

When You Die

How to Master Life and Transition with Personal Power

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When You Die - How to Master Life and Transition with Personal Power

Introduction

There has been much written about living, dying, and death. In fact, many people have died and then come back to life. One of the common threads among all of these people's experiences is their statement about having seen a white light. Some have even seen people in the light, welcoming them to that reality.

These experiences raise many questions. The most frequent one is "What is death?" From one point of view—mine—it is just a dimensional doorway. The assumed dimension that we enter when we die is the *spiritual plane*; however, it's not described in those words. I use that phrase because it seems to be the most natural, considering we are spiritual beings in a material body.

The purpose of our existence is to master material reality, the material plane. In doing so, we can then reunite with the Creative Continuum called God.

There are many theories about what happens when we die and where we go. The purpose of this book is to give you a different point of view about what could be transpiring on the other side of that dimensional doorway.

My belief is that you would lose the fear of death if you knew that life was truly endless and that you do not die. It is written, "And He said: 'Whoever finds the explanation of these words will not taste death.'" This is the first teaching in the *Gospel According to Thomas*. Knowing that life is endless could eliminate the fear of death. This, in turn, could help you live a full and courageous life, filled with accomplishments.

—M.S.

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Background Thinking

There are multiple concepts and misconceptions about our present reality and about death as well. A great degree of misunderstanding exists about what happens when we die.

The Judeo-Christian religions teach that when you die, you're going to go to heaven, purgatory, or hell. What does each of those places represent, and what does it really mean? Here is what Wikipedia has to say about heaven:

Heaven, the heavens or seven heavens, is a common religious, cosmological, or transcendent place where heavenly beings such as gods, angels, jinn, saints, or venerated ancestors are said to originate, be enthroned, or live. It is commonly believed that heavenly beings can descend to earth or incarnate and that earthly beings can ascend to Heaven in the afterlife or, in exceptional cases, enter Heaven alive.

Heaven is often described as a "higher place," the holiest place, a Paradise, in contrast to Hell or the Underworld or the "low places," and is universally or conditionally accessible by earthly beings, according to various standards of divinity, goodness, piety, faith, or other virtues or right beliefs or simply the will of God.

Some believe in the possibility of a "Heaven on Earth in a World to Come."

When I looked up "Purgatory," this is what Wikipedia had to say:

Purgatory, according to Catholic Church doctrine, is an intermediate state after physical death in which those destined for heaven 'undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.' Only those who die in the state of grace but have not in life reached a sufficient level of holiness can be in Purgatory, and therefore no one in Purgatory will remain forever in that state or go to Hell. [This theological notion has ancient roots and is well-attested to in early Christian literature.]

The notion of Purgatory is associated particularly with the Latin rite of the Catholic Church (in the Eastern sui juris churches or rites, it is a doctrine, though it is not often called “Purgatory” but the “final purification” or the “final theosis”); Anglicans, of the Anglo-Catholic tradition, generally also hold to that belief, along with many Lutherans of High Church Lutheranism. Eastern Orthodox Churches believe in the possibility of a change of situation for the souls of the dead through the prayers of the living and the offering of the Divine Liturgy, and many Orthodox, especially among ascetics, hope and pray for a general apocatastasis.

In Wikipedia, regarding “Gehenna”:

Judaism also believes in the possibility of after-death purification and may even use the word *purgatory* to present its understanding of the meaning of Gehenna. (In Jewish Rabbinic literature, and Christian and Islamic scriptures, Gehenna is a destination of the wicked. This is different from the more neutral Sheol/Hades, the abode of the dead, although the King James Version of the Bible usually translates both as the Anglo-Saxon word *Hell*.)

In the King James Version of the Bible, the term appears thirteen times in eleven different verses as “Valley of Hinnom,” “Valley of the son of Hinnom,” or “Valley of the children of Hinnom.” However, the concept of soul “purification” may be explicitly denied in these other faith traditions.)

Here is what Wikipedia says about hell:

In many mythological, folklore, and religious traditions, hell is a place of torment and punishment in an afterlife. It is viewed by most Abrahamic traditions as punishment.

Religions with a linear divine history often depict hells as eternal destinations. Religions with a cyclic history often depict a hell as an intermediary period between incarnations. Typically these traditions locate hell in another dimension or under the Earth’s surface and often include entrances to Hell from the

land of the living. Other afterlife destinations include Heaven, Purgatory, Paradise, and Limbo.

Other traditions, which do not conceive of the afterlife as a place of punishment or reward, merely describe hell as an abode of the dead, the grave, a neutral place located under the surface of Earth. Hell is sometimes portrayed as populated with demons who torment those dwelling there. Many are ruled by a death god such as Nergal, Hades, Hel, Enma or the Devil.

What Happens When We Die?

What does happen when we die, and are karma and reincarnation tied into it? Here's a perspective that you may or may not have ever heard before—or read, for that matter.

When you die, you awaken or become aware that you are in another plane of existence. You become aware that you are still cognizant and on the other side of death, the doorway to another dimension. You then realize you are in a “classroom” situation. This classroom is similar to those portrayed in scenes that were shown in the movie *Defending Your Life*. However, this is different.

In this classroom your life is reviewed—not so much from the perspective of your deeds, but from a conceptual point of view. In other words, the life that you are currently living is a reflection of the concepts that you maintain in your subconscious mind. These concepts are your ideals, beliefs, values, and standards.

These concepts, some of which you brought with you, were taught, demonstrated, and reinforced to you by your parents, society, tradition, and your culture.

Now you are sitting in the classroom, and the instructors will pick a concept for you to examine with them. Following are some of the concepts taught by man that are not in keeping with the Universal Teachings, the Immutable laws of God. Here are some common misconceptions:

Males have the dominant, provider's role.

Females are subservient, relegated to the mundane.

Competition is necessary for growth and development.

Material possessions make one whole and complete.

You can't get to heaven unless you go through a mediator

It is an understatement to say these particular concepts have been, and continue to be, the source of miscommunication, leading to disharmony on multiple levels.

Maybe your after-death discussion will be about your "expression of manhood." This "expression" applies to both men and women. Remember, it is written, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27).

Examining your expression will show where you were in keeping with the Universal Teachings and where you expressed according to the dictates of man.

Keep in mind that man is not in harmony with the Creative Continuum called God. For evidence of this, all one has to do is look around at the world today.

Going back to the story of Adam and Eve, as it is presented in the Christian faith, we fell out of "grace."

Here's another perspective. What Adam and Eve symbolize is man's (male/female) entry into the material plane. Once here, we learned how to manipulate it. We have become enamored by it and, consequently, lost our way and our deep understanding of the construction of the material plane.

In the classroom, you will go over all of the things you did from an expression point of view. Maybe some of your patterns of behavior or automatic behavior (actions and responses to stimuli) relating to that expression will also be discussed. The reason for the discussion of the patterns of behavior is that your life consists of living out these patterns of behavior. This is why your personal history repeats itself.

These patterns are formed at a very young age. The purpose for these patterns is to reinforce particular concepts that you maintain in your subconscious mind, which you believe and accept as true. Concepts give birth to a pattern, as a way to validate the concepts as being true.

All patterns of behavior have an end result that verifies that the concept is true, even when it is not. The concept is man-made and therefore NOT true.

The beautiful thing is that you can overcome your patterns of behavior. The way to do that is through the special language of symbols. Your mind has a very special language, and this is one of the reasons Jesus taught that you must have "eyes to see and ears to hear."

Here is one mention of that teaching: "[A]nd he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that

ye see.” As for hearing, here is what was said: “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 11:15).

Everything in the universe flows in cycles, including your patterns. By learning to read this special language of the mind, you can identify where you are in a pattern of behavior, because all patterns flow in cycles. This understanding is presented and written about in Ecclesiastes 3:15. Here is the passage, so you can see the pattern and how it flows in a cycle: “That which is now have been, that which will be is now . . .”

All patterns of behavior have an expectation attached to them. Your mind is a goal-seeking device. It seeks to fulfill the expectation. It is the expectation, the end result of the pattern, that validates the concept as being true. This is why your personal history repeats itself. It keeps validating a particular concept as true.

In addition to a review of what you did not get right, there’s also a report card that demonstrates what you did master. You may have mastered certain concepts in this life cycle; thus, you no longer have to deal with them in this life or in future ones.

The interesting thing about concepts is that we bring some with us into this life cycle, just as we have done in past life cycles. The reason we do that is so we can master them.

Two places in the Bible teach us this understanding. Exodus, in the Old Testament, talks about the sins and inequities of the father being passed on for three to four generations: “for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me” (Exodus 20:5). The interpretation of the statement “them that hate me” means those not operating with the Universal Teachings as their foundation. Those who follow man are opposed to God’s ways.

In the New Testament, it is written that the fruit does not fall far from the tree: “Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit” (Matthew 7:17–18). These trees are the parents and the fruit, their children.

Before you reincarnate, and after you have completed your school assignments, on graduation—we’ll call it that—visualize that you are placed in a room filled with TV monitors. Each monitor displays a couple, as well as a printout of the concepts that these two people are working on to attain mastery.

You choose your parents based on their concepts and what you need to master in this life cycle. I know that some people wish they had been

born to a different set of parents. Yet whoever your parents are and whether the situation was wonderful or horrible, it was of your own choosing.

Your parents offer you the greatest opportunity for mastery. Of course, you may have had to leave them and reject all of the concepts that they taught you, in order to achieve that goal of mastery.

A teaching in the Bible discusses this need. When Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, people came up to him and told him that his mother and brother were outside. His response, paraphrased, was, “I have no mother, I have no brother, but those who do the will of the father” (Matthew 12:47–50).

What this teaching really says is that he has freed himself from the concepts of his mother and father. He is no longer subject to those influences. He has truly mastered himself and became a true individual, with no attachments to the past, no attachments to his family history, karma, or concepts.

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, “If ye **continue in my word**, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31–32). The freedom is from man’s teachings. To continue in his word simply means to understand and follow the Universal Teachings that I have shared with you.

Another Day at School

One day you may find yourself in the class, discussing patterns of behavior. With that in mind, I have listed a few. I talked about the expression of manhood, what that is, and how you present yourself and express yourself on multiple levels.

Here are some other basic patterns that people live and work with:

A success-failure pattern. A person with this pattern is usually perceived as an achiever, a can-do individual. That is the success aspect of the pattern. The person has all of the capabilities to be great; however, the person does not manifest his or her potential.

Here is a typical story about such a person: One day, the executives at the person’s company offer him or her a promotion. That night the individual starts thinking about how the promotion will mean a heavier workload, more hours on the job, and maybe even weekend and night work. Then the person realizes management didn’t say anything about a raise. The person begins to believe that the company will take advantage of

him or her. So, the very next day, the person goes to work and submits his or her resignation or quits outright.

With an opportunity to succeed, the individual chose failure instead, and an opportunity for advancement and growth was lost. Will there be a next time? Another chance? Yes; however, the more the person refuses to move forward and master the pattern, the harder it will be in each new cycle.

Another pattern of behavior we often see is the one called being a *victim*. In this case, the person is always a victim, in every given situation. What is not understood is that because of this pattern, the person sets in motion the situation that will render him or her a victim.

Being a *perfectionist* is another pattern. This one can be, like the others, very damaging, because perfection cannot be achieved in this domain, this material reality. Striving for perfection is detrimental to the self and others. That sets in motion disappointment and frustration, not to mention anxiety.

The Multiple Selves

There are four aspects of the self. They are, in order of manifestation, the spiritual self, the emotional self, the physical/material self, and the social self. In each of these selves are specific concepts that dictate how you should be in each situation.

The spiritual self is where all directives are received and processed. The directives originate with God. They enter our spiritual self, which is connected to God. Remember, we are taught that “the kingdom is within” (Luke 17:21).

Now we have a directive, and we seek to implement it. This is when the problem begins. In the order of manifestation, the next self is the emotional self. So, when the directive gets to the emotional self, this is where it becomes corrupted.

You see, the emotional self has a different directive or set of considerations than the spiritual self. The reason for this is that the emotional self is the self that manifests man-made concepts. It does so because every soul that enters the material plane believes, at its deepest subconscious level, that the way to return to the spiritual plane is through the same doorway that was used to enter the material plane: the birth canal.

The key to the doorway is Mom. Because of that, the emotional self lives to fill the concepts of whatever the mother believes each gender

should be. However, because every child wants his or her mother's acceptance, to be able to have the key necessary to return to the spiritual plane, the child will use one of two modalities to gain that acceptance.

Every person will use approval or rejection as the form of gaining that acceptance. These are the only two modalities that a human being operates under, in order to gain acceptance from his or her mother.

The child who uses approval as a form of acceptance will be like his or her role model. The girls will be like their mothers. The boys will be like their fathers. The child who uses rejection as a form of acceptance will be the opposite of his or her gender. If it's a girl, she will be the opposite of Mom. If it's a boy, he will be the opposite of Dad.

Most people will end up marrying someone who is like their mom or their dad, based on their concepts. This is why it is vital to understand two things: your *modus operandi*, what you are using as a form of acceptance; and what your basic concepts are, regarding your own gender.

If you want to get a handle on this, the ideal thing to do is write down in the left-hand column of a blank sheet of paper your thoughts and ideas about what your role is, according to your gender. List whether you're a mom or a dad, a son, a daughter, a boyfriend, a girlfriend, an aunt, or an uncle. Keep in mind that you may be all of these, according to your gender.

I think you get the picture. In the right-hand column, write down why you believe that is the way to be, the way that you should be. Now understand that you are the way you are because you are seeking to fill subconscious expectations of who you think you should be. It may not be who you want to be. Therein lies conflict. This is also where disease begins.

Where Do We Go When We Die?

The short answer is, wherever your belief system takes you. At first glance, some will think they have entered heaven. Others may feel they are in purgatory, and there are those who believe they will end up in hell.

Remember, your mind is a goal-seeking device. It always works to fulfill subconscious concepts, regardless of the truth in them. You will go where you think you belong. Then a guide will take you to where you actually *do* belong, to a particular classroom, learning about an aspect of self.

I think, based on one of the definitions of *purgatory*, this where we go for reeducation. In religion, they would call it "purification." I like to think of it as a "learning plane."

Another question is “What happens there?” This, I have already discussed, visualizing it as a schoolroom situation.

What If I Don't Believe in a Hereafter?

There are many who believe that this is it. There is no afterlife, no heaven or hell, no God, nothing but nothing. The truth is, it really doesn't matter what you believe in the here and now. What's going to take place when you expire is another matter altogether.

Your current belief system is immaterial, on one level. It is a construction, based on your subconscious concepts about yourself, your life, and essentially everything.

The other side of the conversation is that not believing will allow the mind to go anywhere it wants and to indulge in whatever strikes its fancy. With this mind-set, you can do anything you want, without fear of repercussions. This is not necessarily a good way to live.

We interact with others all of the time. If we have no regard for consequences, there is no telling how we will act or respond in a given situation.

In the end, we are all responsible for the reality we create.

Is There Really a Life after Death?

The short answer is YES! Absolutely, yes. Of course, what I'm presenting is from a Western point of view. The perspective I have chosen is from Judeo-Christian teachings. According to these teachings, there is a life after death.

We've heard so many stories from people who have died on the operating table or who have drowned, or they may have been “killed” in an accident and had to come back to life. They all speak of a tunnel with a white light at the end. In addition, some have seen people on the other side welcoming them there. This leads me and others to believe that there definitely is life after death.

There are a few ways the “life after death” statement can manifest. One of them is that when we die, we end up living in heaven, purgatory, or hell. The other is more of an Eastern approach. In Asian cultures and religions, the laws of karma and reincarnation ensure life after death. Let us now examine both of those concepts.

Reincarnation and karma are intertwined. When it comes to karma, many people believe it is either good or bad. In fact, the religions that believe in it promote the concept of good or bad karma. That is not the case.

In reality, karma is only an action that must be balanced out. An example might be if you lived your life as an extremist; then, in the next life, you might be ultra conservative. This helps bring balance to your soul. As for good or bad, only man judges between right and wrong, good and bad.

Karma is in the Bible—however, not in the way that you might think. Here is how the teaching about karma is presented: “God requires that which is passed.” You can find this in Ecclesiastics 3:15.

Here is the definition of *karma* that can be found in Wikipedia:

Karma is a Sanskrit word that means action, work or deed; it also refers to the spiritual principle of cause and effect where intent and actions of an individual (cause) influence the future of that individual (effect).

Good intent and good deed contribute to good karma and future happiness, while bad intent and bad deed contribute to bad karma and future suffering.

Karma is closely associated with the idea of rebirth in some schools of Asian religions. In these schools, karma in the present affects one’s future in the current life, as well as the nature and quality of future lives—or, one’s *saṃsāra*.

With origins in ancient India, it is a key concept in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Taoism.

You can also see karma at work in the Bible, when it speaks of an “eye for an eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot” (Exodus 21:24).

In the *Gospel According to Thomas*, it is presented differently. Here is what is written there: Jesus saw children who were being suckled. He said to his disciples: These children who are being suckled are like those who enter the Kingdom. They said to Him: Shall we then, being children, enter the Kingdom? Jesus said to them: “When you make the two one, and when you make the inner as the outer, and the outer as the inner, and the above as the below, and when you make the male and the female into a single one, so that the male will not be male, and the female [not] be female, when you make eyes in the place of an eye, and a hand in the place of a hand, and a foot in the place of a foot, [and] an image in the place of an image, then shall you enter [the Kingdom].”

Here is the interpretation of that teaching: we see in the teachings of Jesus that children play an important role, symbolically. You need to remember and understand that children and especially babies are essentially non-defensive. This does not mean that they don't have concepts. They do. However, parents and guides can understand those concepts and mold their respective patterns to manifest in a positive way.

By understanding the foundation of the concepts, the root causes that you are operating from, you can change. Being able to read symbols will help you see where you are in the cycle of a pattern. At that point and that moment of understanding, you change the energy and the outcome. With "programming," you can direct the energy of the pattern to manifest exactly what you need/want/desire. In addition to that, you can see the Universal Truth being suppressed by the concept.

For instance, let us examine the role of the female. In some societies, including our own, the female is relegated to the mundane. In Christianity, certain sects preach that the woman is subservient to the man. It may be in the Bible, but this is nothing that Jesus ever taught.

(You have to remember that the Bible is a composite of "handed-down" information. Many scribes recorded the sayings of Jesus. Various scribes also inserted other types of dogma. This may have been at the request of someone in power, who wanted to paint a particular picture.)

In fact, in this particular teaching, Jesus was saying that the male and the female must be altered. They must be made equal. Male and female are the two halves of the same whole.

Concepts relating to gender, to spiritual and material reality, must also be understood. This is why everything repeatedly comes back to your concepts.

You must get to know the child who dwells within you. Try to get back to the "baby." Put in the effort to get back to the truth of who you are, so that you can become non-defensive and "enter into the kingdom."

When you go within yourself and examine the concepts that created your patterns of behavior, you can begin to see where the patterns first began to manifest. They began when you observed your mother and father. They were your guides. There was your imagery. "Oh, that's the way I am supposed to be."

Remember, what influences actions and the creation of concepts and patterns is the understanding that the child was conceived and born into a particular energy. In truth, there were different energies, forces, and activities in the family at work. The energies and the forces at conception

and during entrance into the fetus, as well as at birth, are different in many ways and degrees.

So, in order to move forward and grow, you would benefit from understanding your concepts, your patterns of behavior, and your defenses. These have to be understood, so that they can be eliminated from your life.

The disciples went on to ask, "Shall we then, being children, enter the Kingdom?" Jesus said to them, "When you make the two one . . ." The question that comes up is: What are the "two" that are being referred to?

The "two" are basically four things, the male and the female within your self and the fact that you are a spiritual being in a material body.

Also remember that the male is the outward expression of the self, and the female aspect is of inward intuitiveness, sensitivity. It was said that "the female receives from the All, and the male gives back to the All."

Here is another issue where our society teaches you that men are not supposed to be sensitive. Men need to be hard because if they have to go out and do battle with the "forces," they cannot afford to have sensitivity.

By being sensitive, you can sense opportunities for gaining control, vanquishing, and neutralizing the forces that are working against you. You can get these opportunities only by being sensitive, by having your female aspect work for you.

As far as women are concerned, they have to become more male and more expressive. Interestingly enough, that is what's going on in our society today, but it's done out of anger, out of resentment, fighting and struggling for expression. Women also want to be recognized for their value, and they seek independence at the same time. This is done because the inner aspects of the self know that there is power in being independent.

Here you are taught, "Make the two one." You can do that because it is an internal transaction. It is a conceptual understanding. You do it by understanding your role as a female or a male.

The next part of the teaching says, "[A]nd when you make the inner as the outer, and the outer as the inner." I have said countless times in my writings, "from the inside out" is how you create your reality. To make the inner as the outer is another way of saying, "Look at the harmony of life, in its truest spiritual essence, look at it." From an ecological point of view, everything flows. Everything is in balance and harmony. Every act of destruction in nature leads to an act of construction, rebirth. Everything has been/was in balance and harmony.

Of course, today you have a totally different outlook on your environment, and you see ecological disasters everywhere. Those

disasters are a reflection of your thinking process. Things are out of whack because you are unfulfilled within. So you strive to have material things to fulfill yourself. In the pursuit of that, you are wantonly destroying the planet.

Jesus went on to say, “[M]ake . . . the outer as the inner.” This part of the teaching is automatic, because that is what you are currently doing. The difference is that it needs to be done with control and intent. Right now, your mind is co-creating your reality, based on your current belief system of the self. Your mind is an electromagnet, drawing to it or repulsing people and objects based on their electrical charge. I say that because everything is composed of atoms. Atoms have either a positive or a negative electrical charge. This is all in keeping with the Universal Teaching “Ask and you shall receive.” Know what you are asking for by knowing what your immediate reality looks like.

As you achieve clarity, you can see the balance and harmony and the continuity and the flow of life. You will be able to “see and hear” the complementary way that things are being done. Internalize it. How can you be complementary in your life? How can you harmonize the way that you think? How can you harmonize the way that you act? If you do not accept or love yourself, then how can you manifest that in your outward dealings?

Do you do business from a typical business perspective of, “What’s the bottom line? What’s the profit margin? Am I being compensated fairly? Or, do you do business from, “What is it going to take to make this a win-win situation?”

The difference is in attitude. You must look at your thinking. Look at your concepts about business and life. Try to get back to the point of being a child, full of life, love, and excitement from a theoretical, optimistic point of view. You must maintain your innocence, your optimism; you must have hope and inspiration.

So, when you can make the “outer as the inner,” you will change the reflections of your life. It will look different than it does today. With each insight and understanding comes greater control. With control comes the ability to direct your will to manifest your intent.

How that happens is making “the above as the below.” What is the “above”? When you think of above, you generally think of heaven. Some think of Spirit, and most will think of God. If you perceive God as perfect and harmonious and as Divine Love and understanding, then that tells you this is how you should be.

If you think that Spirit is above, then you are instructed to make the below as the above, and you should make your material life and endeavors reflect the principles and actions of spiritual consciousness. In that way,

everything you do is performed from a spiritual perspective, with balance and harmony the end result.

Jesus went on to say, “When you make the male and the female into a single one.” I have talked about that concept previously, in similar and different terms. Here, the concept of equal goes further, in the sense that the male will not be male. For a male not to be male is really to say, “As a man, I truly understand how I was raised. I understand the concepts I was raised with. I saw and learned what the role of the male was/is and what my role as a male was and is. I understand that and identify when those concepts trigger certain patterns.” That alone begins to give you the ability to control them.

When an individual learns the Universal Truth of genders, that neither gender is superior to the other, that person realizes that he or she is equal to the opposite sex. The individual understands that every person has the same amount of strength, ability, and potential to do whatever needs to be done to accomplish his or her personal goals. Then the two are equal. In that case, you could say that you are no longer like a male; you are not a typical male of our society.

When you can make the female not be female, then you would do the same thing. When you no longer become a female in the eyes of our society, you become equal to the male. That is the true role for each of you: to find and see the true equality that exists within each of you—the equality based on Universal Law.

“When you make eyes in the place of an eye” is the next aspect of this teaching. Here again, you see the need for understanding and questioning. It is only through questioning the self that true growth can take place.

Socrates said, *“An unexamined life is not worth living.”*

What are your eyes? They are devices that influence your perception of reality. At this point, it is important to remember another Universal Teaching: “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” (Luke 6:41).

This teaching refers to the understanding that all of your perceptions are shaded by your belief system. Because of that, you truly have difficulty in seeing clearly. A perfect example is opening your eyes underwater. You can see; however, it is not clear. Your perception is distorted. So, it is imperative that you understand your belief system and understand yourself and the concepts that make you who you are.

If you know what you are truly looking at, then it will give you some insight into which concepts are currently operating in and influencing your life.

Symbolically, eyes represent perception. Here, you are told to change your perceptions, which in turn will change your perspective on everything. If you change your perspective, you will change your life. Your perceptions stimulate your concepts, and your perception is affected by your concepts. Your concepts will determine your actions by triggering specific patterns of behavior.

Next, Jesus said, “[M]ake . . . a hand in place of a hand.”

The very first thing that needs to be understood is the symbology of the hands. The hands symbolize how you handle things, people, events, projects, and situations. How do you handle things currently? How do you manipulate material reality, based on the way you look at it? That is what you are doing: you are seeing, you are responding, you are reacting. How are you handling your reactions? Consider that every action has a reaction.

Change the way you react to situations and various types of people, and you will immediately begin to see improvement in your life.

Let us go back to the questions “How do you handle things? How do you perceive things? How are you reacting to things?” First and foremost, you are reacting as either a male or a female. Your gender creates a particular bias. You are reacting, based on the way you think things should be, spiritually or materially. You are reacting, based on your concepts, bottom line.

So, change your eyes. Change your perceptions. Change the way you handle the things you see. Then you will begin to take the next step in the teaching, because true spiritual growth is accomplished on a daily basis, increment by increment, of understanding and control.

The next step is “[A]nd a foot in the place of a foot.”

What is a foot? What do your feet do for you? They take you where you want to go—and that is the symbology of the feet: They take you where you want to go; they are your direction. Where are you going? What is your path? What is your direction?

Your path and your direction are a direct reflection of your concepts and your attitudes at work. You are trying to fulfill what you think you should be, based on man-made teachings. The sad part is that these have absolutely nothing to do with who you really are. In truth, you are part of the Creative Continuum that is God. Because you are part of the God Force, you are constantly co-creating your own reality. You do this through the

unconscious directive “Ask and you shall receive.” This is another teaching that I have discussed previously.

Look at your life. Look at the “path” you are “walking” on. Question and understand it. If you can change your perception and change the way you handle things, you should also be able to change the direction of your life. Once that begins to unfold, you will be initiating the next aspect of the teaching: “[A]n image in the place of an image.”

I ask you now, what would you be, what would you look like, what energy would you give off, what vibe would you put out, if you did all of these things, if you changed your perception and became internally harmonized, changed your direction in life? Would you not end up with a new image, totally and completely? When you can do that, make all of those growth changes, when you can make “an image in place of an image,” then “you shall enter into the Kingdom.”

What is the concept of reincarnation? Here is what is being presented in Wikipedia:

Reincarnation is the religious or philosophical concept that the soul or spirit, after biological death, can begin a new life in a new body. This doctrine is a central tenet of the Hindu religion. It is also a common belief of various ancient and modern religions such as Spiritism, Theosophy, and Eckankar, and is found as well in many tribal societies around the world, in places such as Siberia, West Africa, North America, and Australia.

Although the majority of sects within the Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam do not believe that individuals reincarnate, particular groups within these religions do refer to reincarnation; these groups include the mainstream historical and contemporary followers of Kabbalah, the Cathars, the Druze, and the Rosicrucians.

The historical relations between these sects and the beliefs about reincarnation that were characteristic of Neoplatonism, Orphism, Hermeticism, Manicheanism and Gnosticism of the Roman era, as well as the Indian religions, have been the subject of recent scholarly research.

In recent decades, many Europeans and North Americans have developed an interest in reincarnation. Contemporary films, books, and popular songs frequently mention reincarnation.

As you can see, reincarnation is becoming more of a known concept that is being readily accepted versus the traditional Western religious viewpoint of “No, it’s not real.”

An even more important question about reincarnation is “What is its purpose?” The answer is simple. Each soul reincarnates into the material world, the material plane, so that in each life cycle it can cleanse from its spirit, its soul, the misconceptions that it has accepted as truth.

These misconceptions, these concepts that we must free ourselves from, are man-made. In order to get a firm understanding of this, we have to go back to the story of Adam and Eve in the Bible, to comprehend what has taken place and what is taking place.

When you read the Bible, on certain levels it doesn’t seem as if some of the stories could be real events. Many mysteries can be found within it. A great example is the story of Abel and Cain.

We know from the scriptures that Adam and Eve had two children, Abel and Cain. We also know from the writings that Cain slew Abel. Because of that, God banished Cain from the Garden of Eden. Cain then went to the land of Nod and took a wife (Genesis 4:16–17.) Where did she come from, if Adam and Eve were the only two created by God?

Based on just that one transaction, it gives you an indication or it should bring to mind the fact that maybe, just maybe, the Bible is not an accurate historical description of what took place. Maybe the Bible is a metaphorical interpretation of what is important for humanity to learn, in order to grow. For me, the correct term is a *symbolic perspective* of the lessons mankind must learn and master, if it wants to master the material plane and the self.

So, let us look at this great book from that point of view, in order to increase our understanding.

Adam is symbolic of the male energy that is part of us. Eve is symbolic of the female energy within. Men have female hormones within their bodies, and women have male hormones within their bodies. This takes us to one of the Universal Teachings, which states, “[W]hen the two become as one.” That particular teaching can be found in two separate books. In the Bible, it is written: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be **one** flesh.”

The other place is in the *Gospel According to Thomas*, which states, “[H]ave ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”

Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

The Thomas Gospel is part of the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is considered to consist of the actual teachings of Jesus, as he presented them and as they were written down by his brother Thomas.

All of the other New Testament gospels were written seventy years after the death of Jesus.

The implication of the teaching of becoming one is asking the question: “What will you do when you become unified within yourself?” The true unification will be between your male-female aspects, as well as your spiritual and material selves.

When this is accomplished, the level of your true faith in the self will provide you with personal power unequaled by any other attribute.

Now that you are unified, the answer to what you will become and be able to do is really very simple. In fact, it takes us to another teaching, which states that you will be able to “move mountains.” Jesus answered and said unto them, “Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done” (Matthew 21:21).

This is not necessarily what we were discussing; however, I bring it up so you can understand that there is more to reality than what appears to be. There’s also more than what man teaches!

The misconception that is promoted in the Adam and Eve story is that we fell from “grace.” That is one of the reasons we must be “redeemed” by a savior.

Is Death Forever?

Life is forever. This is true just from the simple basic law of physics that states that energy can neither be created nor destroyed. In truth, we are energy beings. Some circles have another concept of God as an intelligent creative energy.

Having said that, no, I do not believe that we will be in heaven, purgatory, or hell forever. The simple reason is that the true purpose of life is to master the material plane. The symbolism demonstrating this need is found in the teaching of the crucifixion. Here’s how that works.

When you examine the crucifixion, the first thing that is taught is that Jesus was placed on a cross. The cross was made from a tree. The symbology of a tree is that it takes from the earth and gives back to the

heavens. It does so through the process of photosynthesis. In that process, the leaves will use carbon dioxide in the air, along with sunlight, as fuel, and a by-product of that metabolic transaction is pure oxygen. Oxygen is symbolic of spirit.

The next thing that happens is that Jesus is buried in a cave in Golgotha. In Matthew 27:33, it says, “[T]hat is to say skull.” Now, after three days, Jesus rises and leaves the cave. When you examine that from a symbolic point, you first start with the cave, which is symbolic of the subconscious mind. Number 3 is understanding, 1 is unity, and 2 is balance and harmony. When you add them together, numerically and “verbally,” you get 3, understanding.

Once Jesus leaves the cave, no one initially recognizes him. He has to make himself known. What would happen to you, if you gave up your ego on the material plane? Would anyone recognize you? They know who you are and what you’re about, yet if you were to give up your ego, it would change your appearance. Your image is a reflection of your current concepts that you maintain about yourself.

Each of us must emulate Jesus, in the sense that we must give up our egos on the material plane. It is essential that you do exactly that, in order to achieve material mastery and move to the next dimension of reality.

I use the term *dimensions* because it is alluded to in this teaching: “In my Father’s house are many **mansions**: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).

How Long Are We There?

The question is, how long are we in the “learning plane,” wherever it is? The answer is, we have no idea. The reason I say it that way is because some people will rapidly incarnate, based on their level of understanding, their level of accomplishment and mastery.

Others may take longer to review and understand what has been mastered and what is yet to be accomplished. So, everything, as it is here, is up to the individual person, regarding what that individual makes of his or her situation. How do people use their minds, their intelligence, their energy, and their understanding to move forward in life?

Will I See My Family/Friends Who Have Passed?

My first reaction to this question, which is often asked in my lectures, is maybe. The reason for that response is that each soul incarnates at a rate that is appropriate for that soul. This rate is based on what has been mastered in the last life cycle. Another factor in the rate of incarnation is based on how much is understood in “school,” during the time one is in the “learning plane.”

The more you accomplish in the way of understanding on the other side will determine your future journey. All of these journeys have a common thread: mastery of the self.

So, the answer is maybe.

Are There Such People as Soul Mates?

I believe this to be a man-made concept. From one perspective, we are all soul mates to one another, because we are all the children of God (Genesis 1:27). Therefore, we can easily be “wedded” or joined together with another.

The truth of relationships is this: you are attracted to certain people of the opposite/same sex because their concepts mesh with yours. This can be in a positive union of the minds/concepts and patterns of behavior or in a negative relationship, such as one based on rejection, manifesting as abuse. This is why people who are in abusive relationships will seek to get out of them, only to end up in similar ones. The reason is that this is their concept of what a relationship should be.

This is why it is essential to understand your concepts of the self and the opposite gender or the same gender. Your subconscious concepts will direct you to “marry” your mom or your dad or the exact opposite. This will be dependent on your method of acceptance.

What Determines Where We Go?

We do! It is determined according to our belief of what takes place when we die. Some people, based on the lives they have lived, believe they’re going to heaven. Others think they are going to purgatory. Some even think they are going to hell.

The reality is that all of us, until we master this thing called the *material plane*, will end up in the learning plane. Through that environment, we will gain the knowledge we need about the self, in order to master and eliminate the emotional self. Once that is accomplished, then we no longer

reincarnate here. However, we might start a new journey in a new dimension that will help us get even higher and closer to the Christ level of consciousness or the God consciousness.

Will My Guides/Angels Be There?

Your guides are always with you, watching what is taking place. In many philosophies, it is believed that if you ask your “angels” or guides to help you, they will.

I would have you question that concept for multiple reasons. The first and most detrimental is the result of asking them for help. For many people, it often happens that their prayers are NOT answered. This sets in motion questionable feelings about the self.

Here is a typical response when “asking” is done and results are not received: “I did not get what I asked for from my angels, guides, Jesus, or God. I guess I don’t deserve it.” That type of sentiment is unhealthy and a reflection of man’s teachings.

Another reason I would question it is because we have been given “dominion” over the material plane (Genesis 1:26). The problem is that we are not in control of our collective subconscious mind.

The subconscious mind can and should be considered the Greater Mind. The concepts in that Mind, at that depth, are doing ALL of the directing. That Mind also is stimulating ALL of your creations. Do you want to know what they are? Here is the teaching to help you: Jesus said, “Know what is in thy sight and what is hidden from thee will be revealed to thee. For there is nothing hidden which will not be made manifest” (*Gospel According to Thomas*, no. 5).

It is up to you to manifest what you want. You do so by empowering your will to manifest your intent.

What Determines What’s Next?

As with life itself, what determines what follows is all based on what has occurred. This is based on a Universal Teaching found in Ecclesiastics 3:15, as stated earlier. In this situation, it’s a matter of understanding. Of course, you’re going to reincarnate into a situation that will facilitate your growth.

Again, keep in mind that the parental relationship you find yourself in may not be what you think it should be. Nonetheless, you’ve chosen it, and it will provide you with fabulous opportunities for growth.

You may have to reject everything that your parents are about. This is why a couple of teachings in the Bible refer to this, in both in the Old and the New Testament. In Genesis 2:24, it says, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, . . .”

The above statement means to leave your concepts behind, if you are to evolve. The other place that this is implied is in Luke 14:26: “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.” The implication here is the same as above. You must reject the concepts that you learned from them, in order to move forward.

Is There Really a Purpose to Life?

Absolutely! Life is about cleansing—cleansing from our subconscious minds all of the teachings of man. In that way, we can become true spiritual beings, yet not in the way that man portrays spiritual consciousness or a spiritual life. The reason I say “beings of true spirituality” is that some people who follow man’s teachings about being spiritual may end up with one of the concepts I discussed earlier, such as sacrifice.

Some people think that if they sacrifice for others, this is being spiritual. The truth of the matter is, it’s not! When a person sacrifices for others—for example, as a caretaker—and no one compensates or nurtures the person in return, because all he or she has been doing is giving out and not receiving, that in itself will create anger, which is far from being a spiritual attribute. In fact, it will lead to cancer.

Questions and Answers

These and similar questions have arisen in the many lectures I have presented. Here are my answers.

Are There Miracles in Life?

The first step for me is always to seek to understand the definition of the words being used by another. What is a miracle? Here is what Wikipedia has to say:

A miracle is an event not explicable by natural or scientific laws. Such an event may be attributed to a supernatural being (God

or gods), a miracle worker, a saint, or a religious leader. Theologians say that with divine providence, gods regularly work through created nature, yet are free to work without, above, or against it as well.

The word *miracle* is often used to characterize any beneficial event that is statistically unlikely but not contrary to the laws of nature, such as surviving a natural disaster or simply a “wonderful” occurrence, regardless of likelihood, such as a birth. Other miracles might be survival of an illness diagnosed as terminal, escaping a life-threatening situation, or beating the odds.” Some coincidences may be seen as miracles.

As you can see, many different definitions can be applied to various situations. To some in my family—my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins—the way my life has manifested is a miracle. That perspective was gained from their knowing my first thirty years.

My “miracle” was achieved when I learned about my patterns of behavior and the concepts that gave birth to them.

If I can do it, so can you. “Know thy self and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).

Do We Get to a Point Where We Don’t Need to Reincarnate Any More? And Is That a Good Thing?

The short answer is yes. One purpose of life is to rid the soul/spirit of the man-made concepts it has accepted as true. Once this is accomplished, that soul can move into the next realm of consciousness. It is my belief that even here, there will be things to understand and grow with, to ensure that we continue upward on our re-unification with the Creative Continuum.

Completing one’s incarnations will be a wonderful blessing, because this will indicate that the soul has mastered the material plane.

How to Gain Control

Before I sent this book for editing, I reached out to a couple of friends whom I trust and whose input, comments, and thoughts I value. They suggested that I explain how you can create “miracles” in your life.

Obviously, understanding yourself is essential. What needs to be understood are the subconscious concepts that you operate with. Next is identifying your patterns of behavior. Now the tricky part is that you need to learn the symbolic language of your mind.

Let me begin with the statement that “EVERYTHING” is a symbol. Consider this: before anything is ever created, it begins as thought. In addition, we know that everything is an aspect of ENERGY.

That said, a symbol is a physical manifestation of thought energy at work. Symbols tell you where you are in a pattern of behavior. All patterns flow in cycles. Remember Ecclesiastics 3:15. Symbols, when understood, will tell you where you are in the pattern.

Once you identify where you are in the flow of the pattern, this will give you the opportunity to change the outcome to what you would like it to be, rather than what it has always been. You can, right here, right now, stop your personal history from repeating itself.

If you resonate with this perspective and would like to expand your “eyes to see and ears to hear,” I humbly recommend my *Dream Symbology Dictionary* to provide a good basic understanding of the universal perspective of a symbol. However, what is more important is your personal interpretation.

Your dreams and symbols that occur during the day are all forms of guidance. Learn the language, and you will be on your way to creating miracles in your life—guaranteed.

Conclusion

Before We Die

Life is an endless journey, with many twists and turns, ups and downs. Nonetheless, this journey we are on has fabulous opportunities for mastery. Take advantage of them, seek them out, and try to grow into the spiritual being you truly are within. Understand your concepts, so that you can gain control over them. Develop your ability to have eyes that see and ears that hear and draw on the kingdom within.

We know that Jesus taught the Universal Teachings to the masses, in the form of stories and parables. To the disciples, He gave a much deeper explanation of the teachings. In Luke 24:44–45, it says, “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he

their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.” The disciples were taught to understand many things. “And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand” (Luke 8:10).

One of the mysteries was how to use their eyes in different ways, such as to read symbols. It is essential to maintain emotional control. It is a requirement for mastering the material plane.

Having “eyes that see and ears that hear” is a way of gaining control over patterns. This will allow for greater upward growth on multiple levels. The more you know, the more you grow.

This knowledge will give you quiet strength and personal power.

“Therefore, speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they **understand**” (Mark 13:13).