

How Can the World Be Saved?

Dr. M.W. Lewis

Hollywood, 3-4-54

"How Can the World Be Saved?" How can the world be saved?

I think some of the parts of it that we know about, we don't want to save. And I think if we understand just what we mean perhaps, by the world, by the worldly consciousness, then we can do something about saving it.

Now worldly consciousness is predominantly the consciousness of the Drama of Life which God has created. That's what people do not understand. They have wonderful ideas of saving something that is transient and changeable and is not permanent. So let us understand that first, right off. That worldly consciousness is fleeting; that it is not permanent; it is transient, because it is the consciousness of the Drama of Life, or the Drama of this creation of God.

And so you can see, if you think at all, and immediately understand that, worldly consciousness cannot be saved. It must pass away. It must cease to exist. So let us understand that point first in dealing with this question, "How Can the World Be Saved." It cannot be saved; that consciousness changes. So that is not the point at all. It's some other point we must inject, which I'll try to do a little later in the talk.

Worlds come and go. We know that. You look in history, read about how empires have been built up and have crumbled. Civilizations come and pass away. Cities, wonderful cities in time are leveled, they aren't there. Man is born and man dies. And so, that consciousness, let us understand right off, cannot be saved. Its nature is to change and pass away. But the scriptures tell us this. The scriptures tell us that underlying this will-o-the-wisp, changing consciousness of this world, there is an Eternal Consciousness that does not pass away; that always was and always will be. That's the important thing, that's what people miss. They try to fix up this old worldly consciousness. It's going away anyway. The thing is to supersede it with something else. Then you can save the world – only that way.

Now, if perhaps, as I have said, we can replace that seemingly real, yet so tangible worldly consciousness by something else, something that is Eternal, as the scriptures say, an underlying Eternal Consciousness that does not change, it always was and always will be. If we can replace this worldly consciousness with

that, then we can say, "Yes, the world can be saved." The world can be saved. Otherwise, we must admit that this worldly consciousness will not be saved. It must pass away.

Now testifying to the validity of our promise that underlying this changeable worldly consciousness, which is forever ruling us, we look to the scriptures. The Bhagavad Gita and the Bible, I'm going to take just this morning. In the Bhagavad Gita, in the 13th Discourse, the 30th Line we read as follows. The scriptures are the same. Whether the Bible, or the Gita, or any of the scriptures, you will find the same underlying truth. And this is what we read, "When the devotee realizes the separate existence of all beings established in the One." That's the point. When you can only realize that; when you see and merge in the Infinite Light of God; then you know that each separate existence is a ray of that Light.

So the Gita says, "When the devotee sees the separate existence of all beings established in the One, and their expansion from that One Eternal Substance of God, then he becomes one with God." Then you can realize the common Father, and you fear nothing, or no one, having God with you. The Gita also says that when we realize this, "that in pleasure or pain, in success or failure, in opulence or want," we remain the same. Why not? Because we know the truth. The truth is what will save the world – nothing else. Not only theoretical truth, but Realized truth. That is what will save the world.

One who realizes this underlying Unity is the same in honor or dishonor, in success or failure. As I have said, whether you have anything, or haven't even a friend left in the world, no place to put your head, a downright failure according to ordinary consciousness. If you have God, and realize your oneness with Him, you are the greatest success. So remember that. Success is not in worldly consciousness. If we follow matter, in the end, in the beginning it is wonderful – nectar – but in the end disappointment and quiet, because it is not the Reality. Remember that. All the scriptures say that.

Now, for the Bible, in St. John, the 16th Chapter, the 33rd Verse. This is most wonderful. "These things," says Jesus, "I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace." That doesn't mean in the body of Jesus, or the man Jesus. No, it means in Christ Consciousness within me. "In me ye shall have peace." Then he goes on to say just what we have been saying this morning, and which we all know too well to be true. "In the world ye shall have tribulations." There's nothing but trouble. That's the nature of it. The law of opposites is working. Let's not try to save that.

But then he goes on to say, "Be of good cheer..." Why not? "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Isn't that beautiful? He saved the world, but in a different way than you thought. He saved it by superseding this worldly changeable consciousness, with the Unchanging Presence of God in which you

find Eternal Life, and the Love of the beloved Master. That's what'll change the world. That's what'll save the world. Nothing else – nothing else will do it.

And we are a part of that Underlying Unity. We are children of God, made in His Image. We came from that, and it was God's Plan when He created this Drama of Life, that we could come out of our immortality, merge in His Drama, enjoy it, like you would a movie, a stage, the play, and then return to our home in Cosmic Consciousness – in His Bliss and Joy. That was God's Plan.

But the devil entered into it. The devil got in and he did a good job, because his idea was this. It's very simple. He knew that unless he was able to put his plan into operation, that his kingdom would cease to exist, because who wants to stay in this changeable consciousness with its paradoxes – no one. And so, through the temptation of outward things, worldly things, he created within us a desire to have that pleasure, waiting till the end when we go back to our home with God. That's all.

And so through desires, which are never fulfilled, we know there's no happiness in this world. We have one desire, we follow it, we do not receive and feel the Peace of God – we have another – keep on, and finally, we have to come again and again, in the wheel of births and deaths, following desire, hunting for that Peace and Joy, which is only in one place, in the Immortal Presence of God, in His Omniscience, in His Great Light and Love. Only there will we find it. So the devil's, devil's plan is different than God's, and that's why there is all the trouble.

But remember that the truth, plain truth, which Jesus has said, "In the world ye shall have trouble...but I have overcome." I have overcome worldly consciousness, that's all. "These things that I do ye shall do and greater things." So there's no reason why we shouldn't save the world by first saving our own self. That's the important thing.

Now going on, we can see, therefore, that the only thing that will save the world is to perceive the Underlying Truth, the Underlying Reality. We cannot fool ourselves by thinking it will be in this worldly consciousness, because it will not be there. It will be in realizing the One Eternal Flame of God within, the Christ Consciousness within. That itself is Peace and Joy and Power, all Fulfillment. The Fullness of God is in that, because it is His Consciousness in creation, the only begotten Son, which is the Fullness of God. That is the thing. The world will be saved, remember, only by realizing the Underlying Eternal Consciousness which does not change.

Just, your attention for a moment or two, on one or two more references in the Gita, when it says in the 10th Discourse – listen carefully, it's all true what the Master preached are all from the Gita, which ages ago he wrote. And this is what we read. "I am the origin of all, everything evolves from Me; knowing this, the wise worship Me with loving ecstasy." Do you feel that toward God? Do you feel that emotion? Some of us are not born with it, so to speak, but it can be cultivated. Try, try. You have the ways and the means. "Their hearts fixed in Me, with their life absorbed in Me." Why not? God is the Sole Doer. You can't think, move, do anything, without His Presence in you. So he says, "The devotee, fixed in Me, with their life absorbed in Me, mutually enlightening one another." That's the communion we must have, not in worldly consciousness, but in God's Consciousness, "in His Bliss and His Joy, mutually and perpetually singing My Glory, they are contented and rejoice."

To those who are ever steadfast and loving worshipers, "to these ever steadfast and loving worshipers, I give that yoga." That's the point. Yoga is the way to Self-Realization. Yoga means union, or union with God. That's what yoga means. "I give them this by which they come to Me." So remember now, the way to realization of the union [of God is] through yoga. Only when you realize through yoga, your oneness with God, and only when the hearts of men are changed, will the world be changed – only then. And you can only change the hearts of men when they realize the one common Father. When you see the Infinite Light of God and the tremendous Power of God in that, it will change your whole being. It will change your heart. Your heart will be of pure gold. Knowing that, then you can love one another really, 'cause you know the source from whence they come. Then the brotherhood of man, and only then, can come the Fatherhood of God when we change the hearts of men.

You can try to do it by politics. You can try to do it by the force of political power in the name of religion. It has all been tried for ages to bring about this saving of world conscious. But it has not worked, it will not work, because it will only come when you change the hearts of men – only then. You cannot force people to do anything. But, when the Love of God percolates through their being, and His Infinite Light guides them, and the Love of God in that Light is felt in their hearts, then the hearts of men are changed. Then the world will be saved, because worldly consciousness will be superseded by that Great Infinite Love.

A few years ago the Master went to Washington, and he talked to President Coolidge, who was, as you know, a man of few words. And at that time disarmament was in vogue and they discussed disarmament. And the Master said to Cal, he said, "Isn't it so, sir, that even though you take the battleships away from them, and the guns, and the weapons of war, isn't it so that man will still fight with stones, or with a stick?" Cal says, "That's right." That's a fact. You cannot do that. You cannot make people do it. But when you change their hearts, and they feel the Peace of God that you feel right now, that will do it. That will give them the realization of the Underlying Unity of God's Presence.

And so, worldly consciousness must be superseded by the Love of God. The consciousness of wine and sex and money is too strong; too strong to be overcome except when it is superseded by the Love of God. When you do that, then, then they will fall off – but only then. Those forces are too strong. When you feel, when you feel in your heart passionate love, and His Great Love, those things take a secondary place. Such is the Power of God's Great Love. That's why those two commandments can then be followed. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy strength, and with all thy heart, and with all thy might." Then you feel in your heart the Great Love of God. That's the first thing. How can any other thing remain there? It cannot. Secondly – second great commandment is, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." You can then love one another, because you know they come from the One Eternal Soul.

Now the Bible substantiates this, the scriptures substantiate this. I'd like to give a few Bible references, because for this reason. It's very satisfying to myself, but also, remember, that Babaji gave to Sri Yukteswarji the great task of showing, by parallel references, of the Gita, of the Bible, of all scriptures, by showing by parallel references the Underlying Unity, the Underlying Unity, the Universality of religion. If we can do that, then people of all religions, and especially those here who are of the Christian nation, if they can see it's the same thing as was taught in the Gita ages ago, then they will realize the underlying truth which will save the world.

And so just one or two more references and then I'm through. In the 9th Chapter, the 9th Discourse of the Gita it says, "Those who worship Me and meditate on Me without any other thought..." God is not mocked. You have to worship Him unconditionally. There cannot be any reservation, because He knows before you start. He's behind your thought even. So He says, "Those who worship Me," meditate upon Me, "without any other thought, to those ever steadfast devotees, I secure safety and supply all their needs. I carry their burden." Isn't that wonderful?

We say the same thing in our Bible. Jesus said, "Come unto me." Come unto me, the Christ Consciousness. Not the body. "Come unto me and I will give thee rest." You will find rest only in the Christ within. If you want to do your part to save the world, find that first. Find that. Then you can help and give to others. "Come unto me and I will give thee rest."

And the Gita also says, I notice in my reference, "I shall free thee from all sins." Imagine all sins of ages, of incarnations, cannot stay in the Light of God. Meditate and you will find it out. Now isn't that worth striving for? Look at the things we've laid up. The impulses we bring with us, latent impulses which keeps bothering us, bringing up into worldly consciousness these things we don't want. Those will be

taken away, for it says, "I shall free thee from all sins, grieve not." God is most wonderful. We don't appreciate what we've got, that's all.

And so, in conclusion, the world will be saved, as I have said, by turning from the changeable, transient, worldly consciousness of this Drama of Life of God to the Unchanging Eternal Consciousness, the Christ Consciousness within. We all can do it. We all have that Natural Love of God in our hearts. The thing is we have to water it a little bit. We have to cultivate it. We have to give a little effort. Then we can do our part to change the world.

Now I'm giving you three, just three short references. I want you to listen carefully. If you want to know how the world will be saved, it will be saved only by one thing, as I have said, by the Savior, and the Savior is the Christ Consciousness within. The Light of the Master, which some of you see, and which all of you can see, and which will guide you every day of your existence as it did the children of Israel, as a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night. That alone will save you, and you being a child of the Great Consciousness of God in this world, will help to save the world. Only that will do it.

Now in Isaiah, the 43rd Chapter, the 3rd Verse. We read this, listen carefully, "For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One, thy Savior." The Lord, the Christ Consciousness, is the only Savior. Don't be misled or sidetracked. Merge in that Light of God within. That'll save your heart.

In the 11th Verse we read as follows. "I, even I am the Lord, and beside me there is no Savior."

And finally, the third and last reference, which I use many times in Titus, "Not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration of the Holy Ghost, which He shed on us abundantly through the Christ Consciousness, your Savior."

And so remember, the world can be saved, but only when you merge and become with the Savior, the Underlying Unity of Consciousness, the Great Eternal Flame of God, His Omniscient Love. That will save the world, nothing else. That is the key. That alone will save the hearts of men. Perceive, perceive within the Light of Christ. Perceive within the Light of the Master, in which is the Love of God. These are real things. Do that. Perceive that. There are many who have followed the Master. Many of them here who testify to the eternal truths I am telling you. Perceive that within. Merge in the Light of Christ within. And God, through His Infinite Compassion, is in that Light of Christ. God, with His Infinite Love, is there. Merge in that, be one with that.

Why not earnestly set thine heart to understand as Daniel did, and then chasten thyself, discipline thyself, with regular meditation and devotion. Then you can truly be a vehicle through which the Light of Christ, the great ones, and the beloved Master, can shine to lift others from delusion, and thereby you will be doing your part to save the world.

A word from the Master: "When one has found his guru, there must be unconditional devotion to him, because the guru is the Vehicle of God." A guru's sole purpose is to bring the devotee to God. Whatever devotion is given to him by the devotee, the guru gives to God. He is like a schoolteacher. When he finds a student in tune with him, he can teach that student better, better than he can one who resists him. But the student must be in tune, not only with the guru, but with all his ideas and activities as well, and with his trusted associates.

Some students enter the path with reservation. Then, whatever Paramhansaji says, I will do, but I will not do anything to cooperate with others. Those who do not want to follow the rules of discipline, always fall back. The disciples, who accept the hermitage rules naturally, are in tune with the guru. Whenever a new one comes, he should try to be in tune with such disciplined disciples.