

# Must We Suffer For Salvation?

Dr. M.W. Lewis

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I think many people have the wrong conception. Many people feel, "Yes, we have to get knocked down, pushed around, suffer pain," then, we say, "Well, let's find God." That is right, in one sense. But it is not necessary to go through that. That is what we must realize.

And so, we can say right at the beginning, that it is not necessary to suffer in order to have Salvation. Because of your karma, some suffering may be in the offing to you, but that does not mean that you have to wait until you accumulate a lot of suffering, and then say, "Well, there's no other way. I guess I'll have to creep back to God." That is not necessary at all. It is not necessary, if you use the wisdom that's right with inside of you, in your Soul, to realize that you can have God, in spite of this worldly consciousness, with all its pain and with all its suffering.

So let us say a few words first about Salvation. Salvation is what? It's simply delivery from delusion, from outward consciousness, from worldly consciousness, from the consciousness wherein pain and suffering exists. That is all that Salvation is. It is deliverance from ignorance.

Ignorance is that which prevents us from realizing what we really are, as I have been saying this morning, children of God, one with His Eternal Consciousness, one with His Omniscience, one with His Love. That's what we are, but something has happened, and we are involved; we are one with worldly consciousness, outward consciousness. We have to once more get out of that state. Out of that state where pain and suffering exists, into that state of Unity with God, where there is no suffering, where there is no pain. That is what Salvation is.

I wanna give you one reference, first, from Ezekiel, the 28<sup>th</sup> Chapter, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Verses, showing you what you had at one time, but which you have lost, and, therefore, now it is necessary to regain it. That's what Salvation is. Salvation does not necessarily mean liberation from all karma and such things. Some of us have too much of that piled up. But Salvation means that you see the

difference between the Reality behind this duality of consciousness, you not only see it, you not only understand it in theory, but you merge in that One Light of God. Having that, you are saved from delusion. You may have to work out some karma. Who cares, long as God is with us? So remember, that's what Salvation is. It's right there, waiting for you to follow the path that will lift you, as Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you shall know that I am He...the Father and I are one."<sup>1</sup> (*Sic*) You shall know the same thing, each and every one of us who does that, will realize the Omniscience of God within us.

And so in Ezekiel it says: "...thou wast upon the holy mountain of God;"<sup>2</sup> We had the consciousness of the Eternal Consciousness of God, which resides in the brain, or Thousand-Rayed Lotus – many times in the Bible spoken of as "the holy mountain of God," because it's up high on the top of our being. We had that Consciousness.

Then it also says: "...thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire."<sup>3</sup> Those simply refer to the Centers of the spine, the lotuses in the spine spoken of as the stones of fire, because they emanate Spiritual vibration most exquisite. We had that Consciousness; we had the Consciousness of the Thousand-Rayed Lotus, the House of God; we had, we had the Consciousness of the spine; that Superconsciousness, which I spoke of a few minutes ago, where the masters dwell, where Jesus dwells, where the Omniscience of God is found. We had that, but something happened.

And so, it says: "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, until iniquity was found in thee."<sup>4</sup> (*Sic*) Until this delusion took hold of us, until we were blinded by outward consciousness, we had that oneness with God. We had the Peace, which you now, most of you, I know, feel right at this minute. We had that. It was our true nature, not, not like the worldly consciousness is now. We had that, until, remember, iniquity set in. And that's simply delusion, that's all – delusion, outward consciousness; consciousness of duality, with its paradoxes, and pain, and suffering. When that set in, we lost that great thing we had.

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<sup>1</sup> St. John 8:28, "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things."

<sup>2</sup> Ezekiel 28:14, "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire."

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ezekiel 28:15, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."

And so it says: "By the multitude of thy merchandise...<sup>5</sup>" That is, by the increasing of the delusion. You know in the world you can't get out of the thing. You can't get out of the delusion. You get one situation rectified, and you say, "Now everything's fine." Wait till tomorrow. Something else will come in. There's no end to it. We might as well face it. Say, "If I only had a million dollars, everything'd be fine." No, it wouldn't, because in this worldly consciousness, Jesus said, "...in the world ye shall have tribulation."<sup>6</sup> But he also said: "I have overcome"<sup>7</sup> worldly consciousness.

So: "By the multitude of thy merchandise thou hast (sic) filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned."<sup>8</sup> That is, thou hast become one with the delusion, so that you have forgotten your Immortal Nature. Therefore, what happened? "I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and from the midst of the stones of fire."<sup>9</sup> (Sic) Because we became one with the Drama of Life, in which delusion is found, because of that, we have lost the Higher Consciousness of oneness with God which resides in the Thousand-Rayed Lotus, and in the Centers of the spine.

Now, when you feel very good, where do you feel it? In your spine – tingle. And when you're lifted up beyond worldly consciousness, where do you feel good? In the Thousand-Rayed Lotus, in the Seat of Virtue, from here [the Spiritual Eye] to the top of the head [the Seat of Virtue]; [measure] ten fingers [from the Spiritual Eye to the top of the head] here's the Seat of Virtue. That's where you perceive God. Not out in sensation. Not in automobiles. Not in houses, but right within yourself. So, we have lost that, and that is why ignorance is the greatest sin, because it prevents us from realizing what we are.

And so, this one thing remember: when this false conception that this world and your body is the reality; when that is done away with, and you realize the metaphysical truth behind it, the reality behind it – that is the Oneness of God's Light, and His Love in that Light – when you recognize that, see it, merge in it, you have Salvation. That's what Salvation is.

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<sup>5</sup> Ezekiel 28:16, "By the multitude of they merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore, I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire."

<sup>6</sup> St. John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ezekiel 28:16

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

Self-Realization gives you the methods whereby you can contact that Light of the Holy Ghost – the Word. You can merge in it; you can be one with the Omniscience of God. There you have Salvation, right there. It is not a question of suffering to make you want that. It is a question of common sense and Wisdom of the Soul, which each and every one of us has. But most of us have to be “knocked down,” as the Master said, again and again by pain, until finally we creep back to God. We’ve had enough of it. Why not act like children of God with the wisdom which we have, recognize it can be done without being hurt, and do it? Follow the channel God has sent, as the beloved Master.

Be, be like Lahiri Mahasaya. Be in this world – we have to play our part, I have to play my part, you have to play your part – but don’t be of it. Don’t be engrossed in it. Be children of God, above it, one with your Immortal Nature. As children of God, you see His Infinite Light and you merge in that. You will know you are Immortal, you have Salvation.

So, going on; if we have, as I have said, the ability to use the Wisdom of our Soul, and recognize this Eternal Truth, that the Reality is not here in this consciousness; then suffering will not be necessary. If you have that Wisdom, not to wait for suffering, that’s all there is to it. Why wait? “Oh, it’s, it’s enticing; worldly things are enticing.” Matter, as we spoke of in our Whisper<sup>10</sup> entices us. But right within us, in the Soul, in the Conscience of the Soul, we know we should not go that way. We should first find God. As Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of heaven and all other things shall be added unto you."<sup>11</sup> (Sic)

And so, we had, we had that Soul Consciousness, but we have lost it. Now, what do we have? Outward consciousness, consciousness of delusion; and in that consciousness is suffering. Suffering cannot exist, remember, in God’s Omniscience. You can prove it easily in meditation. You lift yourself above the body, you forget the body, the mind will quiet down, you feel the Peace of God, and, if you have that strong hold on God, no matter what pain you have within the body, no matter what suffering you are going through – physical, physically or mentally – it will be left behind when you see that Light of God and merge in it. This is truth. These are facts. You can find that by following one who had that – the beloved Master.

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<sup>10</sup> Whispers From Eternity, by Paramhansa Yogananda, Original Release 1949

<sup>11</sup> Matthew 6:33, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Now, God created pain and its suffering. Why? To drive those who will not use the Wisdom of the Soul, and their free will, and their independent action, to find that out. That's why God created pain, so that we have to come back to Him. Let me give you one or two words that the Master said regarding that. "To those who will not follow the Wisdom of the Soul, God gave pain so that they would have to go back to their Immortal Nature." It seems like kind of a safety valve for God, so the thing wouldn't get away from Him, so to speak; because, if there were not pain, we wouldn't wanna leave here. It wouldn't be so bad, would it? If it were not for that pain; all kinds of pain; that's the thing that spurs us on and says, "Get busy! Find God, otherwise you're lost." So remember, pain is that thing which God created that we have to go back to Him.

When we're beaten, and pushed down, and bludgeoned, so that we've had enough, then we creep back to God. Repent means, "to creep back." And so, we repent, creep back to God. If we'd used that wisdom with which we have inherent in our Souls, we would not have had to be filled with pain and suffering. We would have seen the way to go as straight there.

So, let me give you the Master's words: "If God never did give pain, we would all the time be here, and never go back to Him." That's why He hurts us. That's why He hurts us. So you can see, pain is your friend – although it's terrible at times. So, we go back to Him. "Although every night, although every night, we go back to God, still, the next day, we're engrossed in the show again; we're one with the Play, forgetting our Immortal Nature."

And so, we were not supposed to stay in this Play of Drama, this Drama of Life. We are we're not supposed to be one with it. And so, he says, "God will knock us all the time, until we get home." He will keep after us, until we go back to Him. Why not use the Wisdom of the Soul, and see, and know what God's Plan is that we should be in this Drama of Life, never forgetting our Immortal Nature – enjoying it. That's the only way you can solve it. That's the only way you can reconcile the paradoxes of this Dream, is to be one with God's Consciousness in you; one with your Immortal Nature. Then you'll understand that the Dream is not real, and you will be above all suffering.

And so, two paths are open for us; the Path of Desire – to follow that which leads to engrossment in worldly consciousness, outward consciousness, consciousness of this Drama of Life. And what's the result? Suffering! God created it that way. And the other path, is to follow the Path of Wisdom; the Path of Wisdom, whereby you have sense enough, as a child of God, to see that there's nothing in

following the outward course, but to follow the Path of Wisdom; be one with that eternal part of you, one with that Immortal Nature, where you'll be above suffering. Even though you have to suffer, suffering will not touch you. And so, remember, it is not necessary, it is absolutely not necessary to suffer in order to attain Salvation.

Now, most people, I will admit, most people feel, feel that we have to suffer before we wake up to the fact that we must have Salvation. I think you all feel that way. You see what's going on about you – young people. What, how they are carrying on; and you say, "Well, they've gotta, they've got to get it," "They've got to suffer, and they've got to feel pain, then they'll wake up." That's right, they will. But you don't have to do that. The sensible person does not have to do that. The person who uses the Wisdom of the Soul, and looks within just a little, will feel, feel that Love of God, and will grasp it, and need not suffer, as these other people are suffering now.

This is pointed out clearly in the scriptures. First let us examine just for a moment the Bhagavad Gita<sup>12</sup>, the 13<sup>th</sup> Discourse, 32<sup>nd</sup> Line. Listen to the admonitions of the scriptures: "As the omnipresent ether is not affected, by reason of its subtlety, so seated everywhere in the body the Self is not affected." The Self within you cannot be touched by pain or suffering. So it goes on to say: "Those who, or they who by the eyes of Wisdom perceive this difference between..." the body and self, they are liberated from attachment to matter, "...they go to the Supreme."<sup>13</sup> (Sic)

Aren't those wonderful words? How simple it is. God pervades all things: you and me, all His creation. But those who are attached to the creation, are bound, and subject to the laws of that creation. And the laws of that creation are pain and suffering, because God made it so. But we do not have to follow that. We can circumvent it, and be one with His Nature – His Immortal Nature within us – which is above pain or suffering. So, it is not necessary, remember, to suffer by following outward consciousness or delusion; it is not necessary. And, if you realize you are a child of God, you will not let it be thrown upon you to suffer, but "Seek first," as Jesus said, "the kingdom of heaven..."<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> The Bhagavad Gita or The Lord's Song, Translated by Dr. Annie Besant, 1939

<sup>13</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Discourse, 34<sup>th</sup> Line, "They who by the eyes of Wisdom perceive this difference between the Field and the Knower of the Field, and the liberation of beings from Matter, they go to the Supreme."

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 6:33

Now Jesus' words were what? "Seek first the kingdom of heaven." Don't wait. Do it now. Why wait? Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of ha, of heaven...;" "the harvest is plenteous.<sup>15</sup>" (*Sic*) The kingdom of God is there. But those who will labor just a little, using the Wisdom of the Soul, to escape the suffering, are few; very few.<sup>16</sup>

The Gita says the same thing: Out of a thousand who hear, one of those thousands follows, and a thousand, a thousand of those who follow, one, one receives it. Why? Because we do not really want it, that's all. We must exercise the Wisdom of the Soul. We must go within. We must follow those channels, as the beloved Master, which God sends to help you, to help me, realize that Eternal Truth, that suffering is not necessary for Salvation. It simply means that you've got to do something about it. You've got to follow those things with which God has sent you, the channel of the beloved Master, the great ones, the channel of Jesus, all great saints.

Now, going on just a bit; we have not only the scriptures, we have the verdict of the saints: Krishna, Babaji as Krishna said, "...a little of this religion will save one from dire suffering.<sup>17</sup>" He might just as well have said, "Get busy. Follow; follow the techniques of yoga – Self-Realization. Contact that Eternal Presence of God within you. It'll save you much suffering. Why wait until you suffer? That's not sensible." The Great Babaji said, "...a little of this religion will save one from dire suffering."

And Sri Yukteswarji said to our Master, he said, a, allow me to discipline you; allow me to discipline you. That is, bend your will, which keeps you in outward consciousness. Bend that, and follow me. I, my will, is governed, guided, by God's Consciousness. Follow me. And the Master has said that to many of his disciples – our Master. Let me discipline you. That is, bend your will to the Soul within you, that you may realize the Eternal Presence of God, that you may escape this seemingly necessity of suffering. It is not necessary at all.

And, finally, you have your own intuition within you; the testimony of God within you; the Soul within you. It tells you it isn't necessary. You know it isn't

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<sup>15</sup> Matthew 9:37, "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;"

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> The Bhagavad Gita or The Lord's Song, Translated by Dr. Annie Besant, 1939, 2<sup>nd</sup> Discourse, 40<sup>th</sup> Verse, "In this there is no loss of effort, nor is there transgression. Even a little of this knowledge protects from great fear."

necessary, if you look within. Your own conscience tells you, "Seek first," as Jesus said, "the kingdom of heaven and all other things shall be added unto you."

I'll tell you a little story, which will illustrate the point clearly. Several of us were meeting, had met, in the kitchen at Encinitas, and a great discussion was going on; this very discussion, whether it was necessary to suffer to receive Salvation. There were quite a few ladies, and they were on one side, and I was on the other. They said, "Oh, it isn't, these children have got to feel pain, they've gotta suffer. Then they'll turn toward God." I said, "That's right, but it isn't necessary." "Oh, yes it is." I said, "It isn't necessary, because I know, by following the Master and listening to him, that I did not follow outward consciousness. And I know what I escaped. I know that." So I was trying to tell them that. They were trying to tell me their side.

Just in the midst of the argument, or the discussion, rather – disciples don't argue, they discuss – so right in the midst of that, the door opened. Master walked in. He says, "What's going on here?" So, I said, they-say-and-I-say... He says, "Both are right. Both are right. Some have to suffer, because of their ignorance and lack of wisdom. It is not *necessary*."

So, I felt good, because I really, if I'd have lost that point, I would have felt real bad. Because there he was, the one who had saved me, pointed out the way, and, somehow, by the Grace of God, I followed him. And I know, without question of a doubt, what I escaped. Not only I know, but the thing is, that he told others what would have happened to me if I hadn't followed, was proof enough, because his words were always true. He never lied. He never told me an untruth. And so, you can take the Master's words. It is *not* necessary to suffer to receive Salvation.

And so, in conclusion, so, it is not necessary for Salvation. How? Follow the Wisdom of the Soul. How to do that? Follow the Path of Yoga. Follow the Path of Self-Realization Yoga, which is the highest yoga, Raja Yoga, which takes in the best of all yoga's, all systems. Follow that; follow that. Then you will realize the Wisdom of the Soul, and that will guide you to the One Eternal Presence of God behind all things – His Great Light, and in that, His Great Love. Having that let a little suffering come. Who cares? When He is with you, nothing can disturb you. Nothing can make you worry; nothing can take away your peace.

I wanna read from the Gita, one passage from the 6<sup>th</sup> Discourse, 20<sup>th</sup> Line.<sup>18</sup> By practicing yoga, you can realize that suffering is not necessary. You can have God right now.

The practice of yoga in which the devotee "...seeing the Self by the Self is satisfied...that" practice of yoga "in which he findeth supreme delight which the" Intuition of the Soul "can grasp beyond the senses..." Pain and suffering we find in outward consciousness; we find God in inner consciousness, "beyond the senses..." and being "established..." in that by yoga, he might have added by Self-Realization Yoga; there is no moving "...from [the] Reality..." He has the Reality, has the Presence of God, there is no moving from that "...there being no greater gain beyond..."<sup>19</sup> that. (*Sic*)

There is no greater gain when you feel God, and see His Light, feel His Presence within you, feel what the Master has, and what he gave to those who would take it. When you have that, there's nothing more you want. There's nothing higher. That's God Himself. How can we have anything higher?

Going on: "...wherein established..." by yoga, by Self-Realization Yoga I add, "...this disconnection..."<sup>20</sup> with pain – pain is what produces sorrow. It may be physical or mental, still yoga disconnects you from the cause of pain, takes you out of outward consciousness, where pain and suffering dwell, lifts you into the Spiritual Consciousness of God. And so, the Gita says, most beautifully, that it is not necessary, for Salvation, to suffer. You can escape it, if you use the Wisdom of the Soul.

And, finally, in conclusion, Jesus' words from our Bible, admonishing us to overcome worldly consciousness in which desire resides. Desire is the King, and that's the thing that keeps us involved in this Drama of Life, this Play of God.

And so, we find in St. John, the 16<sup>th</sup> Chapter, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Verse, most beautiful words. Never forget them. The Master said the same thing many, many times. Jesus said these things: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you

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<sup>18</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Discourse 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> Lines, "That in which the mind finds rest, quieted by the practice of yoga: that in which he, see the Self by the Self, in the Self is satisfied; that in which he findeth the supreme delight which the Reason can grasp beyond the senses, wherein established he moveth not from the Reality: which having obtained, he thinketh there is no greater gain beyond it; wherein established, he that should be known by the name of yoga, this disconnection from the union with pain. This yoga must be clung to with a firm conviction and with undesponding mind."

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

(sic) might have peace.<sup>21</sup>” In the Christ Consciousness which manifested through him, so wonderfully, in that alone, you will find peace. Then he said: "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

In worldly consciousness, he might have said, in the duality of outward consciousness, in the consciousness of this Play of God’s Drama of Life, you will have tribulation, because it goes with it. God created it that way. "...but," as Jesus said, "be of good cheer." All of us should be of good cheer. If we really want God, and use the Wisdom of our Soul, as Jesus overcame worldly consciousness, so can each one of us lift our consciousness from delusion, into the Great Light of God.

Why not do that as honorable children of God? Why wait and endure pain, and suffering, and be bludgeoned, until finally we creep back to God? Why do that? Why not, as children of God, claim our birthright, oneness with the Great Light of our common Father?

It’s open to everyone. We felt it when we came into the presence of the Master when he was here with us. You will feel it more, now, when you lift your consciousness, so that you can be one with his consciousness, in the Omniscience of God. It is more real now than when he was with us, because the body is a part of delusion. Let us realize that. Let us take hope. Let us rise above all conditions – mountains of obstructions. Let us follow what the Master said; follow the channel God has sent; and then, his sacrifice, and his efforts, will not be in vain.

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<sup>21</sup> St. John 16:33, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.