

Introduction

Did you ever look around yourself and see all sorts of marvelous things happening to so many people and wonder, "Why isn't any of this happening to me? Is there some sort of secret that others know that I don't know?" The simple answer is YES. Pure Positive Energy, a creative energy force available to all people, exists in an unlimited quantity in the universe. You can tap into it at anytime, and it can change your life.

This book is the first step to a lifetime of joy, a joy that all the creative souls in the universe share, which we willingly share with you. We hope this book will bring you all the joy and happiness you deserve as a living creature of God. We hope you enjoy reading this book, for it was meant to be enjoyed and savored much like the life you have been called to live.

Chapter One

Beginning Steps

We as a society value childhood and children because we realize the potential for growth that exists in each child. We know that a child born to poverty can become a president. We open our country to exiles and immigrants because we realize that some of greatest successes in science have come from children whose parents have been dispelled from the country of their origin. Children hold the future. We value children because from their dreams originate the reality of tomorrow. Yet we sometimes forget that inside of all of us resides the child. The Poet Wordsworth wrote, "The Child is Father to the Man." If we want to rediscover our ability to recreate reality, we must rediscover the power of the child inside ourselves.

Everyone can remember a time as a child sitting in the quietness of a room and daydreaming about the future. Delightful thoughts filled the hours of the day. In those day – dreams, if you can recall them, you will find no references to sickness or wars or natural disasters. Children think only the best about themselves. When they daydream, they see themselves not as they are but as they wish to be. It is the most natural thing to do. They see themselves as more beautiful or handsome or more popular or smarter. In the quietness of their rooms, they became masters of their kingdoms. They dare to dream that which the world thinks impossible for them. In our daydreams, we live gloriously and valiantly, overcoming any obstacles that stand in our way. We imagined only the best for ourselves.

As children we map out our lives in the quietness of our rooms, and as adults we move from our rooms and try to implement those dreams in the wider world. This is the universal pattern of growth. From the microcosm of our room, we move into the macrocosm of the world and try to turn our thought into reality. When we do this, however, the world intrudes with a thousand

diversions and we forget the dreams that launched us forward into life. The longing for childhood, so evident in many older people, is a longing to recapture the creative power of life. Having lost their way in the world, they long for the carefree days of childhood when the world appeared before them as a wonderful daydream. In the quietness of their rooms, they dreamed great dreams only to find later in life that those dreams eluded them.

When we take our dreams outside the room, we encounter a world of charlatans each proclaiming a new path of happiness. They tell us where we should go and what we should do with our lives to find happiness. They point their fingers in a thousand different directions but none in the direction that the soul wishes to follow. With false promises of riches or fame or unlimited opportunities, these Pied Pipers of deceit speak with passion and authority all designed to lure us from our true path. The world lays out many highways to nowhere. The great task of living is to keep our eyes focused on our own path. Only with our eyes focused on our own path can we move passed the hucksters and charlatans trying to lure us down the back alleys of despair. Only with our thoughts focused on our own dreams can we move successfully and happily through life.

In solitude, in quietness, we see the world clearly. In solitude, we imagine a world unlike any that we find outside our doors. In silence, our spiritual self links with the universal spirit and we understand our mission in the world. We are creators. We are divine. In the wide universe, we live on this one small planet called Earth, but in it we can create wonderful lives for ourselves. This is what the young understand; this is the power of youth to attract. The younger the soul, the greater wonder it sees in the world. When children daydream, they find no obstacles that seem insurmountable. The difficulties that the world presents to them outside the room vanish in the silence of their own room. In solitude with their dreams, the young find joy and happiness. The longing for childhood is nothing more than a wish to return to the purity of thought, which childhood represents.

If we could keep the vision of our youth before our eyes as we venture into the world, our lives would be filled with happiness, and the problems of the world would no longer trouble us. The world will conform to our dreams if we look beyond the illusion that the world represents. We can transform our world with our thoughts. Our dreams can become our reality. What the world calls reality is the illusion. The world holds a sound barrier in front of man and men proclaim it cannot be breached. Textbooks teach and scholars preach that nothing can go faster than the speed of sound. We call it the sound barrier and none deny its reality. Chuck Yeager challenges the reality and flies his X-15 faster than the speed of sound and another barrier falls before the Will of Man. That which reality tells us cannot be done, the active soul challenges and does. The highest mountain has been climbed and the depths of the ocean have been reached. What we dream we can accomplish. This holds true for the individual man as much as for mankind. Impossible you say. Read the story of Mankind or listen to the story of any successful person and you will find a tale of reality succumbing to the dreams of man.

When we accept the illusion that reality represents and when we abandoned our daydreams, we think we have matured. Putting aside our dreams to bear the burden of reality, we conclude that we have grown. There is more to growth than bearing burdens. A beast can bear a burden and be no wiser, so it is with man. To grow we must use our dreams to transform reality. Pity any man who abandons the dreams of his youth to follow the path of reality. Pity any man who does not use his dreams to transform reality. Those who abandon their dreams live lives of desperation. They pride themselves on having the courage to face reality, yet they long for the days of their youth when they dreamed of greatness. Wouldn't life be wonderful if all our dreams could become reality? It can happen. You have the power inside yourself to transform the world, but to unleash that power you must alter the way you think about the world.

At any moment the world seems filled with misery. Listen to the news and all you hear suggests that calamity runs rampant. The same stories appear every day with remarkable regularity – a poor person cheated by some charlatan; a family tragedy caused by fire, or a death on the roadway caused by a drunken driver. We hear of natural disasters from all parts of the world and we hear reports of wars and rumors of impending wars. Then, not content with real disasters, the media has begun to envision horrors that have not yet arrived, as if the disasters of the present do not have sufficient amplitude. T. V shows like “It Could Happen Tomorrow” or movies like “Asteroid” or “The Day After Tomorrow”, present to us imaginary horrors built around future planetary disasters. The world of the media at any moment seems ready and eager to hold the worst part of the world before us, and people who tune into these programs seem only too eager to focus their attention on these problems.

To the media, no good news is good news and all bad news is good news because it boosts the ratings. Gullible viewers flock to be caught in the network traps and come to believe that which they see. Viewing the disaster- filled reality, they abandon their child-like view that the world is one vast playground. The older they get, the more they accept the reality before their eyes and become disillusioned. Young children grow fat by sitting in front of the television and absorbing all the worse the world has to offer. Is it any wonder that they will grow up to become diabetic old men and women who will lock themselves behind closed doors because they fear for their safety?

That which we see or observe or that to which we direct our attention becomes our reality. Those who watch the most violence on television or in the movies or who read about violence in newspapers and magazine always find themselves surrounded by the very things they wish to avoid. Spending their attention on thoughts of violence produces the reality of violence around them. We see a violent tragedy strike a family in a neighborhood and we hear the neighbors say,

"We never had any problem like this before." Or, "This is such a nice neighborhood and things like this just don't happen." Such things can happen in any neighborhood. One troubled person focused on violence can attract that violence to his neighborhood. In our thoughts we are our brothers' keepers. You have heard it said that "No man is an island unto himself", and that is true. But one person on our island whose thoughts focus on the horrible things of the world can bring horror to our little island.

Our thoughts create our reality. That to which we direct our thoughts we attract to ourselves. If you believe people cannot be trusted, you will find people willing to cheat you so as to prove your thinking correct. If you believe there is violence outside your window, there will be those around you willing to prove you are right and do violence outside your doors. You have been telling yourself this for years when you say, "The rich get rich and the poor get poor." That, of course, is true. The rich think from a standpoint of attracting more wealth to themselves, which is a positive thought. The poor think from a standpoint of banishing poverty, which is negative. The poor cannot think about wealth without thinking about their poverty and if you were to place both thoughts on a scale, you would find the thoughts of poverty occupy most of their time. You cannot attract wealth by thinking more about your poverty.

The Law of Attraction says that we attract that to which we direct our thoughts. We get what we think about. There is no mystery in this. If your thoughts are focused on wealth, you will attract wealth; if your thoughts are focused on poverty, or trying to get out of poverty, you will attract only poverty. Yes, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer because that is what they most think about. Your thoughts will produce your reality. Therefore, think only good thoughts because that is where all good things come from. The Law of Attraction is universal law.

Chapter Two

The Culture of Ideas

Every society has built-in belief structures that cause people to respond without the application of much individual thought. In Western culture, for example, we profess a belief in the sacredness of life, especially the life of the individual, because Western culture adheres to a Judeo-Christian belief structure. Our beliefs in God and religion unite with our philosophy of government to protect the weak from the strong. We do not believe as a society that might makes right or that the many may tyrannize the few.

In Western culture, The Christian and the Jew can work together despite their religious differences. Both religions can exist while allowing each other to practice their own faith without interference. Muslims, too, may practice their religion in freedom provided that they, too, respect the rights of the other religions to do same. For this reason, we say that Western culture is tolerant and made stronger by its differences provided that all groups respect the freedoms of all other groups. These beliefs are not shared across the world.

As mankind evolves, so, too, evolves the culture of ideas, although the culture will always linger behind the thoughts of Man. Culture exists to perpetuate the ideas of the past. The older the culture, the more static it becomes. The older the culture, the more it defines the roles of individuals and the less freedom it provides for individual thought. The culture becomes tyrant. It stops learning and fears teaching. It feeds itself on old ideas and finds itself at odds with the

individual. Static cultures fear the individual, yet in every repressive culture, you will find free-thinking individuals. In Tiananmen Square, we see a young man standing before a file of tanks and stopping them. With beautiful clarity the world saw the power of the individual soul as it struggles for freedom, and in that act we see the fruition of Democracy in China.

Man exists to extend the frontiers of thought into the future, and no repressive society can withstand forever the drive of the individual soul for freedom. In the struggles to free and extend his thoughts, Man is always in conflict with culture. No matter how ancient the culture we study, we find individuals on the forefront of thought who lived in conflict with their society. They may be political leaders, or religious leaders or philosophers but their names come down to us as constant reminders of need to confront the status quo. Every great man struggles against the customs of his society to elevate the soul of his countrymen. In the most repressive of societies today will be found those willing to fight for the rights of the individual. A society may kill a reformer but they can never kill the ideas that motivated the person to action. Ideas have an immortality of their own that no culture can erase from the memory of mankind. No repressive society can withstand the power of the individual to assert his right to freedom.

In the long line of history, we can trace the patterns of repression that Man has overcome in his struggle for freedom. The customs of the divine rights of kings; the custom of serfs, the custom of slavery; the custom of the inequality of the sexes -- the list of civilization's advance to greater freedom is endless, and continues today. In the Mid East, we see Muslim children, against the dictates of the larger society, being taught to play with Jewish children. In Africa, we see the United Nations working to curb ancient tribal hatreds that cause the deaths of millions. In the United States, we find citizens on both sides of the racial divide fighting to find the common ground to advance our society forward. The wise and learned know that hatreds, whether social, political, or religious are learned; nobody is born with an innate hatred of another. Young children of

different races and religions do not hate each other; they play delightfully with one another.

Children must be taught to hate. Wherever you see generations hating or distrusting others, look to the customs of the people, and when you look be certain to identify the heroic souls waging war against those customs.

In every society, customs exist that advance compassion and justice, and these customs, though they may solidify into intolerance in the future, have their place in any active society. Customs like treating our elderly with kindness or helping those in need do much to benefit a society. Do we want to endlessly debate the need to protect children from predators? Isn't it better for us to believe as one nation that children must be protected from those who would do them harm, including parents? When customs benefit the present and allow us to agree to the good without much dissent, they are useful. Whenever they hinder the happiness of the present by causing dissension among us, customs have outlived their usefulness and should be discarded. At any moment in time, the soul must act with the present goodness in mind because in the present exist all the joys and happiness of creation. If a society is to progress, its customs must change to meet the needs of the present. No society can move forward while living in the past. We know that the Jew can live with the Muslim. We know the Catholic can live with the Protestant; we know that black and white can live together in "joyous harmony." We see examples that defy the customs of nations every single day. Yet, in the face of such reality, the customs and traditions of the past, the thought-patterns of the past, still hold so many people in bondage and misery.

In the quietness of our own rooms, the soul allows for far more compassion for others than customs allow. In our dreaming of happiness we do not include thoughts of oppressing another. Thoughts of happiness tend to focus on the Now, or present, where the soul imagines itself living in the bliss of today. Thoughts of oppression focus on the THEN, or the past. Thoughts that carry us into the past looking for happiness turn our souls into lifeless pillars of salt. The past is where the

dead live; the present is where the dead have died. Let them lie in their place. Only those thoughts which advance our own happiness should concern us, and those thoughts will always focus on the present. If your cultural thoughts carry you to the lifeless past and force you, through custom, to do an injustice to another, reject those customs. Why must you bow to a past that others had devised for their own happiness and reject your own claim to happiness? The living, not the dead, control the present. To move society forward, we must take the best from the past and graft on the new ideas of the present. The movement is always in the direction of freedom for the individual and for the society.

Happy people carry the dreams of solitude into their everyday reality. Happy people enjoy watching their dreams becoming reality. They live in hope. Each day brings more fulfillment and new dreams. Their joy never ends. You, too, can share that joy, but first you must learn to create your own reality. You must take the dreams that you fashion in solitude and move them into the greater world. If necessary, battle against the customs of society that deter you from the path you know you must follow.

Chapter Three

Patterns of Thought

The world we see outside our windows we call reality, and the world that we fashion in the solitude of our room we call fantasy. Ten thousand years from now, the view from outside your window will change. Regardless of what you do, you cannot preserve the reality outside your window. It is subject to change. It is not real in permanency. The robin that sings outside your window will sing the same notes for ten thousand years but never in the same world. The robin sings but cannot change its song. The agent of change in the world is the active soul. The agency of change is the world of dreams. Our dreams transform the world. Every transformation of the world begins with one person's dreams. The dreamers who carry their dreams from their rooms to the outside world we call visionaries.

The living active soul contains within itself the creative power of the universe. The universe exists for the soul and not the soul for the universe. That which the soul thinks, the universe will beget because every thought we think emits a vibration to which the universe responds. Our thoughts create vibrations. Scientists can measure these vibrations by the electrical impulses the brain emits with an Electroencephalograph (EEG), which measure the electrical impulses of the brain. We do not argue with science. In this regard, science affirms our belief in the vibrational nature of thought. As long as we live, we think, and our thoughts vibrate with energy. This vibrational energy communicates to the universe. Through the vibrations of our thoughts, we communicate to the universe our wants and needs. We do this as long as we are alive. Oddly enough, science declares death when the brain no longer sends electrical impulses.

We do not argue with this definition. The inability to create with our thoughts is the death of the body.

While alive, we attract the reality to which we direct our thoughts by The Law of Attraction. The universe delivers what we vibrate. In reading our vibrations, the universe makes no distinctions between good or bad or right or wrong. It does not impose judgment on the things we vibrate; whatever we vibrate the universe will deliver to us. If we think good things, good things will come to us. If we think about bad things, the bad things will be delivered to us. If we see that which we do not want, we must not direct any attention to it. If a behavior of another upsets us, we must not obsess about it. The more attention we give to the behavior that upsets us, the more of it we will attract to ourselves. If we believe that the world is a hostile place, we will find much hostility outside our doors. If we believe the world is here to make us miserable, the world will deliver more misery to us. We get what we vibrate.

That to which we direct our thoughts will be deemed the object of our creation and be delivered to us. With right or wrong or good and bad, the universe has nothing to do. Such terms have no meaning to the universe. Man makes distinctions. One man's good is another man's bad. One man's right is another man's wrong. Man decides the labels to attach to actions. Man creates laws and customs, which attach different labels to the same actions. So much of the misery the world experiences results from a misunderstanding of this basic principle. For example, if a religion preaches doctrines that cause a person to think of suffering, hatred or misery, followers of that religion must reject those doctrines unless they want their lives filled with suffering, hatred or misery. The universe delivers to all of us that to which we most direct our thoughts, so we must be careful of the things we profess to believe. We will get back from the universe that which we vibrate. If we want people to follow our lead, we must set a happy course for our own life and proceed along it without thoughts of coercing others to follow. You would be surprised how souls

will follow the lead of one who does not compel but rather leads. "Come follow me", said The Christ, not as an order but as a request. His followers became legions.

While we can attract the things that we want with our thoughts, we cannot make any other person do what we wish. We can wish for love and have those come to us who will love us. However, we cannot force a specific person to love us. We all have free will. The Will of Man will always resist those who attempt to use force to restrain freedom. Tyrants may break the body but never the will of man. He will resist to the last breath. This applies equally to one person trying to control another person. So often we complain that others will not change to please us, as if others should supersede their own happiness to please us. We are born free agents. No soul is born to make itself a slave to another soul. The prompting of the soul is always in the direction of freedom, and any obstruction will always be met with resistance. It would be easier to stop the sun in its transit across the sky than to stop one thriving soul from pursuing its dreams.

Mankind looks to religion to unlock the potential of the soul when the power of each soul resides in itself. Where does the power of the Giver come from? It comes from the creative power of the soul; it comes from Pure Positive Energy, which flows through us at every moment of time. When we flow Pure Positive Energy, which happens whenever we appreciate that which we see, we become beacons of happiness for all around us. Each soul has the power to unlock its potential as well as to influence the world around itself. No great miracle need take place. A person smiles at us and the world seem brighter. A child grabs our hands and we find in the simple act a reaffirmation of all that is good in the world. A driver in a never ending line of traffic waves us from a driveway into the line. Isn't giving a "courtesy wave" an act of recognition on your part that someone has done a nice deed? Suddenly the world seems a little brighter and less selfish. The one good act costs the driver nothing, but he has set in motion a good day for you and for everyone whom you meet. . A simple "Hello" said to a person who does not expect the greeting

does more for a person's spirit than most people realize. A simple "thank you" said sincerely or a compliment given to a person who does not expect it raises that person's spirit and influences everyone with whom that person interacts. The good word or act sets off a chain reaction of goodness. The proof you can see every day.

On any day, we can all find something to which to flow our energy. If you lift your eyes to the sky at night, you will see it filled with beautiful stars. The stars shine with the same brilliance all over the world. On any night, in any nation, you can lift your eyes to see the beauty of stars and fill yourself with Pure Positive Energy. But you must choose to look up. You can walk underneath the beauty of the stars and see nothing but dirt if you keep your eyes focused on your feet. So it is with Pure Positive Energy. It flows to us at every moment of our lives, but we must open ourselves to the flow by appreciating the goodness around us. Even in the day you can find much beauty if you recall that the sun is but a morning star.

Whenever we see beauty, we flow our energy to it and we feel happy. Whenever we focus and continue to observe that which displeases us, we feel bad. The negative feeling means we have blocked the flow of the creative energy in us. What causes energy to stop flowing? Whenever we try to control the actions of others or whenever we focus on the things we do not want, we cause our own misery. Instead of focusing on the behaviors that please us (Pure Positive Energy), we focus on those that displease us (Negative Energy). The more we focus on the things we do not want, the more we attract them to ourselves. Many of the problems that frustrate us result from our attempts to control the lives of others. The frustrated lament as if they wished they had the power of the admiralty and make all follow the course of the one. They cannot see that we are captains only of our own soul and one cannot set the course for any life but his own. Each must move toward the horizon at his own pace.

To help guide us on our course, the universe provides Contrast, which helps us make decisions. The Law of Contrast operates with The Law of Attraction to help attract the things we wish. It offers us alternatives that clarify our thoughts so that we can offer to the universe pure vibrations, which will bring to us quickly the things we want. Let us say, for example, that you are looking for a new car. You direct your thoughts to a style of car that you would like to find. The universe will deliver that style of car to you because of the Law of Attraction. However, if you did not specify a particular color, the universe will deliver the style of car but not in a color you would prefer. However, the wrong color will allow you to focus your thoughts on the color of the car that you wish. You could say something like this: "That is the exact style of car I'm looking for but not in pea green. I would love to see the car in the color red. That would be a remarkable color for that style car and I must find one in that color." This is work of the Law of Contrast. It allows for clarity of thought. As long as your thoughts stay positive and focused on the style of the car in red, you will attract the red car to you. Through contrast you came to the selection of color. You were given a choice. The Law of Contrast is all about choice.

Used correctly, the Law of Contrast helps focus our thoughts. Used incorrectly, however, it produces much of the misery we see. If we focus too much on the contrast and not on the clarity it gives to our thought, we will attract the wrong things to ourselves. If you keep looking and thinking about a style of a car in red, you will find it. However, if all you think about is the ugly pea green color that was provided for contrast to allow you to decide on the color red, you will find nothing but pea green in the style of car you want. Every other color will have been taken by somebody else or not available to you. Not wanting to see a color is the equivalent to wanting the color. The universe does not recognize exclusion. Whatever we are focusing our thoughts on, the universe will deliver to us be that something we want or something we don't want. Be careful about the things you think about because the universe will deliver to you whatever you focus attention on.

The Law of Contrast serves as a partner to the Law of Attraction. It always provides contrast, an opposite, an alternative, to your current thoughts to help you focus more clearly on what you want. Even at moments of appreciation, contrast will be offered to the conscious mind. You see a beautiful blue sky and the thought crosses your mind that a storm would spoil the day! That is contrast. Dismiss the thought with a simple, "No thank you" and it vanishes and allows you to continue to focus on the beauty of the day. However, spend your time focusing on the rain and sharing your thoughts with others who hope their day won't be spoiled by rain and you will produce a rain cloud! Contrast always gives us the alternatives. A man can born behind high walls with bars across the windows and never know freedom. He may think himself happy. At that moment, he will look out his window and see a bird flying high in the sky and at that moment will understand the meaning of captivity and begin to struggle against it. This is the Law of Contrast; it offers choices so that decisions can be made.

Both the Law of Attraction and Law of Contrast are universal laws of nature. Used correctly, they can bring happiness and joy. We can create our reality, and we do so in solitude in our rooms. In our daydreams, we design our reality. That which we imagine we begin to attract by the Law of Attraction. Our daydreams provide the basis for the reality we create outside our windows. We daydream that we may create because the agent of change in the world is the active soul. The agency of change is the world of dreams --- both conscious dreams, which we call daydreams, and the unconscious dreams, which we call night dreams. The night dreams both guide us and inspire us to keep to the path of behavior we planned for ourselves.

Let us say, for example, that a person by the Law of Attraction has garnered a huge sum of wealth but the person feels a great deal of tension, which we call Negative Emotion. Why should someone who has always wanted money feel a great deal of tension after having acquired it? Perhaps the receiving of the money, its manifestation, may have so overwhelmed the person

as to make the person forget his original reasons for wanting wealth. Satisfying his own needs might have been only half the reason he wanted great wealth. The other half reason was using the money to help others. However, the joy of acquiring the money and the spending of it made the person forget the second reason, which results in the feelings of inadequacy and frustration. The more money he spends on things for himself, the greater the feeling of frustration and confusion about his wealth. His life is unbalanced. To restore equilibrium, to end his frustration, the person must bring balance to his life. When the person sees that he worked to become rich not only to satisfy his own needs but also to help others, he will have taken a tremendous step in spiritual growth and his frustration will end. That knowledge will often come through dreams where the greater soul talks to the conscious mind.

Like an internal compass that keeps us on course, our dreams provide us with directions should we lose our way. They point and guide us. When we dream, we surrender all conscious thought and lose the ability to argue with the greater soul about our wants and needs. Our conscious mind might block the dream on awakening, much like a child will hold his hands over its ears to block out any words of criticism, but the conscious mind cannot evade the consequences of inattention. Much frustration and torment that people experience result from their inability to listen to their dreams. Dreams point the way to a happy life, yet our free will allows us to disregard the message and pursue our own way, even if it leads to destruction. The guidance, however, is relentless. To dull the communication of the greater self, some people try drugs or alcohol, but to no lasting effect. Is it any wonder that every recovering alcoholic or drug addict will point to a "greater" power in helping them overcome their addiction? Little did they know that that greater power has always resided in themselves. Is it any wonder that those who recover from drug or alcohol abuse always speak of moving forward in the direction of newfound or rediscovered dreams?

Sleep is a great restorer of the soul. When we close our eyes and drift into the dark void, we reconnect with the greater power of our souls and gain guidance and insight into ourselves. The power of the greater soul is always there but its messages to us become lost in the cacophony of our day to day existence. When we shut out the distractions of the world by closing the door to our rooms, we rediscover the path of our dream. Given the power of dreams to influence us, is it any wonder that the great thinkers like Einstein were known to have taken frequent naps during the day? Is it any wonder that children take the most naps? Coming new into the world, they have the greatest need for direction, which only sleep can provide.

Chapter Four

Obstacles

For life to remain exciting, we must have new vistas to explore, challenges to overcome, and problems to solve. Without obstacles to overcome, our lives would be routine, boring and lifeless. What is old age except the refusal to confront a changing world and to dream new dreams within it? The more one turns his eyes to the past, the less one sees of the future. It is not age that defeats us. Age does not stop the old cat from trying to catch the spring robin. An old cat may never catch the robin but as long as the cat tries he partakes in the cycle of life. So should it be for a man. While age robs one's strength, it cannot rob one's Will. By the force of Will, many an old person has made a valuable contribution to a younger world. Grandma Moses began a career as an artist at 80 and President Ronald Regan began serving as President at 71. Age robs strength from our body but fortifies our Will.

On the spiritual level, we understand that to grow we need to test ourselves. Such an idea should not confound us. For example, if there were no test to virtue, could we be certain that we possessed the virtue of honesty or integrity? The answer is No. To be certain we possess any inherent characteristic, we must subject that characteristic to a test before we can be assured that we possess it. If you look carefully at life, you can see that every person has his own specific obstacles to overcome. Think of obstacles as tests to advance our spiritual development. We find things or people who stand in our way as we move in the direction of our dreams. If these obstacles were not important to the development of our souls, why would we continue to confront

them? Why not just walk away? Yet we do not walk away and if given the chance, we would not exchange our problems for that of another.

Exchanging problems with another does not advance our spiritual growth because we are born to overcome our own obstacles, which advances our own spiritual growth. This time, this place, with these events we chose as the most opportunistic to advance along our own path of self-fulfillment. We made the selection of obstacles to test ourselves, and we determined the method to overcome those obstacles. That is why no soul will exchange his problems with another. That is the reason we continue to face the same problems over and over again. We do so because each time we face the same problem, we learn a little more about what we should do to overcome it. We grow a little stronger each time we face the same obstacle, and we develop the courage and the perseverance to continue. We will work at the problem until we master it, at which time the problem disappears. We celebrate the moment and move to the next set of obstacles. Did you ever notice that those who overcome the greatest obstacles always find an audience willing to listen to their story? Audiences flock to hear such stories because they give hope and inspiration. They remind us that we, too, can overcome the obstacles placed in our path.

The courage to face the obstacles placed in our path comes from the soul's need to constantly improve itself. With each struggle against an obstacle, we grow braver, and we develop the courage to continue the battle. Courage and bravery take time to develop but those weapons ultimately conquer any obstacle placed in our path. The strength to persevere comes from the soul as does the drive for self perfection. These drives motivate us but they cannot compel us to action. They lead us to see through the illusions of the world, and as we follow these drives and overcome the obstacles placed in our path, we become wise. There is no other way to spiritually progress. Believe that and you will command your own destiny. Refuse to believe and you stand the possibility of living a life of frustration, a very unhappy life.

The happiest people in life struggle to bring their dreams into reality. They confront the obstacles facing them and they do so relentlessly. As long as they fight, they make progress, and it is the progress that brings happiness and satisfaction. Persistence and perseverance overcome obstacles. Look at the happy and contented people in the world and you will find them pursuing their dreams. They may have faced a thousand defeats, yet they persist. Their friends and parents may have advised them to abandon their quest to fulfill their dreams, yet they continue. They become the heart and soul of humanity; they provide the hope for others to continue.

Chapter Five

Spiritual Substance

There are those who profess that all belief in spirit was originated by man and represents nothing but an illusion. Spiritual substance, the argument goes, cannot exist because no proof of the spiritual exists. We disagree. In England and other parts of Europe, for example, sightings of ghosts have been reported for centuries. If only one of those sighting proved true, that would be proof enough to support the belief in the existence of the spiritual. We think the historical records support the claims. Yet for unbelievers, no proof, not matter how well documented, will ever prove sufficient. Doubting Thomas' s will always be among us. So, we will approach the subject a little differently.

The main argument against the spiritual is that we cannot touch it or feel it as we do a rock or a stone. We cannot measure the spiritual. That which cannot be tested, so the argument goes, must by definition be unproven. We understand the argument but reject it because internally we know the spiritual exists. We feel ourselves immortal, at least those of us who believe in a greater force outside our physical existence. Does this make us deluded? We think not. Not everything in our world is as it appears. We look up at the clouds and see them floating on the air. Our reasoned self reminds us that clouds do not float; they rest on the air and drift with the currents of wind. The idea that the clouds float is the illusion. Meteorologists speak of rain that does not reach the ground, which means we cannot see the rain or feel it but Doppler radar detects drops of

moisture in the clouds. Is the rain real if it does not fall as drops of water to hit the ground?

Because we do not "see" the rain does not mean that the cloud does not contain raindrops.

Doppler radar measures an unseen reality. That reality has always existed but only now can we measure it. Everything that exists does not have to be visible.

We believe in a great number of things that we have not seen. Who has ever seen a sound wave? A radar beam? A television or radio signal? Yet do we deny the existence of these things? Of course not! We believe these things exist without ever having seen them. If you are thinking at this point that we have machines that can demonstrate the existence of sound waves and radar beams, we would agree. But did sound waves and the color spectrum exist before we had tools to measure them? While we have the technology to measure the things we cannot see, that was not always the case. Was there no sound before we discovered sound waves? Did not the world have rainbows before we understood the color spectrum? Did not the sun emit radiation before we understood radiation? These things existed long before they could be measured. Why should the spiritual be any different?

Because mankind lacks the tools to prove the existence of the spiritual does not mean that the spiritual does not exist. Long before the proof for an idea comes the theory of the idea. In ancient Rome and Greece, a group of philosophers speculated on the idea of creation and the formation of matter. Ancient philosophers, men like Leucippus and Democritus, argued for an unseen reality and theorized the existence of the atom. They could not prove atoms existed but they could speculate about the idea. Others like Plato and Aristotle argued that life originated in the ocean. They could not prove the theory but they could speculate about it. In other words, evolutionary theory did not begin with Darwin, as so many believe. Darwin provided the scientific evidence to support the theory, but he did not originate the theory. First comes the idea; then, comes the scientific support for the idea; then comes the argument over the scientific evidence,

which again returns the problem to the philosophers. Science is not philosophy and philosophy is not a science but they both need each other for intellectual progress to continue.

How is it that philosophers of the past managed to formulate ideas that science now supports with evidence? We do not have to look into the past for an answer. Philosophers today are doing the same thing with spiritual substance. They discover truth by opening themselves to their thoughts and feelings. They free their thoughts to view a reality that exists beyond contemporary thought. They look through the science of the day and find meaning that explains both physical and scientific reality. Who are these philosophers? They are you and me and every wise soul who searches inside himself for the truth. When we look deep inside ourselves, we find a universe of knowledge that confounds reality. When we look deep within ourselves, we come to understand the unreality of reality. Reality is the illusion from which we must free our thoughts.

We do wish to demean reality but to redefine it so that we can better understand its place in the world. We hear talk that Death is the ultimate reality of life, for all things die. We do not deny that death exists in the world, but we question the reality of death as presented to Man. To understand the illusionary nature of death, we need only look at the child who sees reality with innocent eyes. To a child death holds no terror or fear. You walk into a funeral home to attend the wake and you see adults with tears in their eyes lamenting the passing of one they loved. Children at the wake shed no tears. If left to themselves, they would giggle and play with one another and experience no sense of loss. If you tell a child that Aunt Mary is in heaven, the child accepts that fact without argument. To the child, no loss had occurred. Aunt Mary is still available to the child as Pure Positive Energy. The child has but to think of Aunt Mary to feel her presence and to be reassured that all is well. Not seeing grief in a child, the adults conclude that the child does not understand death. That is the illusion. The truth is that the child, newly arrived from the place to

where the dead have returned, understands that no death has occurred. All is well; that is the message that children try to teach us.

To see through the illusion of reality, one must learn to look at the world through the eyes of a child. Is it any wonder that artists, and poets, and writers, the truly creative, are referred to as the children of society? Even The Christ recognized this great truth when he said, "Render the children to come unto me". Jesus understood that the great mysteries of His ministry could not be understood by those who focused on reality. Reality does not allow for miracles. Reality does not allow for a blind man to see or a cripple to walk or the dead to rise. Children would not question the reality of these miracles, but adults would do so because they clearly understand reality. Children ran to The Christ, which is why The Christ gave the directive to his disciples to allow the children access to him. Compare the actions of a child with the man who said he followed all the Commandments and wanted to know what else he could do. Jesus told him to give all his money away. The man could not do it. A child would do so because the child understands that whatever is given to The Christ would be given back tenfold. Children, not the rich, understand the message of The Christ. Time after time, The Christ reminded his followers they had to be reborn if they were to understand His message. To be reborn is to see through the eyes of a child. It is a message that adults still do not understand.

Philosophers for generations have reminded us that reality is not the measure of existence. Plato argued that a greater reality lay beneath the seen reality. He stressed that by studying the spiritual that lay beneath the temporal reality Man could better understand Truth. Since Plato, all philosophy has been in revolution. The greater realities envisioned by Plato have evolved into scientific principles. All good science begins where philosophy ends. The ending phase of scientific knowledge gives birth to a new philosophy and the cycle continues. Today the lines between philosophy and science have become blurred and scientists now talk more like

philosophers than scientists. Scientists speak about things that cannot be measured and for which no proof exists. The idea of string theory in physics comes to mind. If you listen to the advocates of string theory, you will hear scientists speaking about that which they cannot prove but suspect is true. Scientists should speak of the measurable and allow philosophers to speculate. Philosophers lead with thought so that scientists can prove with facts.

Every philosopher knows that spiritual reality resides in the soul of man, and for proof they leave written records on which future generations might build. The American Philosopher Thoreau reminds us of the essentials of life – food, clothing, shelter and fuel. The world has more than enough of these necessities to sustain life. Yet Man does not consider these essentials as sufficient. Man creates illusionary wants and needs, which create much of the misery that infects modern society. It is an illusion that we need the big house, the luxury car, or fancy clothes to make ourselves and our children happy. These things do not provide happiness. How many couples have divorced over money problems caused by buying too big a house or going into credit card debt to buy unnecessary luxuries? No child demands these things for happiness. The only thing of importance to a child is having mommy and daddy around to play with. Where there is mommy and daddy there is happiness. Who sees reality clearer? Whose truth is more self-evident?

Children live with the simplicity of philosophers and see truth almost as clearly. Both philosophers and children look through the illusions of the world and see that the big house in the great neighborhood with the good school system is an illusion that the adults of the world believe as a necessary reality. We do not argue that big houses and great neighborhoods should not be desired, but we question the cost for those who do not have the means. For those who can afford the great houses, they are useful but not essential and frequently do more harm than good when they tend to isolate. The gated community is both a fortress and a prison, and the active soul

resents both forms of isolation. We came into the world to confront reality so that we might see through the reality to the greater spiritual truth lying behind it. Enclose a child behind the walls of a great house and he will find a way to escape his confinement. How many stories have we heard of young men and women from the finest homes running away to become lost in the big city. How many young men have fled confinement by joining the armed forces. Children come forth to live in the world with all its flaws because only though contrast can the active soul receive clarity to make decisions. Those who spend their lives tending hot-house roses behind closed doors will never know the beauty of a meadow filled with wildflowers. We were born to appreciate all the beauties of nature, not just a select few. Nature shares her bounty to the all loving eyes that look on her, but those eyes must be free to look.

The great truths of spiritual reality lie not on the surface of life but deep beneath its texture. Scientists have dissected the family and have found it to be the core of a society. We hear much from sociologists of the destruction of the nuclear family and of the consequences to society but we hear very little that explains the cohesion of a family. Scientists have yet to find a family gene that makes us respond to one another nor is it a chemical bond that makes a family. The explanations go deeper. On a spiritual level, we sense a close linkage between parent and child. A father or mother holds a child and becomes transformed by the experience. The young man becomes a father and the young woman becomes a mother. A miracle occurs that defies scientific explanation. Almost in an instant, the father and mother become protectors of the new life. We affirm that the child and the parents form a team with a spiritual bond that transcends the teachings of social scientists. The family does more than nurture the young. The family provides the individual with an island of refuge where he can find rest from a world hostile to his dreams. In the family bond, the child finds relief that allows him or her to begin to dream. Is it any wonder that so many children find great comfort in the rooms of their homes? In solitude they dream and imagine

the world as they would like to see it. If they come from their room and share the dreams with their family, they can draw strength to bring those dreams to reality in the world. That is the role of the family, and we court much distress when we place our personal problems and careers above those of our children.

Spiritual distress explains much of the addiction of the young. A child brushed aside or emotionally abandoned by adults too busy with their careers feels lost and restless. This disharmony within the soul is so painful that the child seeks an alternate way to establish harmony within himself. Unable to find relief in the family, the child succumbs to the simplest but the harshest way to feel good, which is through the use of drugs. While on drugs, the child feels no sense of disharmony, no sense of lost. The soul feels complete, which is the trap of drugs. As long as the drug fills the system, the soul feels no pain, so the child seeks to remain on the drugs for as long as possible. But drugs provide only a temporary relief and ultimately lead to an addiction and increased pain. Like any disease, drug addition must be cured or it will kill the person. The antidote to drug usage has been and always will be love, which is the primary component of the original family bond.

Because drug abuse is a symptom of a spiritual disease, a physical remedy cannot solve the problem. While a clinic can relieve the physical suffering of addiction by detoxifying the body, no amount of detoxification can cure the pain in the soul. Because of that simple fact, people released from substance abuse clinics will have frequent relapses, not because the clinic has not done its job --- it has cured the physical addiction to the drug--- but because the clinic cannot treat the spiritual wound that prompted the addiction. Unless the spiritual wound is healed, the person will continue to suffer because those who suffer will always try to find a way to ease the pain. If the wound persists and drugs or alcohol eased the pain in the past, the sufferer will return to that which relieved the pain. Programs like Alcoholic Anonymous and those that follow its

program know that only by turning to a “higher power” will the addict be cured. That higher power taps the spiritual part of Man, which alone can cure the spiritual wound.

If no spiritual bond existed between children and parents, the raising of children would not be a cause for concern. The only function of the caregiver would be to protect that child from harm and provide some instruction in the ways of society. That idea has pervaded the world of daycare where surrogate parents provide protection for children. But it is not care that children need but caring, and that responsibility cannot be delegated to wage employees, no matter how good their intentions. Daycare has its place in the world, and we do not disparage such centers. But they must only supplement and not supplant the love and protection of the family.

Belief in spiritual substance explains much that confounds science. The power of the spiritual to heal spiritual wounds and cure physical ailments needs no apologists. Every physician can recall at least one miracle story where a person’s faith or his belief in a higher power led to the curing of an incurable disease. What is the power of Lourdes but the power to believe that the spiritual power of faith can cure all illness? Every disease claimed by physicians to be incurable will have at least one case of a cure that will be deemed miraculous. In Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury coined the word dis-ease to describe a spiritual malnutrition that characterizes his future society. It is a good to revisit the word. What is disease but a dis-ease in the soul, a type of spiritual illness, that manifests itself as a physical malady? What is stress but a malady in the soul that causes physical illness? We know that any prolonged stress can result in serious diseases, like cancer and heart disease. To prevent disease, doctors prescribe medications, which dull the physical pain but do not cure the spiritual wound.

Scientists have proven the validity of the spiritual. They know that all that we see and hear is composed of vibrations. Color and sound are vibrations detected by our senses. We live in a world of vibrations. If we direct vibrations of the correct pitch at glass, the glass will shatter. The

vibrations of sound cause the vibrations that form matter to separate. Huge particle accelerators direct matter at matter and produce vibrations in the form of energy. The world of science has proved that sight, sound, and thoughts are vibrational in nature. We need not argue the point that we exist in a universe of vibrations. That point has been proven by science. Argument centers on the origin of the vibrations and the ultimate resting place of all vibrations. We call it Pure Positive Energy, the Law of Attraction, Deliberate Creation. We accept the names God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit because all represent the same concept of eternal energy. Even now science is speaking of a God force that holds the forces of matter and anti matter separate from each other. They hope that the nuclear accelerator in Cern, Switzerland will find proof that the God force exists. They are looking for Pure Positive Energy.

Pure Positive Energy is spiritual energy and science has shown us that energy changes but never ceases to exist, which means energy cannot die. You cannot die. Pure Positive Energy is spiritual energy, and as such it can never cease to exist although it can change form. The soul in the body is energy in one form; the soul outside the body is energy in another but grander form. The body belongs to the physical world; the soul belongs to the spiritual world. The soul in the body is the creative force that changes the world. Man can change his thoughts about God, his thoughts about Man, his thoughts about his place in the universe. In the written records of man we can measure these changes. They reveal that of all Earth's creatures only man aspires to be greater than himself. Man aspires to the perfection of God. To reach that perfection, we must grow into our creative powers, which means mastering the knowledge and power of the spiritual.

Chapter Six

Developing our Talents

The social sciences have done much to explore the actions of Man, but such sciences have never ventured to discuss the reasons for Man's existence. We do not fault the social sciences for not addressing the issue, for thoughts of existence belong to fields of religion and philosophy. Our philosophy holds that Man exists to experience the joy of creation and the growth that comes as we test our ability to see through the illusion of reality. We exist to extend the frontier of thought by demonstrating our power to recreate physical reality.

In the Bible, we find proof for the illusionary nature of the world in the confrontation between Christ and Satan in the desert. Satan, the master of worldly illusion, offers The Christ the world if he will bow in submission to the Master of Illusion. The Christ, the son of the Omnipotent Creator, shows his power to overcome the limitations of the physical world with these words: "You will not tempt the son of God". The Christ, who had the power to manipulate reality with miracles, would not be seduced by the illusions of the world that the Great Satan represents. The message of The Christ still goes unrecognized by men: "The world we see is an illusion and those who know God will not be seduced by the illusion. The Christ taught Man the power to see through the illusions of the world and to recreate its reality with our thoughts. In the two thousand years that have passed, Man has changed the universe and has opened new frontiers of thought. He has learned not only to move mountains but also to vaporize them. Such a power at one time belonged

only to God. When Man reaches perfection, he will know how to manipulate the powers of the universe, but he will do so with the gentleness of The Lamb.

Christian would agree that part of the mission of Jesus, The Christ, was to fulfill all the prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah. The Christ came down to earth to fulfill the prophecies in the Old Testament. Fulfilling the prophecies would prove the divinity of The Christ. Non Christians, however, do not believe in the divinity of Jesus, which has led to much conflict, including religious hatreds and wars. Jesus did not expect everyone to believe in the same dogmas concerning God. Christ described himself as the Good Shepherd. Did he not say that he had more than one flock to attend? What is ambiguous in such a message? Do not Christians believe that they are grafted to the Root of Jesse? If the Root of Jesse has many branches and all draw sustenance from the same source, none can claim superiority to another. Is this not a divine call for religious toleration? The message is filled with divine wisdom.

We affirm that we are all one in creation and that includes Christians, non-Christians, and atheists. That, we believe, is the message of The Christ. Contained in each of us, in all souls, is the same spiritual goodness of the universe. What is our purpose here? We are born to develop our unique abilities. Each of us has a power that resides in us alone. What is that power? None know until the power is unleashed. That which we can do best none can teach us. Our talents are unique as is our power to develop them partially, wholly, or not at all. Nobody can force us to do more with our abilities than we choose. If this message sounds familiar, you will find it the Bible under the Parable of the Talents. Our job is to make our talents work for us. We were born with unique abilities to test the beliefs we learned in the spiritual world. Our talents are gifts that we gave to ourselves to strengthen our souls.

For centuries, philosophers have spoken of reincarnation or the journey of the soul as it moves between the spiritual realm and the physical realm. The term reincarnation means being

reborn in a carnate, or fleshy state. To be incarnate is to be alive. When we die, our soul leaves the body, and the body dies. The soul is no longer incarnate or alive in the body. The soul has experienced a carnate death. It has left the body but remains alive. The body dies or decays but not the soul that animated the body. Not surprisingly, all religions teach that after carnate death, or physical death, the soul emerges into the spiritual world, and is reborn in the spirit. Religions disagree in the particulars of what happens afterward but not with the idea that the soul survives the death of the body.

Much of our society's obsession with death originates from a misunderstanding of the relationship between the spiritual and physical realms of nature. When we are born, we pass from the realm of spirit to the physical realm. We re-incarnate, become reborn into the world of flesh. Reincarnate means we take on the flesh. To be born in the body, the soul must die in the spirit. The soul must leave the spiritual world to take part in the world of the flesh. When we leave the spiritual world, or become born, we experienced a non-carnate death. We die in the spirit. We leave the spiritual world, the side of Pure Positive Energy, to become part of the physical world. We do so to become directly involved with process of creation. Only in the physical world can we actively take part in shaping physical creation. We encase our spirit in a physical body so that the spirit can work through the body to create in a physical environment. Each soul becomes a conduit to the Pure Positive Energy of the universe. Each soul has access to the energy that creates universes. To channel that energy into the physical world becomes the objective of each soul. The body becomes the mechanism for the exchange of the energy. In leaving the spiritual world for the physical world, we do not die, nor do we die when we return to the spiritual side. In leaving the spiritual world, we undergo a change. We leave the world of Pure Positive Energy (the non-carnate or spiritual world) to be reincarnated or reborn into the physical world. When we "die", we rejoin the greater world of energy.

All death is transformation. To be reborn in the spirit, we have to die in the flesh. To be reborn in the flesh, we must die in the spirit, which means we separate from Pure Positive Energy. Separating from pure positive energy is a non-carnate death. In non-carnate death, there is death (a passing of the soul from the spiritual to the physical world), but no dying because the soul can never die. The encasing of the soul in the flesh is a transformation. Our spirit is re-born, reincarnated, into the body. When we die, we reverse the process. We return to the world of Pure Positive Energy. Our body decays but our soul becomes transformed. It joins the world of Pure Positive Energy. No death to the soul occurs because the soul is energy and energy can be transformed but never dies. Death is an illusion formulated by man because of his lack of understanding of relationship between the spiritual and physical.

Do not be surprised that in the physical state, we cannot recall any past lives because in the spiritual state, we can recall them all. That is the major difference between the realities. There is a reason for this. We come into this world to test ourselves, to strengthen ourselves to see through the illusions of the world. We bring with us our knowledge of the spirit and our development within the spirit. We grow and we bring that growth to each life. We bring no memories of past physical lives because they would only serve as obstacles to further growth. In this eternal process the microcosm reflects the macrocosm. Do you remember every thought and action from your childhood? You recall being a child, but that child is dead to you. You can no longer see through that child's eyes or feel with that child's emotion. You have moved on. You have brought with you certain attitudes and emotions whose origin you can scarcely remember. You have grown. So it is with our spiritual selves. We bring that which we need to grow and leave behind that which will serve no purpose.

Our task is to understand the illusionary nature of the world. When we do so, we take a giant leap forward in our spiritual development. The greatest illusion is death. For Christians, the

resurrection of The Christ proved the illusion of death. So strongly did Christ's conquering of death affect the early Apostles that they went to their deaths willingly. So, too, did the early Christians who bore witness to The Christ. They did so because they believed in life after death. They saw the resurrected Christ with their own eyes. They had direct experience that physical dying was merely a spiritual birth. In dying for The Christ, in conquering their fear of earth's greatest illusion, their souls took great leaps in spiritual development.

The Apostles bore witness through the ministry of Christ to the illusionary nature of the world. The Apostles and the disciples saw in the miracles of Christ the power to recreate reality. The Apostles came to understand that physical reality is the illusion and that the real world is the unseen world of the spirit. Jesus' ability to perform miracles illustrated the power of the mind over reality. By viewing the miracles of Christ and listening to his words, the Apostles learned the power to focus Pure Positive Energy to create miracles like The Christ. That which was done 2000 years ago is still being done today. Our task is to see through the illusion of reality and to create the reality that we wish to experience. That is the great lesson that the life of Jesus illustrates for all who understand.

As we view the life of Christ from a modern perspective, we begin to understand that when Christ became man, he retained his connection to God and Pure Positive Energy. Prior to The Christ, no man had ever remained in contact with God or the force of Pure Positive Energy. Mankind had no knowledge of the force of the spirit to overcome reality. It resided in Man but Man had no knowledge of his ability to access the power. Because Jesus remained completely connected to the spiritual at all times, he could speak and spoke directly to the Father. This connection was new to humanity. Mankind had never before witnessed the linking of the power between God and Man. To remind his Apostles of the connection, Christ allowed them to hear him praying to God the Father, the essence of the universe. A key passage occurs when Lazarus is

awakened from the dead. Before calling Lazarus forth, Jesus prays to the Father so that the Apostles know it is the power of God contained in the essence of Jesus that can conquer death. Jesus did not need God's permission to raise Lazarus from the dead because the Will of the Father and Jesus is One. Yet the incident reminds us that Jesus wanted his Apostles to understand that it is the pure creative power of the universe that comes from God and flows through Jesus that allows miracles to take place. Faith in the pure creative power of the universe, which we call Pure Positive Energy, can move mountains because everything in reality is an illusion.

The Christ did not reserve for only himself the ability to create miracles. His Apostles and disciples performed miracles in his name. They made the blind see and lame walk. They cast out demons in the name of the Lord. This they did because of the lesson of The Christ that reminded them of the power that resided in them. We, too have that very same power. We have the power within us to perform miracles, but the power to create is proportional to our power to believe in Pure Positive Energy. It is a difficult belief to master. In every life, we learn a little bit more of the power to manipulate the reality around us. Each life is but one point in an endless process of growth.

Did you ever wonder why there are so many religions in the world? How can so many people believe so many things about the creator in the universe! Every religion contains a truth that expresses a part of the endless cycle of creation. From the believers who worship rocks and trees to those who view God, Man, and Nature as one, the various beliefs lead upward to greater levels of thought and abstraction. In between the poles of thought will be found every religion. The needs of the soul to grow require diversity of thought; hence we have gradations in religious beliefs. The one universal shared by all religions is a belief in the afterlife. That page of history began with Man's knowledge of self. If you look at the history of religion, you can see in the historic records the slow growth of ideas about the soul. The quest continues today. Religions

evolve beyond their creeds as the soul reaches for higher levels of development. The Christ did not practice Christianity. The last word in religion will not be written until the last soul has advanced to its highest level. Religions will end when the thoughts of Man become linked with God.

The power of the cross inspired Western civilization. Freedom of thought owes much to the speculations in religion provided by the Catholic Church, the standard bearer of The Christian religion. From the Catholic Church emerged the great cathedrals of Europe. From the Catholic Church came the formal structure that would spread Christianity around the world. Challenges to the church hierarchy were inevitable because the thoughts of man progress faster than any organization, including the Catholic Church. The growth of thought led Christians to separate from the Catholic Church to form the various religions we call The Christian religions. Yet even today, the thoughts of man progress faster than even the most progressive churches. As the churches empty, a new philosophy of religion has emerged whose ideas exceed those permitted by most organized religions. These ideas have been evolving for centuries. From Deism of 200 years ago to the new age philosophies of today, the ideas concerning Jesus continue to evolve from the original teachings of The Christ.

Current philosophy holds that the birth of Jesus marked the beginning of the first perfect human being, the son of God. The Christ thought and acted in perfect harmony with God. Perfect harmony means that both God and The Christ thought as one. What God thought and knew, The Christ thought and knew. Jesus prayed to God aloud not because Jesus needed permission to act but to show his disciples that all power comes from the Father. The Son wanted the disciples to know that The Father and the Son thought and acted as One – the Son as perfect as The Father in understanding the creative powers of the universe. In this case, Jesus is the Son of God. But the message of The Christ, often overlooked, is that all of us – all souls-- are children of God. Catholics speak of the Mystical Body of Christ, the spiritual body that contains all souls and makes

each soul a part of God. Other religions talk about the ultimate merging with God, be it Nirvana or The Rapture or some other name. All religions understand the ultimate end of creation is the merging with the Creator and that occurs when our thoughts, like the thoughts of Jesus, become one with God.

Of all the religions of the world, only Christians speak of miracles and point to the Apostles as those capable of manipulating reality. The Catholic Church goes one step farther and supports the great shrines in the world where documented miracles occur regularly. The power of faith to heal can be found in the crutches left at the shrines and the documents that validate the cures of saints. The cures are real. They occur because of faith, which strengthens the mind of the believer to look through the illusions of the world to the greater reality that is God. Because the people believe, they are healed. What religion calls a miracle is the power of the mind, the spiritual part of man, to manipulate the illusion that we call reality. By placing belief in the greater power of the spiritual, the people use that power to heal themselves. If they did not believe, they could not heal themselves. The power of the mind to heal the body originated in religion, and while recognized by science as a proven force, the reason for the healings remains a subject of dispute in medical communities.

The more one looks at the world through the eyes of the spiritual the more beauty one sees in it. Who can look up sky filled with white clouds and not see beauty? Who can walk outside at night and look up at the stars and not feel the immenseness of the universe around him? Nothing in the world --- not even floods or tornadoes can be viewed as anything but beautiful. The flooding of the Nile was said to be cause by the Crocodile god, and was said to be a blessing. So magnificent is the wind of a tornado, that legions of men and women take journeys to the Midwest to view them. Lightning and thunder fill the skies with majesty. Nothing in the natural world should ever be shunned by Man, for God created Nature. If evil exists in the world, then Man

created it. It is not the world that we should renounce but the actions of men. All perfection in the world comes from God. All imperfection in the world results from the thoughts of Man. The world created by God is perfect; the attachments added by Man – inventions of culture, religion, economics, and politics have caused the problems. When Man becomes as perfect as The Christ, the attachments of Man will no longer be necessary. Angels need no laws to tell them their duties, and none will ever cause misery for another.

The path to heaven flows through all religions, and none of the great teachers spoke of hatred for another. From The Christ, we have the pattern of religious growth. The Christ said to those who would be his disciples, "Follow me." Followers do not argue over the meaning of the words of their leader. The true follower does not cause dissention in the ranks. Following is a passive activity. You imitate; you follow the example set by the leader; you treat others, including your enemies, as you know the leader would treat them, and that is with kindness and understanding. As you follow the example set by the leader, others will follow the example you set for them.

The lesson of the great religious leaders to their followers is to face the problems that confront you with courage and perseverance. Even The Christ had to face obstacles, and those obstacles, like the obstacles of every living soul began in the spiritual life. The Christ came forth, so Christians believe, to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testaments that confirm Jesus as the Messiah. His mission was to die on the cross for the sins of man. According to Christians, The Christ fulfilled those obstacles and he did so with courage. To follow in the footsteps of Christ is to confront our obstacles with the same courage and perseverance.

Only in the physical world can we prove to ourselves our spiritual growth by overcoming that which we planned to overcome in the spiritual. In the physical world we test our power to create. In the spiritual world, we see fully the illusion of the world; in the physical state, we conquer

the illusion by becoming creators of our reality. Sometimes, this takes time. Sometimes, we must face the same problem over and over again until we overcome it. Why else do you think that people face the same problems over and over again? Part of the joy of life comes from confronting that which we know we must overcome. We confront our obstacles with the talents we possess. We selected the talents and the obstacles placed before us. We did this to gain mastery of creation, to test ourselves so that we might spiritually grow. Our obstacles seem familiar to us because they have always been a part of the fabric of our existence. We trained in the spirit to face them. In the spirit, we mentally confronted that which we know we would encounter in the physical. In the spirit, we plan; in the physical we execute the plan. The fruition in life comes when we have conquered that which we thought impossible but which we were driven to confront.

The active soul understands the constant battle between the obstacle and the individual who confronts it. In our language we hear the divine words of encouragement that we say to each other but which reverberate to ourselves: *He can handle anything that comes his way; I don't know how he can put up with his problems? He must be a saint; Into every life a little rain must fall; Behind every cloud is a silver lining; Have faith and persevere; Seek and Ye Shall Find.* Countless statements like these reveal our understanding that we can overcome any obstacle placed in our path. To the person confronting the obstacles, nothing is more pleasing than finding a person who offers encouragement. Those who speak the kindest about our dreams find the most favor in our hearts. They speak the words that we cannot speak for ourselves. We take hope from their words and find the perseverance to continue. Every great person can name someone who spoke the right words at the right time to make a difference in his life.

The knowledge that we possess the talents to manipulate reality to overcome any problem explains much of the sadness we feel when those unable to face their difficulties flee back to the world of the spirit. We call it suicide. We grieve even for those we do not know because we

understand that problems that prompted the taking of a life were not insurmountable, especially those confronted early in life. From an older viewpoint, from a spiritually elevated plane, we see the futility of the act. We grieve for human frailty. We do not condemn as much as we regret an opportunity lost. Yet we affirm that even in defeat, the soul gains great knowledge--- seeing the great power of illusion in the physical world. The soul will never again underestimate the power of illusion. No life is lived without coming to a greater understanding of the physical realm of creation. The more we see through the illusions of the world, the stronger we become in overcoming those illusions.

The idea that we test ourselves to measure our spiritual growth should not sound so strange. The microcosm reflects the macrocosm. That which we do in the physical world reflects the spiritual world. Is it any fun to practice throwing a basketball through a hoop for hours at a time and never playing a game of basketball? Would football players enjoy a lifetime of practice but never playing against another team? We learn; we practice, so that we can then test what we have learned in a situation where the obstacles are formidable. In the spiritual world, we design the game plan, and that is an immensely pleasurable pastime. In the physical phase, we test that plan, and that can be an immensely pleasurable pastime also. We need fear no competition from another because our plan is uniquely ours.

As living, breathing beings, we are on the frontier of creation and it is our job to use our creative energy, the energy given to us by the universe, to create the life we wish for ourselves. Our talents will allow us to do so. They relate to the task we ourselves elected to perform. A person with weak motor skills will never make a good surgeon. A person with great hand and eye coordination would be wasted doing bookkeeping. A person who has the talent to make plants grow would not be a happy garbage man. The teacher who enjoys teaching first graders would not be happy raising bees for honey. Those who perform their task well do so because they utilize

the talents they possess. They have found their place and are happy. The more we work to our full potential, the more we develop our talents, and the more success we experience, the happier we feel. Notice, we are not saying one person cannot do the task of another. We are saying that doing a task for which one does not have the talent will not make a person happy. Discovering the work where we can develop our talents is the key to happiness, and none can know what it is until we have discovered it

Those who do not live up to their potential cause a temporary imbalance in the universe, a universe constructed with the understanding that we all work in the direction of our goals. Life will go on without a person making correct decisions because the universe will adjust to anyone's inactions, but it would prefer that we act to bring ourselves in line with the universal forces waiting to move us in the direction of our dreams. The ideal job, the ideal house, the ideal family might be waiting on you to make the decisions you were born to make. Yet the universe cannot and will not compel anyone to make a decision. We have free will. However in an interrelated universe we must all do our part for the benefit of the whole. A task left uncompleted slows down the work of many.

For example, if a researcher does not complete his task, the men waiting to build on his work will not be able to do their work. They must wait until the work is completed before their part can be viewed in the general context of knowledge. Recognition will always be given to those who do their work, although the recognition may take some time. Did you ever notice how a fact of science today so often validates the work of a person who did the work decades earlier? If one person works in the direction of his dreams but needs the work of another who has not developed to his potential, all is not lost. In the long term, the work done by any person working to full potential will always be realized. We call such people visionaries.

In the pronouncements of Democracy written by Walt Whitman, you will see his words are addressed to a future he would never live to see. Yet he knew that one day the ideas he articulated would become a reality, including the right of women to vote and to serve in the Congress. Walt Whitman would not be surprised that women have risen to positions of the high office in America. A hundred years earlier he argued for that possibility. The universe compensates genius that arrives too soon to be appreciated. Visionaries will always have followers enough to satisfy their need for current recognition and their lives will be full and happy. If they are really fortunate, they will live to see their ideas brought to fruition, but that is not necessary for their happiness.

Success in meeting our goals does not depend on our success in the world. Success in the world of illusion is an illusion. Goals like showing kindness to those around us, or providing for those who depend on us, or giving respect to those who are not as fortunate as we are, do as much good for the world as any goal of science. The idea that one goal is more worthy than another goal is a worldly illusion. Each goal is of equal value, and each person's happiness will depend on how each works to complete his own goal. Every notable family has a ditch digger who made possible the great accomplishment of his descendants. The joy of watching the family grow and succeed amply rewards the hard worker. You must never look down on any other soul happy in the work he does. Each person must be evaluated in terms of his own happiness. Each person is to be judged by his character and by living up to his potential, not by how he lives up to your potential. Bigger is not always better in the eyes of God. In the sight of God, each fulfills its function that performs to its ability. That violet by the mossy stone pleases God as much as the sunflower that towers ten feet above it. They both can be performing to their full potential. Unfortunately, in human affairs, this obvious fact is often overlooked.