

# The World's a Stage

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Now, "The World's a Stage," is our subject this morning. "The World's a Stage," and this was suggested by a few lines from Shakespeare's "As You Like It," as follows: "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances. And one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages."

And so perhaps we've been here before, who knows? Where all these different tendencies we have, where do they come from? They must have been acquired, built up somewhere, and so we are playing on this stage once more. So we will take it from there, that this world's a stage.

Let us realize the illustration which the Master always pointed out about the motion picture. That is, if you are engrossed in the motion picture with its tragic scenes and comic scenes, it's real to you. It's a reality. But when you look up and see the beam coming from the projection booth, then you realize it in a different way, as being light and shadow on the screen.

In other words, we have the phenomena of the light and shadow on the screen; we have the underlying noumena. In this case, the light, or electromagnetic force with different variations of light, vibrations of light producing the light and shadow, or the drama on the screen. Realize, the phenomena, is the drama on the screen of light and shadow. The underlying noumena, is the light of the projection booth. Now when you realize that, then the picture takes on a different aspect altogether. Then you are not engrossed so that you forget the true thing that is going on, that the phenomenal picture is the result of the underlying noumena. So it is with this Cosmic Dream of God.

The projection booth is the Booth of Eternity, and the light, the electromagnetic force of light, "in the beginning God created light," is the product of God's Consciousness plus its Energy, or the Light which He created, that is throwing on the screen of space this seemingly solid universe with all its characteristics of permanency. But they are not permanent. We see things passing away. And as you look back through the ages, you will see that civilizations have come and gone – worlds have come and gone. Science, I understand, realizes that this is

the seventh explosion, so to speak, from the Omniscience of God producing this Brahmic Day at this time. Don't take my word for it. That's just what they tell me. But there are ways of measuring these things.

In the Hindu philosophy we read about four billion years have gone, that is, passes by in a Brahmic Day. Well, we won't be bothered too much with that. I understand we're halfway through one now, pretty near now. In another two billion years, it'll go back once more into the Great Bosom of the Infinite. And so from that Great Consciousness and Light of God, this thing is being projected, this Cosmic Dream. And understand that the projection booth is the Booth of Eternity. And the light, just as in the motion picture, in this case is the Light of the Great Consciousness of God. And the different vibrations of that Consciousness, variations of it, are producing this Cosmic Dream as we see it and experience it.

So you can understand that the whole thing now, to understand the world's a stage, is to somehow get into that Booth of Eternity where you can see the Cosmic Dream going on, just like you understand the motion picture. God's Consciousness is the only Reality, producing Light. It is the variation of that Light, which has made and is sustaining this Cosmic Dream, this Cosmic Motion Picture.

Now, the shadow of this Cosmic Motion Picture, the Divine Drama, is matter. Matter is the shadow of the underlying reality, or noumena, which is God's Light.

Now, God said, "In the beginning, let there be light, and there was light." That is the "Light beyond the atoms" of the yogis. Master used to always speak about the "Light beyond the atoms." Why, because he could pass beyond this lower vibration of this creation and see that Light of the Infinite. Science calls it free electrons. Its one and the same thing, produced from the one Consciousness of God, molded in different ways, through different vibrations to produce this worldly Dream and Consciousness, this Divine Drama.

And so understand that matter, matter is the shadow. It is not the reality. Because science has shown that matter is forever becoming energy, and, finally light, through their different mechanical means, which I will not go into due to the shortness of time. Matter is continually becoming electromagnetic force, and finally reaching the speed of light. Therefore, is matter permanent? No. The Light is the permanency. Light is the underlying noumena, and the scientists

now, as I have read within the last two-three years, Professor Holdenberg from Harvard, has synthesized matter from light. He's taken the photon – slowed it down, so to speak – it becomes the gamma ray, and finally becomes the proton... positron, which is matter. And so you see that science is finding out that which the yogis of India ages ago knew. They're finding out that the underlying reality is not the permanency of matter, but the Beam which is producing the shadow of matter on the screen of space.

Now we have that spoken of in, in John, in St. John, 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter, the 14<sup>th</sup> Verse, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The Word is the Holy Vibration, one aspect of which is Light. The other aspect is the Sound, which the great commotion of the universe makes. And the third thing is the Feeling in that Great Word of God, which is His Love. And so this is the underlying noumena. It is that which is producing all things, and which is spoken of in John.

And so understand that the underlying noumena...noumena of the Cosmic Drama is God's Consciousness and Light. That's why Self-Realization, which gives us the techniques whereby we can see and contact that Light, know that Light, which is producing all things. That's why they're so valuable, and everybody can do them. From the East and from the West – we've had all kinds, and the different classes, nationalities, color, caste and creed. All see the same Light at this point [Doctor points to the Spiritual Eye], the universality of religion.

And so we have right within us a miniature Booth of Eternity where you can peer through into Eternity and see the Modus Operandi of the Cosmic Projection. And so realize that when being made in the Image of God, and having left to us, through one who knew God and was with Him so much in this existence, having that left by him, we, too, if we will, can utilize it and know these things.

One reference from the Bhagavad Gita, which points this out showing that the Word, the underlying Word, is the noumena; the underlying Word is the reality. An aspect of that Word is the Light, which is producing this light and shadow in this universe. The Bhagavad Gita says just that, just like I said in John, I read to you about John. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." So we read in the Gita, the 7<sup>th</sup> Discourse, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Lines. "Know My other nature..." the higher, the life element, "by which the universe is upheld. Know this to be the womb of all things. I am the source of the forthgoing of the whole universe, and, likewise the place of its dissolving."

That's what we must know. We must know that we are a part of that One Great Underlying Consciousness and Light of God. We seem separated from it due to the delusion – due to this Cosmic Dream delusion. But those who meditate regularly, and look within, they will find there is no separation between them and their Father. They will be able to say – those who really want God – with Lord Shankara, "I am He, I am He, Blessed Spirit I am He." And so this world's a stage, but behind it is the reality, which we can know.

And so, if we really realize this world as a stage, if we really realize it, not just believe it in theory, but through meditation understand it, then we are not moved so much by the paradoxes and injustices of life. Just take what is going on in the world today. Look what has happened in the Middle East. Is there any justice in that? Only when you see the underlying Light of God and know it's a Play can you justify it, and the things that are happening in the world. That's the only way you can justify it. That's why it behooves us to know the underlying Presence of God in this Drama of Life.

Also another thing that comes to my mind is this. Play, play your part to please God. Play your part only to please God. Then you will not take the Dream too seriously, or you will not play your part carelessly. That's what Master meant when He said, "don't take this life too serious," because he realized that it is just a stage, a dream, a stage – the Play is going on. But if you act to play, to please God only, then you know you'll do your part well, and you'll know also you will not be attached to an unreality. That's a wonderful thing. Play your part to please God.

And so, the wonderful thing also is, if we make friends with the Cosmic Director who is directing this play – through the ages He has made the reels and the scripts, so to speak, for this Drama of Life going on through the ages, the Cosmic Director – if we make friends with Him, and have a relationship with Him, then we can play our part, not forgetting our immortal nature. We will not be attached to it at all. We'll play our part in Peace and Joy.

How can you play it in Peace and Joy seeing what's going on, when you're attached to the Drama, and what has gone on, as you read history? You cannot have Peace and Joy unless you know He who is producing it, and recognize it as a Dream. Understand that. But when we do, even with these injustices and paradoxes, we can play our part in Peace and Joy, and only then. That's why it's so important to know, and make friends – rather, and know – the Cosmic Director of this Divine Drama.

So, our Master has expressed the thoughts which I have given you in a much better way than I can. I'd just like to read one or two words from one of his little books, The Master Said. "The Lord has arranged for us this visit to the earth, but most of us become undesirable guests by considering certain things here as our very own. Forgetting the temporary nature of our stay we form various attachments: my home, my automobile, my work, my money, my family."

I could tell you a story now, but I think I told it once before, so I won't this morning about the man who, you know, saying, "My, my house, come up to my house." I think I told it, so I'll keep it for another time. But it just shows that that's what happens. We think we own everything, including the house, and everything, the home, the automobile.

So, Master goes on, "But when our earth visa expires, all human ties vanish. We are forced to leave behind us all we have thought we possess. The only one that accompanies us everywhere is our Eternal Relative."

And so, let us know that Eternal Relative. He's our Father, Mother, Friend, Beloved, God. Why shouldn't we know Him? Why shouldn't we make friends with Him? And if we know our Eternal Relative, then He will take us, through His Grace, into the Booth of Eternity and show us the Modus Operandi of this Great Drama of Life, this Cosmic Drama, because He is the Doer, He is the Sole Doer. We think we're separated from Him, and when we break that idea of separation, when we rise above these three vehicles, which prevent us from knowing the freedom of the soul, or oneness with God, when we break that, then we realize He is the Doer. He allows us to see the show, so to speak, from the Booth of Eternity. Just like you go in the booth of a motion picture and see the screen, realizing it is an electromagnetic force of light, which is producing the light and shadow on the screen. And so, it's, it's well, well to know the Eternal Relative.

Now this can be done, this can be done by right meditation. As I spoke this morning, right meditation will take you beyond this bodily vehicle into the miniature Booth of Eternity that this plays, and there you will see a little of the Light which is producing this Great Cosmic Drama. You will see a little of that Light at this point [Spiritual Eye]. And, if you'll merge in it, and become one with it, then you'll pass into the Great Cosmic Light of God, the Sun of Righteousness, which is producing all things. It says just, just that in John, St. John, "There was a man sent from God. His name was John." In Hindu philosophy it's called Radha. "His name was John. He was not the true light,

but he was sent as a witness of the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Now that can be seen right within yourself at the Spiritual Eye at this point [between the eyebrows], and if you'll merge in that Light, then you will see and realize the One Light, "the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

Self-Realization Fellowship, due to the Grace of God, through the Founder, our Master, will give you the techniques and the ways to do those things, and to be forever free from this delusion, which keeps us going this way, and that way without satisfaction, without any security. The security is in the underlying Light and Realization of God. Understand that.

And so, finally, when we have played our part well; when on this stage, whatever our part is – makes no difference. God is playing through the most inconspicuous part, just the same. Isn't this His show? Isn't His Life and Light, Consciousness and Light that is making even the smallest part in the Drama? Isn't it God? So no matter what part you are playing, never mind, play it. And when you play it to the best of your ability, when God is pleased, then He, by His Grace, will remove the obstructions, and you will see clearly. You'll attain the freedom of which is yours – the freedom of the Soul – and He will allow you to be with Him in the Booth of Eternity, where His Great Omniscient Light produces all things.

That's why it is so wonderful that we are called to this path of Self-Realization, because those who follow sincerely find these things to be true. That's why they can take whatever this life has to give to them, because they have God with them. And when God stills the waves of our mind, and when we are able to keep focused on Him, and do not oscillate from His Nearness, and His Protection and His Love. Then He keeps us in Perfect Peace. Having that Perfect Peace then, then we will realize this is a Dream.

And as Master has said in his little poem, "When I am but a dream, and when you cannot find me in [unplumbed] space," he says, follow the teachings, following the teachings, "and then when you know, as I now know, that we are but a dream of our Cosmic Beloved, then we will be together, eternally, in our one home of life, where all will meet who live and do right."