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I. Healing and Faith

1. We said before that when a situation has been dedicated wholly to truth, peace is inevitable. ² Its attainment is the criterion by which the wholeness of the dedication can be safely assumed. ³ Yet we also said that peace without faith will never be attained, for what is dedicated to truth as its only goal is brought to truth *by* faith. ⁴ This faith encompasses everyone involved, for only thus the situation is perceived as meaningful and as a whole. ⁵ And everyone must be involved in it, or else your faith is limited and your dedication incomplete.
2. Every situation, properly perceived, becomes an opportunity to heal the Son of God. ² And he is healed *because* you offered faith to him, giving him to the Holy Spirit and releasing him from every demand your ego would make of him. ³ Thus do you see him free, and in this vision does the Holy Spirit share. ⁴ And since He shares it He has given it, and so He heals through you. ⁵ It is this joining Him in a united purpose that makes this purpose real, because you make it whole. ⁶ And this *is* healing. ⁷ The body is healed because you came without it, and joined the Mind in which all healing rests.
3. The body cannot heal, because it cannot make itself sick. ² It *needs* no healing. ³ Its health or sickness depends entirely on how the mind perceives it, and the purpose that the mind would use it for. ⁴ It is obvious that a segment of the mind can see itself as separated from the Universal Purpose. ⁵ When this occurs the body becomes its weapon, used against this Purpose, to demonstrate the "fact" that separation has occurred. ⁶ The body thus becomes the instrument of illusion, acting accordingly; seeing what is not there, hearing what truth has never said and behaving insanely, being imprisoned *by* insanity.
4. Do not overlook our earlier statement that faithlessness leads straight to illusions. ² For faithlessness is the perception of a brother as a body, and the body cannot be used for purposes of union. ³ If, then, you see your brother as a body, you have established a condition in which uniting with him becomes impossible. ⁴ Your faithlessness to him has separated you from him, and kept you both apart from being healed. ⁵ Your faithlessness has thus opposed the Holy Spirit's purpose, and brought illusions, centered on the body, to stand between you. ⁶ And the body will seem to be sick, for you have made of it an "enemy" of healing and the opposite of truth.
5. It cannot be difficult to realize that faith must be the opposite of faithlessness. ² Yet the difference in how they operate is less apparent, though it follows directly from the fundamental difference in what they are. ³ Faithlessness would always limit and attack; faith would remove all limitations and make whole. ⁴ Faithlessness would destroy and separate; faith would unite and heal. ⁵ Faithlessness would interpose illusions between the Son of God and his Creator; faith would remove all obstacles that seem to rise between them. ⁶ Faithlessness is wholly dedicated to illusions; faith wholly to truth. ⁷ Partial dedication is impossible. ⁸ Truth is the absence of illusion; illusion the absence of truth. ⁹ Both cannot be together, nor perceived in the same place. ¹⁰ To dedicate yourself to both is to set up a goal forever impossible to attain, for part of it is sought through the body, thought of as a means for seeking out reality through attack. ¹¹ The other part would heal, and therefore calls upon the mind and not the body.
6. The inevitable compromise is the belief that the body must be healed, and not the mind. ² For this divided goal has given both an equal reality, which could be possible only if the mind is limited to

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- the body and divided into little parts of seeming wholeness, but without connection. ³ This will not harm the body, but it *will* keep the delusional thought system in the mind. ⁴ Here, then, is healing needed. ⁵ And it is here that healing *is*. ⁶ For God gave healing not apart from sickness, nor established remedy where sickness cannot be. ⁷ They are together, and when they are seen together, all attempts to keep both truth and illusion in the mind, where both must be, are recognized as dedication to illusion; and given up when brought to truth, and seen as totally unreconcilable with truth, in any respect or in any way.
7. Truth and illusion have no connection. ² This will remain forever true, however much you seek to connect them. ³ But illusions are always connected, as is truth. ⁴ Each is united, a complete thought system, but totally disconnected to each other. ⁵ And to perceive this is to recognize where separation is, and where it must be healed. ⁶ The result of an idea is never separate from its source. ⁷ The idea of separation produced the body and remains connected to it, making it sick because of the mind's identification with it. ⁸ You think you are protecting the body by hiding this connection, for this concealment seems to keep your identification safe from the "attack" of truth.
 8. If you but understood how much this strange concealment has hurt your mind, and how confused your own identification has become because of it! ² You do not see how great the devastation wrought by your faithlessness, for faithlessness is an attack that seems to be justified by its results. ³ For by withholding faith you see what is unworthy of it, and cannot look beyond the barrier to what is joined with you.
 9. To have faith is to heal. ² It is the sign that you have accepted the Atonement for yourself, and would therefore share it. ³ By faith, you offer the gift of freedom from the past, which you received. ⁴ You do not use anything your brother has done before to condemn him now. ⁵ You freely choose to overlook his errors, looking past all barriers between yourself and him, and seeing them as one. ⁶ And in that one you see your faith is fully justified. ⁷ There is no justification for faithlessness, but faith is always justified.
 10. Faith is the opposite of fear, as much a part of love as fear is of attack. ² Faith is the acknowledgment of union. ³ It is the gracious acknowledgment of everyone as a Son of your most loving Father, loved by Him like you, and therefore loved by you as yourself. ⁴ It is His Love that joins you and your brother, and for His Love you would keep no one separate from yours. ⁵ Each one appears just as he is perceived in the holy instant, united in your purpose to be released from guilt. ⁶ You see the Christ in him, and he is healed because you look on what makes faith forever justified in everyone.
 11. Faith is the gift of God, through Him Whom God has given you. ² Faithlessness looks upon the Son of God, and judges him unworthy of forgiveness. ³ But through the eyes of faith, the Son of God is seen already forgiven, free of all the guilt he laid upon himself. ⁴ Faith sees him only *now* because it looks not to the past to judge him, but would see in him only what it would see in you. ⁵ It sees not through the body's eyes, nor looks to bodies for its justification. ⁶ It is the messenger of the new perception, sent forth to gather witnesses unto its coming, and to return their messages to you.
 12. Faith is as easily exchanged for knowledge as is the real world. ² For faith arises from the Holy Spirit's perception, and is the sign you share it with Him. ³ Faith is a gift you offer to the Son of God through Him, and wholly acceptable to his Father as to Him. ⁴ And therefore offered you. ⁵ Your holy relationship, with its new purpose, offers you faith to give unto your brother. ⁶ Your

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faithlessness has driven you and him apart, and so you do not recognize salvation in him. ⁷ Yet faith unites you in the holiness you see, not through the body's eyes, but in the sight of Him Who joined you, and in Whom you are united.

13. Grace is not given to a body, but to a mind. ² And the mind that receives it looks instantly beyond the body, and sees the holy place where it was healed. ³ There is the altar where the grace was given, in which it stands. ⁴ Do you, then, offer grace and blessing to your brother, for you stand at the same altar where grace was laid for both of you. ⁵ And be you healed by grace together, that you may heal through faith.
14. In the holy instant, you and your brother stand before the altar God has raised unto Himself and both of you. ² Lay faithlessness aside, and come to it together. ³ There will you see the miracle of your relationship as it was made again through faith. ⁴ And there it is that you will realize that there is nothing faith cannot forgive. ⁵ No error interferes with its calm sight, which brings the miracle of healing with equal ease to all of them. ⁶ For what the messengers of love are sent to do they do, returning the glad tidings that it was done to you and your brother who stand together before the altar from which they were sent forth.
15. As faithlessness will keep your little kingdoms barren and separate, so will faith help the Holy Spirit prepare the ground for the most holy garden that He would make of it. ² For faith brings peace, and so it calls on truth to enter and make lovely what has already been prepared for loveliness. ³ Truth follows faith and peace, completing the process of making lovely that they begin. ⁴ For faith is still a learning goal, no longer needed when the lesson has been learned. ⁵ Yet truth will stay forever.
16. Let, then, your dedication be to the eternal, and learn how not to interfere with it and make it slave to time. ² For what you think you do to the eternal you do to *you*. ³ Whom God created as His Son is slave to nothing, being lord of all, along with his Creator. ⁴ You can enslave a body, but an idea is free, incapable of being kept in prison or limited in any way except by the mind that thought it. ⁵ For it remains joined to its source, which is its jailer or its liberator, according to which it chooses as its purpose for itself.

II. Sin versus Error

1. It is essential that error be not confused with sin, and it is this distinction that makes salvation possible. ² For error can be corrected, and the wrong made right. ³ But sin, were it possible, would be irreversible. ⁴ The belief in sin is necessarily based on the firm conviction that minds, not bodies, can attack. ⁵ And thus the mind is guilty, and will forever so remain unless a mind not part of it can give it absolution. ⁶ Sin calls for punishment as error for correction, and the belief that punishment *is* correction is clearly insane.
2. Sin is not an error, for sin entails an arrogance which the idea of error lacks. ² To sin would be to violate reality, and to succeed. ³ Sin is the proclamation that attack is real and guilt is justified. ⁴ It assumes the Son of God is guilty, and has thus succeeded in losing his innocence and making himself what God created not. ⁵ Thus is creation seen as not eternal, and the Will of God open to opposition and defeat. ⁶ Sin is the grand illusion underlying all the ego's grandiosity. ⁷ For by it God Himself is changed, and rendered incomplete.

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3. The Son of God can be mistaken; he can deceive himself; he can even turn the power of his mind against himself. ² But he *cannot* sin. ³ There is nothing he can do that would really change his reality in any way, nor make him really guilty. ⁴ That is what sin would do, for such is its purpose. ⁵ Yet for all the wild insanity inherent in the whole idea of sin, it is impossible. ⁶ For the wages of sin *is* death, and how can the immortal die?
4. A major tenet in the ego's insane religion is that sin is not error but truth, and it is innocence that would deceive. ² Purity is seen as arrogance, and the acceptance of the self as sinful is perceived as holiness. ³ And it is this doctrine that replaces the reality of the Son of God as his Father created him, and willed that he be forever. ⁴ Is this humility? ⁵ Or is it, rather, an attempt to wrest creation away from truth, and keep it separate?
5. Any attempt to reinterpret sin as error is always indefensible to the ego. ² The idea of sin is wholly sacrosanct to its thought system, and quite unapproachable except with reverence and awe. ³ It is the most "holy" concept in the ego's system; lovely and powerful, wholly true, and necessarily protected with every defense at its disposal. ⁴ For here lies its "best" defense, which all the others serve. ⁵ Here is its armor, its protection, and the fundamental purpose of the special relationship in its interpretation.
6. It can indeed be said the ego made its world on sin. ² Only in such a world could everything be upside down. ³ This is the strange illusion that makes the clouds of guilt seem heavy and impenetrable. ⁴ The solidness that this world's foundation seems to have is found in this. ⁵ For sin has changed creation from an idea of God to an ideal the ego wants; a world it rules, made up of bodies, mindless and capable of complete corruption and decay. ⁶ If this is a mistake, it can be undone easily by truth. ⁷ Any mistake can be corrected, if truth be left to judge it. ⁸ But if the mistake is given the status of truth, to what can it be brought? ⁹ The "holiness" of sin is kept in place by just this strange device. ¹⁰ As truth it is inviolate, and everything is brought to *it* for judgment. ¹¹ As a mistake, *it* must be brought to truth. ¹² It is impossible to have faith in sin, for sin is faithlessness. ¹³ Yet it is possible to have faith that a mistake can be corrected.
7. There is no stone in all the ego's embattled citadel that is more heavily defended than the idea that sin is real; the natural expression of what the Son of God has made himself to be, and what he is. ² To the ego, this is no mistake. ³ For this is its reality; this is the "truth" from which escape will always be impossible. ⁴ This is his past, his present and his future. ⁵ For he has somehow managed to corrupt his Father, and change His Mind completely. ⁶ Mourn, then, the death of God, Whom sin has killed! ⁷ And this would be the ego's wish, which in its madness it believes it has accomplished.
8. Would you not rather that all this be nothing more than a mistake, entirely correctable, and so easily escaped from that its whole correction is like walking through a mist into the sun? ² For that is all it is. ³ Perhaps you would be tempted to agree with the ego that it is far better to be sinful than mistaken. ⁴ Yet think you carefully before you allow yourself to make this choice. ⁵ Approach it not lightly, for it is the choice of hell or Heaven.

IV. The Obstacles to Peace

1. As peace extends from deep inside yourself to embrace all the Sonship and give it rest, it will

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encounter many obstacles. ² Some of them you will try to impose. ³ Others will seem to arise from elsewhere; from your brothers, and from various aspects of the world outside. ⁴ Yet peace will gently cover them, extending past completely unencumbered. ⁵ The extension of the Holy Spirit's purpose from your relationship to others, to bring them gently in, is the way in which He will bring means and goal in line. ⁶ The peace He lay, deep within you and your brother, will quietly extend to every aspect of your life, surrounding you and your brother with glowing happiness and the calm awareness of complete protection. ⁷ And you will carry its message of love and safety and freedom to everyone who draws nigh unto your temple, where healing waits for him. ⁸ You will not wait to give him this, for you will call to him and he will answer you, recognizing in your call the Call for God. ⁹ And you will draw him in and give him rest, as it was given you.

2. All this will you do. ² Yet the peace that already lies deeply within must first expand, and flow across the obstacles you placed before it. ³ This will you do, for nothing undertaken with the Holy Spirit remains unfinished. ⁴ You can indeed be sure of nothing you see outside you, but of this you *can* be sure: The Holy Spirit asks that you offer Him a resting place where you will rest in Him. ⁵ He answered you, and entered your relationship. ⁶ Would you not now return His graciousness, and enter into a relationship with Him? ⁷ For it is He Who offered your relationship the gift of holiness, without which it would have been forever impossible to appreciate your brother.
3. The gratitude you owe to Him He asks but that you receive for Him. ² And when you look with gentle graciousness upon your brother, you are beholding Him. ³ For you are looking where He *is*, and not apart from Him. ⁴ You cannot see the Holy Spirit, but you can see your brothers truly. ⁵ And the light in them will show you all that you need to see. ⁶ When the peace in you has been extended to encompass everyone, the Holy Spirit's function here will be accomplished. ⁷ What need is there for seeing, then? ⁸ When God has taken the last step Himself, the Holy Spirit will gather all the thanks and gratitude that you have offered Him, and lay them gently before His Creator in the Name of His most holy Son. ⁹ And the Father will accept them in His Name. ¹⁰ What need is there of seeing, in the presence of His gratitude?

A. The First Obstacle: The Desire to Get Rid of It

1. The first obstacle that peace must flow across is your desire to get rid of it. ² For it cannot extend unless you keep it. ³ You are the center from which it radiates outward, to call the others in. ⁴ You are its home; its tranquil dwelling place from which it gently reaches out, but never leaving you. ⁵ If you would make it homeless, how can it abide within the Son of God? ⁶ If it would spread across the whole creation, it must begin with you, and from you reach to everyone who calls, and bring him rest by joining you.
2. Why would you want peace homeless? ² What do you think that it must dispossess to dwell with you? ³ What seems to be the cost you are so unwilling to pay? ⁴ The little barrier of sand still stands between you and your brother. ⁵ Would you reinforce it now? ⁶ You are not asked to let it go for yourself alone. ⁷ Christ asks it of you for Himself. ⁸ He would bring peace to everyone, and how can He do this except through you? ⁹ Would you let a little bank of sand, a wall of dust, a tiny seeming barrier, stand between your brothers and salvation? ¹⁰ And yet, this little remnant of attack you cherish still against your brother *is* the first obstacle the peace in you encounters in its going forth. ¹¹ This little wall of hatred would still oppose the Will of God, and keep it limited.

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3. The Holy Spirit's purpose rests in peace within you. ² Yet you are still unwilling to let it join you wholly. ³ You still oppose the Will of God, just by a little. ⁴ And that little is a limit you would place upon the whole. ⁵ God's Will is One, not many. ⁶ It has no opposition, for there is none beside it. ⁷ What you would still contain behind your little barrier and keep separate from your brother seems mightier than the universe, for it would hold back the universe and its Creator. ⁸ This little wall would hide the purpose of Heaven, and keep it *from* Heaven.
4. Would you thrust salvation away from the giver of salvation? ² For such have you become. ³ Peace could no more depart from you than from God. ⁴ Fear not this little obstacle. ⁵ It cannot contain the Will of God. ⁶ Peace will flow across it, and join you without hindrance. ⁷ Salvation cannot be withheld from you. ⁸ It is your purpose. ⁹ You cannot choose apart from this. ¹⁰ You have no purpose apart from your brother, nor apart from the one you asked the Holy Spirit to share with you. ¹¹ The little wall will fall away so quietly beneath the wings of peace. ¹² For peace will send its messengers from you to all the world, and barriers will fall away before their coming as easily as those that you interpose will be surmounted.
5. To overcome the world is no more difficult than to surmount your little wall. ² For in the miracle of your holy relationship, without this barrier, is every miracle contained. ³ There is no order of difficulty in miracles, for they are all the same. ⁴ Each is a gentle winning over from the appeal of guilt to the appeal of love. ⁵ How can this fail to be accomplished, wherever it is undertaken?. ⁶ Guilt can raise no real barriers against it. ⁷ And all that seems to stand between you and your brother must fall away because of the appeal you answered. ⁸ From you who answered, He Who answered you would call. ⁹ His home is in your holy relationship. ¹⁰ Do not attempt to stand between Him and His holy purpose, for it is yours. ¹¹ But let Him quietly extend the miracle of your relationship to everyone contained in it as it was given.
6. There is a hush in Heaven, a happy expectancy, a little pause of gladness in acknowledgment of the journey's end. ² For Heaven knows you well, as you know Heaven. ³ No illusions stand between you and your brother now. ⁴ Look not upon the little wall of shadows. ⁵ The sun has risen over it. ⁶ How can a shadow keep you from the sun? ⁷ No more can you be kept by shadows from the light in which illusions end. ⁸ Every miracle is but the end of an illusion. ⁹ Such was the journey; such its ending. ¹⁰ And in the goal of truth which you accepted must all illusions end.
7. The little insane wish to get rid of Him Whom you invited in and push Him out *must* produce conflict. ² As you look upon the world, this little wish, uprooted and floating aimlessly, can land and settle briefly upon anything, for it has no purpose now. ³ Before the Holy Spirit entered to abide with you it seemed to have a mighty purpose; the fixed and unchangeable dedication to sin and its results. ⁴ Now it is aimless, wandering pointlessly, causing no more than tiny interruptions in love's appeal.
8. This feather of a wish, this tiny illusion, this microscopic remnant of the belief in sin, is all that remains of what once seemed to be the world. ² It is no longer an unrelenting barrier to peace. ³ Its pointless wandering makes its results appear to be more erratic and unpredictable than before. ⁴ Yet what could be more unstable than a tightly organized delusional system? ⁵ Its seeming stability is its pervasive weakness, which extends to everything. ⁶ The variability the little remnant induces merely indicates its limited results.

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9. How mighty can a little feather be before the great wings of truth? ² Can it oppose an eagle's flight, or hinder the advance of summer? ³ Can it interfere with the effects of summer's sun upon a garden covered by the snow? ⁴ See but how easily this little wisp is lifted up and carried away, never to return, and part with it in gladness, not regret. ⁵ For it is nothing in itself, and stood for nothing when you had greater faith in its protection. ⁶ Would you not rather greet the summer sun than fix your gaze upon a disappearing snowflake, and shiver in remembrance of the winter's cold?

i. The Attraction of Guilt

10. The attraction of guilt produces fear of love, for love would never look on guilt at all. ² It is the nature of love to look upon only the truth, for there it sees itself, with which it would unite in holy union and completion. ³ As love must look past fear, so must fear see love not. ⁴ For love contains the end of guilt, as surely as fear depends on it. ⁵ Love is attracted only to love. ⁶ Overlooking guilt completely, it sees no fear. ⁷ Being wholly without attack, it could not be afraid. ⁸ Fear is attracted to what love sees not, and each believes that what the other looks upon does not exist. ⁹ Fear looks on guilt with just the same devotion that love looks on itself. ¹⁰ And each has messengers which it sends forth, and which return to it with messages written in the language in which their going forth was asked.
11. Love's messengers are gently sent, and return with messages of love and gentleness. ² The messengers of fear are harshly ordered to seek out guilt, and cherish every scrap of evil and of sin that they can find, losing none of them on pain of death, and laying them respectfully before their lord and master. ³ Perception cannot obey two masters, each asking for messages of different things in different languages. ⁴ What fear would feed upon, love overlooks. ⁵ What fear demands, love cannot even see. ⁶ The fierce attraction that guilt holds for fear is wholly absent from love's gentle perception. ⁷ What love would look upon is meaningless to fear, and quite invisible.
12. Relationships in this world are the result of how the world is seen. ² And this depends on which emotion was called on to send its messengers to look upon it, and return with word of what they saw. ³ Fear's messengers are trained through terror, and they tremble when their master calls on them to serve him. ⁴ For fear is merciless even to its friends. ⁵ Its messengers steal guiltily away in hungry search of guilt, for they are kept cold and starving and made very vicious by their master, who allows them to feast only upon what they return to him. ⁶ No little shred of guilt escapes their hungry eyes. ⁷ And in their savage search for sin they pounce on any living thing they see, and carry it screaming to their master, to be devoured.
13. Send not these savage messengers into the world, to feast upon it and to prey upon reality. ² For they will bring you word of bones and skin and flesh. ³ They have been taught to seek for the corruptible, and to return with gorges filled with things decayed and rotted. ⁴ To them such things are beautiful, because they seem to allay their savage pangs of hunger. ⁵ For they are frantic with the pain of fear, and would avert the punishment of him who sends them forth by offering him what they hold dear.
14. The Holy Spirit has given you love's messengers to send instead of those you trained through fear. ² They are as eager to return to you what they hold dear as are the others. ³ If you send them forth, they will see only the blameless and the beautiful, the gentle and the kind. ⁴ They will be as careful to let no little act of charity, no tiny expression of forgiveness, no little breath of love escape their
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- notice. ⁵ And they will return with all the happy things they found, to share them lovingly with you. ⁶ Be not afraid of them. ⁷ They offer you salvation. ⁸ Theirs are the messages of safety, for they see the world as kind.
15. If you send forth only the messengers the Holy Spirit gives you, wanting no messages but theirs, you will see fear no more. ² The world will be transformed before your sight, cleansed of all guilt and softly brushed with beauty. ³ The world contains no fear that you laid not upon it. ⁴ And none you cannot ask love's messengers to remove from it, and see it still. ⁵ The Holy Spirit has given you His messengers to send to your brother and return to you with what love sees. ⁶ They have been given to replace the hungry dogs of fear you sent instead. ⁷ And they go forth to signify the end of fear.
16. Love, too, would set a feast before you, on a table covered with a spotless cloth, set in a quiet garden where no sound but singing and a softly joyous whispering is ever heard. ² This is a feast that honors your holy relationship, and at which everyone is welcomed as an honored guest. ³ And in a holy instant grace is said by everyone together, as they join in gentleness before the table of communion. ⁴ And I will join you there, as long ago I promised and promise still. ⁵ For in your new relationship am I made welcome. ⁶ And where I am made welcome, there I am.
17. I am made welcome in the state of grace, which means you have at last forgiven me. ² For I became the symbol of your sin, and so I had to die instead of you. ³ To the ego sin means death, and so atonement is achieved through murder. ⁴ Salvation is looked upon as a way by which the Son of God was killed instead of you. ⁵ Yet would I offer you my body, you whom I love, *knowing* its littleness? ⁶ Or would I teach that bodies cannot keep us apart? ⁷ Mine was of no greater value than yours; no better means for communication of salvation, but not its Source. ⁸ No one can die for anyone, and death does not atone for sin. ⁹ But you can live to show it is not real. ¹⁰ The body does appear to be the symbol of sin while you believe that it can get you what you want. ¹¹ While you believe that it can give you pleasure, you will also believe that it can bring you pain. ¹² To think you could be satisfied and happy with so little is to hurt yourself, and to limit the happiness that you would have calls upon pain to fill your meager store and make your life complete. ¹³ This is completion as the ego sees it. ¹⁴ For guilt creeps in where happiness has been removed, and substitutes for it. ¹⁵ Communion is another kind of completion, which goes beyond guilt, because it goes beyond the body.

B. The Second Obstacle: The Belief the Body is Valuable for What It Offers

1. We said that peace must first surmount the obstacle of your desire to get rid of it. ² Where the attraction of guilt holds sway, peace is not wanted. ³ The second obstacle that peace must flow across, and closely related to the first, is the belief that the body is valuable for what it offers. ⁴ For here is the attraction of guilt made manifest in the body, and seen in it.
2. This is the value that you think peace would rob you of. ² This is what you believe that it would dispossess, and leave you homeless. ³ And it is this for which you would deny a home to peace. ⁴ This "sacrifice" you feel to be too great to make, too much to ask of you. ⁵ Is it a sacrifice, or a release? ⁶ What has the body really given you that justifies your strange belief that in it lies salvation? ⁷ Do you not see that this is the belief in death? ⁸ Here is the focus of the perception of Atonement as murder. ⁹ Here is the source of the idea that love is fear.

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3. The Holy Spirit's messengers are sent far beyond the body, calling the mind to join in holy communion and be at peace. ² Such is the message that I gave them for you. ³ It is only the messengers of fear that see the body, for they look for what can suffer. ⁴ Is it a sacrifice to be removed from what can suffer? ⁵ The Holy Spirit does not demand you sacrifice the hope of the body's pleasure; it *has* no hope of pleasure. ⁶ But neither can it bring you fear of pain. ⁷ Pain is the only "sacrifice" the Holy Spirit asks, and this He *would* remove.
4. Peace is extended from you only to the eternal, and it reaches out from the eternal in you. ² It flows across all else. ³ The second obstacle is no more solid than the first. ⁴ For you want neither to get rid of peace nor limit it. ⁵ What are these obstacles that you would interpose between peace and its going forth but barriers you place between your will and its accomplishment? ⁶ You want communion, not the feast of fear. ⁷ You want salvation, not the pain of guilt. ⁸ And you want your Father, not a little mound of clay, to be your home. ⁹ In your holy relationship is your Father's Son. ¹⁰ He has not lost communion with Him, nor with himself. ¹¹ When you agreed to join your brother, you acknowledged this is so. ¹² This has no cost, but it has release from cost.
5. You have paid very dearly for your illusions, and nothing you have paid for brought you peace. ² Are you not glad that Heaven cannot be sacrificed, and sacrifice cannot be asked of you? ³ There is no obstacle that you can place before our union, for in your holy relationship I am there already. ⁴ We will surmount all obstacles together, for we stand within the gates and not outside. ⁵ How easily the gates are opened from within, to let peace through to bless the tired world! ⁶ Can it be difficult for us to walk past barriers together, when you have joined the limitless? ⁷ The end of guilt is in your hands to give. ⁸ Would you stop now to look for guilt in your brother?
6. Let me be to you the symbol of the end of guilt, and look upon your brother as you would look on me. ² Forgive me all the sins you think the Son of God committed. ³ And in the light of your forgiveness he will remember who he is, and forget what never was. ⁴ I ask for your forgiveness, for if you are guilty, so must I be. ⁵ But if I surmounted guilt and overcame the world, you were with me. ⁶ Would you see in me the symbol of guilt or of the end of guilt, remembering that what I signify to you you see within yourself?
7. From your holy relationship truth proclaims the truth, and love looks on itself. ² Salvation flows from deep within the home you offered to my Father and to me. ³ And we are there together, in the quiet communion in which the Father and the Son are joined. ⁴ O come ye faithful to the holy union of the Father and the Son in you! ⁵ And keep you not apart from what is offered you in gratitude for giving peace its home in Heaven. ⁶ Send forth to all the world the joyous message of the end of guilt, and all the world will answer. ⁷ Think of your happiness as everyone offers you witness of the end of sin, and shows you that its power is gone forever. ⁸ Where can guilt be, when the belief in sin is gone? ⁹ And where is death, when its great advocate is heard no more?
8. Forgive me your illusions, and release me from punishment for what I have not done. ² So will you learn the freedom that I taught by teaching freedom to your brother, and so releasing me. ³ I am within your holy relationship, yet you would imprison me behind the obstacles you raise to freedom, and bar my way to you. ⁴ Yet it is not possible to keep away One Who is there already. ⁵ And in Him it *is* possible that our communion, where we are joined already, will be the focus of the new perception that will bring light to all the world, contained in you.

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i. The Attraction of Pain

9. Your little part is but to give the Holy Spirit the whole idea of sacrifice. ² And to accept the peace He gives instead, without the limits that would hold its extension back, and so would limit your awareness of it. ³ For what He gives must be extended if you would have its limitless power, and use it for the Son of God's release. ⁴ It is not this you would be rid of, and having it you cannot limit it. ⁵ If peace is homeless, so are you and so am I. ⁶ And He Who is our home is homeless with us. ⁷ Is this your wish? ⁸ Would you forever be a wanderer in search of peace? ⁹ Would you invest your hope of peace and happiness in what must fail?
10. Faith in the eternal is always justified, for the eternal is forever kind, infinite in its patience and wholly loving. ² It will accept you wholly, and give you peace. ³ Yet it can unite only with what already is at peace in you, immortal as itself. ⁴ The body can bring you neither peace nor turmoil; neither joy nor pain. ⁵ It is a means, and not an end. ⁶ It has no purpose of itself, but only what is given to it. ⁷ The body will seem to be whatever is the means for reaching the goal that you assign to it. ⁸ Only the mind can set a purpose, and only the mind can see the means for its accomplishment, and justify its use. ⁹ Peace and guilt are both conditions of the mind, to be attained. ¹⁰ And these conditions are the home of the emotion that calls them forth, and therefore is compatible with them.
11. But think you which it is that is compatible with you. ² Here is your choice, and it *is* free. ³ But all that lies in it will come with it, and what you think you are can never be apart from it. ⁴ The body is the great seeming betrayer of faith. ⁵ In it lies disillusionment and the seeds of faithlessness, but only if you ask of it what it cannot give. ⁶ Can your mistake be reasonable grounds for depression and disillusionment, and for retaliative attack on what you think has failed you? ⁷ Use not your error as the justification for your faithlessness. ⁸ You have not sinned, but you have been mistaken in what is faithful. ⁹ And the correction of your mistake will give you grounds for faith.
12. It is impossible to seek for pleasure through the body and not find pain. ² It is essential that this relationship be understood, for it is one the ego sees as proof of sin. ³ It is not really punitive at all. ⁴ It is but the inevitable result of equating yourself with the body, which is the invitation to pain. ⁵ For it invites fear to enter and become your purpose. ⁶ The attraction of guilt *must* enter with it, and whatever fear directs the body to do is therefore painful. ⁷ It will share the pain of all illusions, and the illusion of pleasure will be the same as pain.
13. Is not this inevitable? ² Under fear's orders the body will pursue guilt, serving its master whose attraction to guilt maintains the whole illusion of its existence. ³ This, then, is the attraction of pain. ⁴ Ruled by this perception the body becomes the servant of pain, seeking it dutifully and obeying the idea that pain is pleasure. ⁵ It is this idea that underlies all of the ego's heavy investment in the body. ⁶ And it is this insane relationship that it keeps hidden, and yet feeds upon. ⁷ To you it teaches that the body's pleasure is happiness. ⁸ Yet to itself it whispers, "It is death."
14. Why should the body be anything to you? ² Certainly what it is made of is not precious. ³ And just as certainly it has no feeling. ⁴ It transmits to you the feelings that you want. ⁵ Like any communication medium the body receives and sends the messages that it is given. ⁶ It has no feeling for them. ⁷ All of the feeling with which they are invested is given by the sender and the receiver. ⁸ The ego and the Holy Spirit both recognize this, and both also recognize that here the sender and receiver are the same. ⁹ The Holy Spirit tells you this with joy. ¹⁰ The ego hides it, for it would keep
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you unaware of it. ¹¹ Who would send messages of hatred and attack if he but understood he sends them to himself? ¹² Who would accuse, make guilty and condemn himself?

15. The ego's messages are always sent away from you, in the belief that for your message of attack and guilt will someone other than yourself suffer. ² And even if you suffer, yet someone else will suffer more. ³ The great deceiver recognizes that this is not so, but as the "enemy" of peace, it urges you to send out all your messages of hate and free yourself. ⁴ And to convince you this is possible, it bids the body search for pain in attack upon another, calling it pleasure and offering it to you as freedom *from* attack.
16. Hear not its madness, and believe not the impossible is true. ² Forget not that the ego has dedicated the body to the goal of sin, and places in it all its faith that this can be accomplished. ³ Its sad disciples chant the body's praise continually, in solemn celebration of the ego's rule. ⁴ Not one but must believe that yielding to the attraction of guilt is the escape from pain. ⁵ Not one but must regard the body as himself, without which he would die, and yet within which is his death equally inevitable.
17. It is not given to the ego's disciples to realize that they have dedicated themselves to death. ² Freedom is offered them but they have not accepted it, and what is offered must also be received, to be truly given. ³ For the Holy Spirit, too, is a communication medium, receiving from the Father and offering His messages unto the Son. ⁴ Like the ego, the Holy Spirit is both the sender and the receiver. ⁵ For what is sent through Him returns to Him, seeking itself along the way, and finding what it seeks. ⁶ So does the ego find the death *it* seeks, returning it to you.

C. The Third Obstacle: The Attraction of Death

1. To you and your brother, in whose special relationship the Holy Spirit entered, it is given to release and be released from the dedication to death. ² For it was offered you, and you accepted. ³ Yet you must learn still more about this strange devotion, for it contains the third obstacle that peace must flow across. ⁴ No one can die unless he chooses death. ⁵ What seems to be the fear of death is really its attraction. ⁶ Guilt, too, is feared and fearful. ⁷ Yet it could have no hold at all except on those who are attracted to it and seek it out. ⁸ And so it is with death. ⁹ Made by the ego, its dark shadow falls across all living things, because the ego is the "enemy" of life.
2. And yet a shadow cannot kill. ² What is a shadow to the living? ³ They but walk past and it is gone. ⁴ But what of those whose dedication is not to live; the black-draped "sinners," the ego's mournful chorus, plodding so heavily away from life, dragging their chains and marching in the slow procession that honors their grim master, lord of death? ⁵ Touch any one of them with the gentle hands of forgiveness, and watch the chains fall away, along with yours. ⁶ See him throw aside the black robe he was wearing to his funeral, and hear him laugh at death. ⁷ The sentence sin would lay upon him he can escape through your forgiveness. ⁸ This is no arrogance. ⁹ It is the Will of God. ¹⁰ What is impossible to you who chose His Will as yours? ¹¹ What is death to you? ¹² Your dedication is not to death, nor to its master. ¹³ When you accepted the Holy Spirit's purpose in place of the ego's you renounced death, exchanging it for life. ¹⁴ We know that an idea leaves not its source. ¹⁵ And death is the result of the thought we call the ego, as surely as life is the result of the Thought of God.

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i. The Incorruptible Body

3. From the ego came sin and guilt and death, in opposition to life and innocence, and to the Will of God Himself. ² Where can such opposition lie but in the sick minds of the insane, dedicated to madness and set against the peace of Heaven? ³ One thing is sure; God, Who created neither sin nor death, wills not that you be bound by them. ⁴ He knows of neither sin nor its results. ⁵ The shrouded figures in the funeral procession march not in honor of their Creator, Whose Will it is they live. ⁶ They are not following His Will; they are opposing it.
4. And what is the black-draped body they would bury? ² A body which they dedicated to death, a symbol of corruption, a sacrifice to sin, offered to sin to feed upon and keep itself alive; a thing condemned, damned by its maker and lamented by every mourner who looks upon it as himself. ³ You who believe you have condemned the Son of God to this *are* arrogant. ⁴ But you who would release him are but honoring the Will of his Creator. ⁵ The arrogance of sin, the pride of guilt, the sepulchre of separation, all are part of your unrecognized dedication to death. ⁶ The glitter of guilt you laid upon the body would kill it. ⁷ For what the ego loves, it kills for its obedience. ⁸ But what obeys it not, it cannot kill.
5. You have another dedication that would keep the body incorruptible and perfect as long as it is useful for your holy purpose. ² The body no more dies than it can feel. ³ It does nothing. ⁴ Of itself it is neither corruptible nor incorruptible. ⁵ It *is* nothing. ⁶ It is the result of a tiny, mad idea of corruption that can be corrected. ⁷ For God has answered this insane idea with His Own; an Answer which left Him not, and therefore brings the Creator to the awareness of every mind which heard His Answer and accepted It.
6. You who are dedicated to the incorruptible have been given through your acceptance, the power to release from corruption. ² What better way to teach the first and fundamental principle in a course on miracles than by showing you the one that seems to be the hardest can be accomplished first? ³ The body can but serve your purpose. ⁴ As you look on it, so will it seem to be. ⁵ Death, were it true, would be the final and complete disruption of communication, which is the ego's goal.
7. Those who fear death see not how often and how loudly they call to it, and bid it come to save them from communication. ² For death is seen as safety, the great dark savior from the light of truth, the answer to the Answer, the silencer of the Voice that speaks for God. ³ Yet the retreat to death is not the end of conflict. ⁴ Only God's Answer is its end. ⁵ The obstacle of your seeming love for death that peace must flow across seems to be very great. ⁶ For in it lie hidden all the ego's secrets, all its strange devices for deception, all its sick ideas and weird imaginings. ⁷ Here is the final end of union, the triumph of the ego's making over creation, the victory of lifelessness on Life Itself.
8. Under the dusty edge of its distorted world the ego would lay the Son of God, slain by its orders, proof in his decay that God Himself is powerless before the ego's might, unable to protect the life that He created against the ego's savage wish to kill. ² My brother, child of our Father, this is a *dream* of death. ³ There is no funeral, no dark altars, no grim commandments nor twisted rituals of condemnation to which the body leads you. ⁴ Ask not release of *it*. ⁵ But free it from the merciless and unrelenting orders you laid upon it, and forgive it what you ordered it to do. ⁶ In its exaltation you commanded it to die, for only death could conquer life. ⁷ And what but insanity could look upon the defeat of God, and think it real?

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9. The fear of death will go as its appeal is yielded to love's real attraction. ² The end of sin, which nestles quietly in the safety of your relationship, protected by your union with your brother, and ready to grow into a mighty force for God is very near. ³ The infancy of salvation is carefully guarded by love, preserved from every thought that would attack it, and quietly made ready to fulfill the mighty task for which it was given you. ⁴ Your newborn purpose is nursed by angels, cherished by the Holy Spirit and protected by God Himself. ⁵ It needs not your protection; it is *yours*. ⁶ For it is deathless, and within it lies the end of death.
10. What danger can assail the wholly innocent? ² What can attack the guiltless? ³ What fear can enter and disturb the peace of sinlessness? ⁴ What has been given you, even in its infancy, is in full communication with God and you. ⁵ In its tiny hands it holds, in perfect safety, every miracle you will perform, held out to you. ⁶ The miracle of life is ageless, born in time but nourished in eternity. ⁷ Behold this infant, to whom you gave a resting place by your forgiveness of your brother, and see in it the Will of God. ⁸ Here is the babe of Bethlehem reborn. ⁹ And everyone who gives him shelter will follow him, not to the cross, but to the resurrection and the life.
11. When anything seems to you to be a source of fear, when any situation strikes you with terror and makes your body tremble and the cold sweat of fear comes over it, remember it is always for *one* reason; the ego has perceived it as a symbol of fear, a sign of sin and death. ² Remember, then, that neither sign nor symbol should be confused with source, for they must stand for something other than themselves. ³ Their meaning cannot lie in them, but must be sought in what they represent. ⁴ And they may thus mean everything or nothing, according to the truth or falsity of the idea which they reflect. ⁵ Confronted with such seeming uncertainty of meaning, judge it not. ⁶ Remember the holy Presence of the One given to you to be the Source of judgment. ⁷ Give it to Him to judge for you, and say:

⁸ *Take this from me and look upon it, judging it for me.*

⁹ *Let me not see it as a sign of sin and death, nor use it for destruction.*

¹⁰ *Teach me how **not** to make of it an obstacle to peace, but let You use it for me, to facilitate its coming.*

D. The Fourth Obstacle: The Fear of God

1. What would you see without the fear of death? ² What would you feel and think if death held no attraction for you? ³ Very simply, you would remember your Father. ⁴ The Creator of life, the Source of everything that lives, the Father of the universe and of the universe of universes, and of everything that lies even beyond them would you remember. ⁵ And as this memory rises in your mind, peace must still surmount a final obstacle, after which is salvation completed, and the Son of God entirely restored to sanity. ⁶ For here your world *does* end.
2. The fourth obstacle to be surmounted hangs like a heavy veil before the face of Christ. ² as His face rises beyond it, shining with joy because He is in His Father's Love, peace will lightly brush the veil aside and run to meet Him, and to join with Him at last. ³ For this dark veil, which seems to make the face of Christ Himself like to a leper's, and the bright Rays of His Father's Love that light His face with glory appear as streams of blood, fades in the blazing light beyond it when the fear of death is gone.

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3. This is the darkest veil, upheld by the belief in death and protected by its attraction. ² The dedication to death and to its sovereignty is but the solemn vow, the promise made in secret to the ego never to lift this veil, not to approach it, nor even to suspect that it is there. ³ This is the secret bargain made with the ego to keep what lies beyond the veil forever blotted out and unremembered. ⁴ Here is your promise never to allow union to call you out of separation; the great amnesia in which the memory of God seems quite forgotten; the cleavage of your Self from you;— *the fear of God*, the final step in your dissociation.
4. See how the belief in death would seem to "save" you. ² For if this were gone, what could you fear but life? ³ It is the attraction of death that makes life seem to be ugly, cruel and tyrannical. ⁴ You are no more afraid of death than of the ego. ⁵ These are your chosen friends. ⁶ For in your secret alliance with them you have agreed never to let the fear of God be lifted, so you could look upon the face of Christ and join Him in His Father.
5. Every obstacle that peace must flow across is surmounted in just the same way; the fear that raised it yields to the love beyond, and so the fear is gone. ² And so it is with this. ³ The desire to get rid of peace and drive the Holy Spirit from you fades in the presence of the quiet recognition that you love Him. ⁴ The exaltation of the body is given up in favor of the spirit, which you love as you could never love the body. ⁵ And the appeal of death is lost forever as love's attraction stirs and calls to you. ⁶ From beyond each of the obstacles to love, Love Itself has called. ⁷ And each has been surmounted by the power of the attraction of what lies beyond. ⁸ Your wanting fear seemed to be holding them in place. ⁹ Yet when you heard the Voice of Love beyond them, you answered and they disappeared.
6. And now you stand in terror before what you swore never to look upon. ² Your eyes look down, remembering your promise to your "friends." ³ The "loveliness" of sin, the delicate appeal of guilt, the "holy" waxen image of death, and the fear of vengeance of the ego you swore in blood not to desert, all rise and bid you not to raise your eyes. ⁴ For you realize that if you look on this and let the veil be lifted, *they* will be gone forever. ⁵ All of your "friends," your "protectors" and your "home" will vanish. ⁶ Nothing that you remember now will you remember.
7. It seems to you the world will utterly abandon you if you but raise your eyes. ² Yet all that will occur is you will leave the world forever. ³ This is the re-establishment of *your* will. ⁴ Look upon it, open-eyed, and you will nevermore believe that you are at the mercy of things beyond you, forces you cannot control, and thoughts that come to you against your will. ⁵ It *is* your will to look on this. ⁶ No mad desire, no trivial impulse to forget again, no stab of fear nor the cold sweat of seeming death can stand against your will. ⁷ For what attracts you from beyond the veil is also deep within you, unseparated from it and completely one.

i. The Lifting of the Veil

8. Forget not that you came this far together, you and your brother. ² And it was surely not the ego that led you here. ³ No obstacle to peace can be surmounted through its help. ⁴ It does not open up its secrets, and bid you look on them and go beyond them. ⁵ It would not have you see its weakness, and learn it has no power to keep you from the truth. ⁶ The Guide Who brought you here remains with you, and when you raise your eyes you will be ready to look on terror with no fear at all. ⁷ But first, lift up your eyes and look on your brother in innocence born of complete forgiveness of his

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illusions, and through the eyes of faith that sees them not.

9. No one can look upon the fear of God unterrified, unless he has accepted the Atonement and learned illusions are not real. ² No one can stand before this obstacle alone, for he could not have reached this far unless his brother walked beside him. ³ And no one would dare to look on it without complete forgiveness of his brother in his heart. ⁴ Stand you here a while and tremble not. ⁵ You will be ready. ⁶ Let us join together in a holy instant, here in this place where the purpose, given in a holy instant, has led you. ⁷ And let us join in faith that He Who brought us here together will offer you the innocence you need, and that you will accept it for my love and His.
10. Nor is it possible to look on this too soon. ² This is the place to which everyone must come when he is ready. ³ Once he has found his brother he *is* ready. ⁴ Yet merely to reach the place is not enough. ⁵ A journey without a purpose is still meaningless, and even when it is over it seems to make no sense. ⁶ How can you know that it is over unless you realize its purpose is accomplished? ⁷ Here, with the journey's end before you, you *see* its purpose. ⁸ And it is here you choose whether to look upon it or wander on, only to return and make the choice again.
11. To look upon the fear of God does need some preparation. ² Only the sane can look on stark insanity and raving madness with pity and compassion, but not with fear. ³ For only if they share in it does it seem fearful, and you do share in it until you look upon your brother with perfect faith and love and tenderness. ⁴ Before complete forgiveness you still stand unforgiving. ⁵ You are afraid of God *because* you fear your brother. ⁶ Those you do not forgive you fear. ⁷ And no one reaches love with fear beside him.
12. This brother who stands beside you still seems to be a stranger. ² You do not know him, and your interpretation of him is very fearful. ³ And you attack him still, to keep what seems to be yourself unharmed. ⁴ Yet in his hands is your salvation. ⁵ You see his madness, which you hate because you share it. ⁶ And all the pity and forgiveness that would heal it gives way to fear. ⁷ Brother, you need forgiveness of your brother, for you will share in madness or in Heaven together. ⁸ And you and he will raise your eyes in faith together, or not at all.
13. Beside you is one who offers you the chalice of Atonement, for the Holy Spirit is in him. ² Would you hold his sins against him, or accept his gift to you? ³ Is this giver of salvation your friend or enemy? ⁴ Choose which he is, remembering that you will receive of him according to your choice. ⁵ He has in him the power to forgive your sin, as you for him. ⁶ Neither can give it to himself alone. ⁷ And yet your savior stands beside each one. ⁸ Let him be what he is, and seek not to make of love an enemy.
14. Behold your Friend, the Christ Who stands beside you. ² How holy and how beautiful He is! ³ You thought He sinned because you cast the veil of sin upon Him to hide His loveliness. ⁴ Yet still He holds forgiveness out to you, to share His Holiness. ⁵ This "enemy," this "stranger" still offers you salvation as His Friend. ⁶ The "enemies" of Christ, the worshippers of sin, know not Whom they attack.
15. This is your brother, crucified by sin and waiting for release from pain. ² Would you not offer him forgiveness, when only he can offer it to you? ³ For his redemption he will give you yours, as surely as God created every living thing and loves it. ⁴ And he will give it truly, for it will be both offered and received. ⁵ There is no grace of Heaven that you cannot offer to your brother, and receive from

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your most holy Friend. ⁶ Let him withhold it not, for by receiving it you offer it to him. ⁷ And he will receive of you what you received of him. ⁸ Redemption has been given you to give your brother, and thus receive it. ⁹ Whom you forgive is free, and what you give you share. ¹⁰ Forgive the sins your brother thinks he has committed, and all the guilt you think you see in him.

16. Here is the holy place of resurrection, to which we come again; to which we will return until redemption is accomplished and received. ² Think who your brother is, before you would condemn him. ³ And offer thanks to God that he is holy, and has been given the gift of holiness for you. ⁴ Join him in gladness, and remove all trace of guilt from his disturbed and tortured mind. ⁵ Help him to lift the heavy burden of sin you laid upon him and he accepted as his own, and toss it lightly and with happy laughter away from him. ⁶ Press it not like thorns against his brow, nor nail him to it, unredeemed and hopeless.
17. Give faith to your brother, for faith and hope and mercy are yours to give. ² Into the hands that give, the gift is given. ³ Look on your brother, and see in him the gift of God you would receive. ⁴ It is almost Easter, the time of resurrection. ⁵ Let us give redemption to each other and share in it, that we may rise as one in resurrection, not separate in death. ⁶ Behold the gift of freedom that I gave the Holy Spirit for you. ⁷ And be you and your brother free together, as you offer to the Holy Spirit this same gift. ⁸ And giving it, receive it of Him in return for what you gave. ⁹ He leadeth you and me together, that we might meet here in this holy place, and make the same decision.
18. Free your brother here, as I freed you. ² Give him the selfsame gift, nor look upon him with condemnation of any kind. ³ See him as guiltless as I look on you, and overlook the sins he thinks he sees within himself. ⁴ Offer your brother freedom and complete release from sin, here in the garden of seeming agony and death. ⁵ So will we prepare together the way unto the resurrection of God's Son, and let him rise again to glad remembrance of his Father, Who knows no sin, no death, but only life eternal.
19. Together we will disappear into the Presence beyond the veil, not to be lost but found; not to be seen but known. ² And knowing, nothing in the plan God has established for salvation will be left undone. ³ This is the journey's purpose, without which is the journey meaningless. ⁴ Here is the peace of God, given to you eternally by Him. ⁵ Here is the rest and quiet that you seek, the reason for the journey from its beginning. ⁶ Heaven is the gift you owe your brother, the debt of gratitude you offer to the Son of God in thanks for what he is, and what his Father created him to be.
20. Think carefully how you would look upon the giver of this gift, for as you look on him so will the gift itself appear to be. ² As he is seen as either the giver of guilt or of salvation, so will his offering be seen and so received. ³ The crucified give pain because they are in pain. ⁴ But the redeemed give joy because they have been healed of pain. ⁵ Everyone gives as he receives, but he must choose what it will *be* that he receives. ⁶ And he will recognize his choice by what he gives, and what is given him. ⁷ Nor is it given anything in hell or Heaven to interfere with his decision.
21. You came this far because the journey was your choice. ² And no one undertakes to do what he believes is meaningless. ³ What you had faith in still is faithful, and watches over you in faith so gentle yet so strong that it would lift you far beyond the veil, and place the Son of God safely within the sure protection of his Father. ⁴ Here is the only purpose that gives this world, and the long journey through this world, whatever meaning lies in them. ⁵ Beyond this, they are meaningless. ⁶ You and your brother stand together, still without conviction they have a purpose. ⁷ Yet it is given

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you to see this purpose in your holy Friend, and recognize it as your own.

II. The Gift of Lilies

1. Look upon all the trinkets made to hang upon the body, or to cover it or for its use. ² See all the useless things made for its eyes to see. ³ Think on the many offerings made for its pleasure, and remember all these were made to make seem lovely what you hate. ⁴ Would you employ this hated thing to draw your brother to you, and to attract his body's eyes? ⁵ Learn you but offer him a crown of thorns, not recognizing it for what it is, and trying to justify your own interpretation of its value by his acceptance. ⁶ Yet still the gift proclaims his worthlessness to you, as his acceptance and delight acknowledges the lack of value he places on himself.
2. Gifts are not made through bodies, if they be truly given and received. ² For bodies can neither offer nor accept; hold out nor take. ³ Only the mind can value, and only the mind decides on what it would receive and give. ⁴ And every gift it offers depends on what it wants. ⁵ It will adorn its chosen home most carefully, making it ready to receive the gifts it wants by offering them to those who come unto its chosen home, or those it would attract to it. ⁶ And there they will exchange their gifts, offering and receiving what their minds judge to be worthy of them.
3. Each gift is an evaluation of the receiver and the *giver*. ² No one but sees his chosen home as an altar to himself. ³ No one but seeks to draw to it the worshippers of what he placed upon it, making it worthy of their devotion. ⁴ And each has set a light upon his altar, that they may see what he has placed upon it and take it for their own. ⁵ Here is the value that you lay upon your brother and on yourself. ⁶ Here is your gift to both; your judgment on the Son of God for what he is. ⁷ Forget not that it is your savior to whom the gift is offered. ⁸ Offer him thorns and *you* are crucified. ⁹ Offer him lilies and it is yourself you free.
4. I have great need for lilies, for the Son of God has not forgiven me. ² And can I offer him forgiveness when he offers thorns to me? ³ For he who offers thorns to anyone is against me still, and who is whole without him? ⁴ Be you his friend for me, that I may be forgiven and you may look upon the Son of God as whole. ⁵ But look you first upon the altar in your chosen home, and see what you have laid upon it to offer me. ⁶ If it be thorns whose points gleam sharply in a blood-red light, the body is your chosen home and it is separation that you offer me. ⁷ And yet the thorns are gone. ⁸ Look you still closer at them now, and you will see your altar is no longer what it was.
5. You look still with the body's eyes, and they can see but thorns. ² Yet you have asked for and received another sight. ³ Those who accept the Holy Spirit's purpose as their own share also His vision. ⁴ And what enables Him to see His purpose shine forth from every altar now is yours as well as His. ⁵ He sees no strangers; only dearly loved and loving friends. ⁶ He sees no thorns but only lilies, gleaming in the gentle glow of peace that shines on everything He looks upon and loves.
6. This Easter, look with different eyes upon your brother. ² You *have* forgiven me. ³ And yet I cannot use your gift of lilies while you see them not. ⁴ Nor can you use what I have given unless you share it. ⁵ The Holy Spirit's vision is no idle gift, no plaything to be tossed about a while and laid aside. ⁶ Listen and hear this carefully, nor think it but a dream, a careless thought to play with, or a toy you would pick up from time to time and then put by. ⁷ For if you do, so will it be to you.

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7. You have the vision now to look past all illusions. ² It has been given you to see no thorns, no strangers and no obstacles to peace. ³ The fear of God is nothing to you now. ⁴ Who is afraid to look upon illusions, knowing his savior stands beside him? ⁵ With him, your vision has become the greatest power for the undoing of illusion that God Himself could give. ⁶ For what God gave the Holy Spirit, you have received. ⁷ The Son of God looks unto you for his release. ⁸ For you have asked for and been given the strength to look upon this final obstacle, and see no thorns nor nails to crucify the Son of God, and crown him king of death.
8. Your chosen home is on the other side, beyond the veil. ² It has been carefully prepared for you, and it is ready to receive you now. ³ You will not see it with the body's eyes. ⁴ Yet all you need you have. ⁵ Your home has called to you since time began, nor have you ever failed entirely to hear. ⁶ You heard, but knew not how to look, nor where. ⁷ And now you know. ⁸ In you the knowledge lies, ready to be unveiled and freed from all the terror that kept it hidden. ⁹ There is no fear in love. ¹⁰ The song of Easter is the glad refrain the Son of God was never crucified. ¹¹ Let us lift up our eyes together, not in fear but faith. ¹² And there will be no fear in us, for in our vision will be no illusions; only a pathway to the open door of Heaven, the home we share in quietness and where we live in gentleness and peace, as one together.
9. Would you not have your holy brother lead you there? ² His innocence will light your way, offering you its guiding light and sure protection, and shining from the holy altar within him where you laid the lilies of forgiveness. ³ Let him be to you the savior from illusions, and look on him with the new vision that looks upon the lilies and brings you joy. ⁴ We go beyond the veil of fear, lighting each other's way. ⁵ The holiness that leads us is within us, as is our home. ⁶ So will we find what we were meant to find by Him Who leads us.
10. This is the way to Heaven and to the peace of Easter, in which we join in glad awareness that the Son of God is risen from the past, and has awakened to the present. ² Now is he free, unlimited in his communion with all that is within him. ³ Now are the lilies of his innocence untouched by guilt, and perfectly protected from the cold chill of fear and withering blight of sin alike. ⁴ Your gift has saved him from the thorns and nails, and his strong arm is free to guide you safely through them and beyond. ⁵ Walk with him now rejoicing, for the savior from illusions has come to greet you, and lead you home with him.
11. Here is your savior and your friend, released from crucifixion through your vision, and free to lead you now where he would be. ² He will not leave you, nor forsake the savior in his pain. ³ And gladly will you and your brother walk the way of innocence together, singing as you behold the open door of Heaven and recognize the home that called to you. ⁴ Give joyously to your brother the freedom and the strength to lead you there. ⁵ And come before his holy altar where the strength and freedom wait, to offer and receive the bright awareness that leads you home. ⁶ The lamp is lit in you for your brother. ⁷ And by the hands that gave it to him shall you be led past fear to love.

IV. Entering the Ark

1. Nothing can hurt you unless you give it the power to do so. ² Yet *you* give power as the laws of this world interpret giving; as you give you lose. ³ It is not up to you to give power at all. ⁴ Power is of God, given by Him and reawakened by the Holy Spirit, Who knows that as you give you gain. ⁵

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He gives no power to sin, and therefore it has none; nor to its results as this world sees them,—sickness and death and misery and pain. ⁶ These things have not occurred because the Holy Spirit sees them not, and gives no power to their seeming source. ⁷ Thus would He keep you free of them. ⁸ Being without illusion of what you are, the Holy Spirit merely gives everything to God, Who has already given and received all that is true. ⁹ The untrue He has neither received nor given.

2. Sin has no place in Heaven, where its results are alien and can no more enter than can their source. ² And therein lies your need to see your brother sinless. ³ In him *is* Heaven. ⁴ See sin in him instead, and Heaven is lost to you. ⁵ But see him as he is, and what is yours shines from him to you. ⁶ Your savior gives you only love, but what you would receive of him is up to you. ⁷ It lies in him to overlook all your mistakes, and therein lies his own salvation. ⁸ And so it is with yours. ⁹ Salvation is a lesson in giving, as the Holy Spirit interprets it. ¹⁰ It is the reawakening of the laws of God in minds that have established other laws, and given them power to enforce what God created not.
3. Your insane laws were made to guarantee that you would make mistakes, and give them power over you by accepting their results as your just due. ² What could this be but madness? ³ And is it this that you would see within your savior from insanity? ⁴ He is as free from this as you are, and in the freedom that you see in him you see your own. ⁵ For this you share. ⁶ What God has given follows His laws, and His alone. ⁷ Nor is it possible for those who follow them to suffer the results of any other source.
4. Those who choose freedom will experience only its results. ² Their power is of God, and they will give it only to what God has given, to share with them. ³ Nothing but this can touch them, for they see only this, sharing their power according to the Will of God. ⁴ And thus their freedom is established and maintained. ⁵ It is upheld through all temptation to imprison and to be imprisoned. ⁶ It is of them who learned of freedom that you should ask what freedom is. ⁷ Ask not the sparrow how the eagle soars, for those with little wings have not accepted for themselves the power to share with you.
5. The sinless give as they received. ² See, then, the power of sinlessness within your brother, and share with him the power of the release from sin you offered him. ³ To each who walks this earth in seeming solitude is a savior given, whose special function here is to release him, and so to free himself. ⁴ In the world of separation each is appointed separately, though they are all the same. ⁵ Yet those who know that they are all the same need not salvation. ⁶ And each one finds his savior when he is ready to look upon the face of Christ, and see Him sinless.
6. The plan is not of you, nor need you be concerned with anything except the part that has been given you to learn. ² For He Who knows the rest will see to it without your help. ³ But think not that He does not need your part to help Him with the rest. ⁴ For in your part lies all of it, without which is no part complete, nor is the whole completed without your part. ⁵ The ark of peace is entered two by two, yet the beginning of another world goes with them. ⁶ Each holy relationship must enter here, to learn its special function in the Holy Spirit's plan, now that it shares His purpose. ⁷ And as this purpose is fulfilled, a new world rises in which sin can enter not, and where the Son of God can enter without fear and where he rests a while, to forget imprisonment and to remember freedom. ⁸ How can he enter, to rest and to remember, without you? ⁹ Except you be there, he is not complete. ¹⁰ And it is his completion that he remembers there.
7. This is the purpose given you. ² Think not that your forgiveness of your brother serves but you

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two alone. ³ For the whole new world rests in the hands of every two who enter here to rest. ⁴ And as they rest, the face of Christ shines on them and they remember the laws of God, forgetting all the rest and yearning only to have His laws perfectly fulfilled in them and all their brothers. ⁵ Think you when this has been achieved that you will rest without them? ⁶ You could no more leave one of them outside than I could leave you, and forget part of myself.

8. You may wonder how you can be at peace when, while you are in time, there is so much that must be done before the way to peace is open. ² Perhaps this seems impossible to you. ³ But ask yourself if it is possible that God would have a plan for your salvation that does not work. ⁴ Once you accept His plan as the one function that you would fulfill, there will be nothing else the Holy Spirit will not arrange for you without your effort. ⁵ He will go before you making straight your path, and leaving in your way no stones to trip on, and no obstacles to bar your way. ⁶ Nothing you need will be denied you. ⁷ Not one seeming difficulty but will melt away before you reach it. ⁸ You need take thought for nothing, careless of everything except the only purpose that you would fulfill. ⁹ As that was given you, so will its fulfillment be. ¹⁰ God's guarantee will hold against all obstacles, for it rests on certainty and not contingency. ¹¹ It rests on *you*. ¹² And what can be more certain than a Son of God?

VI. The Temple of the Holy Spirit

1. The meaning of the Son of God lies solely in his relationship with his Creator. ² If it were elsewhere it would rest on contingency, but there *is* nothing else. ³ And this is wholly loving and forever. ⁴ Yet has the Son of God invented an unholy relationship between him and his Father. ⁵ His real relationship is one of perfect union and unbroken continuity. ⁶ The one he made is partial, self-centered, broken into fragments and full of fear. ⁷ The one created by his Father is wholly Self-encompassing and Self-extending. ⁸ The one he made is wholly self-destructive and self-limiting.
2. Nothing can show the contrast better than the experience of both a holy and an unholy relationship. ² The first is based on love, and rests on it serene and undisturbed. ³ The body does not intrude upon it. ⁴ Any relationship in which the body enters is based not on love, but on idolatry. ⁵ Love wishes to be known, completely understood and shared. ⁶ It has no secrets; nothing that it would keep apart and hide. ⁷ It walks in sunlight, open-eyed and calm, in smiling welcome and in sincerity so simple and so obvious it cannot be misunderstood.
3. But idols do not share. ² Idols accept, but never make return. ³ They can be loved, but cannot love. ⁴ They do not understand what they are offered, and any relationship in which they enter has lost its meaning. ⁵ The love of them has made love meaningless. ⁶ They live in secrecy, hating the sunlight and happy in the body's darkness, where they can hide and keep their secrets hidden along with them. ⁷ And they have no relationships, for no one else is welcome there. ⁸ They smile on no one, and those who smile on them they do not see.
4. Love has no darkened temples where mysteries are kept obscure and hidden from the sun. ² It does not seek for power, but for relationships. ³ The body is the ego's chosen weapon for seeking power *through* relationships. ⁴ And its relationships must be unholy, for what they are it does not even see. ⁵ It wants them solely for the offerings on which its idols thrive. ⁶ The rest it merely throws away, for all that it could offer is seen as valueless. ⁷ Homeless, the ego seeks as many bodies as it can

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collect to place its idols in, and so establish them as temples to itself.

5. The Holy Spirit's temple is not a body, but a relationship. ² The body is an isolated speck of darkness; a hidden secret room, a tiny spot of senseless mystery, a meaningless enclosure carefully protected, yet hiding nothing. ³ Here the unholy relationship escapes reality, and seeks for crumbs to keep itself alive. ⁴ Here it would drag its brothers, holding them here in its idolatry. ⁵ Here it is "safe," for here love cannot enter. ⁶ The Holy Spirit does not build His temples where love can never be. ⁷ Would He Who sees the face of Christ choose as His home the only place in all the universe where it can not be seen?
6. You cannot make the body the Holy Spirit's temple, and it will never be the seat of love. ² It is the home of the idolater, and of love's condemnation. ³ For here is love made fearful and hope abandoned. ⁴ Even the idols that are worshipped here are shrouded in mystery, and kept apart from those who worship them. ⁵ This is the temple dedicated to no relationships and no return. ⁶ Here is the "mystery" of separation perceived in awe and held in reverence. ⁷ What God would have *not* be is here kept "safe" from Him. ⁸ But what you do not realize is what you fear within your brother, and would not see in him, is what makes God seem fearful to you, and kept unknown.
7. Idolaters will always be afraid of love, for nothing so severely threatens them as love's approach. ² Let love draw near them and overlook the body, as it will surely do, and they retreat in fear, feeling the seeming firm foundation of their temple begin to shake and loosen. ³ Brother, you tremble with them. ⁴ Yet what you fear is but the herald of escape. ⁵ This place of darkness is not your home. ⁶ Your temple is not threatened. ⁷ You are an idolater no longer. ⁸ The Holy Spirit's purpose lies safe in your relationship, and not your body. ⁹ You have escaped the body. ¹⁰ Where you are the body cannot enter, for the Holy Spirit has set His temple there.
8. There is no order in relationships. ² They either are or not. ³ An unholy relationship is no relationship. ⁴ It is a state of isolation, which seems to be what it is not. ⁵ No more than that. ⁶ The instant that the mad idea of making your relationship with God unholy seemed to be possible, all your relationships were made meaningless. ⁷ In that unholy instant time was born, and bodies made to house the mad idea and give it the illusion of reality. ⁸ And so it seemed to have a home that held together for a little while in time, and vanished. ⁹ For what could house this mad idea against reality but for an instant?
9. Idols must disappear, and leave no trace behind their going. ² The unholy instant of their seeming power is frail as is a snowflake, but without its loveliness. ³ Is this the substitute you want for the eternal blessing of the holy instant and its unlimited beneficence? ⁴ Is the malevolence of the unholy relationship, so seeming powerful and so bitterly misunderstood and so invested in a false attraction your preference to the holy instant, which offers you peace and understanding? ⁵ Then lay aside the body and quietly transcend it, rising to welcome what you really want. ⁶ And from His holy temple, look you not back on what you have awakened from. ⁷ For no illusions can attract the mind that has transcended them, and left them far behind.
10. The holy relationship reflects the true relationship the Son of God has with his Father in reality. ² The Holy Spirit rests within it in the certainty it will endure forever. ³ Its firm foundation is eternally upheld by truth, and love shines on it with the gentle smile and tender blessing it offers to its own. ⁴ Here the unholy instant is exchanged in gladness for the holy one of safe return. ⁵ Here is the way to true relationships held gently open, through which you and your brother walk together, leaving the

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body thankfully behind and resting in the Everlasting Arms. ⁶ Love's Arms are open to receive you, and give you peace forever.

11. The body is the ego's idol; the belief in sin made flesh and then projected outward. ² This produces what seems to be a wall of flesh around the mind, keeping it prisoner in a tiny spot of space and time, beholden unto death, and given but an instant in which to sigh and grieve and die in honor of its master. ³ And this unholy instant seems to be life; an instant of despair, a tiny island of dry sand, bereft of water and set uncertainly upon oblivion. ⁴ Here does the Son of God stop briefly by, to offer his devotion to death's idols and then pass on. ⁵ And here he is more dead than living. ⁶ Yet it is also here he makes his choice again between idolatry and love. ⁷ Here it is given him to choose to spend this instant paying tribute to the body, or let himself be given freedom from it. ⁸ Here he can accept the holy instant, offered him to replace the unholy one he chose before. ⁹ And here can he learn relationships are his salvation, and not his doom.
12. You who are learning this may still be fearful, but you are not immobilized. ² The holy instant is of greater value now to you than its unholy seeming counterpart, and you have learned you really want but one. ³ This is no time for sadness. ⁴ Perhaps confusion, but hardly discouragement. ⁵ You have a *real* relationship, and it has meaning. ⁶ It is as like your real relationship with God as equal things are like unto each other. ⁷ Idolatry is past and meaningless. ⁸ Perhaps you fear your brother a little yet; perhaps a shadow of the fear of God remains with you. ⁹ Yet what is that to those who have been given one true relationship beyond the body? ¹⁰ Can they be long held back from looking on the face of Christ? ¹¹ And can they long withhold the memory of their relationship with their Father from themselves, and keep remembrance of His Love apart from their awareness?

VII. The Consistency of Means and End

1. We have said much about discrepancies of means and end, and how these must be brought in line before your holy relationship can bring you only joy. ² But we have also said the means to meet the Holy Spirit's goal will come from the same Source as does His purpose. ³ Being so simple and direct, this course has nothing in it that is not consistent. ⁴ The seeming inconsistencies, or parts you find more difficult than others, are merely indications of areas where means and end are still discrepant. ⁵ And this produces great discomfort. ⁶ This need not be. ⁷ This course requires almost nothing of you. ⁸ It is impossible to imagine one that asks so little, or could offer more.
2. The period of discomfort that follows the sudden change in a relationship from sin to holiness may now be almost over. ² To the extent you still experience it, you are refusing to leave the means to Him Who changed the purpose. ³ You recognize you want the goal. ⁴ Are you not also willing to accept the means? ⁵ If you are not, let us admit that *you* are inconsistent. ⁶ A purpose is attained by means, and if you want a purpose you must be willing to want the means as well. ⁷ How can one be sincere and say, "I want this above all else, and yet I do not want to learn the means to get it?"
3. To obtain the goal the Holy Spirit indeed asks little. ² He asks no more to give the means as well. ³ The means are second to the goal. ⁴ And when you hesitate, it is because the purpose frightens you, and not the means. ⁵ Remember this, for otherwise you will make the error of believing the means are difficult. ⁶ Yet how can they be difficult if they are merely given you? ⁷ They guarantee the goal, and they are perfectly in line with it. ⁸ Before we look at them a little closer, remember that if you think they are impossible, your wanting of the purpose has been shaken. ⁹ For if a goal is possible to

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reach, the means to do so must be possible as well.

4. It *is* impossible to see your brother as sinless and yet to look upon him as a body. ² Is this not perfectly consistent with the goal of holiness? ³ For holiness is merely the result of letting the effects of sin be lifted, so what was always true is recognized. ⁴ To see a sinless body is impossible, for holiness is positive and the body is merely neutral. ⁵ It is not sinful, but neither is it sinless. ⁶ As nothing, which it is, the body cannot meaningfully be invested with attributes of Christ or of the ego. ⁷ Either must be an error, for both would place the attributes where they cannot be. ⁸ And both must be undone for purposes of truth.
5. The body *is* the means by which the ego tries to make the unholy relationship seem real. ² The unholy instant *is* the time of bodies. ³ But the *purpose* here is sin. ⁴ It cannot be attained but in illusion, and so the illusion of a brother as a body is quite in keeping with the purpose of unholiness. ⁵ Because of this consistency, the means remain unquestioned while the end is cherished. ⁶ Seeing adapts to wish, for sight is always secondary to desire. ⁷ And if you see the body, you have chosen judgment and not vision. ⁸ For vision, like relationships, has no order. ⁹ You either see or not.
6. Who sees a brother's body has laid a judgment on him, and sees him not. ² He does not really see him as sinful; he does not see him at all. ³ In the darkness of sin he is invisible. ⁴ He can but be imagined in the darkness, and it is here that the illusions you hold about him are not held up to his reality. ⁵ Here are illusions and reality kept separated. ⁶ Here are illusions never brought to truth, and always hidden from it. ⁷ And here, in darkness, is your brother's reality imagined as a body, in unholy relationships with other bodies, serving the cause of sin an instant before he dies.
7. There is indeed a difference between this vain imagining and vision. ² The difference lies not in them, but in their purpose. ³ Both are but means, each one appropriate to the end for which it is employed. ⁴ Neither can serve the purpose of the other, for each one is a *choice* of purpose, employed on its behalf. ⁵ Either is meaningless without the end for which it was intended, nor is it valued as a separate thing apart from the intention. ⁶ The means seem real because the goal is valued. ⁷ And judgment has no value unless the goal is sin.
8. The body cannot be looked upon except through judgment. ² To see the body is the sign that you lack vision, and have denied the means the Holy Spirit offers you to serve His purpose. ³ How can a holy relationship achieve its purpose through the means of sin? ⁴ Judgment you taught yourself; vision is learned from Him Who would undo your teaching. ⁵ His vision cannot see the body because it cannot look on sin. ⁶ And thus it leads you to reality. ⁷ Your holy brother, sight of whom is your release, is no illusion. ⁸ Attempt to see him not in darkness, for your imaginings about him will seem real there. ⁹ You closed your eyes to shut him out. ¹⁰ Such was your purpose, and while this purpose seems to have a meaning, the means for its attainment will be evaluated as worth the seeing, and so you will not see.
9. Your question should not be, "How can I see my brother without the body?" ² Ask only, "Do I really wish to see him sinless?" ³ And as you ask, forget not that his sinlessness is *your* escape from fear. ⁴ Salvation is the Holy Spirit's goal. ⁵ The means is vision. ⁶ For what the seeing look upon *is* sinless. ⁷ No one who loves can judge, and what he sees is free of condemnation. ⁸ And what he sees he did not make, for it was given him to see, as was the vision that made his seeing possible.