

ALONG THE WAY: Human service is the way to divinity.

THIS MONTH'S THOUGHT: How many thoughts drag me into the dead past or push me into the un-lived future?

SCIENCE OF MAN: (*Excerpts from Lesson Forty-four. Continued from last month*)

So when sex is seen as an attraction; that it is a blind force, then one would cease to see sex as a guide to one's existence in forming unions and relationships with other people. By the same token a person may have had eros for a given person, having united in marriage on the basis of eros alone and sooner or later, when that particular union has adequately been gratified, there is then lack of interest. And somewhere else along the way, a person may see another person and experience eros again. And again, then, jump to the conclusion that one is in love with another person. That one no longer loves the other and we have the triangle that is so well known--and the frustration in human minds. One recognizes that eros is a blind force; that it is interested only in attraction. And as a usual blind force that electricity is, then one would see that intellect must oversee the work of eros. And when intellect, intelligence, awareness, is brought to play on it, then it is seen that there must be, at least, along with eros, philia--that two people would be friends. And that eros is going to appear in varying degrees of intensity and varying degrees of frequency. And that it is easily gratified. And that it may announce itself in relationship to another person. But if awareness, intellect, has taken charge of eros and is overseeing its performance, then one has harnessed a great force. And somewhere in the Way it is said that only man who has gained control over the various forces of his existence, could be considered a master. When one does this, one then sees that all the tricks of eros are useful. They are very pleasant. They are very desirable. But that one would not think of turning one's existence over to the whims of a blind force called eros or sex. And of course, then one would see that eros sounds off and says this would be an attractive person over here. And this causes so much difficulty in relationships. When this is seen, one begins to take control over eros, Direction, possibly, would be a better word. And while it is seen that it would feel attracted to a given individual here, it is simply not to one's advantage to allow eros to determine one's behavior or one's relationships. So then there is no sense of guilt, no sense of frustration, no sense of being in a dilemma, that it is freely recognized. That, yes, eros says that person there would be a desirable, erotic partner; that it would be enjoyable, pleasurable and all the rest of it. But one has not allowed one's life, one's daily existence to be taken over by a blind force. One recognizes that eros is present and eros makes these statements to I—that here is something wonderful! That is a blind force! So one then begins to see that eros has its purpose, but it also, that awareness is King; that awareness determines whether or not eros will exercise in a given area or not. Then there is no sense of guilt. We know of many people who, having experienced eros for someone other than their mate that they have been married to for sometime feel very guilty that such should arise. Or they feel that they have fallen in love with another person. And that love is the great demand.

When once one recognizes that eros really has very little, if anything, to do with really what is called love, one begins to understand eros. That love, first, is philia, the simple act of enjoying another persons companionship, regardless of sex. And then that one would have some completion in love, which is agape. Only as two people understand each other, understand that the other is always doing what they feel right or proper or justifiable, can a friendship continue. And only in the state where there is understanding and friendship can eros be continued over a long period of time in an intimate relationship called marriage. *(To be continued next month)*

THE GIFT: (Excerpts from the tape by Dr. Bob Gibson)

What is the obstruction to integrations, peace of mind, oneness? We cannot conceive of an idea of a gift? We want to know what we have to do to pay for it or what will we get in return for the gift we give. We want to know what we have to do to get the gift.

It was given to us the minute we were born. Yet we believe we have to wait to open the gift until we get everything fixed. We will open the gift when we finish our education, buy a new house or feel good. We carry the gift around and do not open it because the time is not right. We are not prepared to receive the gift until we get all the conditions taken care of first—then we will open the gift. We have to clean up our little messes first. We struggle to change things. We simply can't conceive such a thing as a GIFT with no strings attached; that love could give us a gift. We wait to open the gift, finally die, and never open the gift.

The gift has everything in it. The solution to all problems is in the gift. Our struggle to change is based on our pride. Pride says that nothing will be done unless I do it. The Gift is given by the Giver because He loves the one He is giving it to. Life loves that expression of Life that He has created—loves us as we are, everyone of us, and gives us the Gift the minute we are born. Not because we are worthy. Not because we are pretty. Not because we are good. Not because we have pleased the Giver. There is no way we can earn this Gift.

What do we do?

Quit setting conditions. Quit trying to change anything. Then the lid pops open. All problems cease to exist. All struggle ceases. The Gift with no strings attached has been there all the time when we accept that nothing in our world needs to be changed. We don't know how to change anything, anyway.

The gift is available now and it makes all the messes dissolve like nothing. Because with peace of mind there is no problem. The problem is because I want to change something. The gift has the answer to all things in it. And we refuse to accept it because we cannot conceive that there is such a thing as a gift-- that there is such a thing as love, and love gives us a gift that we're carried around

with us since the day we were born. No strings or conditions attached. Life loves you like you are.

What is the nature of peace of Mind, integration, oneness? It starts as a seed and ever expands. All Life is ever expanding and the Gift will keep growing if we keep our fingers out of it. The Kingdom of Heaven starts as a little seed and grows when we quit trying to change anything. It grows without any effort on our part. When we cease to change things, even change peace of mind, it grows on its own with no effort on our part. But we want it all right now, which is a bit of conditioning.

The gift is always adequate to the challenge. It is not a way of getting rid of challenge, but there is always something here that knows exactly what to do with it. It is there when required.

A STORY:

Now and then I realize I'm not as joyful as I would like to be. Somewhere I lost the joy of living. What happened to it? Some subtle "Not-I" took over when I was not paying attention. In other words, I fell sound asleep.

When I had had enough of this miserable state, I stopped and asked: "What is going on?" Here are some of the things that I found:

1. I had been taking everything much too seriously.
2. I felt a sense of urgency—as if there were not enough time. I felt that time was running out on me and I had better get done what I wanted to do before it was too late.
3. I was making a bunch of things important—bottom line—to be comfortable.
4. I was starting to feel that if I didn't do it, it wouldn't get done. Pride and vanity were in control.
5. Thoughts were focused on what I 'needed to do', many of them rather gloomy.

WHOA!

What can I do?

1. Quit bashing myself for falling asleep.
2. Remember what I am, where I am, what is going on and what I can do.
3. Hold attention in the present moment. If I am in the past or future, the awareness is fragmented and I am not conscious.
4. Remember that I am the awareness function of X only. All I can do is observe and report. Life, Spirit, does all the work.
5. Remember with thankfulness that I am at an incredible Party put on by the Host, Life. Express my thankfulness by contributing to a harmonious mood wherever I am—which includes being at home alone!

Peace.

