflection of which you see here [at the point between the eyebrows in the forehead], as the three in one; and those three, constitute – first I'll go from within, out: the little star in the center of the Spiritual Eye is the epitome of God the Father's Consciousness; the dark center in which the little star is centered is the Word, or Christ Consciousness; and the outer ring of vibrating energy, is the Holy Ghost, which has produced this body.

So there you see, right within yourselves, you have a connection with God the Father, which will always be there. And those who meditate see that, they see that Beam coming from the Great Creation of God. They see those three aspects in one. If you merge, first in the outer ring of vibrating energy, you become one with the Holy Ghost, from which all things have come. If you merge in the dark center, inside the outer ring, you become with the Consciousness of God the Father in His creation, as the Christ Consciousness. And, if you merge in the little star in the center of that Great Beam of Cosmic Energy and Love and Light coming in through us, you become one with God the Father. For Jesus said, "I and my Father are one."⁹ So are you, so am I, so is everybody, if they, if they will break the limiting boundaries of this bodily consciousness, they will realize their oneness with God the Father. Because we are made in His Image, we are a ray of Spirit; therefore, we are always, always connected. There's a tie, always, between us and our Father, if we but utilize it. Let us realize this.

And so, as I have said, man is not so finite a being as he seems to be, because of this one thing I just told you. He is always in touch with God the Father. You were always one with Him. Only this delusion makes us seem separated from Him. Let us realize that first point. Man, although he seems separated from God, although, as I said, we read the papers, he seems far remote, still, he is always connected with God. That Beam is always there, sustaining us. And in that Beam is our Father's Consciousness. Let us not forget that.

Secondly, man is not only a physical being, but he's a Spiritual Being. And being a Spiritual Being, we must make that dynamic to our consciousness. We know all about our physicality, but do we know all about our Spiritual side? No. We must make that dynamic to our consciousness, because that's what we truly are. Man is truly made in the Image of God, is a child of God.

⁹ John 10:30, "I and my Father are one."

Man, as body and mind, is an intellectual being. Understand this. Man, as body and mind, is an intellectual being. Man as Soul is what? A liberated being. Man, as Soul is liberating, liberated being. And so, if you can know the Soul within you by being one with this Great Beam of Light and Love coming from God the Father, you will know yourself as Soul, and you will be liberated, you will be free in the Great Omnipresence of God.

And so, because man is a special creation – this is the important point this morning. You may say it's all right to say that man is a Spiritual Being. How do you know? Let me point out one or two things to you that man, because he is a special creation of God can do what? Can he, he can express Divinity. Understand that. We are a special creation of God. "Let us make man in our image." Not just an ordinary animal. Man is made in the Image of God. And because of this special creation, which I'll point out, we can express Divinity. We can know God the Father, and we can be one with Him. We can commune with Him, and we can feel the Peace and Bliss of His Presence.

Now in the Autobiography,¹⁰ Sri Yukteswarji points this out, clearly, in these following words. He says: "Man's body is precious."¹¹ Look what's going on around us. No consideration for the body of man at all; thrown to the wind; shot up, and all sorts of things. Why? Because people do not realize how precious the body is. It's the only instrument which you will have, or I will have, to know God. Why not take care of it? And so he says, "Man's body is precious. It has the highest evolutionary value because of its unique brain and spinal centers." Then he goes on: "These enable the advanced devotee, fully, to grasp and express the loftiest aspects of divinity. No form...No lower form is so equipped."¹² Sri Yukteswarji's words.

Now, I've found a little fact, which I think will interest you, which points this out from a scientific point of view. There was a professor, Dr. E. Orowan¹³ from MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he made some experiments on metabolism, the results of metabolism. And, you know, living tissue breaks down, and the chief by-product is uric acid. Now uric acid is a stimulant, just

¹⁰ Autobiography of a Yogi, by Paramhansa Yogananda, 1946 First Release

¹¹ Ibid, Chapter 12, "No; man's body is precious. It has the highest evolutionary value because of unique brain and spinal centers. These enable the advanced devotee to fully grasp and express the loftiest aspects of divinity. No lower form is so equipped. It is true that one incurs the debt of a minor sin if he is forced to kill an animal or any living thing. But the *Vedas* teach that wanton loss of a human body is a serious transgression against the karmic law."

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Dr. Egon Orowan, Aug 2, 1901 – Aug 3, 1989

like tea and coffee. And the point is this, that all animals and insects – beside the anthropoid apes, and man, as one of those apes Homo sapiens – they develop an enzyme, which neutralizes the uric acid into a harmless substance, known as allatonin...I have to write these words down.

Now, the animals, except man and the anthropoid apes, neutralize this uric acid, which is a stimulant like tea and coffee. What happens? The animals sleep all the time. Think it over. But the anthropoid apes and man, they cannot sleep very much. They have to think. Whether you want to or not, you have to think. What's the result? The brain grows to its full, fullest extent in the apes and man. But for some unknown reason, in man, in Homo sapiens, it grows to its fullest extent.

And so we, for some unknown reason, besides, besides the fact that the uric acid is not neutralized in the anthropoid apes, and in man, besides that – the fact that they have the largest brain, including the apes, and we're from them, a branch of the apes – but we, for some unknown reason, develop the largest brain, and therefore, have, as Sri Yukteswarji said, have the "unique brain and spinal centers."

Why did that happen? Why is this so? Why is it you have to think whether you want to or not? If you didn't, your brain wouldn't grow, because no, you know when you utilize a, an organ, it develops. And so, "for some unknown reason," the professor says. But, those who think a little know, that God's behind everything. For some unknown reason, this branch of the anthropoid apes develops the greatest brain, the largest brain, and because of that, and because the special Centers in the spine, we, and we alone of God's creation, can express Divinity. And there you have the answer to the point, "Let us make man in our image."

Our bodies come up through the evolutionary processes from the anthropoid apes. But, who was it that made us different from even that branch, the apes from which we come? Who was it that did that? It's the Great Father Himself. And because of that, the Soul – which is always perfect, is nothing but God Himself, the Omniscience of God – can express fully through us. It expresses a little bit in the gems and the minerals, and in the plants and in the animals, and in the apes themselves. But when it comes to man, it can express, fully, the Divinity of God the Father. Now, there you have something which you should never forget. We are made in the Image of God, and we have the ability to express, fully, God's Omnipresence.

And so, man is the break between the animal kingdom and God the Father, or the Spiritual kingdom. Man can act like an animal, or he can express fully, and understand the three universes of which I ex, of which I have spoken, and be one with God the Father.

Animals are governed by instinct. They do. They're taken care of. We also have instinct. We're taken care of. Our digestion goes on; the different processes in the body go, go on, go on; the elimination, and the circulation, and so forth. But we have self-consciousness. We have the power to do this or to do that. And because of that, we can stay in this realm of outward consciousness, as the animals and other things do, or we can become one with God the Father, and fully be one with Him, and enjoy what He enjoys – His Great Omnipresence – because He has created us in a special way. We are a special creation of God the Father. Let us not depreciate this fact. Let us realize that we must take care of our body, because it is the only instrument we will have to know God.

And finally, why should we live as animals? Why should we live as ordinary human beings, when we have the potential to be gods? Let us realize that. Take the great Souls throughout all the ages. What did they do? Sit down and live just like animals? No. They utilized that potential of expressing Divinity. And so, we can, we, for we read in our own scriptures these words. The 82nd Psalm, 6th Verse: "I have said, Ye are gods.¹⁴" All of you – not a few – not a few selected ones, every one of us. I say ye are gods. All of you are children of the most High.

And so, if this is so, isn't it worth a little time each day to give to meditation and contact with God the Father, that you do not have to wait one million years to rise above ego consciousness? It takes a million years from the time you first came as a human being. Of course, we do not know how long ago that was. But it takes a long time, if you allow just the processes of evolution to help you be rid of ego consciousness. Isn't it worth giving a little time each day to be able to do that, to rise above the ego, and know yourself as one with God in one lifetime? Isn't it worth a little time each day to give to the Giver of all, who gives you everything? Who gives you your family, and those near and dear to you – everything. Isn't it worth, or shouldn't we give a little time, perhaps one hour of the 24 for Him?

¹⁴ Psalms 82:6, "I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High."

Now, Self-Realization Fellowship will give you the ways and the means whereby you, without question of a doubt, because thousands have done it, whereby you can know, and be one with the Presence of God within you. Self-Realization, because Master came as a channel of the Almighty God, His Omnipresence; he came, because he came, he has made it much easier for each and every one of us to do what I have just said, to consciously be in the Presence of God.

Now, being consciously in the Presence of God, don't you think that you will really want to express His Will and live as He would want you to live? That's the key. People do not get into the Presence of God. If you get into the Presence of God, then you will know what to do. Then you will know how to carry out His Will. But until you get into the Presence of God, you cannot know that. But being in the Presence of God, through the Grace of God, through the channel He has sent, being in His Presence, then, finally, His Grace will come to take you to be one with Him, eternally; and not to have to come again, and again, into this realm of duality with its uncertainty and insecurity, and everything that goes with it. Let us be reasonable. What is man? He is a human being. But also, if he utilizes the Divinity within him, he's a Spiritual Being, and the Omniscience of God's Great Intelligence is with him. Let us exercise that and be true children of God.

And I will close with this reference from the Bible, which is so wonderful. I get lots of joy out of interpreting the Bible, because the Master gave me the key to do it, because of his great grace. And so we read in Revelation, the 2nd Chapter, the 17th Verse: "...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and I (*sic*) will give him the white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it¹⁵."

And now, let us just interpret it. "To him that overcometh..." means to him that maketh the conscious connection with God. That's all it is. If you are in this bodily consciousness and tied up to it, attached to it, you cannot make the conscious connection with God. But by following one, as the beloved Master, by overcoming senses, mind, and intellect, and attachment to this existence, then, then, you can make the conscious connection with God. That's the first thing.

If you do that, what happens? Then it says: "I will give him to eat of the hidden manna..." (*Sic*) What is the hidden manna? Nothing, but the Great Love of God,

¹⁵ Revelation 2:17, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."

which you know, then, in a conscious way; the Great Spiritual Food, which each and every one of us wants; and our Souls are crying for that Food. That's the hidden manna. That's the food we all want. Once you get a taste of it, you will not be quiet until it's yours. That's the hidden manna.

"And I (*sic*) will give him a white stone." When you're traveling along this rugged path of existence, the razor's edge, and at the Christ Center in your meditations you always see that white stone there of God's Consciousness, assuring you that you're on the way. That you're going to, sooner or later, be received by your Heavenly Father. Don't you think that'll be a comfort to you? That's what you can do, if you follow the techniques which the Master has left. "I (*sic*) will give him the white stone;" the white stone of Christ Consciousness, which is always there to guide you. And when things are not breaking well for you, the white stone is there to guide you and comfort you. These are facts. Let us be children of God, not just men.

And then it goes on to say, within that stone "...a new name written." Your name then will be one with the Presence of God within you, which you will know through the Presence of the Holy Vibration with you, all the time, as the Great Cosmic Sound – reverberating through you; the Great Light at this point, the white stone. But greatest of all, the Love which you will feel in your heart. The Love of the One Father, which passeth all understanding,¹⁶ that's what that new name will mean to you.

And finally, "...which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Only those who taste the Presence of God, within, know it. People from the outside will not see it in you. I often used to realize, when I went to the Master, we walked around, say through San Diego; he'd go in the store, and there were many other people looking at the different counters, and everything; he had the Presence of God with him in a conscious way. The others were there, they looked the same. But only those whom God allows to know, they will know. And as it says, "no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." But when you know it, there's nothing in the world, or worlds to come, that will take the place of it, because it is God's very Presence Itself. Having that, having that, you will cease just to be a human being, a man, but you will be conscious that you are a child of God.

¹⁶ Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."