

## Illusion 7

### I. The "Sacrifice" of Oneness

1. In the "dynamics" of attack is sacrifice a key idea. <sup>2</sup> It is the pivot upon which all compromise, all desperate attempts to strike a bargain, and all conflicts achieve a seeming balance. <sup>3</sup> It is the symbol of the central theme that *somebody must lose*. <sup>4</sup> Its focus on the body is apparent, for it is always an attempt to limit loss. <sup>5</sup> The body is itself a sacrifice; a giving up of power in the name of saving just a little for yourself. <sup>6</sup> To see a brother in another body, separate from yours, is the expression of a wish to see a little part of him and sacrifice the rest. <sup>7</sup> Look at the world, and you will see nothing attached to anything beyond itself. <sup>8</sup> All seeming entities can come a little nearer, or go a little farther off, but cannot join.
2. The world you see is based on "sacrifice" of oneness. <sup>2</sup> It is a picture of complete disunity and total lack of joining. <sup>3</sup> Around each entity is built a wall so seeming solid that it looks as if what is inside can never reach without, and what is out can never reach and join with what is locked away within the wall. <sup>4</sup> Each part must sacrifice the other part, to keep itself complete. <sup>5</sup> For if they joined each one would lose its own identity, and by their separation are their selves maintained.
3. The little that the body fences off becomes the self, preserved through sacrifice of all the rest. <sup>2</sup> And all the rest must lose this little part, remaining incomplete to keep its own identity intact. <sup>3</sup> In this perception of yourself the body's loss would be a sacrifice indeed. <sup>4</sup> For sight of bodies becomes the sign that sacrifice is limited, and something still remains for you alone. <sup>5</sup> And for this little to belong to you are limits placed on everything outside, just as they are on everything you think is yours. <sup>6</sup> For giving and receiving are the same. <sup>7</sup> And to accept the limits of a body is to impose these limits on each brother whom you see. <sup>8</sup> For you must see him as you see yourself.
4. The body *is* a loss, and *can* be made to sacrifice. <sup>2</sup> And while you see your brother as a body, apart from you and separate in his cell, you are demanding sacrifice of him and you. <sup>3</sup> What greater sacrifice could be demanded than that God's Son perceive himself without his Father? <sup>4</sup> And his Father be without His Son? <sup>5</sup> Yet every sacrifice demands that they be separate and without the other. <sup>6</sup> The memory of God must be denied if any sacrifice is asked of anyone. <sup>7</sup> What witness to the Wholeness of God's Son is seen within a world of separate bodies, however much he witnesses to truth? <sup>8</sup> He is invisible in such a world. <sup>9</sup> Nor can his song of union and of love be heard at all. <sup>10</sup> Yet is it given him to make the world recede before his song, and sight of him replace the body's eyes.
5. Those who would see the witnesses to truth instead of to illusion merely ask that they might see a purpose in the world that gives it sense and makes it meaningful. <sup>2</sup> Without your special function has this world no meaning for you. <sup>3</sup> Yet it can become a treasure house as rich and limitless as Heaven itself. <sup>4</sup> No instant passes here in which your brother's holiness cannot be seen, to add a limitless supply to every meager scrap and tiny crumb of happiness that you allot yourself.
6. You can lose sight of oneness, but can not make sacrifice of its reality. <sup>2</sup> Nor can you lose what you would sacrifice, nor keep the Holy Spirit from His task of showing you that it has not been lost. <sup>3</sup> Hear, then, the song your brother sings to you, and let the world recede, and take the rest his witness offers on behalf of peace. <sup>4</sup> But judge him not, for you will hear no song of liberation for yourself, nor see what it is given him to witness to, that you may see it and rejoice with him. <sup>5</sup> Make not his holiness a sacrifice to your belief in sin. <sup>6</sup> You sacrifice your innocence with his, and die

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each time you see in him a sin deserving death.

7. Yet every instant can you be reborn, and given life again. <sup>2</sup> His holiness gives life to you, who cannot die because his sinlessness is known to God; and can no more be sacrificed by you than can the light in you be blotted out because he sees it not. <sup>3</sup> You who would make a sacrifice of life, and make your eyes and ears bear witness to the death of God and of His holy Son, think not that you have power to make of Them what God willed not They be. <sup>4</sup> In Heaven, God's Son is not imprisoned in a body, nor is sacrificed in solitude to sin. <sup>5</sup> And as he is in Heaven, so must he be eternally and everywhere. <sup>6</sup> He is the same forever. <sup>7</sup> Born again each instant, untouched by time, and far beyond the reach of any sacrifice of life or death. <sup>8</sup> For neither did he make, and only one was given him by One Who knows His gifts can never suffer sacrifice and loss.
8. God's justice rests in gentleness upon His Son, and keeps him safe from all injustice the world would lay upon him. <sup>2</sup> Could it be that you could make his sins reality, and sacrifice his Father's Will for him? <sup>3</sup> Condemn him not by seeing him within the rotting prison where he sees himself. <sup>4</sup> It is your special function to ensure the door be opened, that he may come forth to shine on you, and give you back the gift of freedom by receiving it of you. <sup>5</sup> What is the Holy Spirit's special function but to release the holy Son of God from the imprisonment he made to keep himself from justice? <sup>6</sup> Could your function be a task apart and separate from His Own?

### III. The Borderland

1. Complexity is not of God. <sup>2</sup> How could it be, when all He knows is One? <sup>3</sup> He knows of one creation, one reality, one truth and but one Son. <sup>4</sup> Nothing conflicts with oneness. <sup>5</sup> How, then, could there be complexity in Him? <sup>6</sup> What is there to decide? <sup>7</sup> For it is conflict that makes choice possible. <sup>8</sup> The truth is simple; it is one, without an opposite. <sup>9</sup> And how could strife enter in its simple presence, and bring complexity where oneness is? <sup>10</sup> The truth makes no decisions, for there is nothing to decide *between*. <sup>11</sup> And only if there were could choosing be a necessary step in the advance toward oneness. <sup>12</sup> What is everything leaves room for nothing else. <sup>13</sup> Yet is this magnitude beyond the scope of this curriculum. <sup>14</sup> Nor is it necessary we dwell on anything that cannot be immediately grasped.
2. There is a borderland of thought that stands between this world and Heaven. <sup>2</sup> It is not a place, and when you reach it is apart from time. <sup>3</sup> Here is the meeting place where thoughts are brought together; where conflicting values meet and all illusions are laid down beside the truth, where they are judged to be untrue. <sup>4</sup> This borderland is just beyond the gate of Heaven. <sup>5</sup> Here is every thought made pure and wholly simple. <sup>6</sup> Here is sin denied, and everything that *is* received instead.
3. This is the journey's end. <sup>2</sup> We have referred to it as the real world. <sup>3</sup> And yet there is a contradiction here, in that the words imply a limited reality, a partial truth, a segment of the universe made true. <sup>4</sup> This is because knowledge makes no attack upon perception. <sup>5</sup> They are brought together, and only one continues past the gate where oneness is. <sup>6</sup> Salvation is a borderland where place and time and choice have meaning still, and yet it can be seen that they are temporary, out of place, and every choice has been already made.
4. Nothing the Son of God believes can be destroyed. <sup>2</sup> But what is truth to him must be brought to the last comparison that he will ever make; the last evaluation that will be possible, the final

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judgment upon this world. <sup>3</sup> It is the judgment of the truth upon illusion, of knowledge on perception: "It has no meaning, and does not exist." <sup>4</sup> This is not your decision. <sup>5</sup> It is but a simple statement of a simple fact. <sup>6</sup> But in this world there are no simple facts, because what is the same and what is different remain unclear. <sup>7</sup> The one essential thing to make a choice at all is this distinction. <sup>8</sup> And herein lies the difference between the worlds. <sup>9</sup> In this one, choice is made impossible. <sup>10</sup> In the real world is choosing simplified.

5. Salvation stops just short of Heaven, for only perception needs salvation. <sup>2</sup> Heaven was never lost, and so cannot be saved. <sup>3</sup> Yet who can make a choice between the wish for Heaven and the wish for hell unless he recognizes they are not the same? <sup>4</sup> This difference is the learning goal this course has set. <sup>5</sup> It will not go beyond this aim. <sup>6</sup> Its only purpose is to teach what is the same and what is different, leaving room to make the only choice that can be made.
6. There is no basis for a choice in this complex and overcomplicated world. <sup>2</sup> For no one understands what is the same, and seems to choose where no choice really is. <sup>3</sup> The real world is the area of choice made real, not in the outcome, but in the perception of alternatives for choice. <sup>4</sup> That there is choice is an illusion. <sup>5</sup> Yet within this one lies the undoing of every illusion, not excepting this.
7. Is not this like your special function, where the separation is undone by change of purpose in what once was specialness, and now is union? <sup>2</sup> All illusions are but one. <sup>3</sup> And in the recognition this is so lies the ability to give up all attempts to choose between them, and to make them different. <sup>4</sup> How simple is the choice between two things so clearly unlike. <sup>5</sup> There is no conflict here. <sup>6</sup> No sacrifice is possible in the relinquishment of an illusion recognized as such. <sup>7</sup> Where all reality has been withdrawn from what was never true, can it be hard to give it up, and choose what *must* be true?

## V. The Little Hindrance

1. A little hindrance can seem large indeed to those who do not understand that miracles are all the same. <sup>2</sup> Yet teaching that is what this course is for. <sup>3</sup> This is its only purpose, for only that is all there is to learn. <sup>4</sup> And you can learn it in many different ways. <sup>5</sup> All learning is a help or hindrance to the gate of Heaven. <sup>6</sup> Nothing in between is possible. <sup>7</sup> There are two teachers only, who point in different ways. <sup>8</sup> And you will go along the way your chosen teacher leads. <sup>9</sup> There are but two directions you can take, while time remains and choice is meaningful. <sup>10</sup> For never will another road be made except the way to Heaven. <sup>11</sup> You but choose whether to go toward Heaven, or away to nowhere. <sup>12</sup> There is nothing else to choose.
2. Nothing is ever lost but time, which in the end is meaningless. <sup>2</sup> For it is but a little hindrance to eternity, quite meaningless to the real Teacher of the world. <sup>3</sup> Yet since you do believe in it, why should you waste it going nowhere, when it can be used to reach a goal as high as learning can achieve? <sup>4</sup> Think not the way to Heaven's gate is difficult at all. <sup>5</sup> Nothing you undertake with certain purpose and high resolve and happy confidence, holding your brother's hand and keeping step to Heaven's song, is difficult to do. <sup>6</sup> But it is hard indeed to wander off, alone and miserable, down a road that leads to nothing and that has no purpose.
3. God gave His Teacher to replace the one you made, not to conflict with it. <sup>2</sup> And what He would replace has been replaced. <sup>3</sup> Time lasted but an instant in your mind, with no effect upon eternity. <sup>4</sup>

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And so is all time past, and everything exactly as it was before the way to nothingness was made.<sup>5</sup> The tiny tick of time in which the first mistake was made, and all of them within that one mistake, held also the Correction for that one, and all of them that came within the first.<sup>6</sup> And in that tiny instant time was gone, for that was all it ever was.<sup>7</sup> What God gave answer to is answered and is gone.

4. To you who still believe you live in time and know not it is gone, the Holy Spirit still guides you through the infinitely small and senseless maze you still perceive in time, though it has long since gone.<sup>2</sup> You think you live in what is past.<sup>3</sup> Each thing you look upon you saw but for an instant, long ago, before its unreality gave way to truth.<sup>4</sup> Not one illusion still remains unanswered in your mind.<sup>5</sup> Uncertainty was brought to certainty so long ago that it is hard indeed to hold it to your heart, as if it were before you still.
5. The tiny instant you would keep and make eternal, passed away in Heaven too soon for anything to notice it had come.<sup>2</sup> What disappeared too quickly to affect the simple knowledge of the Son of God can hardly still be there, for you to choose to be your teacher.<sup>3</sup> Only in the past,—an ancient past, too short to make a world in answer to creation,—did this world appear to rise.<sup>4</sup> So very long ago, for such a tiny interval of time, that not one note in Heaven's song was missed.<sup>5</sup> Yet in each unforgiving act or thought, in every judgment and in all belief in sin, is that one instant still called back, as if it could be made again in time.<sup>6</sup> You keep an ancient memory before your eyes.<sup>7</sup> And he who lives in memories alone is unaware of where he is.
6. Forgiveness is the great release from time.<sup>2</sup> It is the key to learning that the past is over.<sup>3</sup> Madness speaks no more.<sup>4</sup> There *is* no other teacher and no other way.<sup>5</sup> For what has been undone no longer is.<sup>6</sup> And who can stand upon a distant shore, and dream himself across an ocean, to a place and time that have long since gone by?<sup>7</sup> How real a hindrance can this dream be to where he really is?<sup>8</sup> For this is fact, and does not change whatever dreams he has.<sup>9</sup> Yet can he still imagine he is elsewhere, and in another time.<sup>10</sup> In the extreme, he can delude himself that this is true, and pass from mere imagining into belief and into madness, quite convinced that where he would prefer to be, he *is*.
7. Is this a hindrance to the place whereon he stands?<sup>2</sup> Is any echo from the past that he may hear a fact in what is there to hear where he is now?<sup>3</sup> And how much can his own illusions about time and place effect a change in where he really is?
8. The unforgiven is a voice that calls from out a past forevermore gone by.<sup>2</sup> And everything that points to it as real is but a wish that what is gone could be made real again and seen as here and now, in place of what is *really* now and here.<sup>3</sup> Is this a hindrance to the truth the past is gone, and cannot be returned to you?<sup>4</sup> And do you want that fearful instant kept, when Heaven seemed to disappear and God was feared and made a symbol of your hate?
9. Forget the time of terror that has been so long ago corrected and undone.<sup>2</sup> Can sin withstand the Will of God?<sup>3</sup> Can it be up to you to see the past and put it in the present?<sup>4</sup> You can *not* go back.<sup>5</sup> And everything that points the way in the direction of the past but sets you on a mission whose accomplishment can only be unreal.<sup>6</sup> Such is the justice your All-Loving Father has ensured must come to you.<sup>7</sup> And from your own unfairness to yourself has He protected you.<sup>8</sup> You cannot lose your way because there is no way but His, and nowhere can you go except to Him.

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10. Would God allow His Son to lose his way along a road long since a memory of time gone by? <sup>2</sup> This course will teach you only what is now. <sup>3</sup> A dreadful instant in a distant past, now perfectly corrected, is of no concern nor value. <sup>4</sup> Let the dead and gone be peacefully forgotten. <sup>5</sup> Resurrection has come to take its place. <sup>6</sup> And now you are a part of resurrection, not of death. <sup>7</sup> No past illusions have the power to keep you in a place of death, a vault God's Son entered an instant, to be instantly restored unto his Father's perfect Love. <sup>8</sup> And how can he be kept in chains long since removed and gone forever from his mind?
11. The Son whom God created is as free as God created him. <sup>2</sup> He was reborn the instant that he chose to die instead of live. <sup>3</sup> And will you not forgive him now, because he made an error in the past that God remembers not, and is not there? <sup>4</sup> Now you are shifting back and forth between the past and present. <sup>5</sup> Sometimes the past seems real, as if it *were* the present. <sup>6</sup> Voices from the past are heard and then are doubted. <sup>7</sup> You are like to one who still hallucinates, but lacks conviction in what he perceives. <sup>8</sup> This is the borderland between the worlds, the bridge between the past and present. <sup>9</sup> Here the shadow of the past remains, but still a present light is dimly recognized. <sup>10</sup> Once it is seen, this light can never be forgotten. <sup>11</sup> It must draw you from the past into the present, where you really are.
12. The shadow voices do not change the laws of time nor of eternity. <sup>2</sup> They come from what is past and gone, and hinder not the true existence of the here and now. <sup>3</sup> The real world is the second part of the hallucination time and death are real, and have existence that can be perceived. <sup>4</sup> This terrible illusion was denied in but the time it took for God to give His Answer to illusion for all time and every circumstance. <sup>5</sup> And then it was no more to be experienced as there.
13. Each day, and every minute in each day, and every instant that each minute holds, you but relive the single instant when the time of terror took the place of love. <sup>2</sup> And so you die each day to live again, until you cross the gap between the past and present, which is not a gap at all. <sup>3</sup> Such is each life; a seeming interval from birth to death and on to life again, a repetition of an instant gone by long ago that cannot be relived. <sup>4</sup> And all of time is but the mad belief that what is over is still here and now.
14. Forgive the past and let it go, for it *is* gone. <sup>2</sup> You stand no longer on the ground that lies between the worlds. <sup>3</sup> You have gone on, and reached the world that lies at Heaven's gate. <sup>4</sup> There is no hindrance to the Will of God, nor any need that you repeat again a journey that was over long ago. <sup>5</sup> Look gently on your brother, and behold the world in which perception of your hate has been transformed into a world of love.

## VI. The Appointed Friend

1. Anything in this world that you believe is good and valuable and worth striving for can hurt you, and will do so. <sup>2</sup> Not because it has the power to hurt, but just because you have denied it is but an illusion, and made it real. <sup>3</sup> And it is real to you. <sup>4</sup> It is not nothing. <sup>5</sup> And through its perceived reality has entered all the world of sick illusions. <sup>6</sup> All belief in sin, in power of attack, in hurt and harm, in sacrifice and death, has come to you. <sup>7</sup> For no one can make one illusion real, and still escape the rest. <sup>8</sup> For who can choose to keep the ones that he prefers, and find the safety that the truth alone can give? <sup>9</sup> Who can believe illusions are the same, and still maintain that even one is

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best?

2. Lead not your little life in solitude, with one illusion as your only friend. <sup>2</sup> This is no friendship worthy of God's Son, nor one with which he could remain content. <sup>3</sup> Yet God has given him a better Friend, in Whom all power in earth and Heaven rests. <sup>4</sup> The one illusion that you think is friend obscures His grace and majesty from you, and keeps His friendship and forgiveness from your welcoming embrace. <sup>5</sup> Without Him you are friendless. <sup>6</sup> Seek not another friend to take His place. <sup>7</sup> There *is* no other friend. <sup>8</sup> What God appointed has no substitute, for what illusion can replace the truth?
3. Who dwells with shadows is alone indeed, and loneliness is not the Will of God. <sup>2</sup> Would you allow one shadow to usurp the throne that God appointed for your Friend, if you but realized its emptiness has left yours empty and unoccupied? <sup>3</sup> Make no illusion friend, for if you do, it can but take the place of Him Whom God has called your Friend. <sup>4</sup> And it is He Who is your only Friend in truth. <sup>5</sup> He brings you gifts that are not of this world, and only He to Whom they have been given can make sure that you receive them. <sup>6</sup> He will place them on your throne, when you make room for Him on His.

### VII. The Laws of Healing

1. This is a course in miracles. <sup>2</sup> As such, the laws of healing must be understood before the purpose of the course can be accomplished. <sup>3</sup> Let us review the principles that we have covered, and arrange them in a way that summarizes all that must occur for healing to be possible. <sup>4</sup> For when it once is possible it must occur.
2. All sickness comes from separation. <sup>2</sup> When the separation is denied, it goes. <sup>3</sup> For it is gone as soon as the idea that brought it has been healed, and been replaced by sanity. <sup>4</sup> Sickness and sin are seen as consequence and cause, in a relationship kept hidden from awareness that it may be carefully preserved from reason's light.
3. Guilt asks for punishment, and its request is granted. <sup>2</sup> Not in truth, but in the world of shadows and illusions built on sin. <sup>3</sup> The Son of God perceived what he would see because perception is a wish fulfilled. <sup>4</sup> Perception changes, made to take the place of changeless knowledge. <sup>5</sup> Yet is truth unchanged. <sup>6</sup> It cannot be perceived, but only known. <sup>7</sup> What is perceived takes many forms, but none has meaning. <sup>8</sup> Brought to truth, its senselessness is quite apparent. <sup>9</sup> Kept apart from truth, it seems to have a meaning and be real.
4. Perception's laws are opposite to truth, and what is true of knowledge is not true of anything that is apart from it. <sup>2</sup> Yet has God given answer to the world of sickness, which applies to all its forms. <sup>3</sup> God's answer is eternal, though it works in time, where it is needed. <sup>4</sup> Yet because it is of God, the laws of time do not affect its workings. <sup>5</sup> It is in this world, but not a part of it. <sup>6</sup> For it is real, and dwells where all reality must be. <sup>7</sup> Ideas leave not their source, and their effects but seem to be apart from them. <sup>8</sup> Ideas are of the mind. <sup>9</sup> What is projected out, and seems to be external to the mind, is not outside at all, but an effect of what is in, and has not left its source.
5. God's answer lies where the belief in sin must be, for only there can its effects be utterly undone and without cause. <sup>2</sup> Perception's laws must be reversed, because they *are* reversals of the laws of

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truth. <sup>3</sup> The laws of truth forever will be true, and cannot be reversed; yet can be seen as upside down. <sup>4</sup> And this must be corrected where the illusion of reversal lies.

6. It is impossible that one illusion be less amenable to truth than are the rest. <sup>2</sup> But it is possible that some are given greater value, and less willingly offered to truth for healing and for help. <sup>3</sup> No illusion has any truth in it. <sup>4</sup> Yet it appears some are more true than others, although this clearly makes no sense at all. <sup>5</sup> All that a hierarchy of illusions can show is preference, not reality. <sup>6</sup> What relevance has preference to the truth? <sup>7</sup> Illusions are illusions and are false. <sup>8</sup> Your preference gives them no reality. <sup>9</sup> Not one is true in any way, and all must yield with equal ease to what God gave as answer to them all. <sup>10</sup> God's Will is One. <sup>11</sup> And any wish that seems to go against His Will has no foundation in the truth.
7. Sin is not error, for it goes beyond correction to impossibility. <sup>2</sup> Yet the belief that it is real has made some errors seem forever past the hope of healing, and the lasting grounds for hell. <sup>3</sup> If this were so, would Heaven be opposed by its own opposite, as real as it. <sup>4</sup> Then would God's Will be split in two, and all creation be subjected to the laws of two opposing powers, until God becomes impatient, splits the world apart, and relegates attack unto Himself. <sup>5</sup> Thus has He lost His Mind, proclaiming sin has taken His reality from Him and brought His Love at last to vengeance's heels. <sup>6</sup> For such an insane picture an insane defense can be expected, but can not establish that the picture must be true.
8. Nothing gives meaning where no meaning is. <sup>2</sup> And truth needs no defense to make it true. <sup>3</sup> Illusions have no witnesses and no effects. <sup>4</sup> Who looks on them is but deceived. <sup>5</sup> Forgiveness is the only function here, and serves to bring the joy this world denies to every aspect of God's Son where sin was thought to rule. <sup>6</sup> Perhaps you do not see the role forgiveness plays in ending death and all beliefs that rise from mists of guilt. <sup>7</sup> Sins are beliefs that you impose between your brother and yourself. <sup>8</sup> They limit you to time and place, and give a little space to you, another little space to him. <sup>9</sup> This separating off is symbolized, in your perception, by a body which is clearly separate and a thing apart. <sup>10</sup> Yet what this symbol represents is but your wish to *be* apart and separate.
9. Forgiveness takes away what stands between your brother and yourself. <sup>2</sup> It is the wish that you be joined with him, and not apart. <sup>3</sup> We call it "wish" because it still conceives of other choices, and has not yet reached beyond the world of choice entirely. <sup>4</sup> Yet is this wish in line with Heaven's state, and not in opposition to God's Will. <sup>5</sup> Although it falls far short of giving you your full inheritance, it does remove the obstacles that you have placed between the Heaven where you are, and recognition of where and what you are. <sup>6</sup> Facts are unchanged. <sup>7</sup> Yet facts can be denied and thus unknown, though they were known before they were denied.
10. Salvation, perfect and complete, asks but a little wish that what is true be true; a little willingness to overlook what is not there; a little sigh that speaks for Heaven as a preference to this world that death and desolation seem to rule. <sup>2</sup> In joyous answer will creation rise within you, to replace the world you see with Heaven, wholly perfect and complete. <sup>3</sup> What is forgiveness but a willingness that truth be true? <sup>4</sup> What can remain unhealed and broken from a unity which holds all things within itself? <sup>5</sup> There is no sin. <sup>6</sup> And every miracle is possible the instant that the Son of God perceives his wishes and the Will of God are one.
11. What is the Will of God? <sup>2</sup> He wills His Son have everything. <sup>3</sup> And this He guaranteed when He created him *as* everything. <sup>4</sup> It is impossible that anything be lost, if what you *have* is what you *are*. <sup>5</sup>

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This is the miracle by which creation became your function, sharing it with God. <sup>6</sup> It is not understood apart from Him, and therefore has no meaning in this world. <sup>7</sup> Here does the Son of God ask not too much, but far too little. <sup>8</sup> He would sacrifice his own identity with everything, to find a little treasure of his own. <sup>9</sup> And this he cannot do without a sense of isolation, loss and loneliness. <sup>10</sup> This is the treasure he has sought to find. <sup>11</sup> And he could only be afraid of it. <sup>12</sup> Is fear a treasure? <sup>13</sup> Can uncertainty be what you want? <sup>14</sup> Or is it a mistake about your will, and what you really are?

12. Let us consider what the error is, so it can be corrected, not protected. <sup>2</sup> Sin is belief attack can be projected outside the mind where the belief arose. <sup>3</sup> Here is the firm conviction that ideas can leave their source made real and meaningful. <sup>4</sup> And from this error does the world of sin and sacrifice arise. <sup>5</sup> This world is an attempt to prove your innocence, while cherishing attack. <sup>6</sup> Its failure lies in that you still feel guilty, though without understanding why. <sup>7</sup> Effects are seen as separate from their source, and seem to be beyond you to control or to prevent. <sup>8</sup> What is thus kept apart can never join.
13. Cause and effect are one, not separate. <sup>2</sup> God wills you learn what always has been true: that He created you as part of Him, and this must still be true because ideas leave not their source. <sup>3</sup> Such is creation's law; that each idea the mind conceives but adds to its abundance, never takes away. <sup>4</sup> This is as true of what is idly wished as what is truly willed, because the mind can wish to be deceived, but cannot make it be what it is not. <sup>5</sup> And to believe ideas can leave their source is to invite illusions to be true, without success. <sup>6</sup> For never will success be possible in trying to deceive the Son of God.
14. The miracle is possible when cause and consequence are brought together, not kept separate. <sup>2</sup> The healing of effect without the cause can merely shift effects to other forms. <sup>3</sup> And this is not release. <sup>4</sup> God's Son could never be content with less than full salvation and escape from guilt. <sup>5</sup> For otherwise he still demands that he must make some sacrifice, and thus denies that everything is his, unlimited by loss of any kind. <sup>6</sup> A tiny sacrifice is just the same in its effects as is the whole idea of sacrifice. <sup>7</sup> If loss in any form is possible, then is God's Son made incomplete and not himself. <sup>8</sup> Nor will he know himself, nor recognize his will. <sup>9</sup> He has forsworn his Father and himself, and made Them both his enemies in hate.
15. Illusions serve the purpose they were made to serve. <sup>2</sup> And from their purpose they derive whatever meaning that they seem to have. <sup>3</sup> God gave to all illusions that were made another purpose that would justify a miracle whatever form they took. <sup>4</sup> In every miracle all healing lies, for God gave answer to them all as one. <sup>5</sup> And what is one to Him must be the same. <sup>6</sup> If you believe what is the same is different you but deceive yourself. <sup>7</sup> What God calls One will be forever One, not separate. <sup>8</sup> His Kingdom is united; thus it was created, and thus will it ever be.
16. The miracle but calls your ancient Name, which you will recognize because the truth is in your memory. <sup>2</sup> And to this Name your brother calls for his release and yours. <sup>3</sup> Heaven is shining on the Son of God. <sup>4</sup> Deny him not, that you may be released. <sup>5</sup> Each instant is the Son of God reborn until he chooses not to die again. <sup>6</sup> In every wish to hurt he chooses death instead of what his Father wills for him. <sup>7</sup> Yet every instant offers life to him because his Father wills that he should live.
17. In crucifixion is redemption laid, for healing is not needed where there is no pain or suffering. <sup>2</sup> Forgiveness is the answer to attack of any kind. <sup>3</sup> So is attack deprived of its effects, and hate is answered in the name of love. <sup>4</sup> To you to whom it has been given to save the Son of God from crucifixion and from hell and death, all glory be forever. <sup>5</sup> For you have power to save the Son of

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- God because his Father willed that it be so. <sup>6</sup> And in your hands does all salvation lie, to be both offered and received as one.
18. To use the power God has given you as He would have it used is natural. <sup>2</sup> It is not arrogant to be as He created you, nor to make use of what He gave to answer all His Son's mistakes and set him free. <sup>3</sup> But it is arrogant to lay aside the power that He gave, and choose a little senseless wish instead of what He wills. <sup>4</sup> The gift of God to you is limitless. <sup>5</sup> There is no circumstance it cannot answer, and no problem which is not resolved within its gracious light.
19. Abide in peace, where God would have you be. <sup>2</sup> And be the means whereby your brother finds the peace in which your wishes are fulfilled. <sup>3</sup> Let us unite in bringing blessing to the world of sin and death. <sup>4</sup> For what can save each one of us can save us all. <sup>5</sup> There is no difference among the Sons of God. <sup>6</sup> The unity that specialness denies will save them all, for what is one can have no specialness. <sup>7</sup> And everything belongs to each of them. <sup>8</sup> No wishes lie between a brother and his own. <sup>9</sup> To get from one is to deprive them all. <sup>10</sup> And yet to bless but one gives blessing to them all as one.
20. Your ancient Name belongs to everyone, as theirs to you. <sup>2</sup> Call on your brother's name and God will answer, for on Him you call. <sup>3</sup> Could He refuse to answer when He has already answered all who call on Him? <sup>4</sup> A miracle can make no change at all. <sup>5</sup> But it can make what always has been true be recognized by those who know it not; and by this little gift of truth but let to be itself, the Son of God allowed to be himself, and all creation freed to call upon the Name of God as One.

## VIII. The Immediacy of Salvation

1. The one remaining problem that you have is that you see an interval between the time when you forgive, and will receive the benefits of trusting in your brother. <sup>2</sup> This but reflects the little you would keep between you and your brother, that you and he might be a little separate. <sup>3</sup> For time and space are one illusion, which takes different forms. <sup>4</sup> If it has been projected beyond your mind you think of it as time. <sup>5</sup> The nearer it is brought to where it is, the more you think of it in terms of space.
2. There is a distance you would keep apart from your brother, and this space you perceive as time because you still believe you are external to him. <sup>2</sup> This makes trust impossible. <sup>3</sup> And you cannot believe that trust would settle every problem now. <sup>4</sup> Thus do you think it safer to remain a little careful and a little watchful of interests perceived as separate. <sup>5</sup> From this perception you cannot conceive of gaining what forgiveness offers *now*. <sup>6</sup> The interval you think lies in between the giving and receiving of the gift seems to be one in which you sacrifice and suffer loss. <sup>7</sup> You see eventual salvation, not immediate results.
3. Salvation *is* immediate. <sup>2</sup> Unless you so perceive it, you will be afraid of it, believing that the risk of loss is great between the time its purpose is made yours and its effects will come to you. <sup>3</sup> In this form is the error still obscured that is the source of fear. <sup>4</sup> Salvation *would* wipe out the space you see between you still, and let you instantly become as one. <sup>5</sup> And it is here you fear the loss would lie. <sup>6</sup> Do not project this fear to time, for time is not the enemy that you perceive. <sup>7</sup> Time is as neutral as the body is, except in terms of what you see it for. <sup>8</sup> If you would keep a little space between you and your brother still, you then would want a little time in which forgiveness is withheld a little while. <sup>9</sup> And this but makes the interval between the time in which forgiveness is withheld from you

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and given seem dangerous, with terror justified.

4. Yet space between you and your brother is apparent only in the present, *now*, and cannot be perceived in future time. <sup>2</sup> No more can it be overlooked except within the present. <sup>3</sup> Future loss is not your fear. <sup>4</sup> But present joining is your dread. <sup>5</sup> Who can feel desolation except now? <sup>6</sup> A future cause as yet has no effects. <sup>7</sup> And therefore must it be that if you fear, there is a present cause. <sup>8</sup> And it is *this* that needs correction, not a future state.
5. The plans you make for safety all are laid within the future, where you cannot plan. <sup>2</sup> No purpose has been given it as yet, and what will happen has as yet no cause. <sup>3</sup> Who can predict effects without a cause? <sup>4</sup> And who could fear effects unless he thought they had been caused, and judged disastrous *now*? <sup>5</sup> Belief in sin arouses fear, and like its cause, is looking forward, looking back, but overlooking what is here and now. <sup>6</sup> Yet only here and now its cause must be, if its effects already have been judged as fearful. <sup>7</sup> And in overlooking this, is it protected and kept separate from healing. <sup>8</sup> For a miracle is *now*. <sup>9</sup> It stands already here, in present grace, within the only interval of time that sin and fear have overlooked, but which is all there is to time.
6. The working out of all correction takes no time at all. <sup>2</sup> Yet the acceptance of the working out can seem to take forever. <sup>3</sup> The change of purpose the Holy Spirit brought to your relationship has in it all effects that you will see. <sup>4</sup> They can be looked at *now*. <sup>5</sup> Why wait till they unfold in time and fear they may not come, although already there? <sup>6</sup> You have been told that everything brings good that comes from God. <sup>7</sup> And yet it seems as if this is not so. <sup>8</sup> Good in disaster's form is difficult to credit in advance. <sup>9</sup> Nor is there really sense in this idea.
7. Why should the good appear in evil's form? <sup>2</sup> And is it not deception if it does? <sup>3</sup> Its cause is here, if it appears at all. <sup>4</sup> Why are not its effects apparent, then? <sup>5</sup> Why in the future? <sup>6</sup> And you seek to be content with sighing, and with "reasoning" you do not understand it now, but will some day. <sup>7</sup> And then its meaning will be clear. <sup>8</sup> This is not reason, for it is unjust, and clearly hints at punishment until the time of liberation is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Given a change of purpose for the good, there is no reason for an interval in which disaster strikes, to be perceived as "good" some day but now in form of pain. <sup>10</sup> This is a sacrifice of *now*, which could not be the cost the Holy Spirit asks for what He gave without a cost at all.
8. Yet this illusion has a cause which, though untrue, must be already in your mind. <sup>2</sup> And this illusion is but one effect that it engenders, and one form in which its outcome is perceived. <sup>3</sup> This interval in time, when retribution is perceived to be the form in which the "good" appears, is but one aspect of the little space that lies between you, unforgiven still.
9. Be not content with future happiness. <sup>2</sup> It has no meaning, and is not your just reward. <sup>3</sup> For you have cause for freedom *now*. <sup>4</sup> What profits freedom in a prisoner's form? <sup>5</sup> Why should deliverance be disguised as death? <sup>6</sup> Delay is senseless, and the "reasoning" that would maintain effects of present cause must be delayed until a future time, is merely a denial of the fact that consequence and cause must come as one. <sup>7</sup> Look not to time, but to the little space between you still, to be delivered from. <sup>8</sup> And do not let it be disguised as time, and so preserved because its form is changed and what it is cannot be recognized. <sup>9</sup> The Holy Spirit's purpose now is yours. <sup>10</sup> Should not His happiness be yours as well?

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### VIII. The "Hero" of the Dream

1. The body is the central figure in the dreaming of the world. <sup>2</sup> There is no dream without it, nor does it exist without the dream in which it acts as if it were a person to be seen and be believed. <sup>3</sup> It takes the central place in every dream, which tells the story of how it was made by other bodies, born into the world outside the body, lives a little while and dies, to be united in the dust with other bodies dying like itself. <sup>4</sup> In the brief time allotted it to live, it seeks for other bodies as its friends and enemies. <sup>5</sup> Its safety is its main concern. <sup>6</sup> Its comfort is its guiding rule. <sup>7</sup> It tries to look for pleasure, and avoid the things that would be hurtful. <sup>8</sup> Above all, it tries to teach itself its pains and joys are different and can be told apart.
2. The dreaming of the world takes many forms, because the body seeks in many ways to prove it is autonomous and real. <sup>2</sup> It puts things on itself that it has bought with little metal discs or paper strips the world proclaims as valuable and real. <sup>3</sup> It works to get them, doing senseless things, and tosses them away for senseless things it does not need and does not even want. <sup>4</sup> It hires other bodies, that they may protect it and collect more senseless things that it can call its own. <sup>5</sup> It looks about for special bodies that can share its dream. <sup>6</sup> Sometimes it dreams it is a conqueror of bodies weaker than itself. <sup>7</sup> But in some phases of the dream, it is the slave of bodies that would hurt and torture it.
3. The body's serial adventures, from the time of birth to dying are the theme of every dream the world has ever had. <sup>2</sup> The "hero" of this dream will never change, nor will its purpose. <sup>3</sup> Though the dream itself takes many forms, and seems to show a great variety of places and events wherein its "hero" finds itself, the dream has but one purpose, taught in many ways. <sup>4</sup> This single lesson does it try to teach again, and still again, and yet once more; that it is cause and not effect. <sup>5</sup> And you are its effect, and cannot be its cause.
4. Thus are you not the dreamer, but the dream. <sup>2</sup> And so you wander idly in and out of places and events that it contrives. <sup>3</sup> That this is all the body does is true, for it is but a figure in a dream. <sup>4</sup> But who reacts to figures in a dream unless he sees them as if they were real? <sup>5</sup> The instant that he sees them as they are they have no more effects on him, because he understands he gave them their effects by causing them and making them seem real.
5. How willing are you to escape effects of all the dreams the world has ever had? <sup>2</sup> Is it your wish to let no dream appear to be the cause of what it is you do? <sup>3</sup> Then let us merely look upon the dream's beginning, for the part you see is but the second part, whose cause lies in the first. <sup>4</sup> No one asleep and dreaming in the world remembers his attack upon himself. <sup>5</sup> No one believes there really was a time when he knew nothing of a body, and could never have conceived this world as real. <sup>6</sup> He would have seen at once that these ideas are one illusion, too ridiculous for anything but to be laughed away. <sup>7</sup> How serious they now appear to be! <sup>8</sup> And no one can remember when they would have met with laughter and with disbelief. <sup>9</sup> We can remember this, if we but look directly at their cause. <sup>10</sup> And we will see the grounds for laughter, not a cause for fear.
6. Let us return the dream he gave away unto the dreamer, who perceives the dream as separate from himself and done to him. <sup>2</sup> Into eternity, where all is one, there crept a tiny, mad idea, at which the Son of God remembered not to laugh. <sup>3</sup> In his forgetting did the thought become a serious idea, and possible of both accomplishment and real effects. <sup>4</sup> Together, we can laugh them both away, and understand that time cannot intrude upon eternity. <sup>5</sup> It is a joke to think that time can come to

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circumvent eternity, which *means* there is no time.

7. A timelessness in which is time made real; a part of God that can attack itself; a separate brother as an enemy; a mind within a body all are forms of circularity whose ending starts at its beginning, ending at its cause. <sup>2</sup> The world you see depicts exactly what you thought you did. <sup>3</sup> Except that now you think that what you did is being done to you. <sup>4</sup> The guilt for what you thought is being placed outside yourself, and on a guilty world that dreams your dreams and thinks your thoughts instead of you. <sup>5</sup> It brings its vengeance, not your own. <sup>6</sup> It keeps you narrowly confined within a body, which it punishes because of all the sinful things the body does within its dream. <sup>7</sup> You have no power to make the body stop its evil deeds because you did not make it, and cannot control its actions nor its purpose nor its fate.
8. The world but demonstrates an ancient truth; you will believe that others do to you exactly what you think you did to them. <sup>2</sup> But once deluded into blaming them you will not see the cause of what they do, because you *want* the guilt to rest on them. <sup>3</sup> How childish is the petulant device to keep your innocence by pushing guilt outside yourself, but never letting go! <sup>4</sup> It is not easy to perceive the jest when all around you do your eyes behold its heavy consequences, but without their trifling cause. <sup>5</sup> Without the cause do its effects seem serious and sad indeed. <sup>6</sup> Yet they but follow. <sup>7</sup> And it is their cause that follows nothing and is but a jest.
9. In gentle laughter does the Holy Spirit perceive the cause, and looks not to effects. <sup>2</sup> How else could He correct your error, who have overlooked the cause entirely? <sup>3</sup> He bids you bring each terrible effect to Him that you may look together on its foolish cause and laugh with Him a while. <sup>4</sup> *You* judge effects, but *He* has judged their cause. <sup>5</sup> And by His judgment are effects removed. <sup>6</sup> Perhaps you come in tears. <sup>7</sup> But hear Him say, "My brother, holy Son of God, behold your idle dream, in which this could occur." <sup>8</sup> And you will leave the holy instant with your laughter and your brother's joined with His.
10. The secret of salvation is but this: that you are doing this unto yourself. <sup>2</sup> No matter what the form of the attack, this still is true. <sup>3</sup> Whoever takes the role of enemy and of attacker, still is this the truth. <sup>4</sup> Whatever seems to be the cause of any pain and suffering you feel, this is still true. <sup>5</sup> For you would not react at all to figures in a dream you knew that you were dreaming. <sup>6</sup> Let them be as hateful and as vicious as they may, they could have no effect on you unless you failed to recognize it is your dream.
11. This single lesson learned will set you free from suffering, whatever form it takes. <sup>2</sup> The Holy Spirit will repeat this one inclusive lesson of deliverance until it has been learned, regardless of the form of suffering that brings you pain. <sup>3</sup> Whatever hurt you bring to Him He will make answer with this very simple truth. <sup>4</sup> For this one answer takes away the cause of every form of sorrow and of pain. <sup>5</sup> The form affects His answer not at all, for He would teach you but the single cause of all of them, no matter what their form. <sup>6</sup> And you will understand that miracles reflect the simple statement, "*I* have done this thing, and it is this *I* would undo."
12. Bring, then, all forms of suffering to Him Who knows that every one is like the rest. <sup>2</sup> He sees no differences where none exists, and He will teach you how each one is caused. <sup>3</sup> None has a different cause from all the rest, and all of them are easily undone by but a single lesson truly learned. <sup>4</sup> Salvation is a secret you have kept but from yourself. <sup>5</sup> The universe proclaims it so. <sup>6</sup> Yet to its witnesses you pay no heed at all. <sup>7</sup> For they attest the thing you do not want to know. <sup>8</sup> They seem to

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keep it secret from you. <sup>9</sup> Yet you need but learn you chose but not to listen, not to see.

13. How differently will you perceive the world when this is recognized! <sup>2</sup> When you forgive the world your guilt, you will be free of it. <sup>3</sup> Its innocence does not demand your guilt, nor does your guiltlessness rest on its sins. <sup>4</sup> This is the obvious; a secret kept from no one but yourself. <sup>5</sup> And it is this that has maintained you separate from the world, and kept your brother separate from you. <sup>6</sup> Now need you but to learn that both of you are innocent or guilty. <sup>7</sup> The one thing that is impossible is that you be unlike each other; that they both be true. <sup>8</sup> This is the only secret yet to learn. <sup>9</sup> And it will be no secret you are healed.