

# Spiritual Blindness

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Our subject this morning: "Spiritual Blindness."

Spiritual Blindness stems from the fact that we do not realize the one underlying reality, the truth that there is One Light, which is the Presence of God within us. Unless we realize that, there can be nothing but Spiritual Blindness. Because we are seeing as it were, through colored glass, and everything is tinted by that colored glass. And that's why there is so much Spiritual Blindness in the world, because people do not grasp the underlying Unity of Religion, the Universality of the Presence of God in each one of us, irrespective of race, or creed, or color. We find within everyone, the same One Light of God.

Now, if people would attain that before they begin to expand and exploit those little things they see within them, then there would be no Spiritual Blindness. But the sad part is, that through a little imagination, or a mental image, then they begin to talk about such things, which are impossible to talk about except that you attain Oneness with God.

And so, it is very important that we first establish within us, that underlying reality, the Presence of God as His Infinite Light and His Love. That is why it is so important that we understand the relationship of the guru to us. The guru knows the way. He knows the underlying reality of the Presence of God as the Infinite Light. He knows that; he can lead us in the right way, so that there will not be any Spiritual Blindness. This is very important, that we realize the position of the channel, which God has sent to us, that we will not be deluded, and that, if we are deluded, that delusion will be lifted – the Spiritual Blindness will be lifted – and we will see clearly, the underlying reality of God's Presence. So remember, we must have the right hypothesis, and that is the realization of the underlying Presence of God, His Eternal Light. Then there will be no Spiritual Blindness. There'll be nothing but clarity in His Great Presence.

When I first met the Master in Boston, my first contact, I came to him with questions which I could not answer. I spoke to him about the fact that there were certain truths in the Bible which no one was able to point out to me, or show me, the reality. I said to him what we read in Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter the 22<sup>nd</sup>

Verse: "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light."

And so I said to him, "Sir, I read this. No one seems to show me that. I cannot find anyone who can point that Single Eye out to me." Then, I also said, "When I was a little boy, a voice spoke to me out of the Ether. No one has been able to tell me what it was, how it came." And, also, even before I met the Master, I tried to meditate in the best way I knew. I saw lights on either side of me. I said, "No one can tell me what those lights are. What it is." And so, he answered me by quoting the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Luke, the 39<sup>th</sup> Verse: "...Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" And so, how true that is; unless, unless we follow one who knows the way, we reach that point of Spiritual Blindness. But the Master, who was a channel of God, he knows the way, because he lives in it; and he can show us the way to follow, so that we will know these underlying truths: "If thy eye be single, if thine eye be single, thy body will be filled with light (sic)." That simply means, if we contact the Great Light of God beyond this earthly consciousness, then we have His Omniscience with us. Then our "eye" will be single. Then we will know the underlying truth. Knowing that, there can be no Spiritual Blindness at all: thy whole body shall be filled with light (sic).

The Single Eye is the eye of Divine Consciousness. It is not just the Medulla Center, or some call it the "pineal gland." No. It is the Divine Consciousness of God, which sees all things – above, beneath, in front, behind – because God's Omniscience is there; and in that Omniscience is His Great Love. And so, Spiritual Blindness will be avoided, if we follow the channel God has sent, which takes us back home to Him. Then we will not be de deluded by little manifestations of mental images, and light, and imaginations of traveling in foreign countries, and such things. It is not as easy as that. But when you perceive, and become one with the Great, through the Grace of God, His Infinite Light; then, whatever He has is yours. So, if you want to avoid Spiritual Blindness, know the underlying reality. The Great Light of God from which all things have come including you, me, and the beloved Master.

Now, if we do not follow the right channel, if we do not start off with the correct hypothesis, and follow these other ways, which lead to other than True Spiritual realization, what happens? We read in the next verse in Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Verse, these words, and they are certainly to be listened to: "But if thine eye be evil..." That does not mean except one thing, if thine eye be of worldly consciousness, that's all. If you are in delusion through your oneness

with worldly consciousness; then it goes on to say: "...thy whole body shall be full of darkness."

Why not? If you look through a colored glass the whole world seems of that color. So, if you try to attain Spiritual things through worldly consciousness, spoken of as the "eye be evil," everything will be colored by that consciousness. How can you know True Spiritual values by outward things – by worldly consciousness? It is impossible. And so, this is most wonderful: "...if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness." Your whole Spiritual Perception will be colored by worldly consciousness.

And that's what has happened in the world. People have followed outward consciousness and those who promulgate outward consciousness. And as a result, they have a heaven, or a Spiritual realization, colored by worldly consciousness. So, we must rise above that, color it as it should be, by Divine Consciousness, which comes through the Single Eye.

Then going on, "...If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness..." That is, if the worldly consciousness, which we know is delusion be in thee, then it says: "...how great is that darkness!" There's no end to it. It multiplies darkness upon darkness; darkness upon darkness. But, if we follow, if we follow the right channel which God has sent; if we follow one who knows that, as the beloved Master and his teachings; then we will see the underlying reality. And, if we are in Spiritual, or have Spiritual Blindness, that blindness will be lifted, without question of a doubt. But as long as we stay in that other realm of worldly consciousness, and have our Spiritual Vision colored by that consciousness, then we are in gloom, so to speak. And gloom increases upon gloom – gloom increases.

As we read in the Bible: "To him who hath shall be given (sic)."<sup>1</sup> If you have that real Divine Perception, more shall be added unto you. But, if you have not, even that little Spiritual Perception which you have shall be taken away from you. "To him who hath, shall be given, to him who hath not, shall be taken away even that which he hath (sic)."<sup>2</sup> Such is the danger of Spiritual Blindness. But, as I have said, if we go on following one whom God has sent, then we will see the underlying universality of things; we will see the One Light of God from which all things have come; even our own bodies, our minds, our emotions, all things.

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<sup>1</sup> Mark 4:25, "For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath."

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Seeing that underlying Unity, then our vision will be clear, and Spiritual Blindness will be eradicated, because there's no force on earth – in heaven or earth – like the Power of God's Love, which we attain in His Great Light; because in that Light, the underlying Unity of things – the Universality of Religion – is His Intelligence, His Love. That's why the first thing to do is to know Him. As Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God, all other things shall be added unto you (sic).<sup>3</sup>"

We have nothing to worry about except to escape the net of delusion, which comes by seeing through the eye of worldly consciousness. We must see through the Single Eye of the Presence of God within us, as His Omniscient Light, His Great Sound of the Cosmic Vibration; and in those things, His Omniscience, His Great Love. If we do this, then what happens? This we read most beautifully in Isaiah, 29<sup>th</sup> Chapter the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Verses: "And in that day..." "...in that day..." when you, through the help of the guru, your own efforts, and the Grace of God, contact the underlying Reality, and see the Light of God, or even merge in His Great Omniscience; "...in that day, shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness."

To explain a little bit; "...in that day..." when we merge in the Presence of God within, in the Light of Christ Consciousness, then shall those who were deaf before to real Spiritual things, they shall hear the words of the book of life. The words of the book of life are what? Simply the Holy Vibration with its many aspects. If we merge in that, then we shall hear with Spiritual hearing. Not with worldly hearing. "...and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness." When we are baptized by the Holy Ghost, then we see not with worldly eyes, eyes of delusion, but with the Single Eye of Divine Consciousness within us.

Going on; "The meek shall also increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One [of Israel]." How wonderful that is. "The meek shall also increase their joy..." Those who have True Spiritual Perception are the meek and the humble. Those who have fully surrendered to God, they are the ones whose joy increases, because they merge more and more in the Infinite Father within. "...and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One..." The poor among men – the standards of men – the worldly standards are such-and-such. But those who have the Perception of God may

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

not have any of those things. Usually they do not. So, they are known as the "poor among men." But they're not poor in Spiritual Perception, because they shall rejoice as God rejoices, is the Seat and Soul of all Bliss. So, those "poor among men" are one with His Great Bliss and Love. So that's what we must have, and will have, if we do not succumb to Spiritual Blindness.

Now, going on just a bit; about the dangers, the dangers of accompanying Spiritual Blindness; it is this. And it is so important, because many people are caught in the net. We start off with the wrong hypothesis. And having that, all our Spiritual, our so-called Spiritual Perception is colored by that wrong hypothesis.

We might take this one illustration. I've heard people say, "I am guided by the light of wisdom." "I'm guided by the light of wisdom." They do not realize that the True Light of Wisdom is the Light of the Christ Consciousness, which is a real thing – not just simply knowledge. Not knowledge, or reason; it is a real Light, which can be seen, perceived, and merged into. So, you see, not having that, having this other hypothesis, they follow that and all their Spiritual Realization is tinged with that delusion. But, if they have that contact with the One Light of God, then whatever follows, you see, is right, because they have not the wrong start. They have not started off, so to speak, on the wrong foot. They started off by being one with that Infinite Light of God. And so, that is very important, to realize the underlying reality of religion, the underlying truth that the Light of Wisdom is not just the knowledge which comes from reasoning and intellect – a sharp intellect. No. It is from actual contact with the underlying reality, the Great Light of God.

And so, we must have that. We must realize that. And, also, realize how dangerous it is to start wrong, because, remember, as I said, what you have will be taken away from you, even that which you have. But, if you have the other – we have the contact with God – more and more shall be added unto you, until finally, by His Grace, you become one with His Infinite Wisdom, His All-pervading Love. And so, it is important to realize the dangers, the dangers that accompany Spiritual Blindness.

And there is so much of it in the world. So many cults, and creeds, and so many associations started off the wrong way, by not realizing the underlying reality, the Truth of God's Presence, the Light which is in each and every one of us, and which is not an imagination, but which can be seen, and perceived, and merged

into. That's the danger of starting wrong. And that also shows how important it is to have the right channel of God.

We have that in the beloved Master, because he lived that life. He did not just talk about the Light of God and the Light of Wisdom, but he saw it, merged in it, lived in it, manifested it, as all those of you who met him realize. And those of you who did not meet him, well realize, if you merge in His Omniscience, the Light of Christ Consciousness, which is with us at every moment.

You look back through life, those of you who lived a few years, and you will realize it's a dream. You will realize that those happenings are gone. Where are they? But, if you look within and see the Light of Christ, the Light of God; that was there when you started this Dream of Life. That was there in Abraham's time. That was there before the world was created. That does not change, because there's no time or space. And, as you sit and look at that Light, and merge in it, that Dream vanishes, because that's the Reality. That's the underlying Spiritual Reality that's beyond time and space. And that was the same when you were a little baby; and that was the same perhaps, when you were a little baby before in another life; and that will be the same, because that is Eternal. That's the Real Spiritual thing to grasp. That's the underlying reality. Have that, and you will not be in Spiritual Blindness.

And now, in conclusion, what are the preventatives against Spiritual Blindness? Or, we might say in medical terms, what is the preventative medicine against Spiritual Blindness? Well, the first thing is not to be too cocksure of your conclusions. If you get a little vision, or a little mental image, don't be sure that you traveled in the Astral regions, and this and that, and so forth. Don't be cocksure of your conclusions, until, through Realization, you have developed your Intuition. Then, you will know. You will know absolutely. Until that time comes, be very careful.

Who wants to be deluded? Not, no one but the fool. We wanna know what the truth is. And it is better to say nothing, until, through the Grace of God and your own efforts, you realize His Infinite Light. Then, through Intuition, you will know, and no one can take it away from you. That's the first thing, is to watch your conclusions.

And secondly, until you reach that condition where you are “stayed in the Lord (sic),<sup>4</sup>” as it says in the Bible, when you reach the point where you are fixed in Him; until that point comes, you must investigate your experiences. Otherwise, how are you going to know? We tell people about these certain things. They have little experiences. Then the drop them. You have to investigate them. How will you ever know? But, if you let your conscience be your guide, then you will not be deluded. But, if you want it to come out your way, you may be fooled. So, investigate whatever things you have. You must do that. You must investigate your experiences. How can you know them to be true? But be sure you investigate them in the Light of Conscience. Because what is conscience? Conscience is the Knowing Power, the All-knowing Power of the Presence of God within you as the Soul. If you have that, no one can delude you. You will not be in Spiritual Blindness. So investigate your experiences; but, in the Light of Conscience.

Also, another danger is, do not be too gullible. Do not be too gullible. But, as I have said, let your conscience be your guide. And remember, in conscience is the Intuition of the Soul. But most people say, “Yes, I will follow my conscience, but let it come my way. Let it come out the way I want it. That’ll be fine.” That’s not following conscience; that’s being deluded. But, if you are true to the Presence of God within you as conscience until realization comes, you will not be in Spiritual Blindness, or delusion.

Be true to yourself. Be true to yourself. Know what the truth is. Not what you want it to be. That’s the greatest thing. Make up your mind that you’re gonna fully surrender to God, and let Him do what He wants. The minute you do that, you will be true to yourself. But as long as there is any mental reservation there, saying, “Lord, I’m true to you, but let it be as I want it to be,” it never will be right. We have to be true to ourselves. We must know the truth. If you have that deep conviction in your heart, even though you are started wrong, you will be changed to follow the right path.

And so, finally, I’d like to read from the [Bhagavad] Gita, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Discourse and the 16<sup>th</sup> Line: “The unreal hath, the unreal hath no being; the real never ceaseth to be; the truth about both hath been perceived by the seers...<sup>5</sup>” The truth of the Essence of things. The underlying reality of Spiritual things, we must

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<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 26:3, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

<sup>5</sup>Bhagavad Gita, translated by Dr. Annie Besant, 1939, 2<sup>nd</sup> Discourse 16<sup>th</sup> Line: “The unreal hath no being; the real never ceaseth to be; the truth about both hath been perceived by the seers of the Essence of things.”

know that. That essence we must know. "...Know it to be indestructible by whom all this is pervaded (sic)<sup>6</sup>. Nor can any work the destruction of that imperishable One."

There is one underlying reality, no matter how many ramifications there are – outward forms of creeds, and castes, and such things – there is still, and always will be, and always has been, that One Light of God. Know that. You have the ways. The Master's given the techniques. Follow them. Follow them. Don't be sidetracked by delusion. But regularly follow; regularity, day after day, and you will find that One Eternal Light of God. With that, Spiritual Blindness will vanish. Each one of us has it; everyone, irrespective of color, race, creed, caste. There that Light is. That's the underlying reality. Grasp that. Spiritual Blindness cannot stay. It will be a thing as a dream. Just like your own life, as you look back, is a dream. Bring in the Light, the Great Light of God. The darkness of these dreams vanishes before the Light of His coming.

And in closing, I'd like to read a word or two from one of the Master's letters, which, if you will remember and take with you, will help you to realize the underlying truth of all Spiritual Realization – that you are a child of God, and, if you have Him, now, right at this minute, you are free; free forever from all delusion.

This letter was written by the Master in 1931, from Milwaukee. He says: "I am more than ever with God." I am more than ever with God. "I have entirely lost consciousness of defeats and victories, for God told me in Phoenix when I asked freedom from everything, He said, 'You are already free, but think you are not, because you look for freedom in the future.'" We are free right the moment we see the Light of God. We are free. But we keep looking, "Well, next week I'll get it, or next year. Next Convocation I'm gonna finish it right." No. Right now! The Light is there.

Then he goes on to say: "Whether dance of death or dance of life come at your doors, know they come from Me, and as such rejoice." What do we care if we have success or failure, if we have God? That's the greatest thing. And if you see His Omniscient Light, or feel in your heart His presence, beyond question of a doubt, then you shall rejoice. Who cares whether you're a success, or failure, or what? Having Him is the greatest thing.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid, 2<sup>nd</sup> Discourse 17<sup>th</sup> Line: "Know THAT to be indestructible by whom all this is pervaded."

So, finally, he says, the Lord said to him, "'Thou hast me. What more dost thou want? I am with thee always.'"

That applies to each and every one of us, just as it does to the most Exalted Soul, as the beloved Master. We have God. What more should we want? "Thou hast me. What more dost" thy "thou want? I am with thee always." Then he says, "Ever since then, I ceased to expect anything."

Have God, you have everything. Spiritual Blindness must go on the coming of the Great Light of our one common Father.