

Your Place in Life

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Our subject this morning: "Your Place in Life," "Your Place in Life."

Your part in life played as God wants you to play it, that you express Divinity, is your mission in life. In that one sentence you can find your answer to this subject, "Your Place in Life."

To do what God wants you to do. To play your part no matter what part it is, whether it's great or small, that you express Divinity is your mission in life. Because, every part in this Drama of Life is necessary, whether it be great or small. And one thing we should not forget, the every part is a part of God Himself playing. Did you ever stop to realize that? No matter what you are doing, that's a part of God playing this Drama. Isn't that important? If you play the part correctly, you are aiding to manifest Divinity through this particular vehicle in which you live. That's your mission in life, that's my mission in life. It is as simple as that. Of course, this necessitates that we know God, that we do what He wants us to do willingly – 'course that must come into the picture also.

Now many, many feel that they have a special thing to do in life; they wanna do it, but they're so restless, they cannot do it. They cannot be quiet long enough to find out what God wants them to do. This is a fact. We've all been through it. So realize restlessness keeps you from knowing the Will of God – knowing what He wants you to do. If you could contact Him by doing away with the restlessness of your mind, then you could easily play your part. One part, remember, is just as important as another.

Some feel, some feel that making money, creating a place in the world, name and fame, that that's their mission, that that's their place. They think that is success. But is that success? Success means this; success does not necessarily mean that you're creating a great disturbance in this world; making a bate...a great to-do about nothing sometimes, or sometimes something; making great name, and fame. That, that isn't success in life. It isn't success at all.

Success means this. That if you feel the Blessing of God in what you are doing – I don't care what it is – if you feel His Presence, you receive His Blessings, His

Sanction, which you are a worthy child of His, and you feel the Bliss and Happiness of His Presence – you are a success. No matter what you are doing. Realize this. It is this Force of Iniquity which comes within us, prods us – “Are you doing the right thing?” “Should you be doing this, or something else?” That’s all right, if it’s done in a constructive way, but usually it is not. It is done in a destructive way, and keeps us unbalanced, disturbed, and restless, so we cannot hear the Silent Voice of God saying, “Go this way.” That’s doing His Will. That’s performing your part in this Drama of Life.

Many people, as I have said, have got to make a great disturbance. A great to-do all the time, or, or else life isn’t worth living. Some are quietly going along, doing nothing, seemingly so, but look in their faces, and you see the Peace of God. That’s the difference. Even those doing menial labor; look in their faces. Go near them, and you feel something you do not feel in that one that’s creating the great disturbance, and making a lot of to-do about nothing. “Much ado about nothing,” as Shakespeare said.

This young man, agitated young man, came pell-mell, running down to the ferry slip, and jumped across an open space of water, and landed on the deck, and got himself together, and he came up, and said, “Boy, I made it!” And the deck hand said, “What’s the hurry? The boat’s coming in.” So, how true in life? If we would just realize that. I thought that was quite a cute little story.

To illustrate, those who make a big disturbance, “much ado about nothing,” if they’d keep quiet, and let God work a little bit – He’s the Doer anyway – we can’t do a thing about it. We can’t make one cell of the body. If we’d just let Him have His way; who cares what part we play? Who wants to be the head? There’s too much trouble to everything. Look at the President of the United States. He can have it – poor fellow. I don’t think he is living even, what I’m reading in the paper, what’s going on. So, whether you are the President of the United States, or a simple citizen, if you have God, your life is a success. If you do not have Him, and have millions, and everything of everything, you are not a success.

From one of Master’s books about success, comes in just at this time. The Law of Success is the little book, which perhaps some of you have read. If you haven’t, you might like it. “Success should therefore, be measured by the yardstick of happiness; by your ability to remain in peaceful harmony with Cosmic Laws. Success is not rightly measured by the worldly standards of wealth, prestige, and power. None of these bestow happiness unless they are rightly used.” If you use

them rightly, you will feel the Bliss of God. "To use them rightly one must possess wisdom and love for God and man."

And so, realize there are three important things, as we discuss a little further this subject this morning "Your Place in Life." To understand "Your Place in Life," the first thing that you must realize, is your relationship with God. That's first and foremost. Take for instance the President of the United States. Unless he realizes his relationship with God, he's having, gonna have a tough time. And so, with each one of us; until we realize our relationship with God – and there's no difference whether you're the humble citizen, or the President – there's no difference, if you realize your relationship with God. There's just as much Peace and Bliss for the ordinary citizen as there is for the President of the United States, if each one realizes their relationship with God. And then they are in tune with the Cosmic Laws, and as God is Love, certainly all of us will feel His Presence, no matter what position we are holding. That's the first point.

Another point is this, that whatever you do, whatever your position in life is, do it with one purpose, one purpose only – to please God. This is the key. This is the key to "Your Place in Life." Whatever you do, do it to please God. I don't care what it is. If you can do that, the end will surely be for you, Peace and Bliss of His Presence, because that takes you to God, faster than anything. If you, whatever you do, you do to please God that takes you to God. Understand that, now. It's very easy, simple. It's not easy to do it. It is simple. The Law is simple. So realize, no matter what your position is, carry it out to please God.

Why shouldn't we? Why shouldn't we give to others? God is giving everything, and he doesn't say a word about it – not a murmur out of Him. He gives us all things, and we fuss, and fume if we have to do something for somebody. That's not right. We must give as God gives – without any strings, for the love of giving, to please Him. That's the second important point.

And the third point is this, that if we take this approach to our place in life, if we hold it, and adhere to it, and stick to it, then we are joined with the Great Cosmic Law. We work with that. And instead of being frustrated, and obstructed at every turn; there is no obstruction. We work with the Cosmic Laws, as the Master says, "the Immutable Cosmic Law is on our side."

Now those three points, kindly remember. They're very simple. And, I think, perhaps the greatest one is what you do, do to please God. It's so easy. That's why I like that. It's not difficult for me. You don't have to think very much. You

don't have to get excited, like the fellow who ran down and jumped on the ferry boat. You just say, "God, I wanna do what you want me to do to the best of my ability to please you." That's the greatest thing.

And so, as I said in the beginning, "Your Place in Life" is to express Divinity. Express Divinity. We're the only animal, so to speak, that can express Divinity, because we're made in such a way, with our unique spinal Centers, of which I spoke in the Bible reference, in the Supreme Center of the brain, we're made that way. We have those unique, that unique construction. Why? That we express Divinity. Now that's our place, should be our place in life. And while doing it – this is the key – while doing it, we must not forget our Immortal Nature.

When you see people in a huff, and fighting over this and that, where is their Immortal Nature? It's all covered up. And so, whatever we do to express Divinity, while we are expressing Divinity, we must not forget our Immortal Nature. We must play this Drama of Life, enjoying it, or passing through the tragedies, never forgetting our Immortal side, because we are both a human being and a Spiritual being. So we must realize that.

And so, to do this, to do this, we must analyze ourselves. That is to express Divinity we must look within, and analyze ourselves through introspection. This is very important. If you do not introspect, and go along with the tide, you'll go along with the tide, and you'll end up where the tide ends – nothing. And so, we must introspect. We must know those things within us called "samskaras." That's a Sanskrit word, which means "latent tendencies" within us. We have those, good and bad.

When Master first came to Boston, a long time ago, and I was, I met him; and after a bit, he said, "You have good samskaras." Well, I didn't know what that meant, but it sounded good anyways. And he seemed pleased. So, I said, "That's fine." Later he told me. He says, "Those are the mental tendencies," that is the good ones were there, "and if you follow them," he says, "you will do better than if you follow the worldly ones." In other words, I had some good samskaras. And I think everybody has some. Those are the tendencies within us.

Now these tendencies are of two kinds; for instance: the good and bad. The "mental tendencies" are those which take us toward worldly living. And the "discriminative tendencies" are those which take us towards God. Now, if your discriminative tendencies are good, cultivate them. Do not cultivate the mental

tendencies. Do not cultivate those tendencies which take you away from God. That's all. It's as simple as that. Cultivate the good tendencies within you; tendencies such as to meditate, to come to the meetings, and I hope, you come to the Wednesday night meeting. That's a good samskara. Follow it. Cultivate those.

And the bad ones; keep out of their way, and do not lay up any more bad ones. You have enough. I have enough. We all have enough of those things within us. They'll come out. Do not lay up any more evil tendencies, or worldly tendencies even. As they come up, introspect; know what they are; do not feed them. Do not follow them. Do not cultivate them. The good tendencies, of course, cultivate them. And, if you keep – this is the point – if you keep in touch with the Father; if you feel Him with you as you are introspecting – not following the evil tendencies – supporting the good tendencies, cultivating them; if you follow and feel the Father with you during this chastening process, you cannot help but win.

That's why it is so important to attain God contact through the teachings and the techniques of Self-Realization Fellowship. Because when you feel Him, that's the greatest support you can have. Far greater than any tendency on the out, outward living, is God's Presence in a conscious way within us. And we can do it. We are made in His Image. That's our heritage. Why shouldn't we do it? Why shouldn't we demand it of the Father? He is waiting for us to demand it. He's waiting to give it to us. The Master said, "He loves you more than you love Him, more than you can, can imagine." Silently, He does. That's so. Why shouldn't we do our part? Feel His Presence.

I have another reference from the same little book, at this time, which seems to fit nicely. First about the purpose of life, is to go back to God – to express Divinity. We think it's everything else but that. If we just realize it is to go back to God and express Divinity, then we can enjoy what He's given us: home, relatives, friends, all things. But we forget that first and important thing, to express Divinity; to return home to God. That's the first thing, and the reference about that in The Law of Success: "Your ultimate purpose is to find your way back to God, but you always have a task to perform, but you also have a task to perform in the outer world." That's our place in life. "But behind that is, purpose is to go back to God." Now, about introspection, and the cultivation of, and the repression of tendencies, we find this: "Introspection is a mirror in which to see into the recesses of your mind that otherwise would remain hidden from you."

If you meditate, and introspect, you will feel these tendencies. of which I have spoken. Otherwise you won't. Suddenly they pop up, and you're led away from God. But, if you introspect, you will feel those things within you, and you can cope with them. So introspection is necessary. Then he says, "Diagnose your failures, and sort out your good and bad tendencies." That is, see what's the matter with yourself. See why you do not go as you wish to go. See why you are not what you'd like to be, and wanna be. Then do something about it. "Analyze what you are, what you wish to become, and what shortcomings are impeding you. Decide the nature of your true task," your mission in life. "Endeavor to make yourself what you should be and what you want to be."

There's nothing greater than wanting to please God, I think. You wanna be a great artist? Fine. I wouldn't wanna be a great artist, if God wasn't pleased. I wouldn't wanna be anything great, unless I know God is satisfied with me, and it pleases Him. Then I know whether I have nothing, or no place to go, no friend in the world, nothing. I know God is with me, that I am a success, because nothing matters. He is the Sole Doer. He is the One, if we can but realize that. And wherever He puts us, do that duty, that task, to please Him.

People say, "Well what will I do? I wanna, I wanna know the way to go." I said, "First you must have faith in God." If you have faith in God, you'll do, and you won't doubt Him. But when you have the doubts, where's your faith? If you know God, if you feel His Presence, if you feel the Touch of His Grace, His Love and His Peace, and you know He is with you, how can you lack faith? How can you have any doubts? There's the key, is to contact God. Daily feel His Presence.

And so, finally, "Your Place in Life" need not be spectacular, in the eyes of men. Realize – the Drama of Life needs all the roles. You take a play on the stage. If everybody plays their part in a good way, the play is a success. If someone doesn't, the play is not a success. So every part is necessary. Realize that. That whatever your part is, play it willingly, and that takes you to God.

Now in some, some in this life have a different part than they had in another life. Perhaps you were great in a previous life. Perhaps you were small, and are big in this life, so to speak. It doesn't make any difference. You take the case of Jesus and John. In the previous life, according to our Master's teachings, John was Elijah, the great prophet Elijah. And Jesus was his devotee, so to speak – Elisha. And he followed Elijah. Elijah did many miracles, and Jesus did miracles, too.

Now, in the life of John and Jesus, of, with which we are familiar, perhaps, according to the eyes of the world, Jesus played a greater part than John, because John baptized with the “water of repentance¹.” But Jesus baptized with the “fire of the Spirit.” And yet, Jesus demanded that John baptize him. And he said, “No man born of woman is as great as John the Baptist².” Why? Because he was his Guru of the previous life, and the relationship of Guru and disciple is Supreme, because the Guru leads the disciple to God.

And so, you see in this life, oh, I mean the life in which we are familiar, of John and Jesus, perhaps, some say that Jesus was greater, but they both played their part. And in the Eyes of God and His Omniscient Consciousness there is one thing, and that’s God, and that’s where you and I will be, if we lift ourselves to that One Consciousness. There’s no greater or lesser in God. He’s the Doer. He’s the One. Realize that, as you think of “Your Place in Life.” Get that God contact. Then you’ll be satisfied.

And so, we must realize that no matter what our part we play is, it is a manifestation of God Himself. Understand that. If you play a simple part, sweeping the floor, washing the floor, anything; or you are the greatest in the country, or in the world; it’s still a part of God’s Omniscience. It’s He who is the Player – the Doer. Therefore, how can you say one part is less than another? You cannot do it. Realize that. And I’d rather know God is pleased with me and just get into heaven, just gradually, like that man that tore off to the ferry boat. Just get on, somehow, and know God is pleased with me. If He wants me to do something else, fine. But I’ve got to know God is pleased with me; and so have you – so has everyone. That’s what gives us the confidence and strength to carry out our place in life.

A word from, one more word, from The Law of Success: “If you work...If your work in life is humble, do not apologize for it. Be proud, because you are fulfilling the duty given to you by your Father. He needs you in your particular place. All people cannot play the same role. So long as you work to please God, all Cosmic Forces will harmoniously assist you.” So that should settle this question about who’s better than another in this life. No one’s better. In the Eyes of God, we’re His children. He loves each one of us just the same as another. If He didn’t, He wouldn’t be what He is. The thing is we can’t see it that way. Delusion – the Great Force of Delusion – the Conscious Force of Delusion

¹ Matthew 3:1-17

² Matthew 11:11

deludes us into thinking all sorts of things, instead of being simple and humble children of God, relying on Him.

And so, finally, the last question is this, if we have the Presence of God as we carry out our place in life; if we know that presence; then all things are well. Then comes the question; how, how to attain that Presence of God? By regular and daily meditation – make the contact, everyday with Him. Don't let a day go by. Don't do it. Everyday, make that thing, and then the end of life, you'll say "Am I glad I did that." Make that your most important engagement with God, daily. Daily meditate, as much as you can – but at least do some.

And then, while you're not meditating, keep in tune with God by working to please Him – feeling His Presence with you. And, if you do that, His Presence will come. He never, He never denies the humble devotee. It's we who deny Him. And, if you do that, perhaps, by His Grace, you will play, or have the privilege of playing, an exalted part in this Drama of Life.

Look at the part our Master played. Look at the part the saints' play – and saints can be ordinary people. Understand that. If the Grace of God comes upon you, He will let you play an exalted part, whereby His Great Light and Love will flow through you to help others. That's what we should realize. And that's why it's so necessary, first, attain the Presence of God. And that exalted part is what? Master's words give it to us. He said: "Let your life be a spiritual example for others to follow, to our one abode of light, where all will meet who live and do right."